Make up a story...For our sake and yours forget your name in the street; tell us what the world has been to you in the dark places and in the light. Don’t tell us what to believe, what to fear. Show us belief’s wide skirt and the stitch that unravels fear’s caul.

—Toni Morrison
Nobel Lecture in Literature, 1993
VOICES OF DIVERSITY

Toni Morrison was actually born Chloe Anthony Wofford. She used to enter the University of Howard University briefly, earning, among other things, a major degree in music. Morrison also earned a degree in English from Howard University and a master's degree in English from Cornell University.

In 1977, Morrison's novel *The Bluest Eye* was published, and she became the first African American woman to win the National Book Critics Circle Award. The story of a girl who feels out of place is still widely read.

Morrison's novels are often heavily influenced by African culture, and she is also known for her influence on the feminist literary movement. She is a recipient of the Nobel Prize in Literature and has received numerous other honors and awards.

Morrison was born on February 18, 1931, in Lorain, Ohio, and grew up in a working-class neighborhood. Her father was a coal miner, and her mother was a seamstress. Morrison was the oldest of five children.

As a child, Morrison worked at a textile mill, helping to get her education. She was inspired by the work of African American writers and decided to become a writer herself.

If my mother was in a singing mood, it wasn't so bad. She would sing about hard times, bad times, and everybody-done-gone-and-left-me times. But her voice was so sweet and her singing-eyes so mellow, I found myself longing for those hard times.

— The Bluest Eye

Toni Morrison
b. 1931
“You wanna fly, you got to give up the shit that weighs you down.”

Toni Morrison
“As you enter positions of trust and power, dream a little before you think”

- Toni Morrison
In this country American means WHITE.

Everybody else has to hyphenate.

- Toni Morrison

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