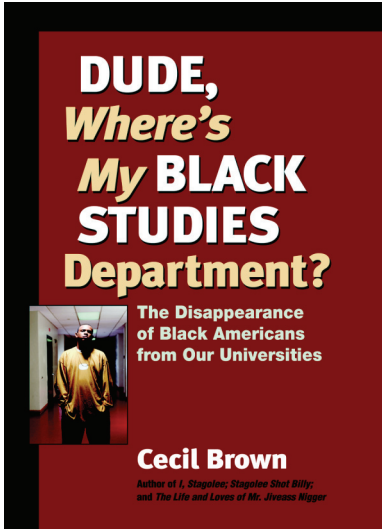




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## Letter of Praise:

Review from cultural critic, Kofi Natambu

\* \* \*

Hey Cecil,

I just finished reading your new book and it's a GREAT TEXT. I mean EXTRAORDINARY. RIVETING. HEAVY. INFORMATIVE. I'm not exactly in the habit of waxing hyperbolic about the work I read these daze but this book is truly important. Profound. Stunning. Revelatory. And absolutely ESSENTIAL to any honestly critical insight into the contemporary issues of race, class, education, language, orality, POWER, and academia TODAY.

It's by far the most erudite and USEFUL book I have read in many years. This book deserves the widest possible distribution on a GLOBAL level (you need to seriously see if you can get this book published by a major publisher just so it can get the largest audience it can possibly find in this country—Of course I know all too well they'll probably be opposed to publishing an outstanding book by a black male author that is not concerned with hohum "ghetto pathology" masked as "memoir" or yet another dumb tome about what's it's like to be a filthy rich and utterly clueless rapper/athlete/ pseudogangster like 50 Cent and his ilk, but DAMN! this book NEEDS to be seriously read and studied by every TRUE SCHOLAR, ARTIST, and WELL READ CITIZEN out here. I finished reading this feeling absolutely EXHILARATED! And I haven't felt quite this way about a book on the crucial topics you cover in this book since essayists, historians, and crtics Harold Cruse, Robert Allen, Amiri Baraka, James T. Stewart, Larry Neal, etc. and others were truly kicking much ass prosewise circa 1967- 1972

You also told me you would send me a personal copy of DUDE for review but it never arrived. So I finally went out and got it on my own because I was curious about what it would contain given my historical love of all your work since I first cracked the hilarious and sobering pages of LIVE AND LOVES OF...way back in 1969.

Well that's all for now. I just thought I would send this missive because your work deserves it. Later...

Kofi