

RECENT FICTION BY AND ABOUT AFRICAN AMERICANS

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Bailey, Tom, 1961-

[Cotton Song : a Novel](#)

"In World War II-era Mississippi, the aftermath of a tragedy takes on all the intensity and heat of the Delta summer when the town of Ruleton copes with violence, racism, and a vengeful spree that threatens the life of a young girl and the soul of the small town." 2006



Baker, Calvin, 1972-

[Dominion](#)

Dominion tells the story of the Merian family who, at the close of the seventeenth century, settle in the wilderness of the Carolinas. Jasper is the patriarch, freed from bondage, who manages against all odds to build a thriving estate with his new wife and two sons -- one enslaved, the other free. For one hundred years, the Merian family struggles against the natural (and occasionally supernatural) world, colonial politics, the injustices of slavery, the Revolutionary War and questions of fidelity and the heart. Footed in both myth and modernity, Calvin Baker crafts a rich, intricate and moving novel, with meditations on God, responsibility, and familial legacies. While masterfully incorporating elements of the world's oldest and greatest stories, the end result is a bold contemplation of the origins of America. 2006

Bigsby, C. W. E.

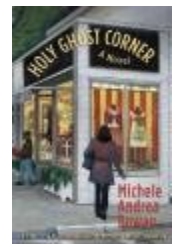
[Beautiful Dreamer : a Novel](#)

"In a small southern town, a white man tries to prevent a lynching and finds himself branded by the mob - and worse, finds himself sheltering the dead man's son. When the killers come around to finish the job, the two victims are forced to flee across the country in the hopes of escaping men with nothing but vengeance on their minds." "Just one step behind the vigilantes a solitary lawman tracks the men, wrestling with the choice to either turn the customary blind eye or to put a stop to the intolerable logic of racial hatred." "Dark and gritty, Beautiful Dreamer traces the struggle between reluctant good and dedicated evil, where morality is a matter of life or death and the choices made have consequences as lasting as they are unexpected."--BOOK JACKET. 2006

Bowen, Michele Andrea

[Holy Ghost Corner : a Novel](#)

From the author of the "Essence" bestsellers "Church Folk" and "Second Sunday" comes a hilarious and affecting novel about a God-loving, 40-something woman's quest for love. 2006



Cooper, J. California

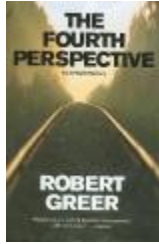
[Wild Stars Seeking Midnight Suns](#)

"In stories that are simple yet elegant, hard-hitting yet poignant, J. California Cooper writes about the search for fulfillment that propels people's dreams and desires. In "As Time Goes By" a young woman named Futila Ways grows up focusing her dream of a better future on material wealth, only to discover everything she ever wanted cannot compensate for the emptiness in her heart. "The Eye of the Beholder" recounts the story of an unattractive young girl, Lily Bea, whose search for love leads her to embrace her own brand of freedom. And in "Catch a Falling Heart" a woman mildly crippled in a fall endures loneliness and solitude until she finds a man and provides a resting place for his love. Each story conveys the profound human need to seek some sort of satisfaction, just as a wild star seeks a midnight sun."--BOOK JACKET. 2006

Ford, Clyde W.

[Deuce's Wild](#)

John Shannon's son J. J. is a huge fan of hip-hop artist Yousef al-Salaam, formerly Deuce F., who recently converted to Sufism, a mystical order of Islam. The popular musician also happens to be on a terrorist watch list. When al-Salaam is shot outside a Manhattan nightclub, Shannon agrees to investigate the murder as a favor to J. J. Was al-Salaam entangled in a feud with East Coast gangsta rapper T-Mo? Or was he caught on the wrong side of Islam extremism? The NYPD has given up on the case and, after a close call with T-Mo's thugs, so has Shannon. But something—curiosity, ego, anger?—drives him to penetrate the murky mystery surrounding al-Salaam, whose search for enlightenment reminds Shannon of his own quest for personal growth. 2006



Greer, Robert O.

