



# REISSUING THE 1920 NOVEL *THE SHADOW*

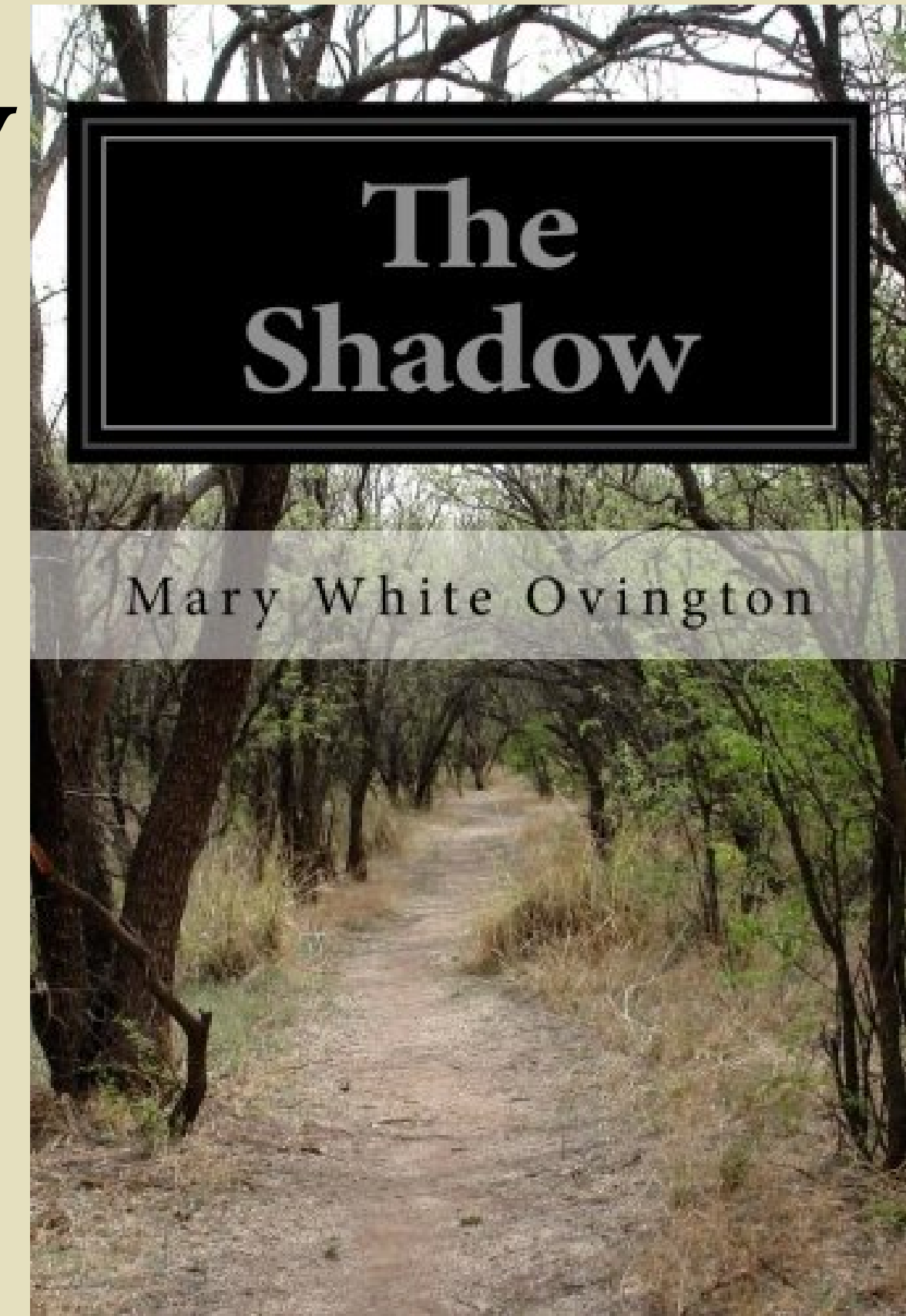
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Summer 2017

## My Project

My work this summer focused on reading Ovington's novel alongside secondary sources to provide context for the Harlem Renaissance. From there I began writing about my research and beginning to write a preface to the novel. I'm working with my mentor on a book proposal as we'd like to have an academic edition published some day.



## Who was Mary White Ovington?

Mary White Ovington was a founding member of the NAACP and a prolific writer. Through her relationships with other contemporaries at the time, such as W.E.B. DuBois, Ovington wrote and gave speeches discussing racial problems. She also was part of the women's suffrage movement and vocal about injustices she saw. Ovington served thirty-eight years with the NAACP before retiring in 1947. *The Shadow* is her only adult novel.

