



The Coupling Convention: Sex, Text, and Tradition in Black Women's Fiction (Paperback)

By Ann DuCille

Oxford University Press Inc, United States, 1993. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. What does the tradition of marriage mean for people who have historically been deprived of its legal status? Generally thought of as a convention of the white middle class, the marriage plot has received little attention from critics of African-American literature. In this study, Ann duCille uses texts such as Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* (1928) and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937) to demonstrate that the African-American novel, like its European and Anglo-American counterparts, has developed around the marriage plot--what she calls the coupling convention. Exploring the relationship between racial ideology and literary and social conventions, duCille uses the coupling convention to trace the historical development of the African-American women's novel. She demonstrates the ways in which black women appropriated this novelistic device as a means of expressing and reclaiming their own identity. More than just a study of the marriage tradition in black women's fiction, however, *The Coupling Convention* takes up and takes on many different meanings of tradition. It challenges the notion of a single black literary tradition, or of a single...



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