



**Freedom Readers: The African American  
Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine  
Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital.  
Lit.)**

*Dennis Looney*

Download now

[Click here](#) if your download doesn't start automatically

# Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.)

Dennis Looney

**Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.)** Dennis Looney

*Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy* is a literary-historical study of the many surprising ways in which Dante Alighieri and the *Divine Comedy* have assumed a position of importance in African American culture. Dennis Looney examines how African American authors have read, interpreted, and responded to Dante and his work from the late 1820s to the present.

In many ways, the African American reception of Dante follows a recognizable narrative of reception: the Romantic rehabilitation of the author; the late-nineteenth-century glorification of Dante as a radical writer of reform; the twentieth-century modernist rewriting; and the adaptation of the *Divine Comedy* into the prose of the contemporary novel. But surely it is unique to African American rewritings of Dante to suggest that the *Divine Comedy* is itself a kind of slave narrative. Only African American "translations" of Dante use the medieval author to comment on segregation, migration, and integration. While many authors over the centuries have learned to articulate a new kind of poetry from Dante's example, for African American authors attuned to the complexities of Dante's hybrid vernacular, his poetic language becomes a model for creative expression that juxtaposes and blends classical notes and the vernacular counterpoint in striking ways. Looney demonstrates this appropriation of Dante as a locus for black agency in the creative work of such authors as William Wells Brown, the poet H. Cordelia Ray, Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, Amiri Baraka, Gloria Naylor, Toni Morrison, and the filmmaker Spencer Williams.

"Dennis Looney's *Freedom Readers* is an original, timely, and very welcome contribution to the study of Dante's reception in the United States. Looney shows vividly and lucidly how the American reception of Dante is tied more closely to the entangled history of the country's black and white citizens than we have ever imagined; he also explores how influential readers in the Afro-American cultural tradition, over almost two centuries, have called upon Dante to help them negotiate the transition from the culture of their past to that of their present. --**Nicholas Havelly, University of York**

"Dennis Looney takes us on a fascinating journey of discovery of the African American reception of Dante and the *Divine Comedy*, covering with great surety the period from the early 1800s to the present: from William Wells Brown, Cordelia Ray, and W. E. B. Du Bois to Gloria Naylor, Toni Morrison, and Dudley Randall. Rigorously researched and also engagingly readable, *Freedom Readers* offers a new angle of seeing African American literature that enriches our appreciation of its complexity and beauty. Demonstrating persuasively the continuing relevance of Dante, this important study of African American anti-imperial readings of his life and works opens up valuable new lines of comparative literary investigation." --**M. Giulia Fabi, University of Ferrara**

"*Freedom Readers* fills a gap in scholarship and criticism, and fills it outstandingly. Looney reconstructs the historical, ideological, political, and cultural background with extreme accuracy, and his reading of Du Bois, LeRoi Jones, and Toni Morrison is a great feat both of interpretation and of writing. The book promises to become a milestone: original, new, fresh, often exciting." --**Piero Boitani, University of Rome "Sapienza"**

 **Download** [Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of ...pdf](#)

 **Read Online** [Freedom Readers: The African American Reception ...pdf](#)

## **Download and Read Free Online Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) Dennis Looney**

---

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Dolly Taylor:**

The guide with title Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of advantage after read this book. This specific book exist new knowledge the information that exist in this publication represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to be aware of how the improvement of the world. This particular book will bring you throughout new era of the internationalization. You can read the e-book with your smart phone, so you can read the item anywhere you want.

#### **John Casteel:**

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or perhaps go to the outside with them family or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent they will free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun for you personally. If you enjoy the book that you simply read you can spent all day long to reading a publication. The book Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) it is very good to read. There are a lot of people who recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. Should you did not have enough space to create this book you can buy the actual e-book. You can m0ore simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not very costly but this book possesses high quality.

#### **Brenda Robert:**

Reading can called imagination hangout, why? Because when you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) the mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely will end up your mind friends. Imaging each word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get prior to. The Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) giving you an additional experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful details for your better life on this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern the following is your body and mind are going to be pleased when you are finished reading through it, like winning a casino game. Do you want to try this extraordinary paying spare time activity?

#### **Vanessa Gibson:**

Many people spending their time period by playing outside having friends, fun activity using family or just watching TV the whole day. You can have new activity to invest your whole day by reading through a book. Ugh, do you consider reading a book can definitely hard because you have to use the book everywhere? It

alright you can have the e-book, having everywhere you want in your Touch screen phone. Like Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) which is having the e-book version. So , try out this book? Let's find.

**Download and Read Online Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) Dennis Looney #EHZ2RMTLK3P**

## **Read Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) by Dennis Looney for online ebook**

Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) by Dennis Looney Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) by Dennis Looney books to read online.

## **Online Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) by Dennis Looney ebook PDF download**

**Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) by Dennis Looney Doc**

**Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) by Dennis Looney Mobipocket**

**Freedom Readers: The African American Reception of Dante Alighieri and the Divine Comedy (ND Devers Series Dante & Med. Ital. Lit.) by Dennis Looney EPub**