

the living is easy by dorothea west

The Living Is Easy by Dorothy West: A Timeless Exploration of Race, Class, and Identity

the living is easy by dorothea west is a novel that holds a special place in African American literature, celebrated for its vivid portrayal of the complexities of race, class, and family in early 20th-century America. Written by Dorothy West, one of the Harlem Renaissance's most influential voices, this book offers readers a captivating glimpse into the life of a privileged Black family in Boston and the challenges they face in navigating societal expectations and personal desires. More than just a story, it is a rich tapestry woven with themes of social mobility, identity, and the pursuit of happiness.

Understanding the Context of The Living Is Easy by Dorothy West

To fully appreciate the novel, it's important to understand the historical and social backdrop against which Dorothy West wrote *The Living Is Easy*. Published in 1948, the book emerges from the Harlem Renaissance—a period marked by an explosion of African American cultural, artistic, and intellectual expression. West, herself a key figure in this movement, used her writing to explore the nuanced experiences of African Americans beyond the stereotypical narratives common at the time.

The Harlem Renaissance Influence

The Harlem Renaissance shaped West's perspective, encouraging her to delve into themes of Black identity and racial pride. Unlike many works of the era that focused predominantly on the struggles of Black communities in urban centers, *The Living Is Easy* spotlights a wealthy Black family, the Lightfoots, whose experiences challenge conventional ideas about race and class.

Boston's Black Aristocracy

Set in Boston's affluent Black society, the novel offers a rare look at a segment of the African American population that was often overlooked—the Black upper class. This setting allows West to explore how race and class intersect in ways that complicate individuals' lives, particularly for the protagonist, Gayle, who grapples with her own desires and societal expectations.

Plot Overview: What Happens in *The Living Is Easy* by Dorothy West?

The story centers on Gayle, a young woman from a wealthy Black family in Boston during the 1930s. Gayle's life is marked by privilege, but she is also painfully aware of the limitations imposed on her by race and gender. The plot follows her journey as she attempts to break free from the constraints of her social environment and carve out her own identity.

Gayle's Struggle with Identity and Independence

At the heart of the novel is Gayle's internal conflict. Raised in comfort, she still faces the societal pressures to conform to traditional roles for Black women of her class. Her desire to pursue a career as a writer and to live life on her own terms puts her at odds with her family and community. This tension drives much of the narrative, revealing the difficult choices faced by Black women seeking autonomy during this period.

Family Dynamics and Social Expectations

The Lightfoot family's interactions provide a window into the complexities of maintaining status and

respectability within a racially segregated society. West deftly shows how the family's efforts to "pass" as white or to distance themselves from poverty and discrimination lead to personal sacrifices and emotional turmoil.

The Themes That Make *The Living Is Easy* by Dorothy West So Impactful

Dorothy West's novel is rich with thematic elements that resonate deeply with readers, making it a timeless work. Here are some of the key themes explored in the book:

Race and Colorism

One of the most powerful aspects of *The Living Is Easy* is its exploration of race and colorism within the Black community. West highlights how lighter skin and wealth can afford certain privileges, yet these advantages come with their own forms of alienation and identity struggles. This nuanced portrayal invites readers to consider the complex ways race influences social dynamics.

Class and Social Mobility

The novel also scrutinizes the idea of social mobility, particularly how race complicates the pursuit of higher social status. The Lightfoot family's attempts to maintain their elite standing reveal the barriers Black families faced even when they achieved economic success. West's narrative underscores that financial wealth alone could not erase the realities of racism.

Gender Roles and Feminism

Gayle's character embodies early feminist ideas, challenging the traditional roles expected of women in her community. Through her ambitions and defiance, West presents a critique of the limited options available to Black women, making the novel an important text in discussions of intersectional feminism.

Why *The Living Is Easy* by Dorothy West Remains Relevant Today

The issues Dorothy West addresses in *The Living Is Easy* continue to echo in contemporary society. The novel's exploration of race, class, and gender remains pertinent as discussions around identity and systemic inequality evolve.

