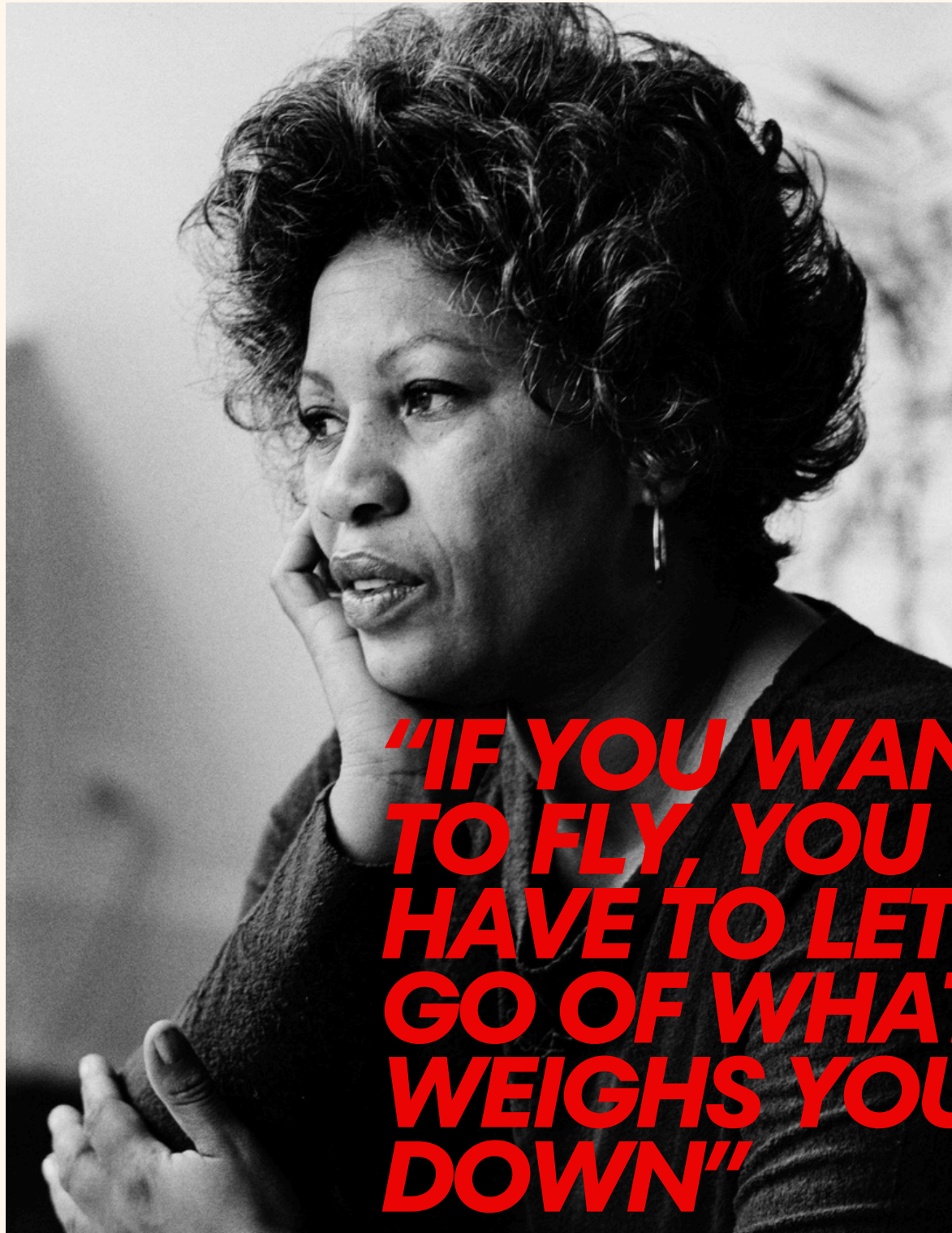


TONI MORRISON



**"IF YOU WANT
TO FLY, YOU
HAVE TO LET
GO OF WHAT
WEIGHS YOU
DOWN"**

The voice that reinvented
American literature

Memory, identity, and power in
Morrison's words



TONI MORRISON WAS NOT JUST A WRITER — SHE WAS AN ESSENTIAL VOICE IN WORLD LITERATURE. WITH DEPTH, COURAGE, AND SENSITIVITY, SHE PORTRAYED THE AFRICAN-AMERICAN EXPERIENCE, ESPECIALLY THAT OF BLACK WOMEN, WITH HONESTY AND POETIC BEAUTY. IN THIS ISSUE, WE WILL DIVE INTO HER LIFE AND WORK: HER CHILDHOOD, HER FIRST BOOKS, THE PROFOUND THEMES THAT RUN THROUGH HER STORIES, HER AWARDS, AND, OF COURSE, HER MOST MEMORABLE QUOTES. GET READY TO DISCOVER ONE OF THE GREATEST LITERARY VOICES OF THE 20TH CENTURY, WHO TRANSFORMS PAIN AND MEMORY INTO UNFORGETTABLE ART.

TONI MORRISON WAS BORN ON FEBRUARY 18, 1931, IN LORAIN, OHIO, UNITED STATES. SHE GREW UP IN A BLACK COMMUNITY, IN A CONTEXT OF RACISM AND HARDSHIP, WHICH WOULD DEEPLY SHAPE HER WORLDVIEW — SOMETHING THAT WOULD BE REFLECTED IN HER WORKS. SHE STUDIED AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY, A HISTORICALLY BLACK UNIVERSITY IN THE U.S., WHERE SHE MAJORED IN ENGLISH. LATER, SHE PURSUED GRADUATE STUDIES AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY.

