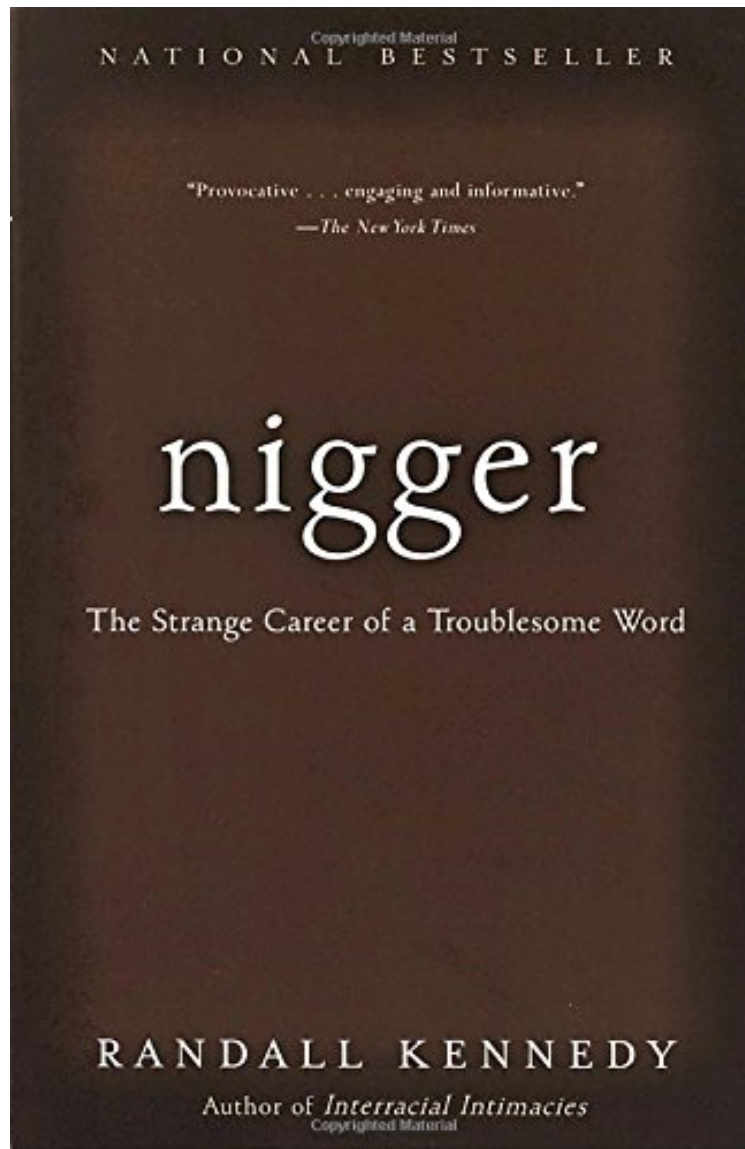


[Library ebook] Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word

Randall Kennedy

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#105879 in Books Randall Kennedy 2003-01-14 2003-01-14 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .60 x 5.50l, .49 #File Name: 0375713719208 pages Nigger The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word | File size: 69.Mb

Randall Kennedy : Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Outstanding treatment of a troublesome word By DeistManAs Doctor Kennedy states: "... ***** can mean many different things, depending upon, among other variables,

intonation, the location of the interaction, and the relationship between the speaker and those to whom he is speaking." Bigots will continue to hate others because of their skin color or ethnicity. A word, any word, is not going to make or break a racist. Context is everything. There are those who believe that African Americans may use the word in question with no problem whereas no one else may. Why? Does a white woman or a Chinese man automatically become a racist by using the word? Does context mean nothing? Perhaps a reader of the book cannot even say the title if they are white whereas if black, they get a pass? This is absurd and the sooner we see its absurdity, the faster we will move passed bigotry and ignorance. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fascinating and well-written, take a look By Craig H. Eyer I liked the idea that someone would write a book with this title. Not because it would shock or offend, but because this word (which I'm not going to use in my review) to this day has the ability to shock, injure and horrify nearly everyone and some of its power really ought to be drained away. This book is a good place to start. The usage of the word is traced from its origins right up to its usage In the present day. I have always felt that hearing 'grown-ups' using a ridiculous phrase like 'the n-word' makes them sound about three years old. Like the way we kids used to describe 'dirty' or swear words in hushed tones. It's sounds pathetic. I certainly don't advocate the open usage of the word, but a thorough understanding of its origins and usage over the centuries just might allow us to take it down from its pedestal and throw it in the trash where it belongs. Lenny Bruce used to do a bit, on stage back in the late 50s and early 60s, that tried to show that keeping this word in the shadows only allowed it to keep its bizarre 'power' over people. Check it out, it's an eye-opener. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This is a must read! I have read it several times. By Greg Blalock This is a must read! I have read it several times.

