



Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists)

Gayle Wald

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists)

Gayle Wald

Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) Gayle Wald

As W. E. B. DuBois famously prophesied in *The Souls of Black Folk*, the fiction of the color line has been of urgent concern in defining a certain twentieth-century U.S. racial “order.” Yet the very arbitrariness of this line also gives rise to opportunities for racial “passing,” a practice through which subjects appropriate the terms of racial discourse. To erode race’s authority, Gayle Wald argues, we must understand how race defines and yet fails to represent identity. She thus uses cultural narratives of passing to illuminate both the contradictions of race and the deployment of such contradictions for a variety of needs, interests, and desires. Wald begins her reading of twentieth-century passing narratives by analyzing works by African American writers James Weldon Johnson, Jessie Fauset, and Nella Larsen, showing how they use the “passing plot” to explore the negotiation of identity, agency, and freedom within the context of their protagonists' restricted choices. She then examines the 1946 autobiography *Really the Blues*, which details the transformation of Milton Mezirow, middle-class son of Russian-Jewish immigrants, into Mezz Mezzrow, jazz musician and self-described “voluntary Negro.” Turning to the 1949 films *Pinky* and *Lost Boundaries*, which imagine African American citizenship within class-specific protocols of race and gender, she interrogates the complicated representation of racial passing in a visual medium. Her investigation of “post-passing” testimonials in postwar African American magazines, which strove to foster black consumerism while constructing “positive” images of black achievement and affluence in the postwar years, focuses on neglected texts within the archives of black popular culture. Finally, after a look at liberal contradictions of John Howard Griffin’s 1961 auto-ethnography *Black Like Me*, Wald concludes with an epilogue that considers the idea of passing in the context of the recent discourse of “color blindness.” Wald’s analysis of the moral, political, and theoretical dimensions of racial passing makes *Crossing the Line* important reading as we approach the twenty-first century. Her engaging and dynamic book will be of particular interest to scholars of American studies, African American studies, cultural studies, and literary criticism.

 [Download Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Cen ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-C ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) Gayle Wald

From reader reviews:

Margherita Pettit:

This Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) book is not ordinary book, you have after that it the world is in your hands. The benefit you get by reading this book is information inside this e-book incredible fresh, you will get data which is getting deeper you read a lot of information you will get. That Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) without we realize teach the one who studying it become critical in considering and analyzing. Don't be worry Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) can bring if you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' grow to be full because you can have it inside your lovely laptop even telephone. This Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) having great arrangement in word along with layout, so you will not feel uninterested in reading.

Gregory Holloman:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also work as a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. Advantages you got of course the knowledge even the information inside the book that improve your knowledge and information. The information you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want attract knowledge just go with education and learning books but if you want truly feel happy read one together with theme for entertaining such as comic or novel. Typically the Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) is kind of e-book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Athena Thornton:

The publication with title Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) has a lot of information that you can discover it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. That book exist new information the information that exist in this guide represented the condition of the world now. That is important to yo7u to know how the improvement of the world. That book will bring you inside new era of the globalization. You can read the e-book on the smart phone, so you can read this anywhere you want.

Justin Davis:

It is possible to spend your free time to study this book this publication. This Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) is simple bringing you can read it in the recreation area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not possess much space to bring the printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

**Download and Read Online Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in
Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists)
Gayle Wald #RI0KVHOA68F**

Read Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) by Gayle Wald for online ebook

Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) by Gayle Wald Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) by Gayle Wald books to read online.

Online Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) by Gayle Wald ebook PDF download

Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) by Gayle Wald Doc

Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) by Gayle Wald Mobipocket

Crossing the Line: Racial Passing in Twentieth-Century U.S. Literature and Culture (New Americanists) by Gayle Wald EPub