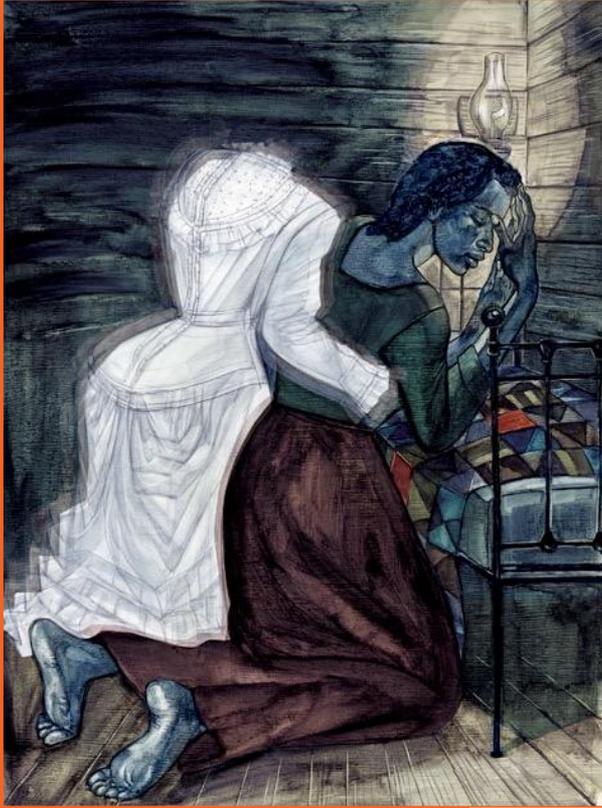


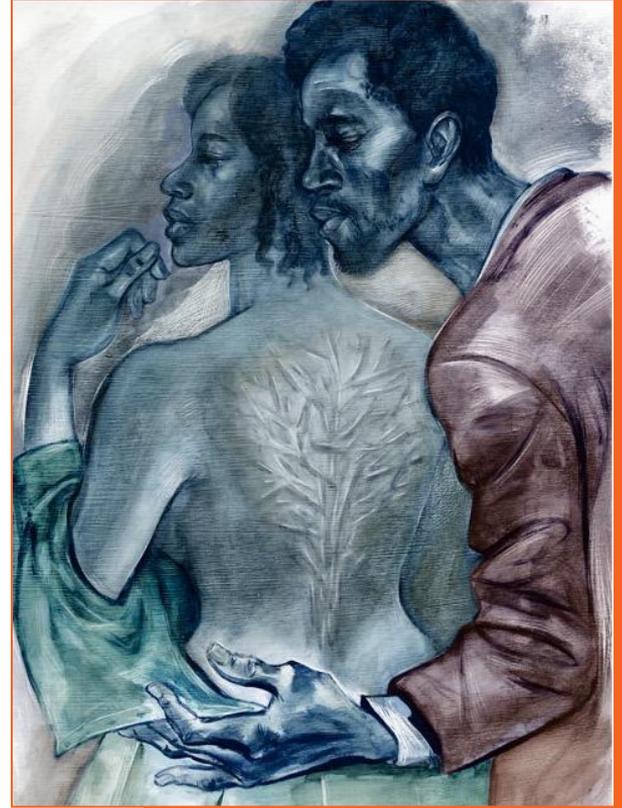
The past isn't dead.
It isn't even past.

- William Faulkner



BELOVED

by Toni Morrison



TONI MORRISON

born Chloe Woffard in 1931

grew up in a steel-mill town in Ohio

studied English at Howard and Cornell

taught English at various universities

worked as an editor of fiction



TONI MORRISON

first novel, The Bluest Eye, published in 1970

won the Pulitzer Prize and the American Book Award in 1988 for Beloved

awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1993



TONI MORRISON

writings often focus on the experiences of black women in the US

novels known for their epic themes, vivid dialogue, and richly detailed characters

still writing and teaching



HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF BELOVED

events surrounding the Civil War

- **the Fugitive Slave Act**
passed by Congress in 1850, allowed southern slave owners to travel north and reclaim any slaves who had escaped
- **the life of Margaret Garner**
woman who escaped with her family across the Ohio River in 1865, when found by slave-catchers