Modern Reflections on Race and Privilege

In today's conversations about racial justice and privilege, West's portrayal of the Black upper class invites readers to consider the diversity of Black experiences. It challenges monolithic perceptions and encourages a deeper understanding of how race and class intersect.

The Continued Fight for Gender Equality

Gayle's struggle for independence resonates with ongoing debates about women's rights and empowerment, especially for women of color who often face compounded discrimination. Her story provides historical context for the progress and challenges in the feminist movement.

Tips for Readers Approaching *The Living Is Easy* by Dorothy West

If you're new to Dorothy West's work or interested in delving into *The Living Is Easy*, here are some tips to enhance your reading experience:

- **Pay attention to historical context:** Understanding the Harlem Renaissance and the social climate of 1930s Boston will deepen your appreciation of the novel's themes.
- **Reflect on character motivations:** Gayle's decisions are shaped by complex social pressures—consider how these forces influence her actions.
- **Notice the language and style:** West's prose is elegant and evocative, capturing both the nuances of character and setting.
- **Engage with the themes:** Think about how issues of race, class, and gender in the novel relate to current societal conversations.

Exploring Dorothy West's Legacy Through *The Living Is Easy*

Dorothy West's contribution to literature extends far beyond this novel, but *The Living Is Easy* stands as a cornerstone of her legacy. The book not only showcases her literary talent but also her commitment to portraying the full spectrum of Black life in America. Her work paved the way for future generations of Black writers to tell their stories with authenticity and complexity.

In revisiting *The Living Is Easy*, readers are invited into a world that challenges stereotypes and

broadens understanding. It's a testament to the enduring power of literature to illuminate the human experience across time and culture. Whether you're a fan of historical fiction, interested in African American history, or passionate about social justice, Dorothy West's novel offers rich insights and compelling storytelling that continue to inspire.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'The Living is Easy' by Dorothy West?

The main theme of 'The Living is Easy' is the exploration of race, class, and identity within the African American community during the Harlem Renaissance.

Who is the protagonist in 'The Living is Easy' and what challenges does she face?

The protagonist is Gayle, a light-skinned African American woman who struggles with her identity and societal expectations as she navigates issues of race, family, and social mobility.

How does Dorothy West portray the Harlem Renaissance in the novel?

Dorothy West portrays the Harlem Renaissance as a vibrant cultural and intellectual movement, highlighting both its opportunities and the complexities of colorism and class within the black community.

What role does colorism play in 'The Living is Easy'?

Colorism is a critical theme, as Gayle's light skin affords her certain privileges but also causes internal conflict and tension within her family and community.

How does 'The Living is Easy' address the concept of social mobility?

The novel explores social mobility by depicting Gayle's attempts to improve her social status while grappling with the limitations imposed by race and class in early 20th-century America.

In what ways does family influence Gayle's decisions in the story?

Family expectations and dynamics heavily influence Gayle's decisions, as she navigates loyalty, love, and the desire for independence against the backdrop of her family's struggles and aspirations.

What historical period does 'The Living is Easy' cover and why is it significant?

'The Living is Easy' is set during the 1920s and 1930s, a significant period that encompasses the Harlem Renaissance and the Great Depression, shaping the social and cultural context of the characters' lives.

Why is 'The Living is Easy' considered an important work in African American literature?

It is considered important because it offers a nuanced perspective on African American life, particularly focusing on colorism, class, and gender, and provides insight into the Harlem Renaissance from a female viewpoint.

Additional Resources

The Living Is Easy by Dorothy West: A Literary Exploration of Race, Class, and Identity

the living is easy by dorothea west stands as a seminal work in African American literature, offering an insightful portrayal of race, class, and identity in 1940s Martha's Vineyard. Published posthumously in 1996, this novel captures the nuanced experiences of a privileged Black family navigating societal

expectations and personal aspirations. Dorothy West, a key figure of the Harlem Renaissance, imbues the narrative with a profound exploration of socio-economic dynamics, making the book a rich subject for literary analysis and cultural discussion.

