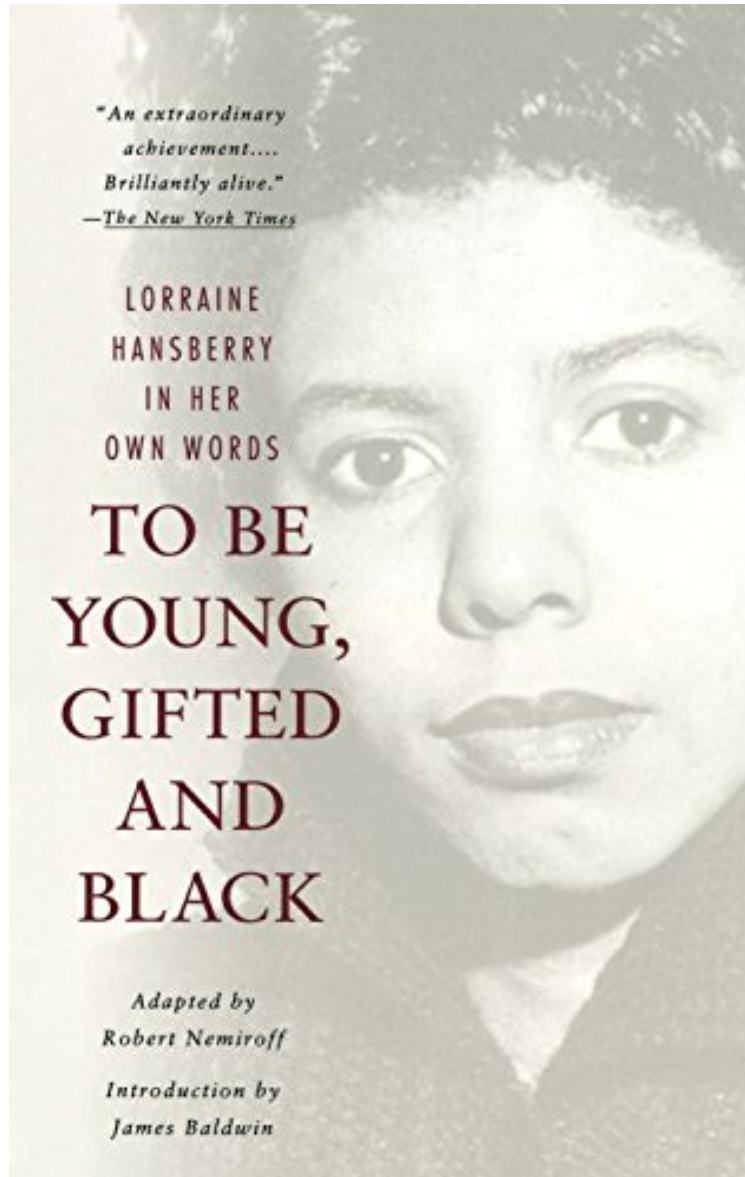


(Free read ebook) To Be Young, Gifted and Black

To Be Young, Gifted and Black

Lorraine Hansberry

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Assembled from plays, essays, letters, drawings, and photographs, this memoir records the passionate engagement and spectacular accomplishment of the playwright of *A Raisin in the Sun*. It follows Lorraine Hansberry from her childhood in Chicago (where her family encountered vicious resistance when it moved into a white neighborhood), through her arrival in New York, where the triumph of *A Raisin in the Sun* made her famous virtually overnight, to her death at the tragically early age of thirty-four. Above all, Hansberry's autobiography rings with the voice of its creator: a black woman who could be angry, loving, bitter, touchingly funny, and defiantly proud.

"Suffused with the light that was Lorraine . . . one hears that inflection of voice, the exact timbre of the laugh." --James Baldwin
"An extraordinary achievement. . . . Brilliantly alive." --The New York Times
"Inspired and inspiring. . . . A work of glowing beauty." --San Francisco Examiner
"I advise anyone who is interested in the human condition, black or white, to read it." --Newsday
From the Inside Flap
In her first play, the now-classic *A Raisin in the Sun*, Hansberry introduced the lives of ordinary African Americans into our national theatrical repertory. Now, Hansberry tells her own life story in an autobiography that rings with the voice of its creator. "Brilliantly alive."--The New York Times.
About the Author
Lorraine Hansberry, at twenty-nine, became the youngest American, the fifth woman, and the first black playwright to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for the Best Play of the Year. Her *A Raisin in the Sun* has since been published and produced in some 30 countries, while her film adaptation was nominated by the New York critics for the Best Screenplay and received a Cannes Film Festival Award. At thirty-four, during the run of her second play, *The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window*, Lorraine Hansberry died of cancer. In the years since her death, her stature has continued to grow. *To Be Young, Gifted and Black*, a dramatic portrait of the playwright in her own words, was the longest-running Off-Broadway drama of 1969, and has been recorded, filmed, and published in expanded book form, and has toured an unprecedented forty states and two hundred colleges. In 1986, following the stage production of the 25th anniversary of *A Raisin in the Sun* by the Roundabout Theatre in New York City, the play was widely acclaimed as in the foremost ranks of American classics. In 1990, the PBS American Playhouse TV adaptation of the 25th-anniversary version had one of the highest viewing audiences in PBS history. *Les Blancs*, her last play—posthumously performed on Broadway and recently in prominent regional theaters—has been hailed by a number of critics as her best.