



The Ordeal of Mansart (The Oxford W. E. B. Du Bois): The Black Flame Trilogy: Book One, The Ordeal of Mansart (The Oxford W. E. B. Du Bois)

By W. E. B. Du Bois

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By W. E. B. Du Bois

W. E. B. Du Bois was a public intellectual, sociologist, and activist on behalf of the African American community. He profoundly shaped black political culture in the United States through his founding role in the NAACP, as well as internationally through the Pan-African movement. Du Bois's sociological and historical research on African-American communities and culture broke ground in many areas, including the history of the post-Civil War Reconstruction period. Du Bois was also a prolific author of novels, autobiographical accounts, innumerable editorials and journalistic pieces, and several works of history.

Du Bois called his epic Black Flame trilogy a fiction of interpretation. It acts as a representative biography of African American history by following one man, Manuel Mansart, from his birth in 1876 until his death. The Black Flame attempts to use this historical fiction of interpretation to recast and revisit the African American experience. Readers will appreciate The Black Flame trilogy as a clear articulation of Du Bois's perspective at the end of his life.

The first book in this profound trilogy, *The Ordeal of Mansart*, chronicles Mansart's early life during the time of Reconstruction through his involvement in black education in Atlanta. Written with lyrical, vivid prose and with accurate historical context, *The Ordeal of Mansart* offers readers a peek into African American life and struggle through the lens of Mansart's humble life. With a series introduction by editor Henry Louis Gates, Jr., and an introduction by Brent Hayes Edwards, this edition is essential for anyone interested in African American literature.

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Editorial Review

Review

"This set represents an invaluable assembly of the works of the pioneering African American scholar, activist, and creative genius....The introductions to the individual volumes are written by such distinguished scholars as to make those writings indispensable treasures in their own right. Recommended for all public libraries and essential for every academic institution."--*Library Journal* (starred review)

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"This set will be vital to all large university libraries with collections in African American history and American literature."--*American Reference Books Annual*

About the Author

Henry Louis Gates, Jr., is the Alphonse Fletcher University Professor and Director of the W. E. B. Du Bois Institute for African and African American Research at Harvard University. He has edited several major reference works, including *Dictionary of African Biography*, *African American Lives*, *Africana*, and *African American National Biography*. In addition, he is Editor in Chief of the *Oxford African American Studies Center* (www.oxfordaasc.com).

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