[The Fourth Perspective : a C.J. Floyd Mystery](#)

C.J. Floyd, the streetwise, Denver-based bail bondsman and Vietnam vet, gets embroiled in an investigation that reaches back to the building of the transcontinental railroad, leads him to a famous photograph, and has him tangled with eccentric power brokers and collectors who are after a slice of priceless American history--Provided by publisher. 2006

Harris, E. Lynn

[I Say a Little Prayer](#)

Chauncey Greer is the owner of Cute Boy Card Company, a thriving company in Atlanta. As a teenager, he was a member of a popular boy band, but left in disgrace when word got out that he and his band mate D were more than good friends. Everything is going as planned-- until D appears on the scene and Chauncey has to confront his past and make some hard decisions about his future. 2006

Hill, Donna (Donna O.)

[Guilty Pleasures](#)

Eva and Jake Kelly learn that not every con can end perfectly when they rob a cruise ship en route to Miami. 2006



Jarrett, Norma L.

[Sweet Magnolia](#)

On the surface, the Ledouxes live an idyllic life among the upper-echelon of New Orleans' most powerful. But once relatives come together to celebrate a wedding, generational secrets that have spanned decades slowly come to the surface and lead two sisters to uncover the truth about their family and themselves, testing their spiritual reserves. 2006

Langhorne, Karyn E.

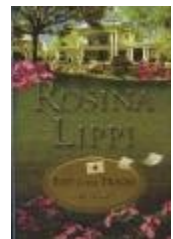
[Diary of an Ugly Duckling](#)

Tired of being overlooked in favor of thinner, fairer-skinned women, Audra Marks undergoes an extreme makeover, but doesn't quite realize what she's signed up for in this third novel by the author of "Street Level." 2006

Lippi, Rosina

[Tied to the Tracks](#)

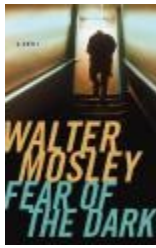
When an award-winning southern writer demands that their untraditional, shoestring film company make the movie of her life, producer Angie reluctantly accompanies her colleagues to Georgia, where a man from her past is preparing to marry a wealthy and popular debutante. 2006



McLarin, Kim

[Jump at the Sun](#)

Grace Jefferson is an educated and accomplished modern woman, a child of the Civil Rights dream, and she knows it. But after a series of rattling personal transitions, she finds herself in a new house in a new city and in a new career for which she feels dangerously unsuited: a stay-at-home mom. Caught between the only two models of mothering she has ever known, a sharecropping grandmother who abandoned her children to save herself and a mother who sacrificed all to save her kids, Grace struggles to embrace her new role, hoping to find a middle ground. But as the days pass and the pressures mount, Grace catches herself in small acts of abandonment, speeding up on neighborhood walks, closing doors with the children on one side and her on the other, that she fears may foretell a future she is powerless to prevent. Or perhaps one she secretly seeks.--From publisher description.



Mosley, Walter

[Fear of the Dark : a Novel](#)

For Paris Minton, a knock on his door is often the first sign of trouble. So when he finds his lowlife cousin, Ulysses S. Grant, or Useless, on the other side of his front door, Paris keeps it firmly closed. With family like Useless, who needs enemies? Yet trouble always finds an open window, and when Useless's mother, Three Hearts, shows up to look for her son, Paris has no choice but to track down his wayward cousin. Turns out that Useless is involved in some high-stakes blackmailing. Now, he and a briefcase full of money and incriminating photos are missing, and Paris is not the only one looking for him. Paris enlists the help of his invincible friend Fearless Jones, but mysterious women, desperate blackmail victims, and cheating business partners are all they encounter--not to mention the dead bodies found along the way. 2006

Mosley, Walter

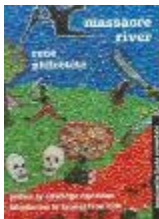
[Fortunate Son](#)

