



BOOK RESUME: PARADISE

BOOK SYNOPSIS

"They shoot the white girl first. With the rest they can take their time." So begins Toni Morrison's *Paradise*, which opens with a horrifying scene of mass violence and chronicles its genesis in an all-black small town in rural Oklahoma. Founded by the descendants of freed slaves and survivors in exodus from a hostile world, the patriarchal community of Ruby is built on righteousness, rigidly enforced moral law, and fear. But seventeen miles away, another group of exiles has gathered in a promised land of their own. And it is upon these women in flight from death and despair that nine male citizens of Ruby will lay their pain, their terror, and their murderous rage.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

"Morrison has brought it all together: the poetry, the emotion, the broad symbolic plan." —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Stunning. . . Morrison at her novelistic best." —*The New Yorker*

"Morrison dazzles." —*The Nation*

"A fascinating story, wonderfully detailed. . . The town is the stage for a profound and provocative debate." —*Los Angeles Times*

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

- [Toni Morrison interview on "The Bluest Eye" and "Paradise" \(1998\)](#)

RESPONSE TO CHALLENGES

- ['Paradise' in Texas Prisons](#)

Title: Paradise

Author: Toni Morrison

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Group

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