



## Flying Home: and Other Stories

By Ralph Ellison

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Written between 1937 and 1954 and now available in paperback for the first time, these thirteen stories are a potent distillation of the genius of Ralph Ellison. Six of them remained unpublished during Ellison's lifetime and were discovered among the author's effects in a folder labeled "Early Stories." But they all bear the hallmarks--the thematic reach, musically layered voices, and sheer ebullience--that Ellison would bring to his classic **Invisible Man**.

The tales in **Flying Home** range in setting from the Jim Crow South to a Harlem bingo parlor, from the hobo jungles of the Great Depression to Wales during the Second World War. By turns lyrical, scathing, touching, and transcendently wise, **Flying Home and Other Stories** is a historic volume, an extravagant last bequest from a giant of our literature.

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## **Flying Home: and Other Stories** By Ralph Ellison Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

Though he was the author of two highly regarded collections of essays, Ralph Ellison's fame rests on his prize-winning novel *Invisible Man*. For years, he labored on another novel, but he died in 1994 with it still unpublished. Here, Ellison's literary executor, John F. Callahan, collects 13 stories, many of which are published for the first time. The stories give us an intriguing look at Ralph Ellison's development as a writer (some early ones, for example, clearly show the influence of Hemingway), and his early attempts to articulate his concerns about the nature of blackness and the American identity.

### From Publishers Weekly

To read Ellison's early short stories after having read *Invisible Man* is like looking at the first sketches and blueprints of parts of the Taj Mahal after having stood in the complete palace itself. Most of these 12 early stories (written between 1937 and 1954) are clearly apprentice work in which Ellison is struggling for control of voice, timing and structure. In the earliest work (including "Hymie's Bull," his very first story), Ellison tries to shoehorn his own experience, including hoboing freight trains in the 1930s, into some boxed-in notion of literary form. But Ellison was a fast learner. While the four stories featuring the antics of Buster and Riley, two smart-mouthed African American boys, owe more than a bit to Mark Twain's Huck and Tom, they also show Ellison developing more supple language and a comic touch. "A Party Down at the Square" (discovered by Callahan, his literary executor, shortly after the writer's death in 1994), is an account of a lynching breathlessly narrated by a white Cincinnati boy visiting his uncle in Alabama. In the dramatic title story, Todd, a black pilot, a northerner trained at Tuskegee, crash-lands in rural Alabama and is rescued from redneck medics by Jefferson, an old black man exuding rustic ways and folksy tall tales. Though Jefferson represents everything Todd is trying to escape, the old man's wisdom and quick thinking ultimately lead the pilot to a reaffirmation of his roots. In these later stories, the moral core of Ellison's great novel is apparent: the passion for simultaneously exploring black identity and American identity, the determination to write deeply about race without writing only about race. His stories display, individually, the commitment to craft and, collectively, the acquired range that later enabled him to assemble, block by block, one of the great monuments of American literature.

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### From School Library Journal

YA. Ellison's refined style of dialogue and detailed descriptions coupled with the tradition of African-American storytelling make this a readable collection. Written between the 1930s and the 1950s, these 13 short stories, 6 of which were previously unpublished, capture a variety of moods. In "A Party Down at the Square," a white boy tells of witnessing his first lynching. Four stories introduce Buster and Riley, two preteens whose antics are laughable and conversations witty. One story deals with a four-year-old's first sense of prejudice with his father by his side. In "Flying Home," a Tuskegee Airman crashes into an Alabama field and faces, once again, the stark realities of segregation. Callahan's scholarly introduction presents a personal look at Ellison's youth. However, it is through the stories that one can begin to understand the complexities of a divided nation. YAs familiar with *Invisible Man* should appreciate this offering. At the same time, the mix of action and adventure will hold the attention of general readers. ?Connie Freeman, Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, IN

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### **From reader reviews:**

#### **David Goodspeed:**

Do you have favorite book? For those who have, what is your favorite's book? Reserve is very important thing for us to be aware of everything in the world. Each e-book has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that reserve has different type. Some people feel enjoy to spend their time to read a book. They are really reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is reading a book. Why not the person who don't like reading through a book? Sometime, man or woman feel need book once they found difficult problem as well as exercise. Well, probably you will need this Flying Home: and Other Stories.

#### **Ronald Smith:**

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#### **Sharon McMichael:**

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#### **David Scott:**

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