Full title: **Beloved**

When Written: **early 1980s**

Where Written: **Albany, NY**

When Published: **1987**

Literary Period: **Postmodernism**

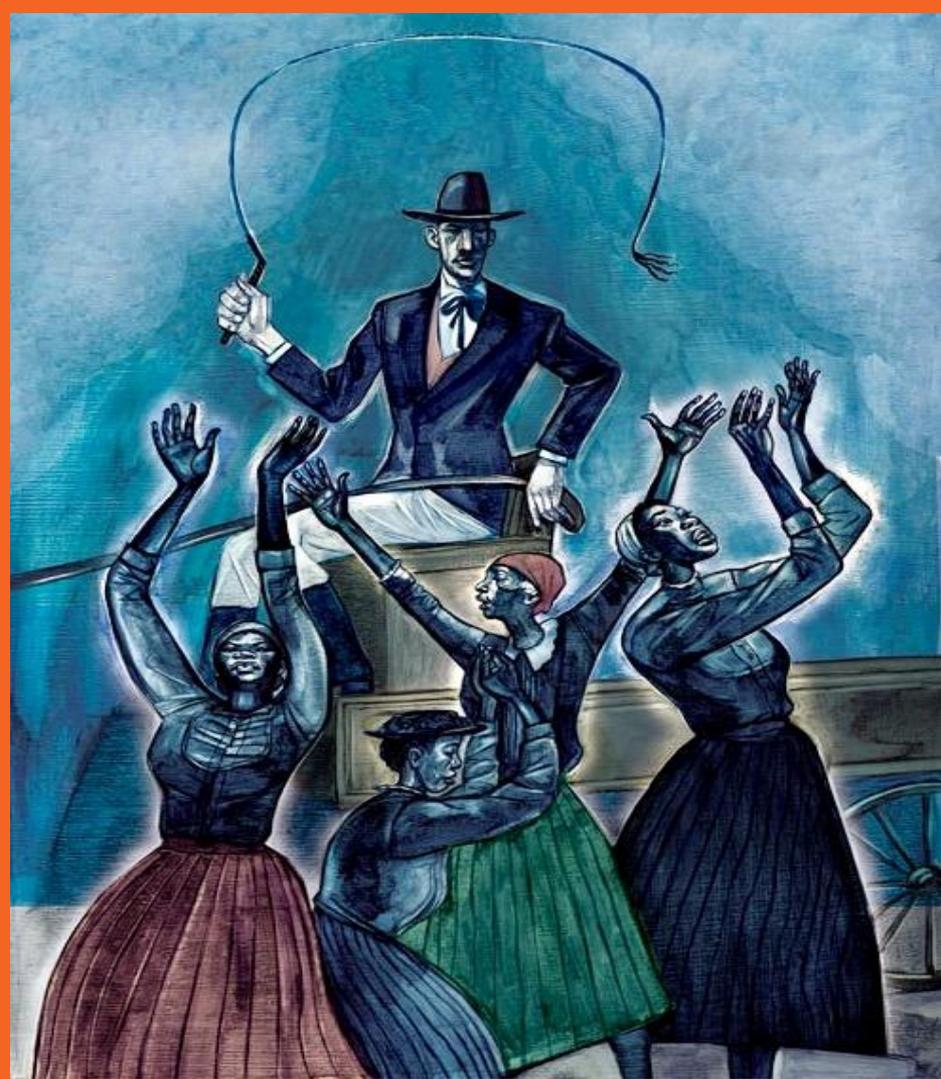
Genre: **Historical Novel**

(and ghost story)



