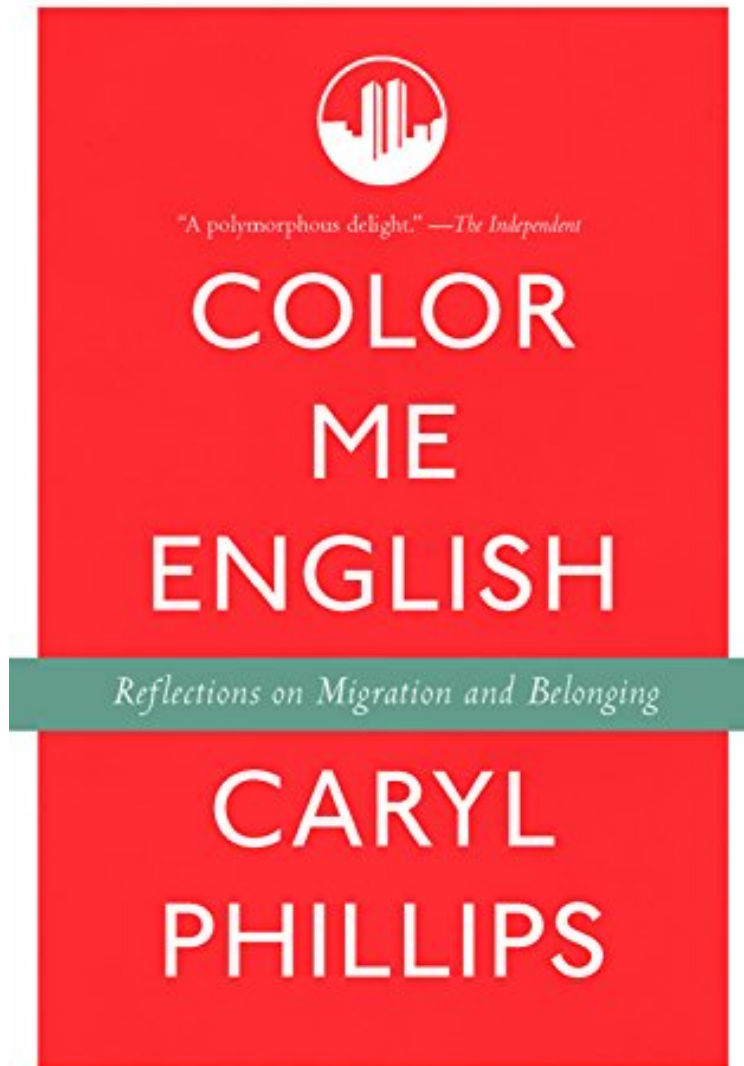


(Download free pdf) Color Me English: Reflections on Migration and Belonging

## Color Me English: Reflections on Migration and Belonging

*Caryl Phillips*

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**Caryl Phillips : Color Me English: Reflections on Migration and Belonging** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Color Me English: Reflections on Migration and Belonging:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Excellent book.By Lee, John RobertExcellent book. Searches the great anguish and challenge and problem of racism head on. Also a frank look at America after 9/11 and the complexities of life today there. Caryl Phillips is one of our great writers, in the family of James Baldwin and his

younger contemporaries Claudia Rankine, Ta Nehesi Coates and Teju Cole among many other sensitive, intelligent and talented writers. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *A Writer's Migration* By Minerva insight into experience of being a migrating writer. Phillips shares his story as he provides a travelogue to various international locations while discussing other migrant writers. Really enjoyed his view of their work as he discusses how their movements impacted their writing. 14 of 14 people found the following review helpful. *Border Crossings* By Salt Lake City Reader In this boldly diverse collection, Caryl Phillips moves between intimate memoir, illuminating explorations of literature, and astonishing border crossings. Some of his literary celebrations read like secular versions of "Lives of the Saints." These pieces are beautifully honest: celebratory, yes, but complicated, because Phillips leaves space to show stumbling steps as well as great leaps of heart and mind. The James Baldwin essay is especially haunting as Phillips tenderly reveals the terrible price Baldwin paid for his early fame and his choice to surrender his privacy and live as a public figure and spokesperson. The "Distant Shores" section is absolutely riveting and deeply troubling, especially because of the blossoming of overt racism, cultural prejudice, and violence in the wake of 9/11. Terrorist attacks around the world have not created fear and hatred, but they have given people a way to justify latent or once-guarded beliefs. Caryl Phillips exposes this sorrowful truth with exquisite restraint and patient evocation. I am amazed by how far Mr. Phillips has traveled, physically and spiritually, how fearlessly curious he is, how willing to let news from the outside world move inside and transform his spirit. He is a writer of extraordinary grace, energy, and compassion. For those who know his work, this collection will unveil (and deepen!) some of the mystery behind his remarkably imaginative fiction. For those who have not yet read his work, the essays provide a marvelous introduction.

An arresting . . . bracing and affecting volume (Booklist) that brims with curiosity and cosmopolitanism (Publishers Weekly), *Color Me English* was hailed in the Guardian as one of the best books of 2011 by Blake Morrison. This compilation of essays from award-winning author Caryl Phillips is a polymorphous delight that always retains at its core the notion of identity: how it is constructed, how it is thrust upon us, how we can change it (The Independent). A bold reflection on race and culture across national boundaries, *Color Me English* includes touching stories from Phillips's childhood in England; his years living and teaching in the United States during the turbulent times of 9/11; and his travels across Europe and Africa, where he engages with legendary writers James Baldwin, Richard Wright, Chinua Achebe, and Ha Jin. Featured on radio programs including The Leonard Lopate Show and The Diane Rehm Show and covered in Salon, the Huffington Post, and Essence, *Color Me English* is a stunning collection from Phillips, who writes wonderfully crafted, deeply meditative treatises . . . [that are] always interesting and informative (Quarterly Black Review).

Named one of the 20 Most Anticipated Books of Summer 2011 by The Huffington Post "[A] polymorphous delight that always retains at its core the notion of identity: how it is constructed, how it is thrust upon us, how we can change it. . . . Though Phillips writes specifically here about racism and the experiences of immigrants, his cogent argument is equally applicable to the climate in which we find ourselves." The Independent (UK) With the elegance and maturity of a prize-winning author . . . Phillips lives, breathes, and masterfully teases into prose the singular dilemma of the outsider. The Boston Globe [Phillips is] an insightful and sympathetic chronicler of race, British identity, and the immigrant experience. The Christian Science Monitor [Phillips] writes wonderfully crafted, deeply meditative treatises on the black experience in a global and historical sense . . . [He is] intellectual and reflective but always interesting and informative. Quarterly Black In these nearly 40 essays on migration, literature, and politics, novelist Phillips (*A Distant Shore*) revisits his youth in Leeds, recalls visits with other writers (e.g., Chinua Achebe, James Baldwin), recollects travels in disparate lands (Israel, France, Sierra Leone, Belgium), and meditates on the perspectives of the displaced exiles, refugees, immigrants. He reassesses writers as diverse as Lafcadio Hearn, Claude McKay, and Shusaku Endo, along with a number of British writers. While most essays are compelling, two groupings stand out: "Beginners" for what it shares about Phillips's writing process, and "Homeland Security," the book's most memorable section, which moves from a personal and very moving account of September 11 to a blistering account of the "discriminatory legislation enacted in [its] wake" and the "changes in the national mood" that threaten American pluralism. All of the essays, regardless of topic, reflect upon Phillips's "triple heritage" "British, African diasporan, Caribbean" and brim with curiosity and cosmopolitanism. Publishers Weekly