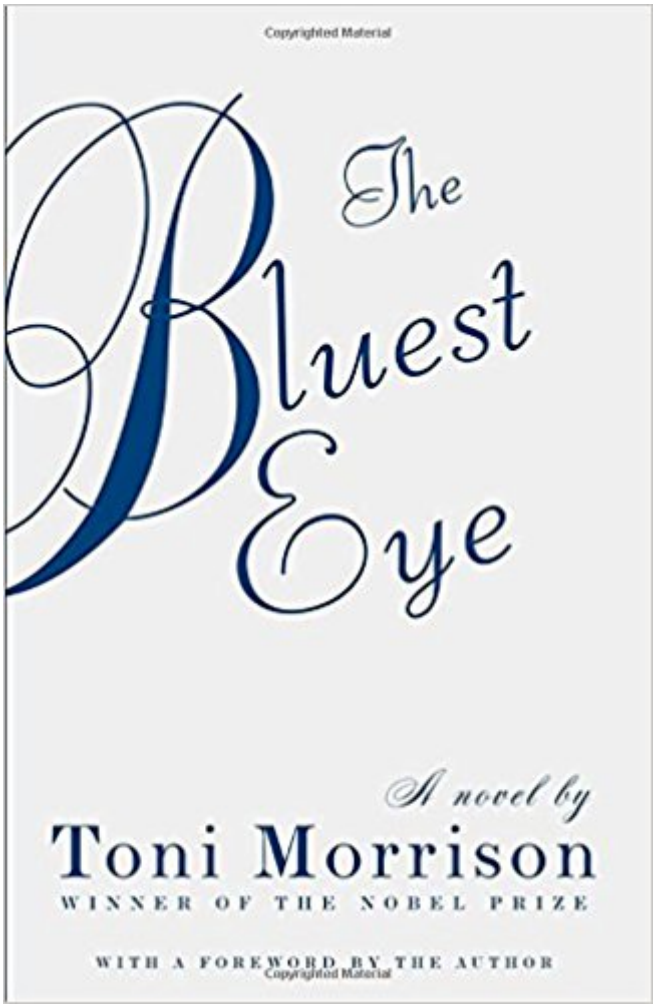
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The Bluest Eye (Vintage International)



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Synopsis

Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl, prays every day for beauty. Mocked by other children for the dark skin, curly hair, and brown eyes that set her apart, she yearns for normalcy, for the blond hair and blue eyes that she believes will allow her to finally fit in.Yet as her dream grows more fervent, her life slowly starts to disintegrate in the face of adversity and strife. A powerful examination of our obsession with beauty and conformity, Toni MorrisonÃ¢â ¬â„¢s virtuosic first novel asks powerful questions about race, class, and gender with the subtlety and grace that have always characterized her writing.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Oprah Book ClubÃ Â® Selection, April 2000: Originally published in 1970, The Bluest Eye is Toni Morrison’s first novel. In an afterword written more than two decades later, the author expressed her dissatisfaction with the book’s language and structure: "It required a sophistication unavailable to me." Perhaps we can chalk up this verdict to modesty, or to the Nobel laureate’s impossibly high standards of quality control. In any case, her debut is nothing if not sophisticated, in terms of both narrative ingenuity and rhetorical sweep. It also shows the young author drawing a bead on the subjects that would dominate much of her career: racial hatred, historical memory, and the dazzling or degrading power of language itself. Set in Lorain, Ohio, in 1941, The Bluest Eye is something of an ensemble piece. The point of view is passed like a baton from one character to the next, with Morrison’s own voice functioning as a kind of gold standard throughout. The focus, though, is on an

11-year-old black girl named Pecola Breedlove, whose entire family has been given a cosmetic cross to bear: You looked at them and wondered why they were so ugly; you looked closely and could not find the source. Then you realized that it came from conviction, their conviction. It was as though some mysterious all-knowing master had given each one a cloak of ugliness to wear, and they had each accepted it without question.... And they took the ugliness in their hands, threw it as a mantle over them, and went about the world with it. There are far uglier things in the world than, well, ugliness, and poor Pecola is subjected to most of them. She's spat upon, ridiculed, and ultimately raped and impregnated by her own father. No wonder she yearns to be the very opposite of what she is--yearns, in other words, to be a white child, possessed of the blondest hair and the bluest eye. This vein of self-hatred is exactly what keeps Morrison's novel from devolving into a cut-and-dried scenario of victimization. She may in fact pin too much of the blame on the beauty myth: "Along with the idea of romantic love, she was introduced to another--physical beauty. Probably the most destructive ideas in the history of human thought. Both originated in envy, thrived in insecurity, and ended in disillusion." Yet the destructive power of these ideas is essentially colorblind, which gives The Bluest Eye the sort of universal reach that Morrison's imitators can only dream of. And that, combined with the novel's modulated pathos and musical, fine-grained language, makes for not merely a sophisticated debut but a permanent one. --James Marcus --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