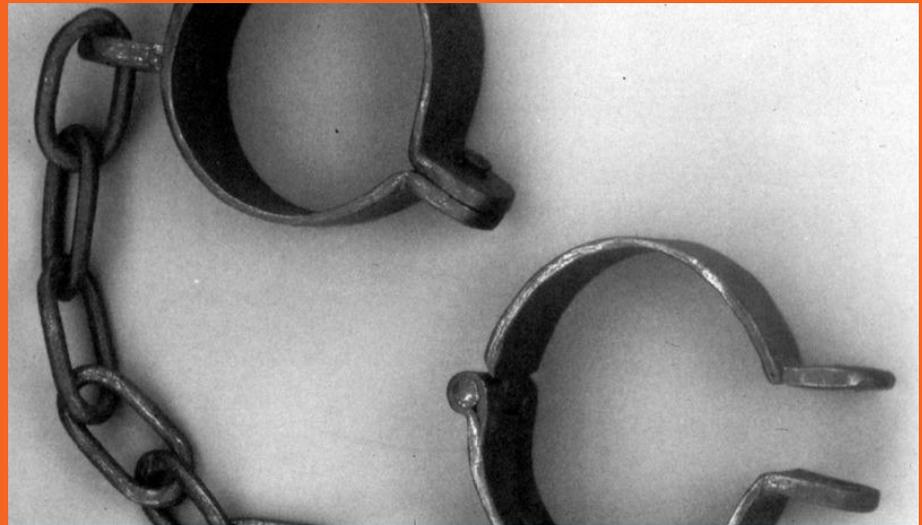
Setting: outskirts of Cincinnati, Ohio just before (1855) and directly following (1873) the Civil War with flashbacks to the Sweet Home plantation in Kentucky

Climax(es): one centers around a **pivotal choice** made (in the past) by the protagonist, another involves a **community response**