In-depth Analysis of *The Living Is Easy* by Dorothy West

Dorothy West's novel unfolds at a time when African American communities were confronting entrenched racial discrimination while simultaneously striving for economic and social advancement. The story centers around Crane-Top, a wealthy Black family living in the affluent enclave of Oak Bluffs on Martha's Vineyard. The protagonist, Gayle, is a young woman determined to transcend the limitations imposed by both race and class, embodying a complex intersectionality rarely examined with such subtlety in mid-20th-century literature.

One of the most compelling aspects of *the living is easy* by Dorothy West is its intimate portrayal of intra-racial class distinctions. West does not present the African American experience as monolithic; rather, she carefully dissects how wealth and privilege influence identity within the Black community itself. This exploration challenges conventional narratives that often conflate race with socioeconomic status, revealing the tensions and contradictions that arise in the pursuit of the American Dream.

Thematic Depth: Race and Class Interwoven

At its core, the novel grapples with the entanglement of race and class, illustrating how these forces shape personal and collective identities. Gayle's journey is emblematic of this struggle. Her ambition to become a writer and to marry outside her social class highlights the societal pressures and internal conflicts faced by African Americans aiming to redefine their place in a racially stratified society.

West's narrative is suffused with a sense of yearning—for acceptance, for autonomy, and for self-realization. The depiction of Martha's Vineyard as both a sanctuary and a microcosm of racial stratification enriches the thematic fabric of the novel. The island, known historically as a retreat for

affluent Black families, becomes a stage where issues of colorism, classism, and social mobility play out with dramatic intensity.

Characterization and Narrative Style

West's characters are finely drawn, embodying a range of experiences and perspectives that reflect the diversity within the African American community. Gayle, in particular, is portrayed with a nuanced psychological depth that invites readers to engage with her aspirations and dilemmas empathetically. Her internal conflicts resonate with broader questions about identity formation in a racially divided America.

The narrative style of *The Living Is Easy by Dorothy West* is marked by its clarity and evocative descriptions, which paint a vivid picture of both setting and social milieu. West employs a third-person omniscient voice that allows for a comprehensive view of the characters' inner lives and societal constraints. The prose balances lyrical passages with incisive social commentary, making the novel both a literary and historical document.

Historical and Cultural Context

Understanding the historical backdrop of the 1940s enriches the reading of West's novel. During this period, African Americans were increasingly challenging segregation and discrimination, yet the opportunities for upward mobility remained limited. The novel reflects these tensions explicitly, as the characters negotiate their place within a society that privileges whiteness while also contending with class divisions within their own community.

Moreover, West's work contributes to the legacy of the Harlem Renaissance by extending its themes into the mid-20th century. While the Renaissance focused on artistic and cultural affirmation, *The Living Is Easy by Dorothy West* delves deeper into the socio-economic realities facing African Americans, particularly women, during the World War II era. This positions the novel at the intersection of cultural

expression and socio-political critique.

Comparative Insights: The Living Is Easy and Other Harlem

Renaissance Works

When compared to contemporaneous works by authors like Zora Neale Hurston or Langston Hughes, West's novel distinguishes itself through its focus on class privilege within the Black community. While Hurston's "Their Eyes Were Watching God" explores gender and selfhood in a rural Southern setting, and Hughes's poetry often addresses racial pride and struggle, West's narrative interrogates the complexities of Black aristocracy.

This comparative perspective highlights the unique lens through which West examines African American life. Her portrayal of an affluent Black family challenges stereotypes and expands the literary conversation about race and identity. The novel's emphasis on the intersection of race, class, and gender marks a significant contribution to American literature and African American cultural studies.

Relevant Features and Literary Significance

Several features make *The Living Is Easy* by Dorothy West a notable work:

- **Exploration of Intra-Racial Class Divisions:** The novel offers a rare depiction of class stratification within the Black community, a topic often overlooked in mainstream literature.
- **Strong Female Protagonist:** Gayle's character challenges traditional gender roles and societal expectations, emphasizing themes of independence and self-determination.
- **Historical Authenticity:** The setting of Martha's Vineyard and the 1940s era are vividly rendered,

providing readers with an authentic glimpse into a specific cultural and historical milieu.

