

# Of One Blood Mit Press Radium Age: Exploring the Forgotten Gems of Science Fiction

Science fiction has always captivated readers with its ability to transport them to new worlds, showcase innovative ideas, and challenge societal norms. One era in the history of science fiction that often goes overlooked is the Radium Age, a period between the late 19th and early 20th centuries that witnessed the birth of groundbreaking works. In this article, we will delve into one such remarkable book, "Of One Blood" published by the MIT Press, and shed light on its significance.

## Unveiling the Radium Age

The Radium Age, named after the discovery of radioactivity, was a time of tremendous intellectual and technological progress. As society grappled with the implications of rapid industrialization, political upheavals, and scientific advancements, science fiction writers took inspiration from these changes to explore themes of utopia, moral dilemmas, and otherworldly adventures.

Though often overshadowed by later periods like the Golden Age and the New Wave, the Radium Age laid the foundation for the future of science fiction. Authors like H.P. Lovecraft, Jules Verne, and Edgar Rice Burroughs created imaginative worlds that captivated readers and pushed the boundaries of storytelling.

### Of One Blood (MIT Press / Radium Age)

by Gwen Bristow (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.3 out of 5

Language : English



File size : 1159 KB  
Text-to-Speech: Enabled  
Screen Reader: Supported  
Print length : 208 pages



## Rediscovering "Of One Blood"

Published by the prestigious MIT Press in 1912, "Of One Blood" is a Radium Age science fiction novel written by Pauline Hopkins. Despite being one of the earliest African-American science fiction novels, it sadly remains largely unknown within mainstream science fiction discourse. However, recent efforts have been made to revive interest in this forgotten gem and acknowledge its contribution to the genre.

## The Plot Unveiled

"Of One Blood" tells the story of Reuel Briggs, an African-American doctor who goes on an archaeological expedition to Ethiopia. While excavating ancient ruins, Briggs discovers a hidden underground civilization called Nuncie, where a secretive race named the Lemurians reside. This groundbreaking work not only explores themes of lost civilizations but also delves into the complexities of racial identity and the struggle against oppression.

## Key Aspects of "Of One Blood"

One of the most intriguing elements of "Of One Blood" is its portrayal of African-American protagonists as intellectuals and explorers, defying the prevalent

stereotypes of the time. Hopkins challenges racial prejudices by showcasing the immense intellectual capacity and bravery of her characters.

The novel also delves into the theme of cultural exchange. Through the interactions between Briggs and the Lemurians, Hopkins emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural understanding and the appreciation of diverse perspectives. This aspect of the book remains relevant even today, echoing the ongoing fight for equality and acceptance.

## **The Significance of "Of One Blood" and the Radium Age**

"Of One Blood" serves as a poignant reminder of the transformative power of literature and its ability to challenge societal norms. This Radium Age novel exemplifies the genre's ability to explore complex issues and shed light on marginalized voices that were often overlooked during that time.

By bringing "Of One Blood" to the forefront, the MIT Press and other advocates of Radium Age science fiction aim to encourage readers to revisit this era and recognize its immense influence on the development of the genre. There is much to be gained from exploring the forgotten gems of science fiction, as they contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of the genre's history and evolution.

## **In**

As we delve into the depths of science fiction, it is crucial to acknowledge the significance of the Radium Age and the works that emerged from it. "Of One Blood" by Pauline Hopkins remains a remarkable piece of literature that challenges stereotypes, celebrates diversity, and pushes the boundaries of the genre.

Through the efforts of institutions like the MIT Press, we can rekindle interest in forgotten works of science fiction, giving them the recognition they deserve and ensuring that their impact on the genre is not lost to time.



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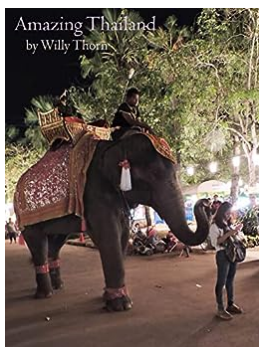


A mixed-race Harvard medical student stumbles upon a hidden Ethiopian city, the inhabitants of which possess both advanced technologies and mystical powers.

Long before Marvel Comics gave us Wakanda, a high-tech African country that has never been colonized, this 1903 novel gave readers Reuel Briggs—a mixed-race Harvard medical student, passing as white, who stumbles upon Telassar. In this long-hidden Ethiopian city, the wise, peaceful inhabitants of which possess both advanced technologies and mystical powers, Reuel discovers the incredible secret of his own birth. Now, he must decide whether to return to the life he's built, and the woman he loves, back in America—or play a role in helping Telassar take its rightful place on the world stage. Considered one of the earliest articulations of Black internationalism, *Of One Blood* takes as its theme the notion that race is a social construct perpetuated by racists.

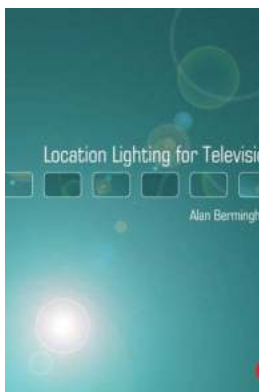
Minister Faust is best known as author of *The Coyote Kings of the Space-Age*

Bachelor Pad (2004) and 2007's Kindred Award-winning From the Notebooks of Dr. Brain (retitled Shrinking the Heroes, it also received the Philip K. Dick Award Special Citation). An award-winning journalist, community organizer, teacher, and workshop designer, Faust is also a former television host and producer, radio broadcaster, and podcaster. His 2011 TEDx talk, "The Cure For Death by Smalltalk," has been viewed more than 840,000 times.



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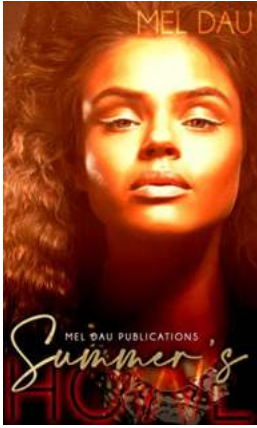
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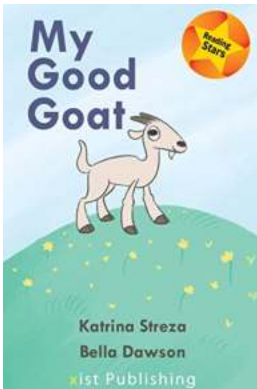
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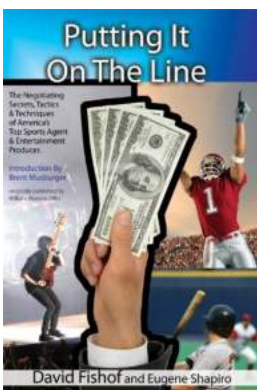
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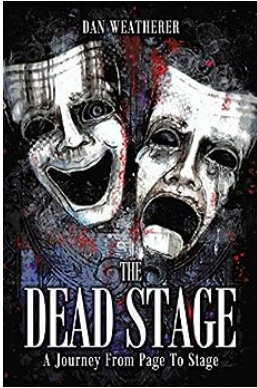
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