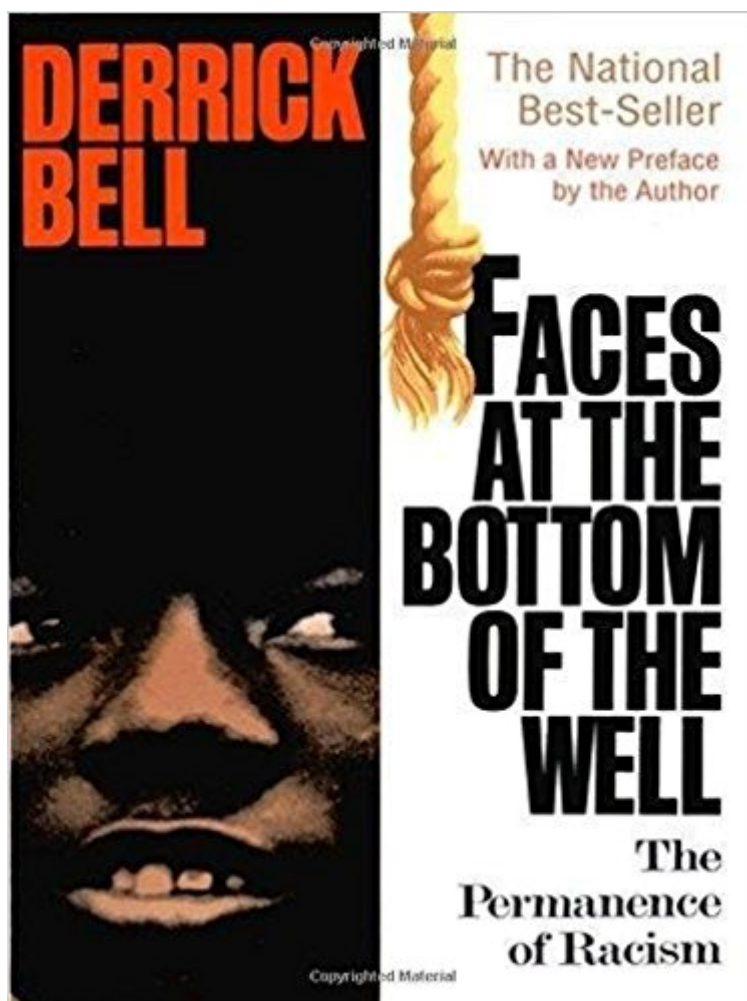


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Faces At The Bottom Of The Well: The Permanence Of Racism



Synopsis

The noted civil rights activist uses allegory and historical example to present a radical vision of the persistence of racism in America. These essays shed light on some of the most perplexing and vexing issues of our day: affirmative action, the disparity between civil rights law and reality, the racist outbursts of some black leaders, the temptation toward violent retaliation, and much more.

Book Information

Paperback: 222 pages

Publisher: Basic Books; Reprint edition (October 6, 1993)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0465068146

ISBN-13: 978-0465068142

Product Dimensions: 5.2 x 0.8 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 41 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #81,625 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #50 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Politics & Government > International & World Politics > African #227 in Books > History > Africa #439 in Books > Politics & Social Sciences > Sociology > Race Relations > Discrimination & Racism

Customer Reviews

In nine grim metaphorical sketches, Bell, the black former Harvard law professor who made headlines recently for his one-man protest against the school's hiring policies, hammers home his controversial theme that white racism is a permanent, indestructible component of our society. Bell's fantasies are often dire and apocalyptic: a new Atlantis rises from the ocean depths, sparking a mass emigration of blacks; white resistance to affirmative action softens following an explosion that kills Harvard's president and all of the school's black professors; intergalactic space invaders promise the U.S. President that they will clean up the environment and deliver tons of gold, but in exchange, the bartering aliens take all African Americans back to their planet. Other pieces deal with black-white romance, a taxi ride through Harlem and job discrimination. Civil rights lawyer Geneva Crenshaw, the heroine of Bell's *And We Are Not Saved* (1987), is back in some of these ominous allegories, which speak from the depths of anger and despair. Bell now teaches at New York University Law School. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an

out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Bell, in the news because he is on leave from Harvard Law School to protest its never having hired a tenured black woman, has written a provocative and creative book that nicely follows his *And We Are Not Saved* (LJ 8/87). His "interweaving of fact and fiction" and an "unorthodox form" make for stimulating reading and clarify for white readers the obstacles continually faced by black Americans and the miseries they endlessly endure. No other book features, as does this one, a Racial Preference Licensing Act, Racial Data Storms, Afroatlantica Emigration, Space Traders (guess who they are coming to take away?), the Anne Frank Committee, and White Citizens for Black Survival. Bell's thoughts about Minister Louis Farrakhan and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas are a contribution to the public dialog on those figures. An especially important and relevant publication for public and academic libraries.- Katherine Dahl, Western Illinois Univ., Macomb Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This book really challenges cherished beliefs about social justice issues, particularly the value of full integration. Bell makes a persuasive argument to allow segregation and even some forms of discrimination as long as such actions are heavily taxed and that money diverted into social justice, such as education and economic programs. The proposal struck me as a form of carbon tax for racism. It's hard to disagree with Bell's assessment that racism is a fixed characteristic in American society. This book has certainly broadened my perspective as I continue to struggle for social justice.

Great book! After the 2016 election, Bell's book reads like prophecy. One wonders, had we all read this book prior to the election, would any of us be shocked by the outcome? Probably not. Highly recommended!

I reread this short story to remember why D. Bell is one of our icons of the 'Struggle' and understanding why Ferguson Mo..is a focal point for us now. This story reminds me that we are worthy of much more than what we have experienced. We need in 2014 to bring our education, money and fortitude to another level. It's time to change the strategy of our lives in America. We have options. I speak of one particular story 'Space Traders'...its just a valuable read to remind one of why the "Black Experience' is just that, lessons of where we have been, how we came to be, how we are viewed and respected for our contributions and deciding where we are going.

It is a great book set up in short stories written by a brilliant mind covering a multiplicity of Black people/issues. I love the way Derrick Bell teaches life's lessons from the African American world view.

These short stories are quite incredible and inspiring!!!!I read a portion of the mind blowing stories and found them truly informative and entertaining! You have to add this book to your collection of great reading!!! This book needs to be put back in circulation for any and all lovers of knowledge and entertainment. Santana Laster

So truthful in what it exposes, it left me with chills. It is a great companion piece to Tom Burrell's Brainwashed to see how racism in America has been woven into the very fabric of our lives.

A must read for anyone looking to understand race politics and the anti-Black racism upon which this country was founded and thrives.

Dr. DeGruy chronicles our African American history and our contemporary experiences from important psychosocial-cultural-environmental perspectives. It is foundational for us.

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