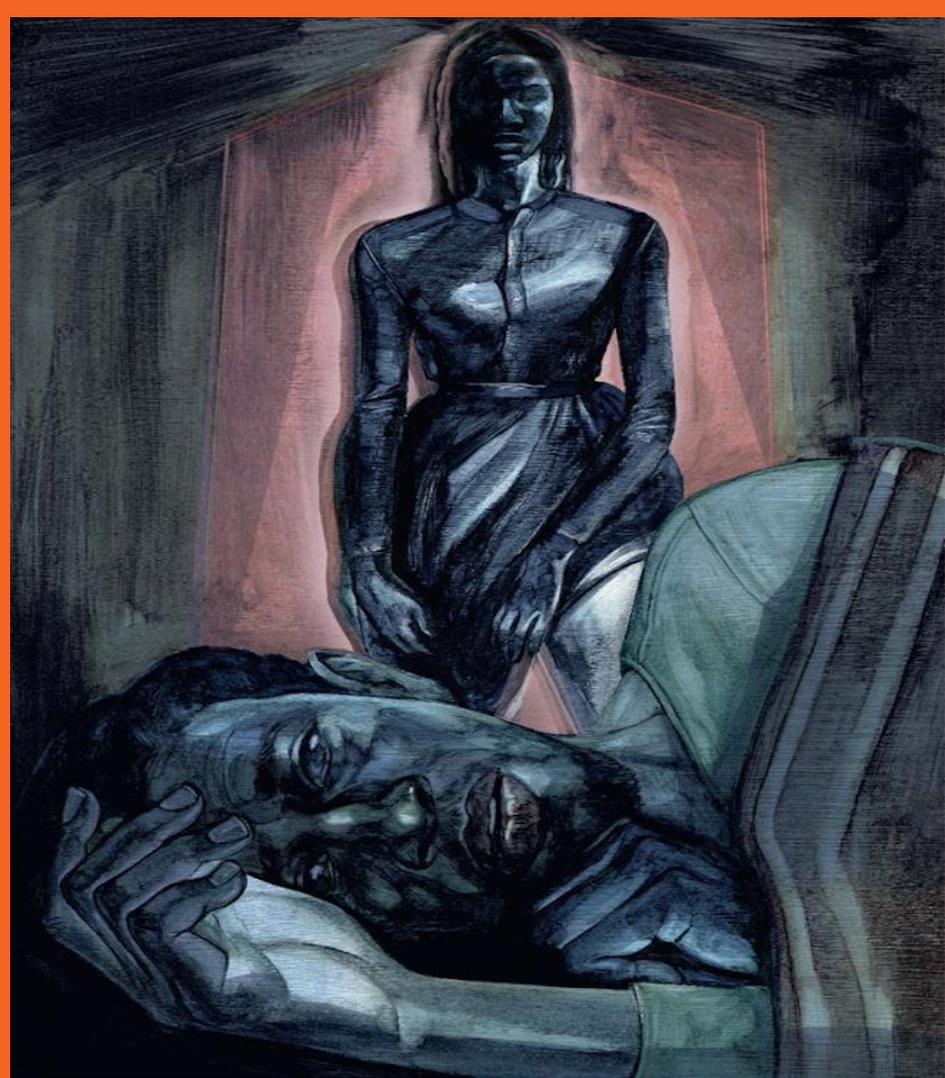


Biblical Allusions: **the four horsemen of the Apocalypse, miraculous feeding of the 5,000, and many more ...**

Epigraph: **“60 million and more”** serves as the author’s intentional memorial to the people who died during the Atlantic slave trade



Related Literary Works:
tempting to place it alongside other famous American slave narratives like Uncle Tom's Cabin or Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, but it's unique in that - being a contemporary work - it explores not only the horrors of slavery but also its **painful and enduring legacy**



SYMBOLS

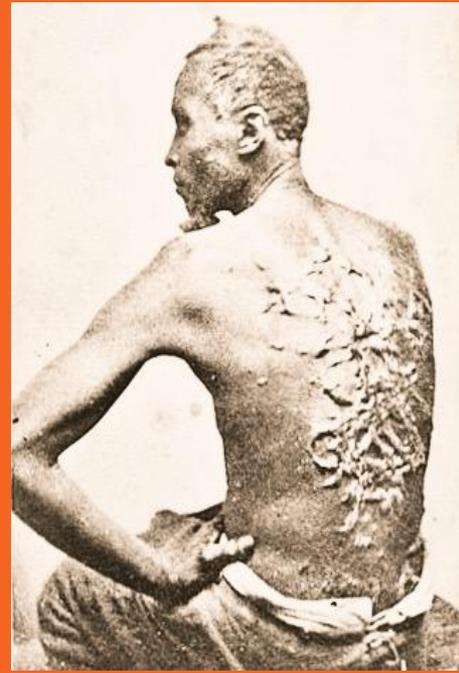
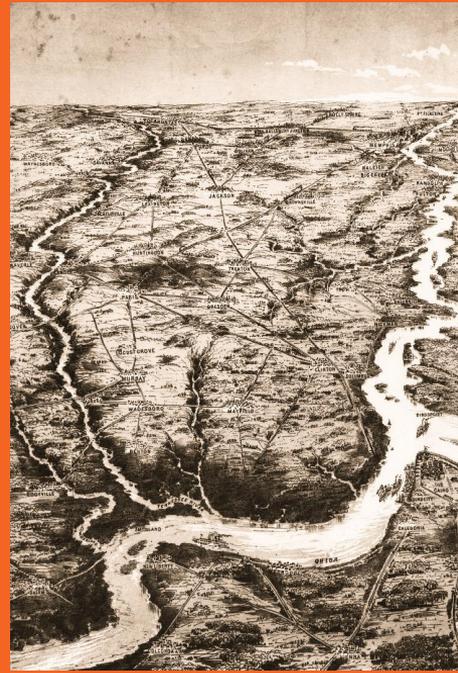
the Ohio River / water

Sethe's scars / trees

the American home / 124

Paul D's tobacco tin / hearts

and plenty more ...



