



Quicksand and Passing

By Nella Larsen

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Nella Larsen was an important writer associated with the Harlem Renaissance. While she was not prolific her work was powerful and critically acclaimed. Collected here are both of her novels, *Passing* and *Quicksand*. *Quicksand*, was autobiographical in nature and examined a woman's need for sexual fulfilment balanced against respectability and acceptance amid a deeply religious society. The novel is deeply pessimistic and ends as the protagonist is sucked into a life that is at odds with all that she had desired. *Passing* confronts the reality of racial passing. The novel focuses on two childhood friends Clare and Irene, both of whom are light skinned enough to pass as white, who have reconnected with one another after many years apart. Clare has chosen to pass while Irene has embraced her racial heritage and become an important member of her community. The Novel examines how people pass on many different levels and in many different ways. Some forms of passing are perfectly acceptable while others can lead to disaster.

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Editorial Review

Review

?Quicksand and Passing are novels that I will never forget. They open up a whole world of experience and struggle that seemed to me, when I first read them years ago, absolutely absorbing, fascinating and indispensable.? Alice Walker ?Quicksand does not just explore the contradictory terrain of women and romance; its sexual politics tear apart the very fabric of the romance form.? Hazel Carby

From the Back Cover

Nella Larsen's novels *Quicksand*(1928) and *Passing*(1929) document the historical realities of Harlem in the 1920s and shed a bright light on the social world of the black bourgeoisie. The novel's greatest appeal and achievement, however, is not sociological, but psychological. As noted in the editor's comprehensive introduction, Larsen takes the theme of psychic dualism, so popular in Harlem Renaissance fiction, to a higher and more complex level, displaying a sophisticated understanding and penetrating analysis of black female psychology.

About the Author

Nella Larsen was born in Chicago in 1893 of a Danish mother and a West Indian father. She began writing during the Harlem Renaissance, a period during which black artists, writers, and musicians were prominent in the New York art scene. The success of *Quicksand* and *Passing* made Nella Larsen one of the most feted woman writers of her generation. She died in 1963 in obscurity. Now her 'lost' work is being rediscovered and celebrated.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rosalyn Kendall:

The experience that you get from *Quicksand* and *Passing* will be the more deep you rooting the information that hide in the words the more you get considering reading it. It does not mean that this book is hard to comprehend but *Quicksand* and *Passing* giving you excitement feeling of reading. The copy writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by means of anyone who read the idea because the author of this guide is well-known enough. This particular book also makes your personal vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along with you, both in printed or e-book style are available. We propose you for having this particular *Quicksand* and *Passing* instantly.

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Christopher Palmer:

The reason why? Because this Quicksand and Passing is an unordinary book that the inside of the guide waiting for you to snap this but latter it will shock you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who write the book in such remarkable way makes the content inside of easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this anymore or you going to regret it. This excellent book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book have such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking method. So , still want to delay having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Pierre Winter:

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