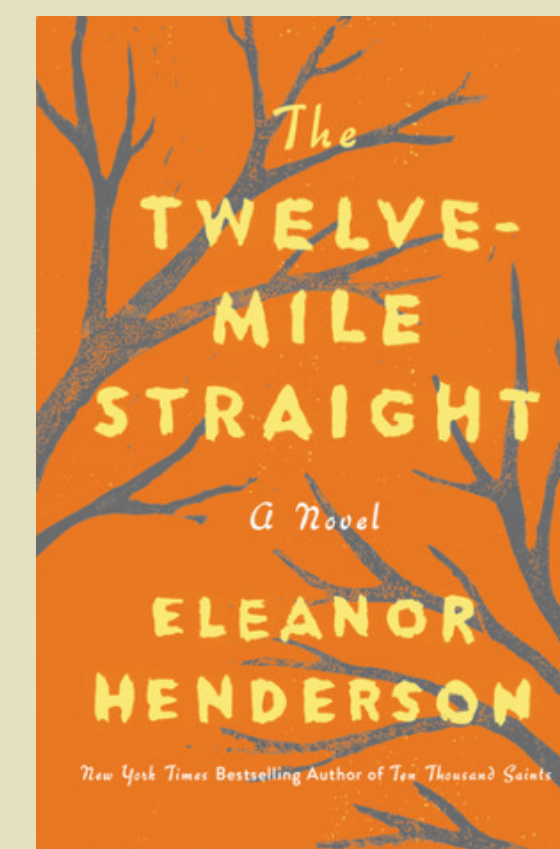
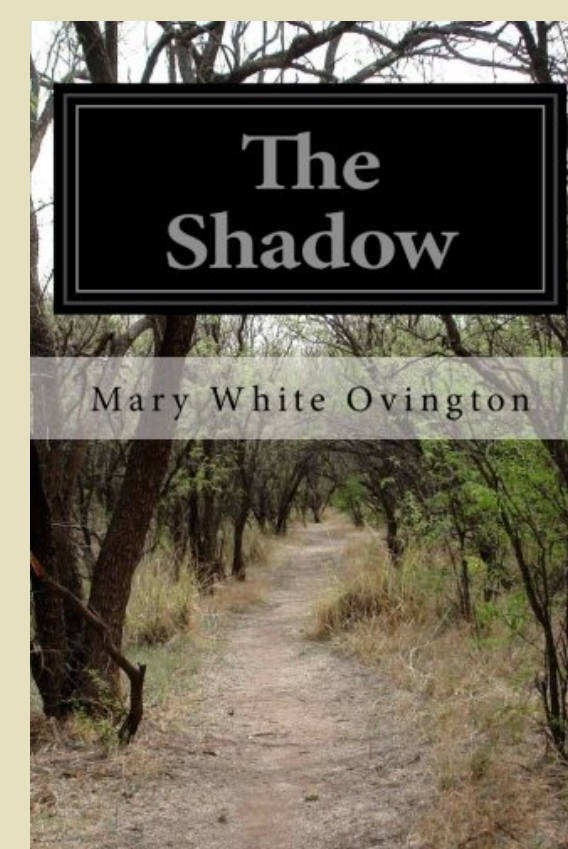
## What does POST-RACIAL mean?

It's the misguided idea that we are living in a society where we are free from:

- Racial preference
- Discrimination
- Prejudice

## Artifacts

This summer I was able to produce two different versions of a syllabus in addition to the preface. The course focuses on unheard or neglected female narratives in American Literature. The goal is to look at a handful of texts with keen eyes as each one focuses on different social issues that plague America. There is something looming over each one of these female protagonists, a shadow of sorts. Through each text we will look at, a different shadow plagues our writers and their characters. The shadow is, of course, a metaphor subject to interpretation but these novels share an overarching theme of several shadows.



## Synopsis

*The Shadow* follows Hertha, a woman who is born believing she is a black slave. Upon her master's family receiving a letter revealing she is actually white, Hertha is thrust into her new racial identity and moves to New York City. During her time she struggles with what race she identifies with and feels as though she merely passes as white. Hertha changes through the course of her life as she decides her "true" identity which does not align with the narrow definitions of race as a biological phenomenon or as a social construct.

## What Does TRANS-RACIAL mean?

To be trans-racial means to not identify with the race you're assigned and feel connected to another.