"Tommy's nickname is Lucky, but no one would think this crippled boy was blessed. Cursed with health problems and drawn into trouble more often than not, Tommy is the recipient of pity rather than admiration. In a powerful story of modern-day resilience and redemption, Tommy and Eric forge their separate ways in the world, each confronting his own challenges. "Eric and Tommy's parallel lives are a story of self-determination and the true measure of fortune. The ties that bind this Adonis and his sickly counterpart, however, are thicker than blood, and when circumstances reunite Eric and Tommy after years apart, their distinct approaches to life may be the only thing that can save them from forces that threaten to destroy them."--BOOK JACKET. 2006

Perrin, Kayla

[Getting Even](#)

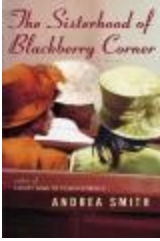
Three scorned women--Claudia, whose groom gets cold feet and then quickly becomes engaged to her rival; Annelise, whose husband claims bankruptcy so she will not challenge the prenup; and Lishelle, whose former lover steals her money--vow to use sex as a method of sweet revenge. 2006



Philoctete, Rene

[Massacre River](#)

A tale set against a backdrop of 1937's massacre of thousands of Haitians under the orders of power-mad generalissimo Trujillo finds the loving interracial marriage of Dominican Pedro and Haitian Adèle shattered when a group of soldiers arrive in their Dominican border town intent on murdering Haitian citizens. 2005



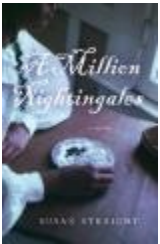
Smith, Andrea

[The Sisterhood of Blackberry Corner](#)

"Canaan Creek, South Carolina, in the 1950s is a tiny town where the close-knit African-American community is united by long-term friendships and church ties. Bonnie Wilder has lived here, on Blackberry Corner, all her life, and would be content but for her deep desire to have a child. She and her husband Naz cannot conceive, and he refuses to adopt. Even the support of her outrageous best friend Thora - to whom Bonnie tells everything - can't help fill the emptiness inside her."

"Then Naz finds a blanketed infant on the banks of Canaan Creek, and suddenly Bonnie's life is transformed. She has found her calling. Together with Thora and the rest of the hilarious, tough, and all-too-human women from her church group, Bonnie creates an underground railroad for unwanted babies. But one of these precious gifts will come back to haunt her: a deception begun in good faith comes full circle, ultimately forcing Bonnie to find the courage to confront a difficult truth at the center of her own life."--BOOK JACKET.

2006



Straight, Susan

[A Million Nightingales](#)

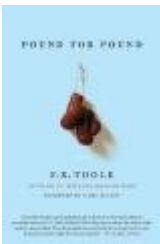
When she is sold away from her family, Moinette, the daughter of an African mother and an unknown white father, begins to prepare herself for an escape to freedom, journeying through a world of brutality, sexual violence, loss, and struggle to find her way out of the bonds of slavery to discover the true meaning of freedom, in a novel set in early nineteenth-century Louisiana.

2006

Tademy, Lalita

[Red River](#)

"The intertwining stories of two Louisiana families--three generations of African-American men--and their struggles to make a place for themselves in a country deeply divided in the aftermath of the Civil War and beyond"--Provided by publisher. 2006



Toole, F. X., 1930-

[Pound for Pound : a Novel](#)

"Pound for pound is a story of family, honor, perseverance, and forgiveness. Set in towns where violence is the norm and success stories take on an almost mythic importance, it tells of grandfathers and grandsons - older men for whom life has not been easy and the young men who look to them for guidance - and reveals the transformative power of that relationship. Dan Cooley, an aging but legendary Los Angeles trainer, takes on a troubled young fighter named Chicky Garza,

hungry to make a name for himself in the San Antonio boxing circuit, which is rife with crime and corruption. The bond between them grows more powerful than the obstacles they face, ultimately reviving in each man the courage it takes to triumph both in and out of the ring."--BOOK JACKET.

2006