No doubt spurred on by Morrison's winning of the 1993 Nobel prize for literature, Plume is releasing trade paperback editions of her novels, beginning with this title (LJ 11/1/70). These editions also include a new afterword by the author.Copyright 1994 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

After rereading this book for the second time, it's amazing to me how relevant this work still is. Pecola Breedlove, One of two children born to Cholly and Pauline Breedlove, lives a very depressing life. Her Father is alcoholic who is incapable of showing anything but hatred towards women, and her Mother Pauline.....with so many dreams deferred, only finds solace when she is at work as a housekeeper. There she can pretend that the beautiful home and everything in it, including the white child of her dreams is hers. Pecola and her brother Sam know nothing of love and comfort. To top all of this off, they are considered ugly and outcast among their community. For the breedlove children, coming in at the bottom of the totem pole from school to home is normal. Pecola thinks that blue eyes will make all of her hardships and lack of beauty disappear. So she

sets out on a journey to get the Bluest eyes she can find. This book chronicles so many issues....and it's definitely not for the faint of heart. It's not my favorite book by Toni Morrison but it is a must read nonetheless.

This is a MUST read. This book is dark and powerful, poetic and real. All at once feeling like you want to run into the main character's vulnerable pain but wanting to look away at the same time. Morrison's command of writing is perfection. Absolute perfection. The forward is also very helpful to read to give context to when she wrote it, her approach and what she may have wanted to change. Wonderful to read an artist's self-reflection. If you're a white woman looking to learn more about black women and men's experiences of internalized and institutionalized racism and dismantle your privilege, this book is for you. Be prepared to cry and think hard.

Toni Morrison's ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The Bluest EyeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• is a unique novel that is not for the lighthearted. It describes in great detail, the life of an African American child raised in tough circumstances. During a time period of depression, the protagonist is often found in the worst situations. Men are often portrayed as dirty predators, while women are portrayed more as sexual objects. Throughout the book lies a dark tone of hatred towards the protagonist and rarely shows any hope for the her. As more of the protagonistÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s and her familyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s past is revealed, the darker the story gets. Through the young girl she portrays the issues of self confidence when influenced by society's norms. She makes a statement that we favor societyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s opinion too much, always idolizing the covergirl look. The book points out that girls chase beauty standards to a point that is volatile. The focus on beauty goes hand in hand with how women are portrayed for the time era. Morrison also attempts to display how men and women change and develop through the bookÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s large character set that has many opposing values.While the novel may be slow and confusing in the first chapters, the book hooks the reader with story that grabs your heart. The story is a huge tear jerker. I recommend this book to those who can enjoy a depressing book. This book is also touches on sensitive subjects, contains explicit scenes, and has very crude language, so this book is for a more mature audience.

I bought this book for my english literature class. The Thema should be beauty. I think this is a big topic in the book but i would say the important thing is that you read a lot about racism. I think it is a little bit difficult to read because we have about three black child main characters and then in two

different chapters we learn about the background from the parents of one black girl. The perspective in the chapters jump between this main characters and sometimes the chapters change between future and present. So this makes it a little bit difficult, so I wouldn't recommend the book to not so good english readers. The plot is interesting and you can learn a lot about the different perspectives, but it is also a little bit cruel and we hear a lot about pedophile.

read this novel when it was first released. wanted to read it again. at first reading, I was blown away, because prior to the seventies a black female author was rare to non-existent. black males wrote tons of non-fiction, but I'm a fiction lover. I'd never read a novel written in such a learned voice that told the story of so sad a character, without that old sweaty, downtrodden tone. I'd never had a brilliant af. amer. professor, not just read, but teach me to rip the novel apart, turn the characters inside out, shake them up and then put all the pieces back in place, before drawing my own conclusions.. t.,m. is one of the most gifted authors on earth. if you read this novel, I suggest that you form a group, so that they can shed light on the pieces you might miss. and, read the afterward, before the novel. it helps you to understand, why the subject was important to t.m. and why she approached it from this prospective. I can't say, " enjoy", because this novel rips your guts out; it actually hurts when you pick it up. I won't say why, but t. m. tells you in the first page or so.

The best piece of American literature. A truly heartbreaking tale of a young girl that evokes the reader to feel all sorts of things. This novel does have some pretty explicit sexual content but, it isn't in a way of entertainment but rather for the purpose of telling the story. I would recommend that everyone purchase and read this piece of art at least once in their lifetime.

The Bluest Eye took me into the sad world of Pecola Breedlove and the other characters. Pecola lived a terribly depressing life with practically no love from her mother or father. She doesn't really question her existence, she simply lives it. She prays that God will give her blue eyes. As she navigates through her young life, she is too often shunned and shamed just because of the way she looks.I liked the way Ms. Morrison introduced her characters to us in this book. She then she took us back to look at their story and what circumstances made them into who we saw. It was a very deep read, but I enjoyed it.

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