



# **In the Life and in the Spirit: Homoerotic Spirituality in African American Literature**

*Marlon Rachquel Moore*

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*Examines a range of fiction that challenges widespread assumptions about what it means to be a black person of faith.*

Taking up the perceived tensions between the LGBTQ community and religious African Americans, Marlon Rachquel Moore examines how strategies of antihomophobic resistance dovetail into broader literary and cultural concerns. *In the Life and in the Spirit* shows how creative writers integrate expressions of faith or the supernatural with sensuality, desire, and pleasure in a way that highlights a spectrum of black sexualities and gender expressions. Through these fusions, African American writers enact queer spiritualities that situate the well-known work of James Baldwin into a broader community of artists, including Bruce Nugent, Ann Allen Shockley, Alice Walker, Langston Hughes, Jewelle Gomez, Becky Birtha, and Octavia Butler. In these texts from 1963 to 1999, Moore identifies a pervasive, affirming stance toward LGBTQ people and culture in African American literary production.

Marlon Rachquel Moore is Assistant Professor of English at the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

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