Witnessing Lynching

American Writers Respond

Edited by Anne P. Rice

Foreword by Michele Wallace

Contents

Illustrations		ix			
Foreword: Passing, Lynching, and Jim Crow, by Michele Wallace Acknowledgments Introduction: The Contest over Memory		xvi xvii 1			
			1889-1900		
			Charles W. Chesnutt	"The Sheriff's Children" (1889)	27
Frederick Douglass	"Lynch Law in the South" (1892)	40			
Frances Ellen Watkins Harper	"An Appeal to My Countrywomen" (1896)	43			
Ida B. Wells-Barnett	Excerpt from Mob Rule in New Orleans (1900)	46			
Pauline Elizabeth Hopkins	"Will Smith's Defense of His Race," from Contending Forces (1900)	61			
1901–1910					
Susie Baker King Taylor	"Thoughts on the Present Conditions," from Reminiscences of My Life in Camp with the 33rd Unite States Colored Troops Late 1st S.C. Volunteers (1902)	ed 69			
Alice French (Octave Thanet)	"Beyond the Limit" (1903)	77			
Paul Laurence Dunbar	"The Haunted Oak" (1903) and "The Lynching of Jube Benson" (1904)	89			
Mary Church Terrell	Excerpt from "Lynching from a Negro's Point of View" (1904)	98			
Sutton E. Griggs	"The Blaze," from The Hindered Hand; or, The Reign of the Repressionist (1905)	106			
W.E.B. Du Bois	"A Litany at Atlanta" (1906)	111			
Lizelia Augusta Jenkins Moorer	"Jim Crow Cars" (1907)	117			
1911–1920					
Bertha Johnston	"I Met a Little Blue-Eyed Girl" (1912)	121			
James Weldon Johnson	Excerpt from <i>The Autobiography of an Ex-Colored Man</i> (1912) and "Brothers" (1916)	1 2 3			

Contents o viii

French Wilson	"Jimmy" (1914)	135
"The Waco Horror"	Supplement to the Crisis, July 1916	141
Theodore Dreiser	"Nigger Jeff" (1918)	151
Carl Sandburg	Excerpts from <i>The Chicago Race Riots, July 1919</i> (1919) and "Man, the Man-Hunter" (1920)	171
Mary Powell Burrill	Aftermath (1919)	178
Claude McKay	"If We Must Die" (1919) and "The Lynching" (1922)	188
Angelina Weld Grimké	"Goldie" (1920)	191
1921-1930		
William Pickens	Excerpt from Lynching and Debt Slavery (1921)	209
Leslie Pinckney Hill	"So Quietly" (1921)	216
Carrie Williams Clifford	"The Black Draftee from Dixie" (1922)	218
Countee Cullen	"Christ Recrucified" (1922)	220
Langston Hughes	"The South" (1922)	223
Jean Toomer	"Portrait in Georgia" and "Blood-Burning Moon" (1923)	226
Anne Spencer	"White Things" (1923)	235
Floyd J. Calvin	"The Present South" (1923)	237
Robert Bagnal	"The Unquenchable Fire" (1924)	240
Lola Ridge	"Morning Ride" (1927)	247
Angelina Weld Grimké	"Tenebris" (1927)	251
Walter Francis White	"I Investigate Lynchings" (1929)	252
1931–1935		
Sterling Brown	"He Was a Man" (1932) and "Let Us Suppose" (1935)	263
Langston Hughes	"Christ in Alabama" (1932)	268
Nancy Clara Cunard	Excerpt from "Scottsboro—and Other Scottsboros" (1934)	270
Esther Popel	"Flag Salute" (1934)	282
Erskine Caldwell	"Kneel to the Rising Sun" (1935)	284
Richard Wright	"Between the World and Me" (1935)	304
Bibliography		307
Permissions		313
Index		315