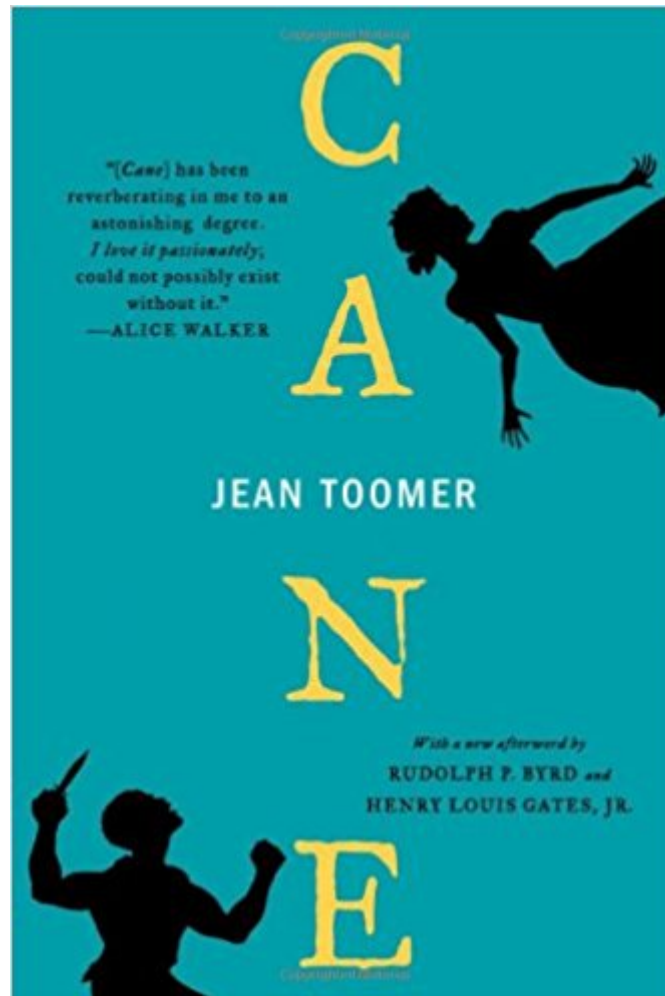




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# Cane (New Edition)



## Synopsis

“A breakthrough in prose and poetical writing. . . . This book should be on all readers’ and writers’ desks and in their minds.” —Maya Angelou First published in 1923, Jean Toomer’s *Cane* is an innovative literary work—part drama, part poetry, part fiction—powerfully evoking black life in the South. Rich in imagery, Toomer’s impressionistic, sometimes surrealistic sketches of Southern rural and urban life are permeated by visions of smoke, sugarcane, dusk, and fire; the northern world is pictured as a harsher reality of asphalt streets. This iconic work of American literature is published with a new afterword by Rudolph Byrd of Emory University and Henry Louis Gates Jr. of Harvard University, who provide groundbreaking biographical information on Toomer, place his writing within the context of American modernism and the Harlem Renaissance, and examine his shifting claims about his own race and his pioneering critique of race as a scientific or biological concept.

## Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: Liveright; Reissue edition (June 13, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0871402106

ISBN-13: 978-0871402103

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.7 x 8.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 61 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #8,686 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #30 in Books > Literature & Fiction > African American > Historical #130 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Short Stories & Anthologies > Short Stories #421 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Classics

## Customer Reviews

By far the most impressive product of the Negro Renaissance, *Cane* ranks with Richard Wright’s *Native Son* and Ralph Ellison’s *Invisible Man* as a measure of the Negro novelist’s highest achievement. Jean Toomer belongs to that first rank of writers who use words almost as a plastic medium, shaping new meanings from an original and highly personal style. --Robert A. Bone, *The Negro Novel in America* (1965)

Jean Toomer (1894–1967) was born in Washington, D.C., the son of educated blacks of Creole

stock. Literature was his first love and he regularly contributed avant garde poetry and short stories to such magazines as Dial, Broom, Secession, Double Dealer, and Little Review. After a literary apprenticeship in New York, Toomer taught school in rural Georgia. His experiences there led to the writing of *Cane*. Rudolph P. Byrd (Ph.D. Yale University) is the Goodrich C. White Professor of American Studies in the Graduate Institute of the Liberal Arts and the Department of African American Studies and the founding director of the James Weldon Johnson Institute for Advanced Interdisciplinary Studies at Emory University. He is the author and editor of ten books, including *Jean Toomer's Years with Gurdjieff*; *Essentials by Jean Toomer with Charles Johnson*; *Charles Johnson's Novels: Writing the American Palimpsest*; *The Essential Writings of James Weldon Johnson*; and with Alice Walker *The World Has Changed: Conversations with Alice Walker*. Among Professor Byrd's awards and fellowships are an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship at Harvard University; Visiting Scholar at the Bellagio Study and Conference Center; and the Thomas Jefferson Award from Emory University. He is a founding officer of the Alice Walker Literary Society. Henry Louis Gates, Jr. (Ph.D. Cambridge), is Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and American Research, Harvard University. He is the author of *Life Upon These Shores: Looking at African American History, 1513-2008*; *Black in Latin America*; *Tradition and the Black Atlantic: Critical Theory in the African Diaspora*; *Faces of America*; *Figures in Black: Words, Signs, and the Racial Self*; *The Signifying Monkey: A Theory of Afro-American Criticism*; *Loose Canons: Notes on the Culture Wars*; *Colored People: A Memoir*; *The Future of Race with Cornel West*; *Wonders of the African World*; *Thirteen Ways of Looking at a Black Man*; and *The Trials of Phillis Wheatley*. He is also the writer, producer, and narrator of PBS documentaries *Finding Your Roots*; *Black in Latin America*; *Faces of America*; *African American Lives 1 and 2*; *Looking for Lincoln*; *America Beyond the Color Line*; and *Wonders of the African World*. He is the editor of *African American National Biography* with Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, and *The Dictionary of African Biography* with Anthony Appiah; *Encyclopedia Africana* with Anthony Appiah; and *The Bondwoman's Narrative* by Hannah Crafts, as well as editor-in-chief of [TheRoot.com](http://TheRoot.com).

I'm reading it and loving it, now that I'm ready for it.

fast shipping, great item, thank you

Ahead of its time.

Very intriguing Read, VerY Artsy And Moving I Would Definitely Recommend It To Anyone Looking For An Inspiring Look At A Time WhEn Writings Were a Portrayal Of A Strong Life

A+++++++

This novel is extremely interesting, I really enjoyed reading it. It flows more like a collection of short stories than a novel and can be really difficult to understand at the same time.

Very entertaining read

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