

**RENDERED INVISIBLE:**  
**Early Reviews:**

*"In entrancing prose that claims a place with writers as powerful as Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, and John Edgar Wideman, Frank E. Dobson offers his own bold, subtle explorations of race and life in America. This narrative of the .22-Caliber killings in Buffalo—and the lives of blacks and whites caught up in those tense days makes for suspenseful, compelling reading."*

—Jeff Gundy, author, poet, professor, Bluffton University

*"Thirteen dead black men and nobody knows it happened...a powerful novella that begins this collection—a masterpiece of collaged voices."*

—Mary Grimm, author, associate professor, Case Western University

*"Rendered Invisible is a work of genius. The five short stories that end the book are wonderful with fascinating characters enmeshed in circumstances that compel and delight."*

—Jimmy Chesire, author, lecturer, Wright State University

*"The image of a man going to work with a loaded gun in his lunch pail is a telling juxtaposition of the ordinary and the horrific...the plot is richly textured...an important story rooted clearly in an earlier moment but connecting those issues to urgent ones in the present."*

—John McCluskey, professor, Indiana University

*"Frank Dobson makes us look outward and upward while gazing deeply back and down inside ourselves."*

—Colin Channer, author

More reviews online at [www.frankedobsonjr.com](http://www.frankedobsonjr.com)

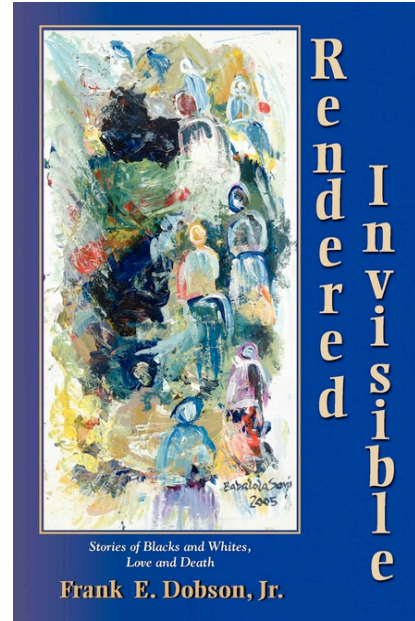
**Marketing & Media Strategies**

- National campaign to print, TV, radio, twitter, blogs
- Fall 2010 major city book signing and speaking tour:
  - Buffalo
  - Chicago
  - Dallas
  - Los Angeles
  - Nashville
  - More
- Promotional copies to key cultural leaders and bloggers
- Website with Rendered Invisible discussion guides
- Video and podcasts available on [www.frankedobsonjr.com](http://www.frankedobsonjr.com)
- Media Contact: [media@frankedobsonjr.com](mailto:media@frankedobsonjr.com), 615.351.3778

# Rendered Invisible

## Stories of Blacks, Whites, Love and Death

By Frank E. Dobson, Jr.



"Race is all around us, man, choking us." The black and white worlds of Johnny Smith and Bill Reilly have been turned upside down by a serial killer determined to incite a race war by slaying black men. Amidst the chaos, Bill reaches out to help Johnny find his missing wife and daughter. Can they bridge the racial divide?

Rendered Invisible takes you inside 1980's New York and the true-life .22 Caliber serial killings as years later Johnny unfolds his untold witness of personal loss, racial turmoil and communities in crisis. The personal search for common ground in spite of race, gender and class continue in the five, critically recognized short stories that follow. Few writers translate our current daily challenge with cultural diversity as Dobson so easily offers in Rendered Invisible.

