

# Contents

Introduction	xi
1 / <i>The Roots of the Early Afro-American Novel</i>	3
Sociopsychological Roots: Double-Consciousness, Double Vision, and Socialized Ambivalence	3
African Oral Narratives	15
Afro-American Folk Roots	17
Residually Oral Forms: Oratory, Myth, Legend, Tale, and Song	20
Literary Sources	27
ABOLITIONIST LITERATURE	27
THE BIBLE	29
POPULAR FICTION	32
2 / <i>The Early Afro-American Novel: Historical Romance, Social Realism, and Beyond</i>	37
Antebellum Novels	37
WILLIAM WELLS BROWN	38
FRANK J. WEBB	42
HARRIET E. WILSON	45
MARTIN ROBISON DELANY	50
Postbellum Novels	56
FRANCES ELLEN WATKINS HARPER	57
SUTTON ELBERT GRIGGS	60
CHARLES WADDELL CHESNUTT	63
PAUL LAURENCE DUNBAR	70
3 / <i>The Pre-World War I Novels of the Old Guard: Romance, Realism, and Naturalism</i>	76
Romance, Realism, and Naturalism	78
WILLIAM EDWARD BURGHARDT DU BOIS	81
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON	86
Legacy of the Old Guard	91

4 / <i>The Harlem Renaissance and the Search for New Modes of Narrative</i>	93
Poetic Realism and Historical Romance	96
NATHAN EUGENE TOOMER	96
ARNA WENDELL BONTEMPS	101
Genteel Realism: Assimilationism, Nationalism, or Biculturalism	105
JESSIE REDMON FAUSET	107
NELLA LARSEN	109
Folk Romance: Pastoralism, Primitivism, and Ancestralism	112
FESTUS CLAUDIUS MCKAY	116
ZORA NEALE HURSTON	119
Folk Realism: Religion, Music, Humor, and Language	128
JAMES LANGSTON HUGHES	129
COUNTEE PORTER CULLEN	133
Satiric Realism: The Vices and Follies of the Folk and Bourgeoisie	137
RUDOLPH FISHER	138
GEORGE SAMUEL SCHUYLER	142
WALLACE THURMAN	145
5 / <i>Richard Wright and the Triumph of Naturalism</i>	150
The "Chicago School" of Sociology	151
The Great Depression and the Communist Party	151
The Federal Writers' Project	154
RICHARD NATHANIEL WRIGHT	154
The Triumph of Naturalism	167
WILLIAM ATTAWAY	167
CHESTER BOMAR HIMES	171
ANN LANE PETRY	178
WILLIAM GARDNER SMITH	183
Continuity and Change in the Novel of the Forties	185
6 / <i>Myth, Legend, and Ritual in the Novel of the Fifties</i>	188
Beyond Naturalism	189
Myth, Legend, and Ritual	192
RALPH WALDO ELLISON	193
JAMES ARTHUR BALDWIN	215
7 / <i>The Contemporary Afro-American Novel, 1: Neorealism</i>	235
The Black Power and Black Arts Movements	236

---

 Contents

The Women's Rights Movement	239
Toward Modernism	244
Literary Neorealism: Critical and Poetic	245
Critical Realism	246
JOHN OLIVER KILLENS	247
JOHN ALFRED WILLIAMS	252
ALICE WALKER	259
Poetic Realism and the Gothic Fable	269
CHLOE ANTHONY "TONI" MORRISON	270
Continuity in the Novel of the Sixties and Seventies	277
<i>8 / The Contemporary Afro-American Novel, 2: Modernism and Postmodernism</i>	281
Modernism and Postmodernism	282
Fabulation, Legend, and Neoslave Narrative	285
MARGARET ABIGAIL WALKER	285
ERNEST J. GAINES	290
WILLIAM MELVIN KELLEY	295
RONALD L. FAIR	301
Fabulation, Romance, and Fantasy	306
JOHN EDGAR WIDEMAN	307
CLARENCE MAJOR	315
Fabulation and Satire	320
CHARLES STEVENSON WRIGHT	321
GEORGE "HAL" BENNETT	324
ISHMAEL REED	329
Change in the Novel of the Sixties and Seventies	336
Conclusion	339
Notes	344
Bibliography	375
Index	397