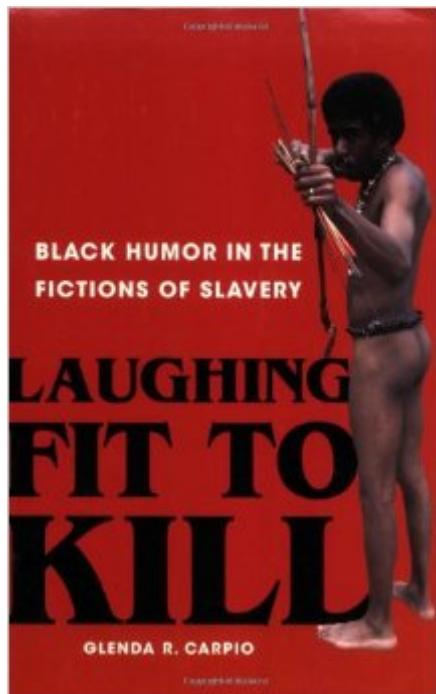


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Laughing Fit To Kill: Black Humor In The Fictions Of Slavery (The W.E.B. Du Bois Institute Series)



Synopsis

Reassessing the meanings of "black humor" and "dark satire," *Laughing Fit to Kill* illustrates how black comedians, writers, and artists have deftly deployed various modes of comedic "conjuring"--the absurd, the grotesque, and the strategic expression of racial stereotypes--to redress not only the past injustices of slavery and racism in America but also their legacy in the present. Focusing on representations of slavery in the post-civil rights era, Carpio explores stereotypes in Richard Pryor's groundbreaking stand-up act and the outrageous comedy of Chappelle's Show to demonstrate how deeply indebted they are to the sly social criticism embedded in the profoundly ironic nineteenth-century fiction of William Wells Brown and Charles W. Chesnutt. Similarly, she reveals how the iconoclastic literary works of Ishmael Reed and Suzan-Lori Parks use satire, hyperbole, and burlesque humor to represent a violent history and to take on issues of racial injustice. With an abundance of illustrations, Carpio also extends her discussion of radical black comedy to the visual arts as she reveals how the use of subversive appropriation by Kara Walker and Robert Colescott cleverly lampoons the iconography of slavery. Ultimately, *Laughing Fit to Kill* offers a unique look at the bold, complex, and just plain funny ways that African American artists have used laughter to critique slavery's dark legacy.

Book Information

Series: The W.E.B. Du Bois Institute Series

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: Oxford University Press (July 1, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0195304691

ISBN-13: 978-0195304695

Product Dimensions: 9.2 x 1.1 x 6.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (1 customer review)

Best Sellers Rank: #117,246 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 inÂ Books > Humor & Entertainment > Humor > Theories of Humor #20 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Genres & Styles > Humor #54 inÂ Books > Literature & Fiction > History & Criticism > Regional & Cultural > United States > African American

Customer Reviews

Well, this is a good book to take the tension out of one of America's worst historical chapter. IN light

of recents in Ferguson, Missouri, one would do worse that reading this book. Recommended!!!!

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