THEME-Y IDEAS

Slavery & horror

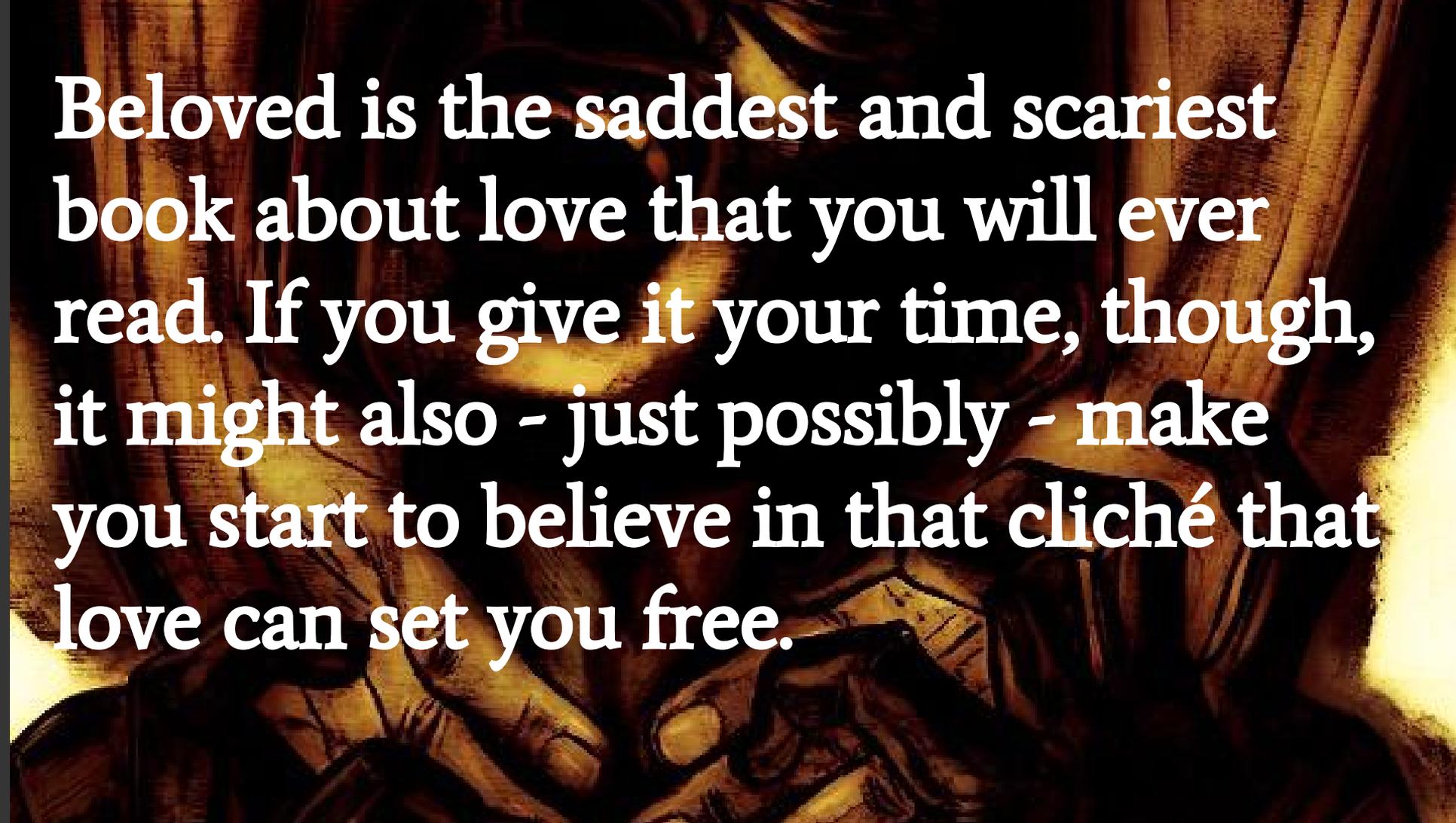
Mothers & daughters

Storytelling & memory

Community & home

Possession & love





Beloved is the saddest and scariest book about love that you will ever read. If you give it your time, though, it might also - just possibly - make you start to believe in that cliché that love can set you free.