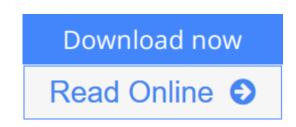


Toni Morrison and the Maternal: From "The Bluest Eye to "Home (Modern American Literature)

By Linda Wagner-Martin



Toni Morrison and the Maternal: From ''The Bluest Eye to ''Home (Modern American Literature) By Linda Wagner-Martin

Linda Wagner-Martin's study of African American writer Toni Morrison's work, beginning with The Bluest Eye in 1970 and continuing through her 2012 novel Home, describes Morrison as an inherently original novelist who was shaped throughout her career by her role within families. Morrison speaks of herself, compellingly and frequently, as daughter, sister, wife, mother, mentor, and friend. The energy from playing these roles in her life helped to lead to her thoroughly distinctive fiction. The book charts Morrison's changing vision as well. Morrison's deeper and deeper involvement in the history of African Americans within the United States leads to her study of the urban in Jazz, of the all-black Western towns in Paradise, of the upper-middle class in Love, as well as her poignant study of the returning Korean War veteran in Home. Morrison's 2008 A Mercy, set in the seventeenth century, reprises much of the power of the prize-winning *Beloved* and returns readers to the quintessential theme of parentchild relationships. In Morrison's fictional world, drawing from the human and spiritual forces in both Africa and the United States provides some hope of a truly satisfying existence.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Linda Wagner-Martin is the author or editor of more than fifty books in American literature. She has been the recipient of Guggenheim and Rockefeller fellowships and a senior National Endowment for the Humanities grant, and she has held residencies at the Bunting Institute, Bellagio, and Bogliasco. Wagner-Martin has received many teaching awards at both Michigan State University and The University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, where she is the Frank Borden Hanes Professor of English and Comparative Literature. She is a recent recipient of the Hubbell Medal for Lifetime Achievement in American literature.

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