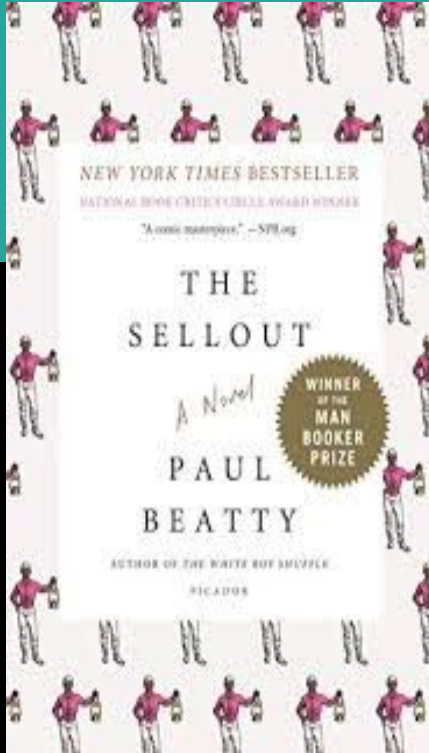


# The Sellout

Pp. 1-80



by : Katrina Herrera-Agosti and  
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# Characters:

**Narrator:** a black man that is trying to reinstate slavery and segregate a school

**Hampton Fiske:** the narrator's lawyer and an old friend

**Narrator's father:** Carl Jung (dead) a social scientist that used the Narrator for his experiments, also known as the "nigger whisperer"

**Hominy Jenkins:** the last surviving member of the Little Rascals and is the narrator's slave

# Themes:

- Progress/regress
- Two choices
  - guilty vs. innocent
  - right vs. wrong
- Education
- Language
- Identity

“Congratulations, you may be already a winner! Your case has been selected from hundreds of other appellate cases to be heard by the Supreme Court of the United States of America. **What a glorious honor?...**” (page 3-4)

What can we infer from the letter that the Narrator got? A Glorious honor? Are letters from the Supreme Court different if they are addressing African American cases?

## *Progress vs Regress*

“They say it took three sheriff’s deputies to pull me off his black ass, because I whipped the shit out of that nigger.” -pg 78

Question: What is the significance of the narrator giving in and whipping Hominy?  
Was this inevitable? Was this action caused by his childhood?

# *Two Choices: Guilty vs Innocent and Right vs Wrong*

“I stood before the court, trying to figure out if there was a state of being in between “guilty” and “innocent”. Why were those my only alternatives? I thought. Why couldn’t I be “neither” or “both”? After a long pause, I finally faced the bench and said, “Your Honor, I plead human.” -pg 15

Why does the narrator seem to not be able to take one side? What does he mean when he chooses to plead “human”? How does this relate to the ideas of guilty vs. innocence and right vs. wrong?

## *Education:*

“They all think that after my dad passed away and I went to college, majored in psychology, and returned to continue his good work. But I have no interest in psychoanalytic theory, ink splashes, the human condition, and in giving something back to the community. I went to the University of California at Riverside because it had a decent agricultural studies department.” -pg 61

Question: How does the death of the narrator's father affect his decision to major in something else? Why doesn't he want to continue his dad steps?

## *Language:*

“Putting my homeschool Latin to good use, I’d crank out a motto, then shove it under his heart-shaped plastic nose for approval.” -pg 11

“Hominy like to brag about how he was fluent in four languages, because they shot each shot four times, once in English, French, Spanish, and German.” -pg 69

### Question:

Here we have two different types of people each fluent in multiple languages. Why was this important? Why was there a need to know multiple languages?

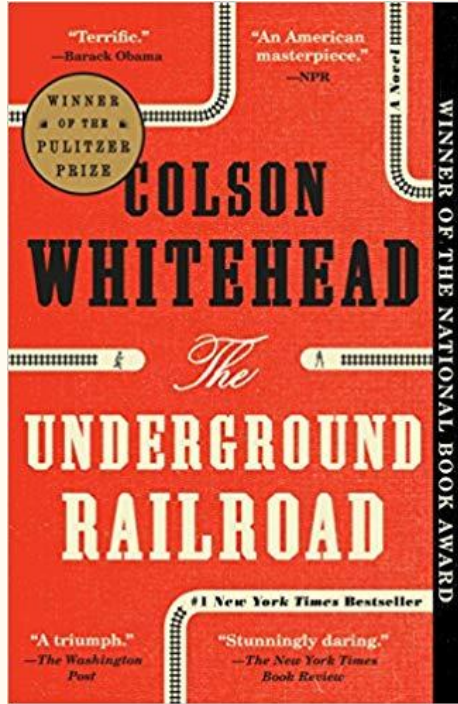


# *Identity*

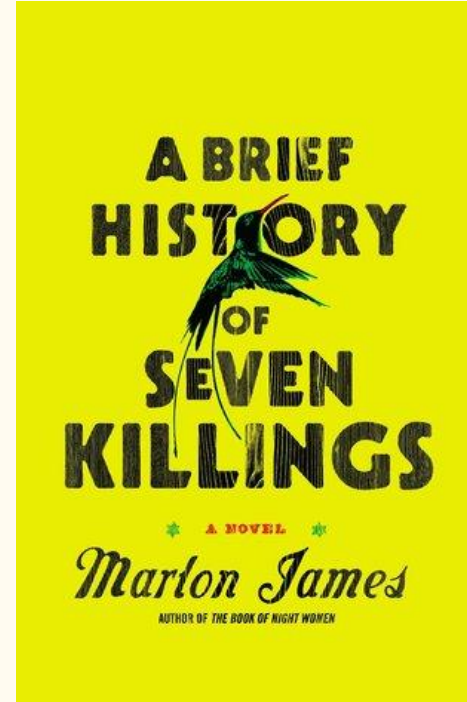
“Sometimes we just have to accept who we are and act accordingly. I’m a slave. That’s who I am. It’s the role I was born to play.” pg -77

Question: How does this relate to Du Bois's idea of the veil? Did Hominy ever feel free or has he always felt like a slave?

# Suggested Reading



-Colson Whitehead



-Marlon James

## *Close Readings:*

Katrina:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1-zfA49qMv6-3EmTIIzvAdROwQPhe9GefpPzHgvznY9o/edit>

Lupita:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1az2t5HpxyBmCvnljnEpm8LXtmkw3krBeYkFV89xsZGs/edit>