



Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word

By Randall Kennedy

Download now

Read Online ➔

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy

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.

 [Download Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word ...pdf](#)

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word

By Randall Kennedy

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy

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.

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #102829 in Books
- Published on: 2003-01-14
- Released on: 2003-01-14
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x .60" w x 5.50" l, .49 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 208 pages

 [Download Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word* By Randall Kennedy

Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

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.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Roger Johnson:

This Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word book is just not ordinary book, you have it then the world is in your hands. The benefit you obtain by reading this book is definitely information inside this publication incredible fresh, you will get facts which is getting deeper anyone read a lot of information you will get. That Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word without we recognize teach the one who studying it become critical in imagining and analyzing. Don't possibly be worry Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word can bring any time you are and not make your tote space or bookshelves' turn out to be full because you can have it in your lovely laptop even cellphone. This Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word having fine arrangement in word and layout, so you will not sense uninterested in reading.

Antoine Harris:

Reading a publication can be one of a lot of exercise that everyone in the world loves. Do you like reading book so. There are a lot of reasons why people like it. First reading a publication will give you a lot of new information. When you read a reserve you will get new information mainly because book is one of numerous ways to share the information or perhaps their idea. Second, looking at a book will make an individual more imaginative. When you looking at a book especially fictional works book the author will bring you to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other people. When you read this Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word, you can tells your family, friends as well as soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire the others, make them reading a publication.

James Esparza:

This Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word is brand-new way for you who has interest to look for some information because it relief your hunger of information. Getting deeper you upon it getting knowledge more you know or else you who still having little bit of digest in reading this Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word can be the light food to suit your needs because the information inside this kind of book is easy to get by simply anyone. These books produce itself in the form which is reachable by anyone, yes I mean in the e-book application form. People who think that in publication form make them feel tired even dizzy this reserve is the answer. So there is not any in reading a book especially this one. You can find what you are looking for. It should be here for you actually. So , don't miss this! Just read this e-book style for your better life as well as knowledge.

Patricia Beall:

As a university student exactly feel bored to reading. If their teacher inquired them to go to the library in

order to make summary for some book, they are complained. Just little students that has reading's internal or real their interest. They just do what the educator want, like asked to go to the library. They go to generally there but nothing reading critically. Any students feel that looking at is not important, boring and also can't see colorful pics on there. Yeah, it is for being complicated. Book is very important in your case. As we know that on this era, many ways to get whatever we want. Likewise word says, many ways to reach Chinese's country. So , this Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word can make you sense more interested to read.

Download and Read Online Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy #OWY03G7NJKC

Read Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy for online ebook

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy 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 Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy books to read online.

Online Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy ebook PDF download

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy Doc

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy Mobipocket

Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy EPub

OWY03G7NJJC: Nigger: The Strange Career of a Troublesome Word By Randall Kennedy