- **Intersectionality:** West anticipates later feminist and critical race theories by illustrating how race, class, and gender interact to shape individual experiences.

However, some critics have noted that the novel's pace can be uneven, with certain plot developments unfolding slowly. This deliberate pacing, though, allows for rich character development and thematic layering.

Impact on Contemporary Readers and Literary Legacy

Since its publication, *the living is easy* by Dorothy West has garnered renewed attention as a classic that speaks to ongoing conversations about race and privilege. Its nuanced portrayal of Black life challenges simplistic narratives and invites readers to consider the diversity of experiences within marginalized groups.

The novel's relevance extends beyond literary circles; it functions as a social document illuminating historical realities that continue to resonate today. For scholars, students, and general readers interested in African American history, feminist literature, or social class dynamics, West's work remains a critical resource.

In sum, Dorothy West's *the living is easy* is not merely a story of individual ambition but a profound commentary on the complexities of race and class in America. Its enduring significance lies in its ability to provoke reflection on identity, privilege, and the elusive nature of the American Dream.

[The Living Is Easy By Dorothy West](#)

Find other PDF articles:

the living is easy by dorothea west: *The Living is Easy* Dorothea West, 2013-09-15 The captivating firsts novel by Dorothea West--author of *The Wedding*.

the living is easy by dorothea west: *The Living is Easy* Dorothea West, 2020-11-10 *The Living is Easy*, Dorothea West's first novel and one of only a handful of novels published by women during the Harlem Renaissance, tells the story of Cleo Judson, daughter of Southern sharecroppers, who is determined to integrate into Boston's black elite. Married to the Black Banana King Bart Judson, Cleo maneuvers her three sisters and their children-but not their husbands-into living with her, attempting to recreate her original family in a Bostonian mansion. With a new foreword by Morgan Jerkins, *The Living is Easy* is a classic of American literature--

the living is easy by dorothea west: *"Who Set You Flowin'?"* Farah Jasmine Griffin, 1996-09-26 Twentieth-century America has witnessed the most widespread and sustained movement of African-Americans from the South to urban centers in the North. *Who Set You Flowin'?* examines the impact of this dislocation and urbanization, identifying the resulting Migration Narratives as a major genre in African-American cultural production. Griffin takes an interdisciplinary approach with readings of several literary texts, migrant correspondence, painting, photography, rap music, blues, and rhythm and blues. From these various sources Griffin isolates the tropes of Ancestor, Stranger, and Safe Space, which, though common to all Migration Narratives, vary in their portrayal. She argues that the emergence of a dominant portrayal of these tropes is the product of the historical and political moment, often challenged by alternative portrayals in other texts or artistic forms, as well as intra-textually. Richard Wright's bleak, yet cosmopolitan portraits were countered by Dorothea West's longing for Black Southern communities. Ralph Ellison, while continuing Wright's vision, reexamined the significance of Black Southern culture. Griffin concludes with Toni Morrison embracing the South as a site of African-American history and culture, a place to be redeemed.

the living is easy by dorothea west: *Mother Jones Magazine*, 1982-04 *Mother Jones* is an award-winning national magazine widely respected for its groundbreaking investigative reporting and coverage of sustainability and environmental issues.

the living is easy by dorothea west: *Dorothea West's Paradise* Cherene Sherrard-Johnson, 2012-01-01 Dorothea West is best known as one of the youngest writers involved in the Harlem Renaissance. Subsequently, her work is read as a product of the urban aesthetics of this artistic movement. But West was also intimately rooted in a very different milieu—Oak Bluffs, an exclusive retreat for African Americans on Martha's Vineyard. She played an integral role in the development and preservation of that community. In the years between publishing her two novels, 1948's *The Living is Easy* and the 1995 bestseller *The Wedding*, she worked as a columnist for the *Vineyard Gazette*. *Dorothea West's Paradise* captures the scope of the author's long life and career, reading it alongside the unique cultural geography of Oak Bluffs and its history as an elite African American enclave—a place that West envisioned both as a separatist refuge and as a space for interracial contact. An essential book for both fans of West's fiction and students of race, class, and American women's lives, *Dorothea West's Paradise* offers an intimate biography of an important author and a privileged glimpse into the society that shaped her work.

