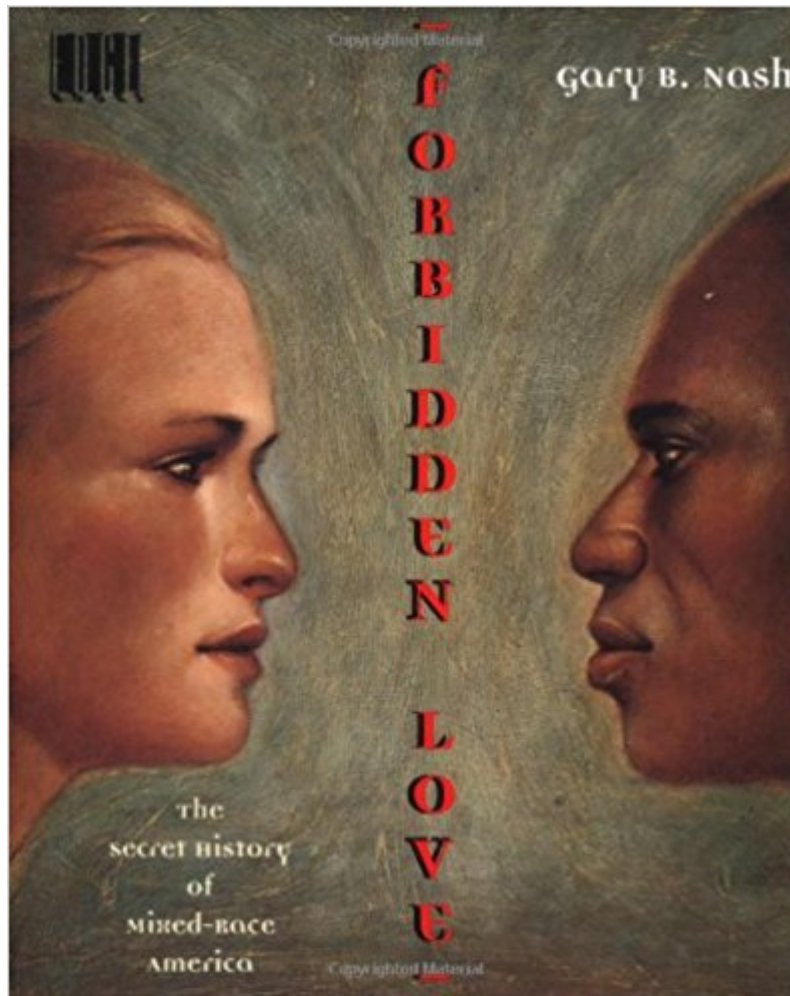




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Forbidden Love (Edge Books)



Synopsis

Forbidden Love is a pathbreaking book that only a master historian could write. The first work for younger readers to describe the true history of racial mixing in America, it exposes how desperately some people have fought to guard our racial borderlines. Gary Nash, a past president of the Organization of American Historians, has been instrumental in rethinking how history should be taught in schools. Now, starting with John Rolfe and Pocahontas, pausing to compare the United States with Canada and Mexico, and ending with his own multiracial classrooms, he shows how racial mixing, and the fear of it, is at the heart of American history.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 9 Up-Nash writes of mixed-race America from the premise that race has no proven scientific basis. He discusses what race is, noting "...there is more genetic variation within any grouping we call 'race' than between any two such groups." He traces the defining concept of "race" across the centuries and the impact of racial designations on the intermingling of immigrants. Vignettes about Native Americans, African Americans, Asian Americans, and mixed-race Americans who have lived successful biracial, bicultural lives highlight his discussions. Black-and-white photographs and reproductions of pamphlet pages, posters, broadsides, advertisements, and other archival materials illustrate the text. Bibliographical notes reflect extensive research and include historic and contemporary authorities. Nash dispels myths and misconceptions to fight prejudice as he reflects

on a difficult subject. An intriguing topic, well handled. Gail Richmond, San Diego Unified Schools, CA Copyright 1999 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Should there be a mixed-race option on census forms? Teens moved by the contemporary voices in *What Are You?* (see starred review, p.1697) will find that this history of racially mixed people in the U.S., from colonial times to the present, provides connections and context. The alluring title and cover don't quite fit the scholarly, detailed, sometimes heavy, style, but many readers will want to know more about the long-standing taboos and the fight for tolerance, past and present. In many ways, this is also a history of American racism, a disturbing narrative of resistance to "mestizo America." Nash draws on science, literature, politics, art, and music, and especially on popular culture, with words and period prints that show the vicious stereotypes: from the romantic-savage images of Indians and happy slaves to the snarling insults of hate propaganda. Detailed, unobtrusive chapter notes at the back will help readers who want to find out more. What will hold teens are the many personal stories that are woven into the political struggle: stirring accounts of "interracial renegades" who defied convention and stood up for love. Some were famous, but most, as Nash points out, have been left out of the history books. Hazel Rochman

Want to know the history of racism ...this book will not only tell you how it came about in the United States but also show you. A powerful read that pulls the veil from the stories told in history books. A must read for anyone who wants to understand and end racism.

Got this book as a required read for a political science course. Turned out professor never required it, it was an administrative error. While other students were bellyaching about this screw up, I was busy reading this very interesting book. It ties in history along with cultural aspects of the subject.

I found this book excellent because it gave an overview of the history of miscegenation and showed that people were less "liberal" in their views as time went on. Good for history buffs like me.

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