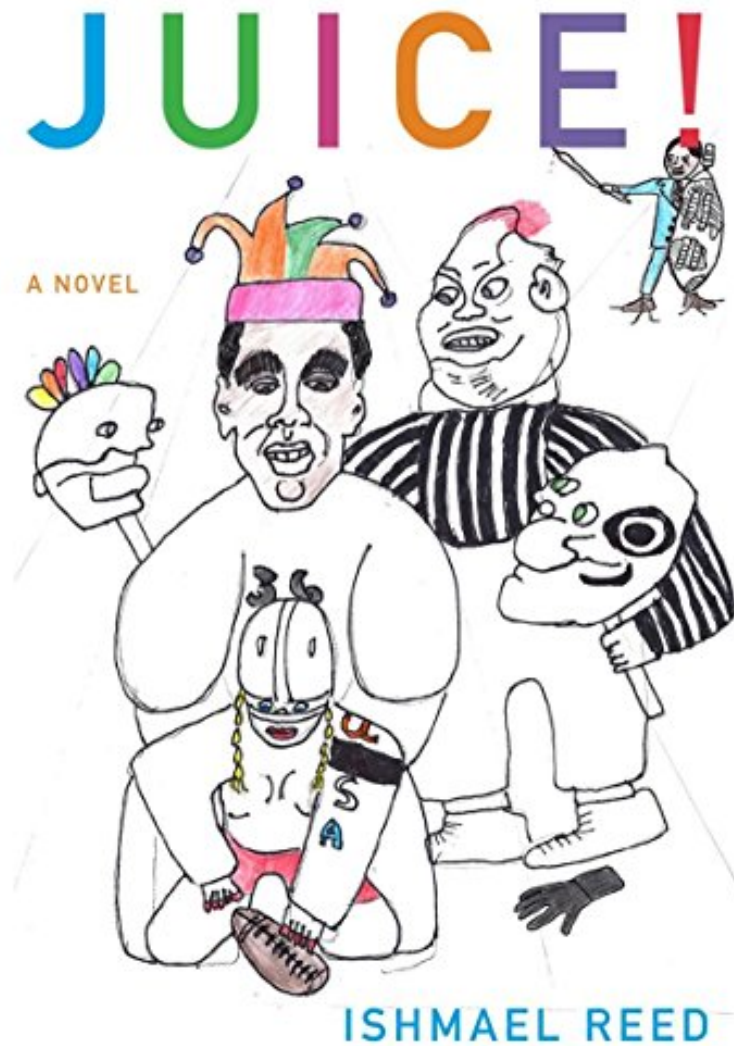


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## Juice!: A Novel (American Literature Series)

*Ishmael Reed*

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**Ishmael Reed : Juice!: A Novel (American Literature Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Juice!: A Novel (American Literature Series):

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Pierre-Damien Mvuyekure""The Charlie 'Bird' Parker of American Fiction" at his best. O.J. Simpson still haunts America, including the "post-racial" one.12 of 14 people found the following review helpful. It is a novel after allBy The bard of Santa barbaraAs you read this book you are cast back to the murky days of the OJ trial. The case is made from a black perspective that OJ was framed, and those that think him guilty are white deniers of the evidence. My personal white man's reaction was maybe he's right and I

moved from the position clearly guilty to probably but maybe not. Then I realize this is a novel. It is not about facts, but the racial divide that "colors" how we perceive the world. I am a white guy who rarely thinks along these lines. I suppose that is the privilege of being white. If you are black in America, you are daily reminded of it.<sup>3</sup> of 4 people found the following review helpful. Juice!By Kindle CustomerIshmael Reed's recent novel, Juice!, is an excellent example of the social satire that Reed does so well. The tongue-in-cheek, carefully crafted writing is fast-paced and filled with double entendres and word play that holds the readers' attention as fully as the plot itself.

In 2010, the Newseum in Washington D.C. finally obtained the suit O. J. Simpson wore in court the day he was acquitted, and it now stands as both an artifact in their "Trial of the Century" exhibit and a symbol of the American media's endless hunger for the criminal and the celebrity. This event serves as a launching point for Ishmael Reed's "Juice!," a novelistic commentary on the post-Simpson American media frenzy from one of the most controversial figures in American literature today. Through Paul Blessings--a censored cartoonist suffering from diabetes--and his cohorts--serving as stand-ins for the various mediums of art--Ishmael Reed argues that since 1994, "O. J. has become a metaphor for things wrong with culture and politics." A lament for the death of print media, the growth of the corporation, and the process of growing old, "Juice!" serves as a comi-tragedy, chronicling the increased anxieties of "post-race" America.

From BooklistPaul Blessings, aka Bear, is getting on in years, a process made worse by diabetes. He is still on the job as a television political cartoonist, although he was pressured into retiring his longtime radical cartoon, Attitude the Badger, and introducing the slightly less abrasive character Koots Badger. Astute and cantankerous, he is epically obsessed with O. J. (?The Juice?) Simpson and the debacle of his trials, a fixation that has alienated his family and friends and endangered his job. Reed, a multitalented satirist, provocateur, and author of more than two dozen books about African American life and culture, is positively gleeful here as his irresistible trickster alter ego breaks down the toxic implications of the Simpson case and rails against American racism, hypocrisy, greed, and corruption. Punctuated by incidents hilarious, barbed, dramatic, and sweet, Bear's far-roaming, deep-digging, jazzy rant allows Reed to slyly map the ripple effects of the 1990s, track how and why O. J. became an icon of social ills, protest the evisceration of journalism, and celebrate the tenacity and mettle of artists of conscience and freedom. --Donna Seaman "Seemingly tired of arguments about 'identity politics', and being forced "to rally around the flag of black brotherhood', Reed's mischievous energetic prose transforms Juice! into an engaging, troubling and innovative novel." (The Times Literary Supplement)About the AuthorIshmael Reed is the author of over twenty-five books including Mumbo Jumbo, The Last Days of Louisiana Red, Yellow Back Radio Broke-Down and Juice!. He is also a publisher, television producer, songwriter, radio and television commentator, lecturer, and has long been devoted to exploring an alternative black aesthetic: the trickster tradition, or Neo-Hoodooism as he calls it. Founder of the Before Columbus Foundation, he taught at the University of California, Berkeley for over thirty years, retiring in 2005. In 2003, he received the coveted Otto Award for political theater.