BEFORE DEDICATING HERSELF TO WRITING NOVELS, TONI WORKED AS AN EDITOR — BECOMING THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO HOLD A SENIOR FICTION EDITOR POSITION AT A MAJOR U.S. PUBLISHING HOUSE.

THIS PATH SHOWS THAT HER VOICE DID NOT COME OUT OF NOWHERE: SHE STUDIED, READ, WORKED IN PUBLISHING — AND THEN DECIDED TO TELL HER OWN STORIES.



IN 1970, AT THE AGE OF 39, TONI MORRISON PUBLISHED HER FIRST NOVEL: THE BLUEST EYE. THE BOOK TELLS THE STORY OF PECOLA BREEDLOVE, A BLACK GIRL WHO, LIVING IN A RACIST SOCIETY, LONGS TO HAVE BLUE EYES — BELIEVING THAT THIS WOULD MAKE HER “BEAUTIFUL.”

THE NOVEL ALREADY INTRODUCED THE CENTRAL THEMES THAT WOULD PERMEATE ALL OF MORRISON’S WORK: IDENTITY, RACISM, SELF-IMAGE, AND THE BURDEN OF IMPOSED BEAUTY STANDARDS.



OVER THE YEARS, TONI WROTE SEVERAL REMARKABLE NOVELS. AMONG THE MOST IMPORTANT:

BELOVED (1987) — A PAINFUL AND POWERFUL PORTRAYAL OF SLAVERY AND ITS CONSEQUENCES IN THE LIVES OF FORMER SLAVES.

JAZZ (1992) — SET IN 1920S HARLEM, IT BLENDS PASSION, VIOLENCE, AND MEMORY, WITH A WRITING STYLE THAT ECHOES THE MUSICALITY OF JAZZ.



**TONI MORRISON'S STORIES REVOLVE AROUND
PROFOUND AND UNIVERSAL THEMES:**

**IDENTITY — HER CHARACTERS' SEARCH FOR A PLACE
IN THE WORLD, OFTEN DENIED BY SOCIETY.**

**MEMORY AND THE PAST — THE RECOVERY OF STORIES
OF PAIN, SLAVERY, RACISM, AND HOW THESE SCARS
SHAPE GENERATIONS.**

**STRUCTURAL RACISM — THE CRITIQUE OF SOCIAL
INJUSTICES AND THE OPPRESSION SUFFERED BY
BLACK PEOPLE IN THE USA, ESPECIALLY BLACK
WOMEN.**

**RESISTANCE AND RESILIENCE — THE CHARACTERS
WHO TRY TO SURVIVE, RESIST, AND EXIST DESPITE
PAIN AND PREJUDICE.**

**HUMAN RELATIONSHIPS AND COMMUNITY — FAMILY
TIES, FRIENDSHIPS, SOLIDARITY, AND TRAUMAS THAT
SPAN GENERATIONS.**

IN 1993, TONI MORRISON RECEIVED THE NOBEL PRIZE IN LITERATURE, BECOMING THE FIRST BLACK WOMAN TO WIN THIS AWARD.

SHE ALSO WON THE PULITZER PRIZE—FOR “BELOVED”—AND NUMEROUS OTHER ACCOLADES THROUGHOUT HER CAREER.

TONI'S LEGACY GOES BEYOND BOOKS: SHE GAVE VOICE TO MARGINALIZED VOICES, TRANSFORMED LITERATURE BY HIGHLIGHTING THE BLACK EXPERIENCE, INFLUENCED GENERATIONS OF WRITERS, AND INSPIRED DEBATES ABOUT IDENTITY, RACE, AND MEMORY AROUND THE WORLD.

THROUGH HER STORIES, SHE SHOWED THAT LITERATURE CAN BE RESISTANCE—AND A TOOL FOR SOCIAL AWARENESS.





STRIKING QUOTES BY TONI MORRISON

"WE DIE. THAT MAY BE THE MEANING OF LIFE. BUT WE MAKE LANGUAGE. THAT MAY BE THE MEASURE OF OUR LIVES." — NOBEL PRIZE SPEECH.

"IF THERE IS A BOOK THAT YOU WANT TO READ, BUT IT HASN'T BEEN WRITTEN YET, THEN YOU MUST WRITE IT." — (ON THE IMPORTANCE OF TELLING OUR OWN STORIES)

"DEFINITIONS BELONG TO THE DEFINERS, NOT THE DEFINED." — (RESISTANCE TO THE IMPOSITION OF IDENTITY BY OTHERS)

"FREEING YOURSELF WAS ONE THING. CLAIMING OWNERSHIP OF THAT FREED SELF WAS ANOTHER." — (ON FREEDOM AND SELF-IDENTITY)

TONI MORRISON INVITES US TO LOOK BEYOND THE SURFACE OF HISTORY AND FACE THE SILENT TRAUMAS THAT CONTINUE TO SHAPE LIVES, IDENTITIES, AND DREAMS. HER LANGUAGE INSISTS ON MEMORY — ON NAMING WHAT OTHERS TRY TO ERASE.

**HER WORDS ECHO LIKE A REMINDER:
TO FLY, WE MUST FIRST LET GO OF WHAT HOLDS US DOWN —
AND EMBRACE WHO WE TRULY ARE.**

OBRIGADO POR LER!

CRÉDITOS:

**SAMUEL TEIXEIRA DOLDÁN
LUCAS FALEIROS CHAGAS
EZEQUIEL SILVA CAIRES
CARLOS FERNANDO JUNIOR**