It's "the nuclear bomb of racial epithets," a word that whites have employed to wound and degrade African Americans for three centuries. Paradoxically, among many black people it has become a term of affection and even empowerment. The word, of course, is nigger, and in this candid, lucidly argued book the distinguished legal scholar Randall Kennedy traces its origins, maps its multifarious connotations, and explores the controversies that rage around it. Should blacks be able to use nigger in ways forbidden to others? Should the law treat it as a provocation that reduces the culpability of those who respond to it violently? Should it cost a person his job, or a book like *Huckleberry Finn* its place on library shelves? With a range of reference that extends from the Jim Crow south to Chris Rock routines and the O. J. Simpson trial, Kennedy takes on not just a word, but our laws, attitudes, and culture with bracing courage and intelligence.

.com Nigger is Harvard law professor Randall Kennedy's ornate, lively monograph on what he calls the "paradigmatic" racial slur in the English language. A neutral noun in the 17th century, nigger had, by 1830, become an "influential" insult. Kennedy traces the word's history in literature, song, film, politics, sports, everyday speech, and the courtroom. He also discusses its plastic, contradictory, and volatile place in contemporary American society. Should it be eradicated from dictionaries and the language? Should it be, somehow, regulated? What is the significance of its emergence among some blacks as a term with "undertones of warmth and good will"? Do blacks have a historical right to its use or does that place the term under a "protectionist pall"? With courage and grave measure Kennedy has, in effect, created a forum for discussion of the word he calls a "reminder of the ironies and dilemmas, the tragedies and glories, of the American experience." --H. O'Billovitch From Publishers Weekly The word is paradigmatically ugly, racist and inflammatory. But is it different when Ice Cube uses it in a song than when, during the O.J. Simpson trial, Mark Fuhrman was accused of saying it? What about when Lenny Bruce uses it to "defang" it by sheer repetition? Or when Mark Twain uses it in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to make an antiracist statement? Kennedy, a professor at Harvard Law School and noted legal scholar, has produced an insightful and highly provocative book that raises vital questions about the relationship between language, politics, social norms and how society and culture confront racism. Drawing on a wide range of historical, legal and cultural instances Harry S. Truman calling Adam Clayton Powell "that damned nigger preacher"; Title VII court cases in which the use of the word was proof of condoning a "racially hostile work environment"; Quentin Tarantino's liberal use of the word in his films Kennedy repeatedly shows not only the complicated cultural history of the word, but how its meaning, intent and even substance change in context. Smart, well argued and never afraid of facing serious, difficult and painful questions in an unflinching and unsentimental manner, this is an important work of cultural and political criticism. As Kennedy notes in closing: "For bad or for good, nigger is... destined to remain with us for the foreseeable future a reminder of the ironies and dilemmas, the tragedies and glories, of the American experience." (Jan. 22) Forecast: This may be the book that reignites larger debates over race eclipsed by September 11. Look for a bestselling run and huge talk show and magazine coverage as the Afghanistan news cycle continues to slow; the book had already been the subject of two New York Times stories by early January. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. From School Library Journal Adult/High School-A well-written and researched book that traces the history of the N word and various races' use of and reaction to it. Kennedy begins with how the word should be defined, and why it generates such strong reactions. He explores its etymology and looks at the various ways the word has been used throughout America's history, citing court cases and legal battles involving the word from slavery times to the present. The last chapters look

at the pitfalls in fighting the use of the word and at how the term is currently used in our society. This unique work will spark discussion among students interested in the history of this familiar term. Kennedy includes many contemporary references from comedians, rappers, athletes, movie stars, and other famous and not so famous African Americans. Patricia White-Williams, Kings Park Library, Fairfax County, VA Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc.