

Saving the Race: Conversations on Du Bois from a Collective Memoir of Souls

Rebecca Carroll

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W.E.B. Du Bois's *The Souls of Black Folk* is one of the most influential books ever published in this country. In it, Du Bois wrote that "the problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line," a prophecy that is as fresh and poignant today as when it first appeared in print in 1903. Now, one hundred years after *The Souls of Black Folk* was first published, *Saving the Race* reexamines the legacy of Du Bois and his "color line" prophecy from a modern viewpoint. The author, Rebecca Carroll, a biracial woman who was reared by white parents, not only provides her own personal perspective, but she invites eighteen well-known African Americans to share their ideas and opinions about what Du Bois's classic text means today.

Lalita Tademy, author

Stanley Crouch, cultural critic, novelist

A'Lelia Bundles, great-great-granddaughter of Madame C.J. Walker, author

David Graham Du Bois, stepson of W.E.B. Du Bois, writer, teacher, activist

Touré, novelist, contributing writer for Rolling Stone magazine

Julian Bond, chairman of the board, NAACP

Thelma Golden, chief curator and deputy director for exhibitions and programs at the Studio Museum of Harlem

Kathleen Cleaver, former communications secretary of the Black Panther party

Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., civil rights leader and lawyer

Cory Booker, former New Jersey councilman, mayoral candidate, activist

Jewell Jackson McCabe, founder and president of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women

Derrick Bell, professor of law, New York University

Elizabeth Alexander, poet and writer

Clarence Major, author, poet, artist

Terence Blanchard, horn player, film composer

Reverend Dr. James Forbes, senior minister of Riverside Church, New York

Patricia Smith, poet

LeAlan Jones, author

The result is an insightful and illuminating collection of interviews both provocative and inspiring. Saving the Race paints a fascinating, complicated, and colorful portrait about the "souls of black folk" in twentyfirst century America.



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