

Black Writers, White Publishers - John K. Young

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Jean Toomer's *Cane* was advertised as "a book about Negroes by a Negro," despite his request not to promote the book along such racial lines. Nella Larsen switched the title of her second novel from *Nig* to *Passing*, because an editor felt the original title "might be too inflammatory." In order to publish his first novel as a Book-of-the-Month Club main selection Richard Wright deleted a scene in *Native Son* depicting Bigger Thomas masturbating. Toni Morrison changed the last word of *Beloved* at her editor's request and switched the title of *Paradise* from *War* to allay her publisher's marketing concerns. Although many editors place demands on their authors, these examples invite special scholarly attention given the power imbalance between white editors and publishers and African American authors. *Black Writers, White Publishers: Marketplace Politics in Twentieth-Century African American Literature* examines the complex negotiations behind the production of African American literature. In chapters on Larsen's *Passing*, Ishmael Reed's *Mumbo Jumbo*, Gwendolyn Brooks's *Children Coming Home*, Morrison's "Oprah's Book Club" selections, and Ralph Ellison's *Juneteenth*, John K. Young presents the first book-length application of editorial theory to African American literature. Focusing on the manuscripts, drafts, book covers, colophons, and advertisements that trace book production, Young expands upon the concept of socialized authorship and demonstrates how the study of publishing history and practice and African American literary criticism enrich each other. John K. Young is an associate professor of English at Marshall University. His work has appeared in journals such as *College English*, *African American Review*, and *Critique*. Author: Young, John K. Publisher: University Press of Mississippi Illustration: N Language: ENG Title: Black Writers, White Publishers Pages: 00000 (Encrypted PDF) On Sale: 2010-11-26 SKU-13/ISBN: 9781578068463 Category: Literary Criticism : American - African American

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