

Cambridge University Press

978-0-521-62103-8 - Blackness and Value: Seeing Double

Lindon Barrett

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## BLACKNESS AND VALUE

### *Seeing Double*

*Blackness and Value* investigates the principles by which “value” operates and asks whether it is useful to imagine that the concepts of racial blackness and whiteness in the United States operate in terms of these principles. Testing these concepts by exploring various theoretical approaches and their shortcomings, Lindon Barrett finds that the gulf between “the street” (where race is acknowledged as a powerful enigma) and the literary academy (where until recently it has not been) can be understood as a symptom of racial violence.

The book traces several interrelations between value and race, such as literate/illiterate, the signing/singing voice, time/space, civic/criminal, and academy/street, and offers relevant and fresh readings of two novels by Ann Petry. Whereas commonly approaches to race and value are examined historically or sociologically, this intriguing study provides a new critical approach that speaks to theorists of race as well as gender and queer studies.

Lindon Barrett is Associate Professor in the Department of English and Comparative Literature and the Program in African-American Studies at the University of California, Irvine.

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For Dorothy Barrett,  
with much love and respect

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