



Notes for Proposal

No Known Copyright

Princeton University Library reasonably believes that the Item is not restricted by copyright or related rights, but a conclusive determination could not be made.

You are free to use this Item in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use.

Princeton University Library Disclaimer

Princeton University Library claims no copyright governing this digital resource. It is provided for free, on a non-commercial, open-access basis, for fair-use academic and research purposes only. Anyone who claims copyright over any part of these resources and feels that they should not be presented in this manner is invited to contact Princeton University Library, who will in turn consider such concerns and make every effort to respond appropriately. We request that users reproducing this resource cite it according the guidelines described at <http://rbcs.princeton.edu/policies/forms-citation>.

Citation Information

Morrison, Toni. 1931-

Notes for Proposal

1 folder

Contact Information

Download Information

Date Rendered: 2019-09-05 01:10:58 PM UTC

Available Online at: <http://arks.princeton.edu/ark:/88435/ff365983w>

Notes for proposal

This novel - which I am calling *Mercer* -

is in 3 parts / Each ^{part} ~~part~~ is the story

of one character in different time zones:

but who, all together, complete the

First

And while ^{Each part} ~~it~~ can

all together

→ of one character ^{life} who ^{can stand alone} completes ^{but when} those of ^{the 3 narrations} the other two.

→ Each part can stand alone, ^{yet} ~~but each~~ completes and explains the other two.

Taken ~~all~~ together the three characters represent dramatize ^{periods} ~~the~~ three periods of ~~racial~~ ^{raceless} racelessness:

1840 - when slavery ^(not racism) was the norm.

the current
200x - ~~when~~ "post black" period.

? 1930's - the height of legalized racism
which took the place of slavery

→ Conceptually The larger context is a brief
~~in addition to the novel's~~ comments on
the ~~Revolutionary~~ history of "racism":

~~from~~ (see above) the contemporary
200x

"post black" environment; the
race was incidental to

pre-Revolutionary period when Slavery
1660 ~~was~~; and

the invention of a "white" race
before "class" was subordinated by "race"
and "white" ~~became~~ race was
carefully invented.

later of legalized racism.
and (period) ~~when~~ class
difference

1619
60
1479

↓ The actors in this history
↓ ~~was~~ two women and a man

are connected by a thread
of shame connects the characters;
Stories and the action is how
and whether they survive it.

Story

A young ^{black} woman, calling herself
Bride sets out on a journey to
find an ex-lover who ^{abruptly} ~~about~~ left
her, ~~without~~ ^{thinks} she ~~believes~~
His ^{intolerable} behavior has ^{so} agitated her, she
thinks she will have no life - no
self worth ^{unless} until she (and ^{confronts} him)
- learns why he left, ~~part~~ with his
betrayal).

Too fueling her anger is another
failure: her efforts to be ^{forgiving} ~~generous~~
& helpful to a ^{paroled} woman whose she
helped convict ^{of child abuse} 20 some years ago were
savagely rejected by the parolee.

Both of these incidents - one coming
 on the heels of the other - have ~~destroyed~~
~~shaken~~ ^{shaken} her confidence and her
 perception of herself as a beautiful
 successful professional (a upper level
 job in ^{the} glamorous end of a Cosmetics company)
 and accomplished and desirable ^{happy} black girl - who, ~~has~~ beaten all
 odds and limitations, ~~was~~ is free
 of the gendered, raced, class barriers
 of previous generations.

Her trip to locate the ex-lover
 becomes profound
 is a process of discovery - ^② the un-gravering of
 of world outside ~~secret~~ her own
~~the~~ ~~was~~ ~~based~~ self
 shameful

① a piece of
 peeling away
 the film that hides the world, and

②

The 2nd part is another journey undertaken by a ^{Winsome} young slave ~~girl~~ ^{at the insistence of her mistress} in 1670, who is making ^{falling}

her way alone to the territory of a ^{healer} ~~man~~ who once visited their farm. ~~She is both eager and desperate~~ ^{to make the journey} ~~the man~~ ^{was short, but deeply} ~~both intimate and liberating.~~

^{haunted} ~~She encounters a~~ ^{and pristine beauty} ~~landscape of serious danger~~, She ~~encounters~~ ^{meets} the people, endures the ~~into~~ hardship, and has the ~~encounters~~ that would probably defeat the toughest 21st century female.

* She had ~~an~~ intimate relationship with him and a heady taste of freedom

Aided by Superstition ^{desire} and determination
and the good will of others.

The ~~wild rough~~ ^{man} she travels
said

She ~~manages to~~ finds the
healer ~~and~~ ^{but not before she commits,}
~~the most~~
important an unforgivable
crime.

Upon locating the man, she
~~where~~ she ~~for~~
is forced to

~~the answer that~~
~~for which there was~~
~~no~~
~~question~~

~~Daughter~~ ^{triple} hard decision
wrestles with the ~~triple~~ demons of slavery
1 ~~complexity~~ ^{of} ~~the~~ ^{personal}

of ~~separate~~ ^{separate} ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~escape~~

belonging and ^{solito} ~~escape~~
loneliness
and Shame ~~in~~

Part 3

is the story of Edward Maney
and takes place in an indeterminate
time in the segregated neighborhood
of a small town. A solitary figure
(or kind of man)
he could be the man either woman

in parts
1 and 2

is searching for. He earns a modest
living as a day laborer and ~~handyman~~
~~and~~ His hobby is carving wooden
dolls which he occasionally sells at
local charity events. Ed. Maney ~~is~~ ^{is intelligent} has
traveled a lot but is settled now -

With keen intelligence
and insight

(Stationery - while the women are always
moving) his presence is strong but
~~also~~ elusive. [←] He tells the
~~poor~~ ^{& painful} story of his difficult life

and of a woman who changed it.
~~At a point~~ ^{Well} ~~Deep~~ into his narrative
of himself the woman arrives
and he is thrown into confusion -
forced to re-visit his story, because the
woman he thought he killed is
alive.

There is a coda