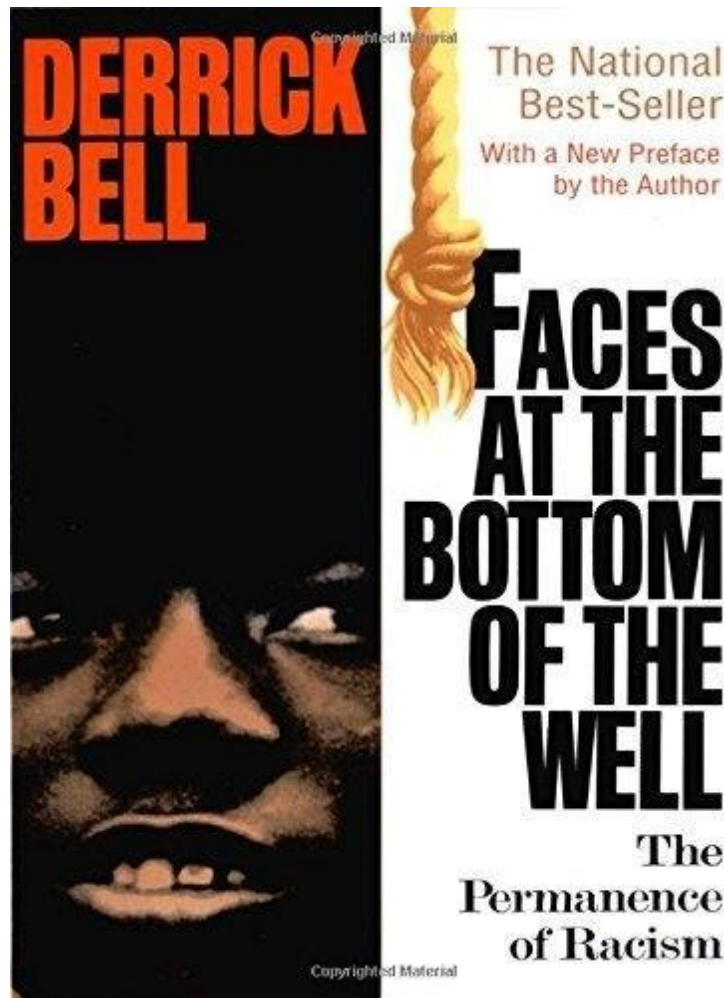


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Faces At The Bottom Of The Well: The Permanence Of Racism

Derrick Bell

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#72992 in Books Derrick Bell 1993-10-06Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.00 x .75 x 5.251, .59 #File Name: 0465068146222 pagesFaces at the Bottom of the Well The Permanence of Racism | File size: 55.Mb

Derrick Bell : Faces At The Bottom Of The Well: The Permanence Of Racism before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Faces At The Bottom Of The Well: The Permanence Of Racism:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. VictoriaBy Victoria S. AsburyGreat 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!2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Need to Reread the Space Traders....its a great read for reflections....By P.L.CI 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. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. should be in your library. By LeRoi Simmons 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.

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.

From Publishers Weekly 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. From Library Journal 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. From Kirkus s Here, as he did in *And We Are Not Saved*, Harvard Law School professor Bell offers dramatized accounts of the dilemma of race relations in America. Bell uses stories and fables to examine such themes as desire for homeland; the role of violence; interracial relationships; and scapegoating. He argues that "racial nepotism" on the part of whites allows de facto discrimination to exist even without animosity: "When whites perceive that it will be profitable or at least cost-free to serve, hire, admit, or otherwise deal with blacks on a non-discriminatory basis, they do so. When they fear - accurately or not - that there may be a loss, inconvenience, or upset to themselves or other whites, discriminatory conduct usually follows." Such racism will be with us forever, Bell contends. In the face of this, he calls for blacks to "fashion a philosophy that both matches the unique dangers we face, and enables us to recognize in those dangers opportunities for committed living and humane service." Bell's method of making his points through stories allows for a certain moral complexity: Thoughtful persons work menial jobs; a dynamic black leader who has dedicated his life to his people and worries about his place in history falls in love with a white woman; space aliens who speak English with Reagan's voice arrive with gold, safe nuclear power, and "special chemicals capable of unpolluting the environment"--and all they ask in exchange is that America's black citizens be turned over to them. But the stories, for all their fablelike power, are laden with great chunks of orotund exposition and numerous overworked adverbs. By using them, Bell forfeits the polemical passion of his introductory essay, while their simplistic dramatizations jar with the impressive legal erudition apparent elsewhere. Still, despite his lackluster writing, Bell offers insight into the rage, frustration, and yearning of being black in America. -- Copyright ©1992, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.