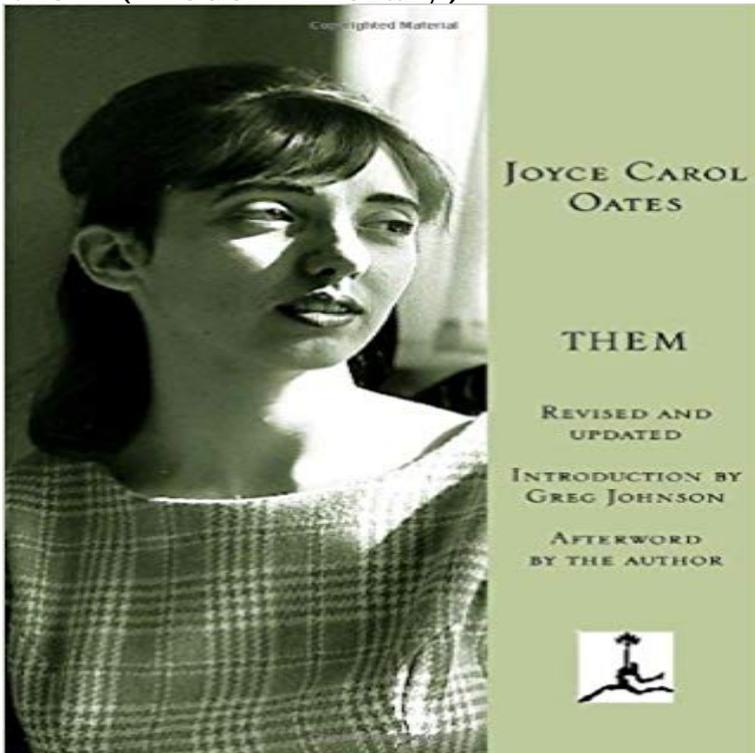


them (Modern Library)



Winner of the National Book Award and in print for more than thirty years, *them* ranks as one of the most masterly portraits of postwar America ever written by a novelist. Including several new pages and text substantially revised and updated by the author, this Modern Library edition is the most current and accurate version available of Oates seminal work. A novel about class, race, and the horrific, glassy sparkle of urban life, *them* chronicles the lives of the Wendalls, a family on the steep edge of poverty in the windy, riotous Detroit slums. Loretta, beautiful and dreamy and full of regret by age sixteen, and her two children, Maureen and Jules, make up Oates vision of the American family--broken, marginal, and romantically proud. The novel's title, pointedly uncapitalized, refers to those Americans who inhabit the outskirts of society--men and women, mothers and children--whose lives many authors in the 1960s had left unexamined. Alfred Kazin called her subject the sheer rich chaos of American life. The *Nation* wrote, When Miss Oates' potent, life-gripping imagination and her skill at narrative are conjoined, as they are preeminently in *them*, she is a prodigious writer. In addition to the text revisions, this--new edition contains an Afterword by the author and a new Introduction by Greg Johnson, Oates biographer and the author of two monographs on the work of Joyce Carol Oates.

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