the living is easy by dorothea west: *New Voices on the Harlem Renaissance* Australia Tarver, Paula C. Barnes, 2006 This book expands the discourse on the Harlem Renaissance into more recent crucial areas for literary scholars, college instructors, graduate students, upper-level undergraduates, and Harlem Renaissance aficionados. These selected essays, authored by mostly new critics in Harlem Renaissance studies, address critical discourse in race, cultural studies, feminist studies, identity politics, queer theory, and rhetoric and pedagogy. While some canonical writers are included, such as Langston Hughes and Alain Locke, others such as Dorothea West, Jessie

Fauset, and Wallace Thurman have equal footing. Illustrations from several books and journals help demonstrate the vibrancy of this era. Australia Tarver is Associate Professor of English at Texas Christian University. Paula C. Barnes is an Associate Professor of English at Hampton University.

the living is easy by dorothy west: American Women Writers, 1900-1945 Laurie Champion, 2000-09-30 Women writers have been traditionally excluded from literary canons and not until recently have scholars begun to rediscover or discover for the first time neglected women writers and their works. This reference includes alphabetically arranged entries on 58 American women authors who wrote between 1900 and 1945. Each entry is written by an expert contributor and discusses a particular author's biography, her major works and themes, and the critical response to her writings. The entries close with extensive primary and secondary bibliographies, and the volume concludes with a list of works for further reading. The period surveyed by this reference is rich and diverse. Modernism and the Harlem Renaissance, two major artistic movements, occurred between 1900 and 1945, and the entries included here demonstrate the significant contributions women made to these movements. The volume as a whole strives to reflect the diversity of American culture and includes entries for African American, Native American, Mexican American, and Chinese American women. It includes well known writers such as Willa Cather and Eudora Welty, along with more neglected ones such as Anita Scott Coleman and Sui Sin Far.

the living is easy by dorothy west: LITTLE WOMEN and THE FEMINIST IMAGINATION Janice M. Alberghene, Beverly Lyon Clark, 2014-04-08 Raising key questions about race, class, sexuality, age, material culture, intellectual history, pedagogy, and gender, this book explores the myriad relationships between feminist thinking and *Little Women*, a novel that has touched many women's lives. A critical introduction traces 130 years of popular and critical response, and the collection presents 11 new essays, two new bibliographies, and reprints of six classic essays. The contributors examine the history of illustrating *Little Women*; Alcott's use of domestic architecture as codes of female self-expression; the tradition of utopian writing by women; relationship to works by British and African American writers; recent thinking about feminist pedagogy; the significance of the novel for women writers, and its implications from the vantage points of middle-aged scholar, parent, and resisting male reader.

the living is easy by dorothy west: The Blue Period Jesse McCarthy, 2024-04-25 To be a Black writer in the early years of the Cold War was to face a stark predicament. On the one hand, revolutionary Communism promised egalitarianism and lit the sparks of anticolonial struggle, but was hostile to conceptions of personal freedom. On the other hand, the great force opposing the Soviets at midcentury was itself the very fountainhead of racial prejudice, represented in the United States by Jim Crow. Jesse McCarthy argues that Black writers of this time were equally alienated from the left and the right and channeled that alienation into remarkable experiments in literary form. Embracing racial affect and interiority, they forged an aesthetic resistance premised on fierce dissent from both US racial liberalism and Soviet Communism. Ranging from the end of World War II to the rise of Black Power in the 1960s, from Richard Wright and James Baldwin to Gwendolyn Brooks and Paule Marshall and others, Jesse McCarthy shows how Black writers defined a distinctive moment in American literary culture that McCarthy calls the Blue Period.--

