

Going to the Territory

By Ralph Ellison

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Going to the Territory By Ralph Ellison

The work of one of the most formidable figures in American intellectual life."

-- Washington Post Book World

The seventeen essays collected in this volume prove that Ralph Ellison was not only one of America's most dazzlingly innovative novelists but perhaps also our most perceptive and iconoclastic commentator on matters of literature, culture, and race. In Going to the Territory, Ellison provides us with dramatically fresh readings of William Faulkner and Richard Wright, along with new perspectives on the music of Duke Ellington and the art of Romare Bearden. He analyzes the subversive quality of black laughter, the mythic underpinnings of his masterpiece Invisible Man, and the extent to which America's national identity rests on the contributions of African Americans. Erudite, humane, and resounding with humor and common sense, the result is essential Ellison.

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Going to the Territory By Ralph Ellison Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #1361049 in Books
- Published on: 1995-03-14
- Released on: 1995-03-14
- Format: International Edition
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.97" h x .71" w x 5.18" l, .65 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 338 pages

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly
These three volumes have been redesigned and reissued to commemorate the first anniversary of Ellison's death.
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From Library Journal
A new book by the author of Invisible Man is always a welcome event. Like Ellison's Shadow and Act , this collection of essays, addresses, and reviews deals with topics in literature, music, and race relations. "Remembering Richard Wright," "Homage to Duke Ellington on His Birthday," and "What America Would Be Like Without the Blacks" are among the essays included. While most of these essays have appeared previously, reprinting them here is nevertheless useful. When read together, they resonate off one another, reinforcing Ellison's emphasis on what blacks and whites share rather than on their differences. Throughout, Ellison tries to view American culture as a cloth of one piece. His analysis of the growth of that culture, and of the dynamic interaction of the diverse elements within it, is perceptive and convincing. Highly recommended. William Gargan, Brooklyn Coll. Lib., CUNY
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From the Inside Flap
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