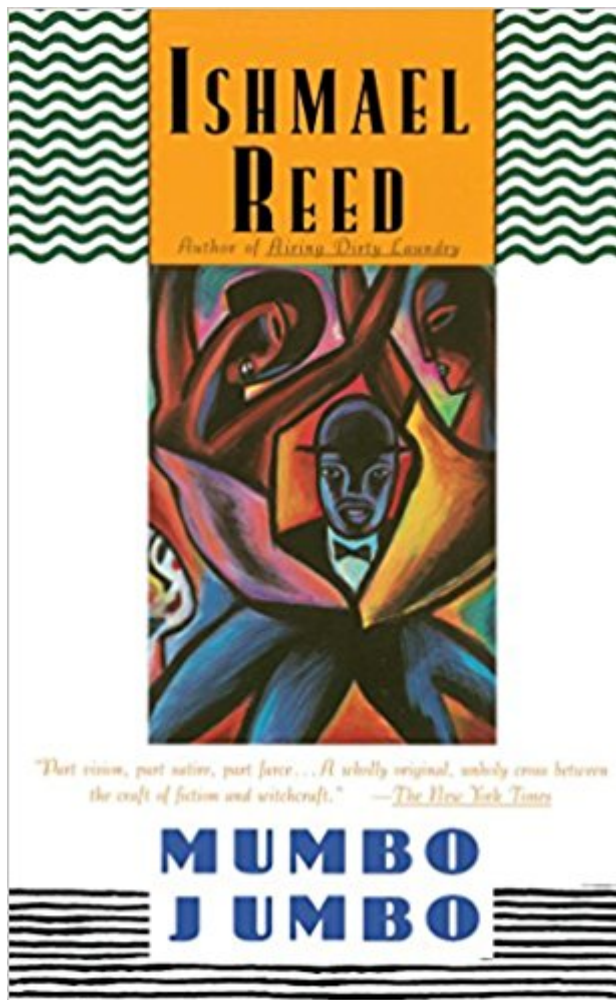




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Mumbo Jumbo



Synopsis

The classic freewheeling look at race relations through the ages. *Mumbo Jumbo* is Ishmael Reed's brilliantly satiric deconstruction of Western civilization, a racy and uproarious commentary on our society. In it, Reed, one of our preeminent African-American authors, mixes portraits of historical figures and fictional characters with sound bites on subjects ranging from ragtime to Greek philosophy. Cited by literary critic Harold Bloom as one of the five hundred most significant books in the Western canon, *Mumbo Jumbo* is a trenchant and often biting look at black-white relations throughout history, from a keen observer of our culture.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 3.9 out of 5 stars 53 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Mumbo Jumbo is Ishmael Reed's brilliantly satiric deconstruction of Western civilization, a racy and uproarious commentary on our society.

Ishmael Reed grew up in working-class neighborhoods in Buffalo, New York. He attended Buffalo public schools and the University of Buffalo. As well as being a novelist, poet, and essayist, he is a songwriter, television producer, publisher, magazine editor, playwright, and founder of the Before Columbus Foundation and There City Cinema, both located in Northern California. He lives in Oakland, California.

This is the novel that changed my life and academic career in the Lockwood Library at University at Buffalo (SUNY). Until I write my academic memoir, what I say about this novel can be found in my

book The "Dark Heathenism" of the American Novelist Ishmael Reed: African Voodoo as American Literary HooDoo (Edwin Mellen Press, 2007). Mumbo Jumbo is the novel that inspired Prof. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. to write his seminal work The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of African-American Literary Criticism. Mumbo Jumbo is a multi-vocal, multi-ethnic, multi-cultural, jazz novel at its best. Undergirded by syncretism--collage--and synchronicity--"at the end of the novel, we are told that "Time is a pendulum

Mumbo Jumbo was a pioneer when it was first published, It's not a novel that jes grew but one that was carefully made.

Insightful and meaningful book

Recommend. Great read!

Its entrainment. There some funny moments (it is a satire) Makes you fact check some things and to my surprise learn a lot about many things I never thought I would. Won't be a must read but I'm glad I read it. Will re read it eventually

It's a wonderful book. And to think that we're occupying Haiti again. Powerful stuff goes on there, but the book is about us, here.

... the collection of 1 star reviews from a crew of young politically correct students do not properly understand the works for which they publish reviews? So, let me present what Julian Symons in his unequaled history of the detective story and crime novel ("Bloody Murder") has to say about Ishmael Reed: "The jokers have spawned little of interest among more nearly orthodox crime writers, the two most interesting I have encountered being Ishmael Reed (1938-) and Jerome Charyn (1937-). Reed, a black writer who owes a great deal to other blacks like Chester Hines, is often very near to fantasy. His hoodoo detective Papa La Bass is opposed to black revolutionaries, feminists, and white intellectuals who condescend to blacks. Mumbo Jumbo (1972) and The Last Days of Louisiana Red (1974), ... are high spirited stories which avoid orthodox plotting in favor of free wheeling movement from one loosely connected episode to another, as La Bas solves the problems involved in political murder and general villainy. Behind the high spirits is a didacticism that seems at times opposed to all progressive movements as fakes of one kind or another." So, students: 2 key

words are joker and crime. He is a humorist writing detective novels. Got it? And, by the way, widely regarded as fans of the genre as one of the best. Bloody Murder: From the Detective Story to the Crime Novel

Had to read this book for class, so was not a book I normally would have picked on my own.

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