

The Platters To Appear At 4 Queens

The Platters will be appearing at the fabulous Four Queens Hotel & Casino May 6 through June 1 with performance times at 9 and 11 p.m. and a special show Friday and Saturday at 12:30 a.m., for an exciting month long engagement. The Platters are sure to entertain "standing room only" crowds as they have with each of their past French

Quarter appearances. It was twenty-five years ago that this group introduced the popular dance "The Shag." Now The Platters are re-introducing it as a preview to their new album "Shaggin' With The Platters." reminisce with The Platters at the fabulous Four Queens Hotel & Casino. For information phone 385-4011.



The Black Woman's Experience

The unique experience of the black woman in America is now getting considerable attention on the literary front. Black women writers are speaking out, and they are armed with powerful pens!

In telling the black woman's story, however, some of these pens have been like knives with jagged edges. They have bared the truth about the black woman's plight, but they have accused the black man of being the cause of the problem.

Such books have caused the black community to scream out in painful debate, as they reinforce negative images and stereotypes. It is like having a raw nerve exposed.

Gloria Naylor, a writer of exceptional talent, also delves into the wounds of the black woman's experience. But, like a skillful surgeon, she has a keen eye for seeing the problem and a steady hand for getting to the heart of it.

Her book, *The Women of Brewster Place* (Viking 1982) is about seven black women who live in a housing development. Through the particular problems which face each of the women, Naylor gives us a full dimensional view of the black woman's experience.

With deep sensitivity, the author shows us the problems facing the single black woman who must raise a male child in a society which rejects him. The mother's over-protective love becomes the strangling cord which prevents him from emerging into a mature adulthood.

The single mother's story is counter-balanced by the story of the married mother who must cope with the staggering problems which black husbands and fathers face in trying to care for a family.

Naylor gives us a compassionate view of the uneducated woman who keeps having babies without being able to care for them, while showing us the dilemma of the college-educated young black woman who wants to reach out to help her less fortunate sisters.

Then there is the woman who pours all her energies and ambitions into finding a good man. Her story stands in contrast to the tragic tale of the two young women who turn to each other for love.

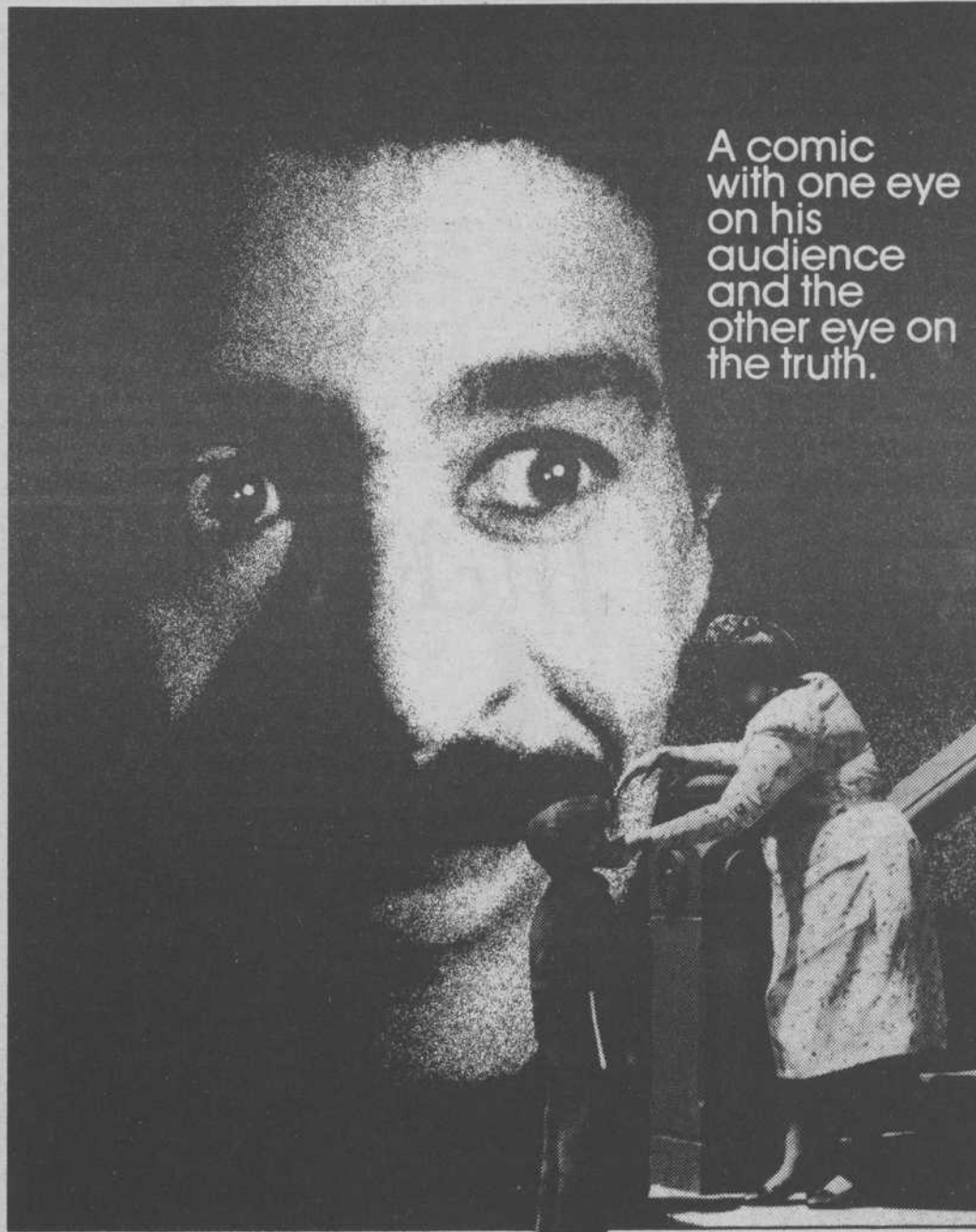
By positioning the lives of each of the women like mirrors placed at angles which reflect each other, the author has created the unmistakable bond of sisterhood. Each woman in the book becomes every woman.

The black woman's experience, however, has an added dimension. Racism, like the housing, becomes the confinement in which they must live their lives.

Fortunately, Naylor never loses sight of the fact that black males are also victimized, and that racial oppression forms the arena in which the black male and female are forced to struggle for survival.

For those who have ingested the poisonous idea that black men are the cause of the black family's problems, Gloria Naylor's *Women of Brewster Place* just might serve as an anecdote. It is a book which deserves to be read.

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