the living is easy by dorothy west: Transcendence and the Africana Literary Enterprise Christel N. Temple, 2017-11-22 Africana literary critic and cultural theory scholar, Christel N. Temple, whose groundbreaking books, *Literary Pan-Africanism: History, Contexts, and Criticism* (2005) and *Literary Spaces: Introduction to Comparative Black Literature* (2007), have been some of the most influential models of contemporary Africana Studies-based literary criticism, responds to the demand for a core disciplinary source that comprehensively defines and models literary praxis from the vantage point of Africana Studies. This highly anticipated seminal study finally institutionalizes the discipline's literary enterprise. Framing the concept of transcendence, she covers over a dozen traditional African American works in an original and thought-provoking analysis that places canonical approaches in enlightened discourse with Africana studies reader-response priorities. This study makes traditional literature come alive in conversation with

topics of masculinity, womanism, Black Lives Matter, humor, Pan-Africanism, transnationalism, worldview, the subject place of Africa, cultural mythology, hero dynamics, Black psychology, demographics, history, Black liberation theology, eulogy, cultural memory, Afro-futurism, the Kemetic principle of Maat, social justice, rap and hip hop, Diaspora, and performance. Scholars now have a focused Africana Studies text—for both introductory and advanced literature courses—to capture the power of the African American literary canon while modeling the most dynamic practical applications of humanities-to-social science practices.

the living is easy by dorothy west: *African American Literature* Hans Ostrom, J. David Macey Jr., 2019-11-15 This essential volume provides an overview of and introduction to African American writers and literary periods from their beginnings through the 21st century. This compact encyclopedia, aimed at students, selects the most important authors, literary movements, and key topics for them to know. Entries cover the most influential and highly regarded African American writers, including novelists, playwrights, poets, and nonfiction writers. The book covers key periods of African American literature—such as the Harlem Renaissance, the Black Arts Movement, and the Civil Rights Era—and touches on the influence of the vernacular, including blues and hip hop. The volume provides historical context for critical viewpoints including feminism, social class, and racial politics. Entries are organized A to Z and provide biographies that focus on the contributions of key literary figures as well as overviews, background information, and definitions for key subjects.

the living is easy by dorothy west: *Notable American Women* Susan Ware, 2004 This latest volume brings the project up to date, with entries on almost 500 women whose death dates fall between 1976 and 1999. You will find here stars of the golden ages of radio, film, dance, and television; scientists and scholars; civil rights activists and religious leaders; Native American craftspeople and world-renowned artists. For each subject, the volume offers a biographical essay by a distinguished authority that integrates the woman's personal life with her professional achievements set in the context of larger historical developments.

the living is easy by dorothy west: *Writing through Jane Crow* Ayesha K. Hardison, 2014-05-13 In *Writing through Jane Crow*, Ayesha Hardison examines African American literature and its representation of black women during the pivotal but frequently overlooked decades of the 1940s and 1950s. At the height of Jim Crow racial segregation—a time of transition between the Harlem Renaissance and the Black Arts movement and between World War II and the modern civil rights movement—black writers also addressed the effects of Jane Crow, the interconnected racial, gender, and sexual oppression that black women experienced. Hardison maps the contours of this literary moment with the understudied works of well-known writers like Gwendolyn Brooks, Zora Neale Hurston, Ann Petry, and Richard Wright as well as the writings of neglected figures like Curtis Lucas, Pauli Murray, and Era Bell Thompson. By shifting her focus from the canonical works of male writers who dominated the period, the author recovers the work of black women writers. Hardison shows how their texts anticipated the renaissance of black women's writing in later decades and initiates new conversations on the representation of women in texts by black male writers. She draws on a rich collection of memoirs, music, etiquette guides, and comics to further reveal the texture and tensions of the era. A 2014 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title

the living is easy by dorothy west: *Vitality Politics* Stephen Knadler, 2019-08-06 *Vitality Politics* focuses on a slow racial violence against African Americans through everyday, accumulative, contagious, and toxic attritions on health. The book engages with recent critical disability studies scholarship to recognize that debility, or the targeted maiming and distressing of Black populations, is a largely unacknowledged strategy of the U.S. liberal multicultural capitalist state. This politicization of biological health serves as an instrument for insisting on a racial state of exception in which African Americans' own unhealthy habits and disease susceptibility justifies their legitimate suspension from full rights to social justice, economic opportunity, and political freedom and equality. The book brings together disability studies, Black Studies, and African American literary history as it highlights the urgent need and gives weight to a biopolitics of debilitation and medicalization to better understand how Black lives are made not to matter in our supposedly

race-neutral multicultural democracy.

