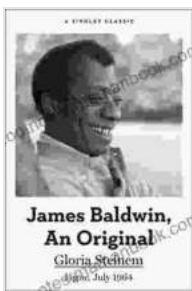


# James Baldwin: An Original Singles Classic

First published in 1953, James Baldwin's *Original Singles* is a collection of short stories that explore the complexities of love, loss, and the human experience. Baldwin's writing is lyrical and insightful, and his stories offer a unique perspective on the lives of African Americans in the mid-20th century.



## James Baldwin, An Original (Singles Classic)

by Gloria Steinem

★★★★☆ 4.7 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 1110 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 13 pages  
Lending : Enabled



The stories in *Original Singles* are set in a variety of locations, from New York City to Paris to the American South. They feature characters from all walks of life, from struggling artists to wealthy socialites. But despite their different backgrounds, the characters in *Original Singles* are all united by their desire for love and connection.

One of the most powerful stories in the collection is "Sonny's Blues." The story follows two brothers, Sonny and his older brother, the narrator. Sonny is a talented musician, but he is struggling to find his way in life. The

narrator, on the other hand, is a successful businessman. Despite their different paths, the two brothers remain close, and they share a deep bond.

One night, Sonny and the narrator go to a jazz club to hear Sonny play. Sonny's music is beautiful and moving, and the narrator is transported by his brother's talent. But as the night goes on, the narrator begins to realize that Sonny is struggling with something. Sonny is drinking too much, and he is not playing as well as he could.

After the performance, the narrator and Sonny talk about Sonny's problems. Sonny tells his brother that he is tired of playing the same old songs night after night. He wants to play something different, something that will come from his own heart.

The narrator understands Sonny's frustration. He knows that Sonny is a talented artist, and he wants to see him succeed. But he also knows that Sonny needs to find his own way. He tells Sonny that he can't help him, but he will always be there for him.

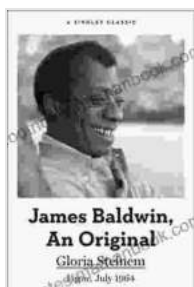
"Sonny's Blues" is a powerful and moving story about the complexities of love and brotherhood. It is a story that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

The other stories in *Original Singles* are equally insightful and moving. Baldwin writes about the joys and heartbreaks of love, the struggles of everyday life, and the search for identity. His stories are filled with complex characters and beautiful language, and they offer a unique perspective on the human experience.

If you are a fan of James Baldwin, or if you are looking for a great collection of short stories, then I highly recommend *Original Singles*. It is a classic work of literature that will stay with you long after you finish reading it.

## Further Reading

- James Baldwin on Encyclopedia Britannica
- James Baldwin on the National Endowment for the Humanities website
- Original Singles on Powell's Books website



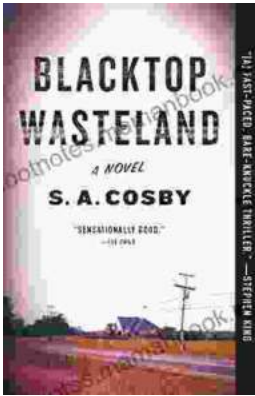
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