



Critical Memory: Public Spheres, African American Writing and Black Fathers and Sons in America (Hardback)

By Houston a. Baker

University of Georgia Press, United States, 2001. Hardback. Condition: New. New. Language: English . Brand New Book. Dispatches from the battleground of black ideas and identity From the lone outcry of Richard Wright's *Black Boy* to the chorusing voices of Louis Farrakhan's *Million Man March*, *Critical Memory* looks across the past half-century to assess the current challenges to African American cultural and intellectual life. As Houston A. Baker recalls his own youth in Louisville, Kentucky, and Washington, D.C., he situates such figures as Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Shelby Steele, O.J. Simpson, Chris Rock, and Jesse Jackson within such issues as the embattled state of African American manhood and the financing and promotion of black intellectuals. The memory of the book's title is doubly critical. It is imperative, Baker says, that we keep alive the embarrassing, macabre, and always bizarre memory of race in America. In another respect, the remembering must be pointed and keen enough to discern truth from its often highly politicized, commercialized trappings. Throughout the book, Baker returns again and again to the triad of race, likability (the compromises by which one gains credibility in white America), and clearance (the separation of blacks from the...



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