the living is easy by dorothy west: *Literary Legacies of the Federal Writers' Project* Sara Rutkowski, 2017-04-17 The first book-length literary analysis of the WPA's Federal Writers' Project (FWP)—a massive New Deal program that put thousands to work documenting the country during the Depression. Drawing on critical histories, archival documents, and select works of fiction, the book examines the nature and history of the FWP's documentary method and its literary imprint, particularly on three key black American writers: Ralph Ellison, Dorothy West, and Margaret Walker. By aiming their documentary lenses so precisely on individual voices, folklore, and cultural communities, FWP writers would ultimately eschew the social realism of thirties culture in favor of themes surrounding personal and cultural identities in the postwar era. This concise volume demonstrates how the FWP served as a repository from which many of the most treasured 20th century writers drew material, techniques, and philosophical direction in ways that would help steer the course of American writing.

the living is easy by dorothy west: Depictions of Home in African American Literature Trudier Harris, 2021-12-06 In *Depictions of Home in African American Literature*, Trudier Harris analyzes fictional homespaces in African American literature from those set in the time of slavery to modern urban configurations of the homespace. She argues that African American writers often inadvertently create and follow a tradition of portraying dysfunctional and physically or emotionally violent homespaces. Harris explores the roles race and religion play in the creation of homespaces and how geography, space, and character all influence these spaces. Although many characters in African American literature crave safe, happy homespaces and frequently carry such images with them through their mental or physical migrations, few characters experience the formation of healthy homespaces by the end of their journeys. Harris studies the historical, cultural, and literary portrayals of the home in works from well-known authors such as Richard Wright, James Baldwin, Toni Morrison, and August Wilson as well as lesser-studied authors such as Daniel Black, A.J. Verdelle, Margaret Walker, and Dorothy West.

the living is easy by dorothy west: Daddy Was a Number Runner Louise Meriwether, 2002-12-01 This modern classic is “a tough, tender, bitter novel of a black girl struggling towards womanhood” in 1930s Harlem—with a foreword by James Baldwin (Publishers Weekly). Depression-era Harlem is home for twelve-year-old Francie Coffin and her family, and it's both a place of refuge and the source of untold dangers for her and her poor, working class family. The beloved “daddy” of the title indeed becomes a number runner when he is unable to find legal work, and while one of Francie's brothers dreams of becoming a chemist, the other is already in a gang. Francie is a dreamer, too, but there are risks in everything from going to the movies to walking down the block, and her pragmatism eventually outweighs her hope; “We was all poor and black and apt to stay that way, and that was that.” First published in 1970, *Daddy Was a Number Runner* is one of the seminal novels of the black experience in America. The New York Times Book Review proclaimed it “a most important novel.”

the living is easy by dorothy west: Black Women of the Harlem Renaissance Era Lean'tin L. Bracks, Jessie Carney Smith, 2014-10-16 The Harlem Renaissance is considered one of the most significant periods of creative and intellectual expression for African Americans. Beginning as early as 1914 and lasting into the 1940s, this era saw individuals reject the stereotypes of African Americans and confront the racist, social, political, and economic ideas that denied them citizenship and access to the American Dream. While the majority of recognized literary and artistic contributors to this period were black males, African American women were also key contributors. *Black Women of the Harlem Renaissance Era* profiles the most important figures of this cultural and intellectual movement. Highlighting the accomplishments of black women who sought to create positive change after the end of WWI, this reference work includes representatives not only from the literary scene but also: ActivistsActressesArtistsEducatorsEntrepreneursMusiciansPolitical leaders Scholars By acknowledging the women who played vital—if not always recognized—roles in this movement, this book shows how their participation helped set the stage for the continued

transformation of the black community well into the 1960s. To fully realize the breadth of these contributions, editors Lean'tin L. Bracks and Jessie Carney Smith have assembled profiles written by a number of accomplished academics and historians from across the country. As such, *Black Women of the Harlem Renaissance Era* will be of interest to scholars of women's studies, African American studies, and cultural history, as well as students and anyone wishing to learn more about the women of this important era.

