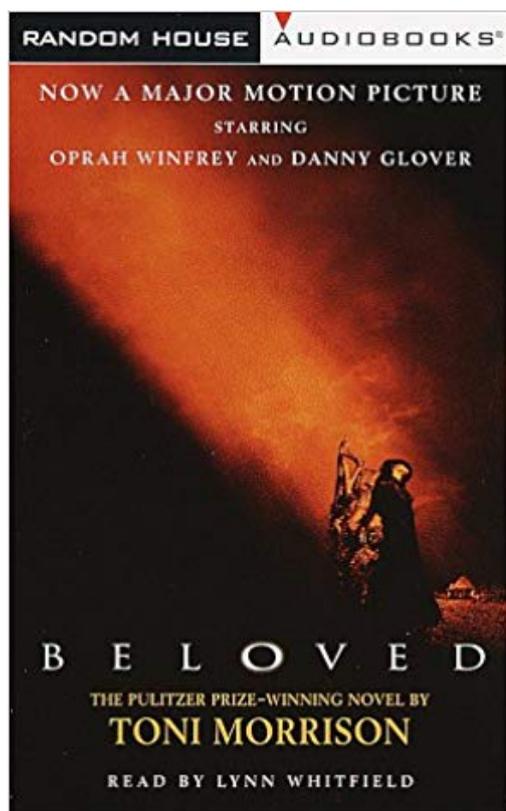


## Beloved by Lynn Whitfield, Toni Morrison



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ISBN:	0375404325
ISBN13:	978-0375404320
Author:	Lynn Whitfield, Toni Morrison
Book title:	Beloved
Other Formats:	docx mbr lrf doc
Publisher:	Random House Audio; Abridged edition (October 6, 1998)
Language:	English
Size PDF version:	1253 kb
Size ePub version:	1721 kb
Size fb2 version:	1571 kb
Category:	Genre Fiction

2 cassettes / 3 hours Read by Lynn Whitfield Beloved is also available Unabridged, read by the author, Toni Morrison "An extraordinary novel." -*The New York Times* Toni Morrison's magnificent Pulitzer Prize-winning novel brings the unimaginable experience of slavery into our comprehension. Set in rural Ohio several years after the Civil War, it is the story of Sethe, an escaped slave, who has risked her life in order to wrench herself from living death; who has lost a husband and buried a child; who has borne the unthinkable and not gone mad. Sethe, who now lives in a small house on the edge of town with her daughter, Denver, her mother-in-law, Baby Suggs, and a disturbing, mesmerizing apparition who calls herself Beloved. Profoundly affecting, this is one of Toni Morrison's greatest novels - a dazzling and spellbinding achievement.



## Reviews of the Beloved by Lynn Whitfield, Toni Morrison

Wenes

I picked up this book because I wanted to get some perspective after the recent killings of unarmed black men by police officers. As a middle aged white guy, it was hard for me to put wrap my head

around the pain and the anger felt by the residents of Ferguson, by the residents of New York. I have friends that are cops. My Facebook wall filled with persuasive arguments in defense of the police actions. But I saw the video of Eric Garner. I followed the news about Michael Brown. Still, I sympathized with the officers, which I knew in my heart was wrong. I wanted to understand how black people in this country experience life, and starting with the shameful history of slavery seemed like a good start.

Beloved is a truly great book that lives up to the hype. Hard to put down. The writing is excellent. The story is not one of suffering, but one of persevering through the insufferable. It's often hard to read, with the unflinching descriptions of torture and degradation. However, I'm a tiny bit closer to understanding.

Agarus

Toni Morrison's writing isn't "great". It is mind blowing.

This book reads almost like poetry. It's a really, really, really heavy story- a woman escapes slavery with her four young children, only to reach freedom in Ohio right about the time the Fugitive Act was enacted. Her former owner comes for her and her children, and she makes a desperate decision to take her children's lives, rather than have them live enslaved.

As time goes on, the ghost of the daughter she killed haunts their house and makes trouble in her life. She and her living daughter, Denver, try to summon the ghost, and a few weeks later a mysterious young woman shows up and basically moves in with them.

Highly recommended- take your time and read this one bunch of times. It can be really painful. But it is beautifully written and important to read.

Steelrunner

If you aren't an Oprah fan, just push her association with the novel and film out of your mind. Buy this book or at least get it from the library. So much praise has been written already that there's little I can add, other than to say the novel merits its reputation. The general story (no spoilers here, don't worry) concerns the life of an escaped slave. But the novel explores not just events, but the way we perceive events, through memory, dream like states, hallucinations, how we relate to our dead and or how they may be relating to us. You've had events in your own life that you've thought about from different angles...events so complex that they never seem to be 100% resolved....different people have different perspectives on those events...even you, maybe, felt differently about it at times. This novel feels very like that; powerful, life changing events being difficult to pin down. Its shocking (nauseating), beautiful, difficult to read at times, difficult to stop reading, difficult to stop thinking about when you've finished. I suppose I'll read it again in 10 years to see if I learn anything new from it.

Little Devil

I feel changed after reading this book. So complex, so painful, so painfully beautiful, such life in the telling of this story. As a Black queer womyn, I have grown tired of the handling slavery narrative. Of the laziness of its use and overuse as a point of reference. But what Morrison does so well is bring life to the complexities of Black life and love in the face of the worst part of American history. I would even go as far to say, it goes beyond the political. It circles down to the smallest particles of her characters' lives and inner self-talk/workings. I don't even know if this review will capture all that I think and feel and see after reading this book.

Rolorel

I purchased this book to increase my number of books read from the PBS Great American Read. I felt that I needed a better score than 33% of the books on the Great 100 list. It is beautiful. I had purchased it previously but was not able to get into it for some reason. I think a better goal instead of increasing my total on the list of the Great American read would just be to read all of Toni

Morrison. I'm now two to the good. Absolutely beautiful prose, characters, plot, etc. i did need a break from reading this book it was sometimes too heavy to read straight through.

Malak

I am convinced that Toni Morrison is the best writer in the world. My gosh--how can someones soul paint such vivid and emotional characters, era, such real feelings. Not the best place and era to be transported to but Professor Morrison will certainly do it. This book alone put Toni Morrison in a category all by herself... I mean I can go on and on and on and on about her literary style, gifts and etc. If you haven't read this yet it's a must for a realistic escape.

Danrad

Beloved was a tough book to read, it is composed of flashbacks and memories narrated in no chronological order which makes it hard to understand. After a few pages I almost gave up. But then I realized It would be very interesting to read a renowned novel that contains a poetic examination of slavery. However, I decided to continue reading the book. As I was going through the pages I was getting involved in the story and picturing all the details written by Morrison. I would definitely recommend this book and give 5 stars to this incredible and magical piece of art.

This is a true masterpiece by one of America's premier writers. It is so much more than a ghost story, although it is that too. It is a novel that probes to the very heart of what it means to be human, that explores why the past is never really past, how desperation can lead to both unthinkable acts and the resulting shunning by society. I read this when it first came out and found it difficult and troubling. Now, twenty years later, I found it deeply satisfying. It spoke truth to my heart.

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