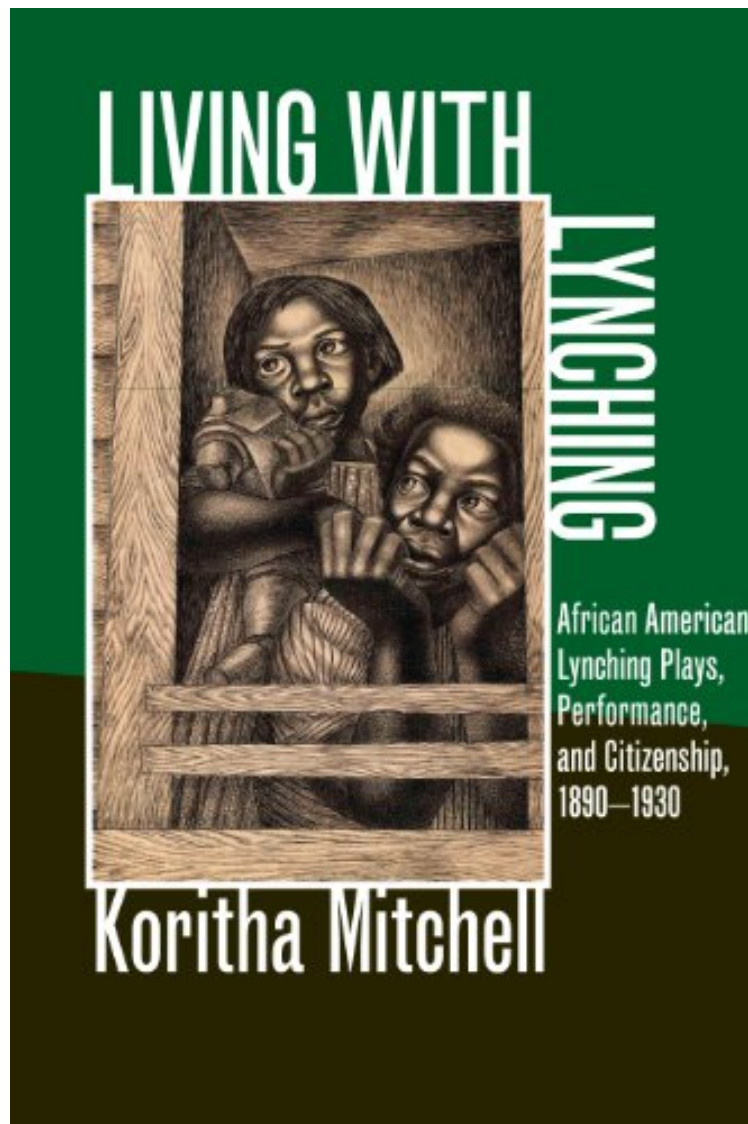


[Download free pdf] Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930 (New Black Studies Series)

Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930 (New Black Studies Series)

Koritha Mitchell

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Koritha Mitchell : Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930 (New Black Studies Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930 (New Black Studies Series):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Fantastic book! This work demonstrates an exceptional scholarly ability ...By Customer
Fantastic book! This work demonstrates an exceptional scholarly ability of Professor Mitchell to critically read, analyze and evaluate the cultural and historic significance lynching dramas have on the creation of space for an alternate black citizenship than the one provided by lynching. Prof Mitchell provides a thorough and engaging discussion her subject matter and the work is accessible and well-organized. One of her most brilliant points is the subversion of the term "anti-lynching" plays to those of "lynching plays" to demonstrate the autonomy of these works as they function outside of the paradigm of "protest literature". All-in-all, I highly recommend this work!
6 of 7 people found the following review helpful. African American Playwrights Resist Lynching
By KEW Mitchell's thoroughly researched book reveals how African American playwrights tried to rewrite the narrative of lynching that was produced by lynchers and their apologists--that mobs lynched black men because they were savage brutes who ravished white women or killed white men. Focusing on playwrights' efforts to reveal how African American communities experienced or "lived with" lynching, Mitchell uses such dramas as Angelina Weld Grimke's "Rachel" and Georgia Douglas Johnson's "Safe" to show how these writers tried to provide the more complex reasons for white-on-black lynching and to shift readers' gazes from the scenes of actual lynchings to the places where lynching resonated most--in African Americans' homes and communities. My favorite section of the book is Part II, in which Mitchell details the types of characters dramatists created--soldier, lawyer, mother, pimp/coward--to affirm African Americans' citizenship, humanity, and entitlement to justice. This book illuminates some of the brilliant cultural and political strategies African Americans used to assert their citizenship rights and resist lynching.
0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Four Stars
By Kimmika Williams
A necessary but difficult read.

Living with Lynching: African American Lynching Plays, Performance, and Citizenship, 1890-1930 demonstrates that popular lynching plays were mechanisms through which African American communities survived actual and photographic mob violence. Often available in periodicals, lynching plays were read aloud or acted out by black church members, schoolchildren, and families. Koritha Mitchell shows that African Americans performed and read the scripts in community settings to certify to each other that lynch victims were not the isolated brutes that dominant discourses made them out to be. Instead, the play scripts often described victims as honorable heads of household being torn from model domestic units by white violence. In closely analyzing the political and spiritual uses of black theatre during the Progressive Era, Mitchell demonstrates that audiences were shown affective ties in black families, a subject often erased in mainstream images of African Americans. Examining lynching plays as archival texts that embody and reflect broad networks of sociocultural activism and exchange in the lives of black Americans, Mitchell finds that audiences were rehearsing and improvising new ways of enduring in the face of widespread racial terrorism. Images of the black soldier, lawyer, mother, and wife helped readers assure each other that they were upstanding individuals who deserved the right to participate in national culture and politics. These powerful community coping efforts helped African Americans band together and withstand the nation's rejection of them as viable citizens.

Winner of the American Theatre and Drama Society (ATDS) Book Award, 2012. Winner of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers (SSAWW) Book Award, 2012. "Required reading for understanding the ways in which narrative and performance have been central to challenging white oppression as well as (re)imagining black identity in America. Highly recommended."--Choice