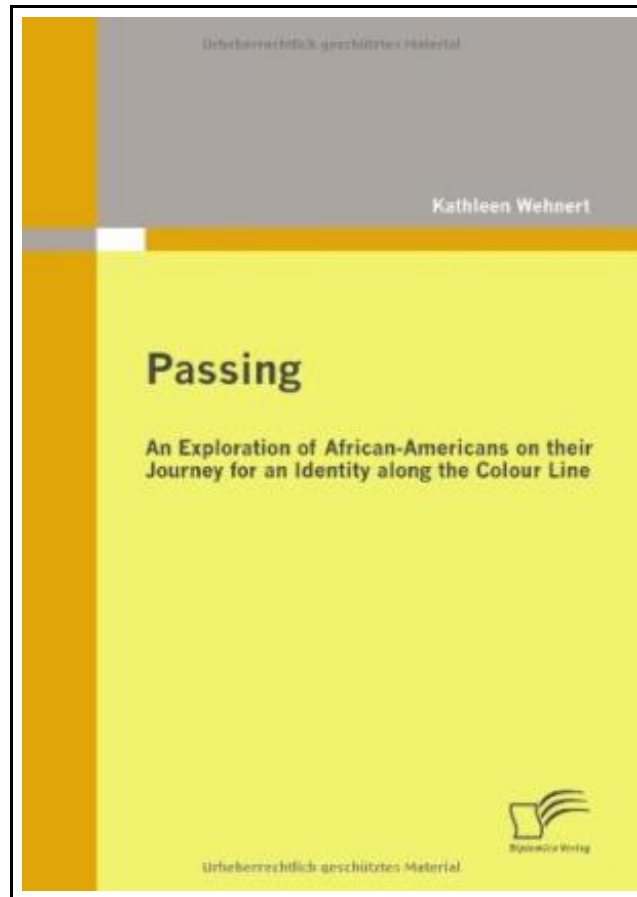


## Passing: An Exploration of African-Americans on Their Journey for an Identity Along the Colour Line



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## **PASSING: AN EXPLORATION OF AFRICAN-AMERICANS ON THEIR JOURNEY FOR AN IDENTITY ALONG THE COLOUR LINE**



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Diplomica Verlag. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Paperback. 52 pages. Dimensions: 10.5in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. Larsen and other African-American writers, including James Weldon Johnson, explored the intricacies and contradictions of the concept of race at the beginning of the 20th century, in particular by addressing the phenomenon of passing. Passing has many definitions, most often it is associated with the term passing for white, which implies the crossing of the colour line from black to white in order to transcend racial barriers. Until the end of the 19th and beginning of the 20th century, writers hardly had addressed the passing figure in literature. Passing has always been a much camouflaged topic because the successful passer does not want their identity to be unmasked. This constitutes probably also the main reason why only little, and rather pioneering, research has been conducted up to today and why it still remains difficult to investigate the issue. The sole witnesses of the concepts of passing in the time period are passing narratives. James Weldon Johnson's *Autobiography of an Ex-colored Man* (1912), Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* (1928) and her novella *Passing* (1929) are perhaps the most exemplary examples of an analysis of the passing figure and classic epitomes of the racial situations during the Harlem Renaissance. The novels challenge stereotypes of race and disclose concepts of doubleness and visibility. In order to disentangle the complexities of the theme, these novels, will serve to examine in depth in the nature and the motifs of the phenomenon of passing. In this book, I will be exploring the motifs of passing in these novels of the Harlem Renaissance in the context of DuBois concept of double consciousness and the discourse of race. Chapter One will set the critical historical and cultural context for the passing narratives, as this is indispensable...

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