**About *Rendered Invisible*:**

Category: FICTION/ Historical/ Literary

ISBN: 978-1-935514-35-0

List: \$14.95, Trade paperback

Size: 6 1/8 x 9 1/4, 148 pages

Pub Date: 8/3/10

Age: Adult

Publisher: Plain View Press, [www.plainviewpress.net](http://www.plainviewpress.net)

PO Box 42255, Austin, TX 78704, [sb@plainviewpress.net](mailto:sb@plainviewpress.net), 512/441-2452

Media: Interview and review copy requests, please contact us at:  
[media@frankedobsonjr.com](mailto:media@frankedobsonjr.com) or call 615.351.3778 or 615.715.5092

Plain View Press



## Frank E. Dobson, Jr., PhD

From the working class streets of his Buffalo, NY birthplace to the prestigious halls of Nashville's Vanderbilt University, Frank E. Dobson, Jr. has traveled his life with purpose. While recognized as a scholar and educator, it is his gift as a master storyteller that truly defines this author, speaker and community builder in his mission to enlighten and uplift the world through creative works of transformation and hope.



Today, Frank E. Dobson Jr. serves as director of the Bishop Joseph Johnson Black Cultural Center at Vanderbilt University and as Faculty Head of Gillette House in The Commons at Vanderbilt. Additionally; he is a Visiting Professor at Fisk University in Nashville. His leadership role has been recognized at Vanderbilt by his inclusion on numerous University councils and committees, by the Nashville community at large where he serves on boards for multiple non-profit organizations and by the national media where he is sought for perspective on issues of race, class, gender and contemporary culture.

In his ongoing quest to reach and build bridges between diverse communities, Dobson has published extensively. His novels include the

upcoming *Rendered Invisible* (July 2010, Plain View Press), and *The Race Is Not Given* (1999, SterlingHouse Publishers). Dobson has published poetry, fiction and nonfiction, in such publications and anthologies as *Pacific Poetry and Fiction Review*, *Warpland*, and *Proverbs for the People*. Additionally, he has published scholarly works in the areas of popular culture, American culture and African-American literature. His work has explored such diverse figures as Clint Eastwood, Paul Laurence Dunbar, Malcolm X and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and has appeared in such professional journals as *Ameriquests*, *Journal of Family Life*, and *Public Voices*.

Dobson has also penned several plays, including *Fridays Without Pay* and *Young Messiahs Fly*, both of which were presented at the National Black Theatre Festival, in Winston Salem, NC, in 2007 and 2009, respectively. *Young Messiahs Fly* has also been presented in New York City, Nashville, Tennessee, and Toledo, Ohio. Dobson received his B.A. from the University at Buffalo. He holds an M.A. (UNLV) and Ph.D. (Bowling Green State University) and was also the recipient of a Ford Foundation Fellowship, during which he studied at the University of Pennsylvania. Married and the father of three, Dobson has received several awards for his writing, including the Zora Neale Hurston/Bessie Head Fiction Writer's Award from the Gwendolyn Brooks Writers' Conference in 1996, in Chicago.

## WHY WILL AUDIENCES WANT TO READ THIS BOOK?

Thirty years ago this summer, a brutal string of murders occurred in New York with only passing coverage by the national press. The intended victims were black males. Thirty years later, race still affects us. This book allows us to look at race, gender and class through the eyes of characters that are asking the same questions we do today. Dobson's gift of storytelling in *Rendered Invisible* helps us explore these topics with thought and balance. Examples of issues in the news today:

- **Health care debate** [<http://huff.to/dv2GBN>]
- **Supreme court judge selection** [<http://nyti.ms/d0Z8my>]
- **Jobs and hiring** [<http://bit.ly/cWmwia>]
- **Conduct of elected officials** [<http://bit.ly/acroXz>]
- **Racial profiling** [<http://www.aclu.org/racial-justice>]
- **Relationships** [<http://bit.ly/8myq86>]
- Countless more ...

### *Rendered Invisible...*

- Invites readers into the hearts and minds of its characters as they reach across race, gender and class barriers
- Does not take sides in the race conversation
- Does not shrink back from addressing racial violence but offers understanding of its origin so bridges can be built
- Features stories from a writer with unique experience in bridging cultural barriers
- Offers behind the scenes reality to a story that affected generations from western New York and New York city – showing readers the human side of the summer of 1980 and a true-to-life crisis for African Americans -- a story not covered by the national media because of race?