the living is easy by dorothy west: *The Artistic Activism of Elombe Brath* Thomas Aiello, 2021-09-30 In 1963, at the height of the southern civil rights movement, Cecil Brathwaite (1936-2014), under the pseudonym Cecil Elombe Brath, published a satire of Black leaders entitled *Color Us Cullud! The American Negro Leadership Official Coloring Book*. The book pillories a variety of Black leaders—from political figures like Adam Clayton Powell and Whitney Young to civil rights activists like Martin Luther King, Bayard Rustin, and John Lewis, and even entertainers like Sammy Davis Jr., Lena Horne, and Dick Gregory—critiquing the inauthenticity of movement leaders while urging a more radical approach to Black activism. Despite the strong illustrations and unique commentary presented in the coloring book, it has virtually disappeared from histories of the movement. *The Artistic Activism of Elombe Brath* restores the coloring book and its creator to a place of prominence in the historiography of the Black left. It begins with an analysis of Brath's influences, describing his life and work including his development as a Black nationalist thinker and Black satirist. This volume includes Brath's early works—illustrations for *DownBeat* magazine and *Beat Jokes*, *Bop Humor*, & *Cool Cartoons*—as well as the full run of his comic strip "Congressman Carter and Beat Nick Jackson" from the *New York Citizen-Call* and a complete edition of *Color Us Cullud!* itself. These illustrations are followed by annotations that frame and contextualize each of the coloring book's entries. The book closes with selections from Brath's art and political thinking via archival material and samples of his written work. Ultimately, this volume captures and restores a unique perspective on the civil rights movement often omitted from the historiography but vital to understanding its full scope.

the living is easy by dorothy west: *A Rereading of Dorothy West's The Living is Easy* Shonette L. Hannibal, 1995

Related to the living is easy by dorothy west

- Stats about all US cities - real estate, relocation Stats about all US cities - real estate, relocation info, crime, house prices, schools, races, income, photos, sex offenders, maps, education, weather, home value

Forum: Relocation, Moving, General and Local City 2 days ago City-Data.com forum Forum Contains New Posts Forum Contains No New Posts

Show Low, Arizona - According to our research of Arizona and other state lists, there were 43 registered sex offenders living in Show Low, Arizona as of September 19, 2025. The ratio of all residents to sex

Registered sex offenders in Tyler, Texas - crimes listed, registry According to our research of Texas and other state lists, there were 439 registered sex offenders living in Tyler as of September 22, 2025. The ratio of all residents to sex offenders in Tyler is

Registered sex offenders in Tacoma, Washington According to our research of Washington and other state lists, there were 321 registered sex offenders living in Tacoma as of September 24, 2025. The ratio of all residents to sex offenders

Elko, Nevada (NV 89801) profile: population, maps, real estate Elko, Nevada detailed profile Mean prices in 2023: all housing units: \$385,670; detached houses: \$429,167; townhouses or other attached units: \$313,979; in 2-unit

Frugal Living Forum - Relocation, Moving, General and Local City Frugal Living -All times are GMT -6. The time now is

Covington, Georgia (GA) profile: population, maps, real estate Covington, Georgia detailed profile Mean prices in 2023: all housing units: \$293,647; detached houses: \$302,032; townhouses or

other attached units: \$243,957; in 3-to-4-unit structures:

Benson, Arizona - Benson, Arizona detailed profile Mean prices in 2023: all housing units: \$206,810; detached houses: \$271,362; mobile homes: \$106,796; occupied boats, rvs, vans, etc.: \$56,512 Median

Cost of Living Calculator - Stats about all US cities - real estate, relocation info, crime, house prices, schools, races, income, photos, sex offenders, maps, education, weather, home value

Back to Home: <https://lxc.avoicemen.com>