

# Caught In/Between: Expressions of Liminality in Jazz Aesthetic Literature

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## Abstract

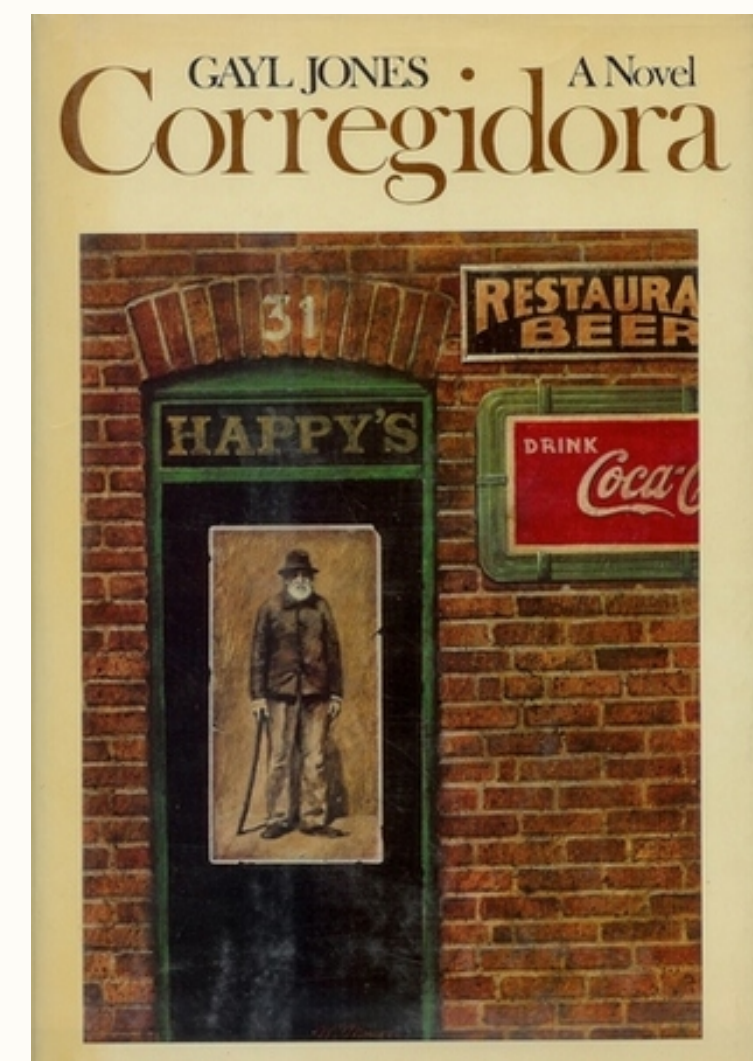
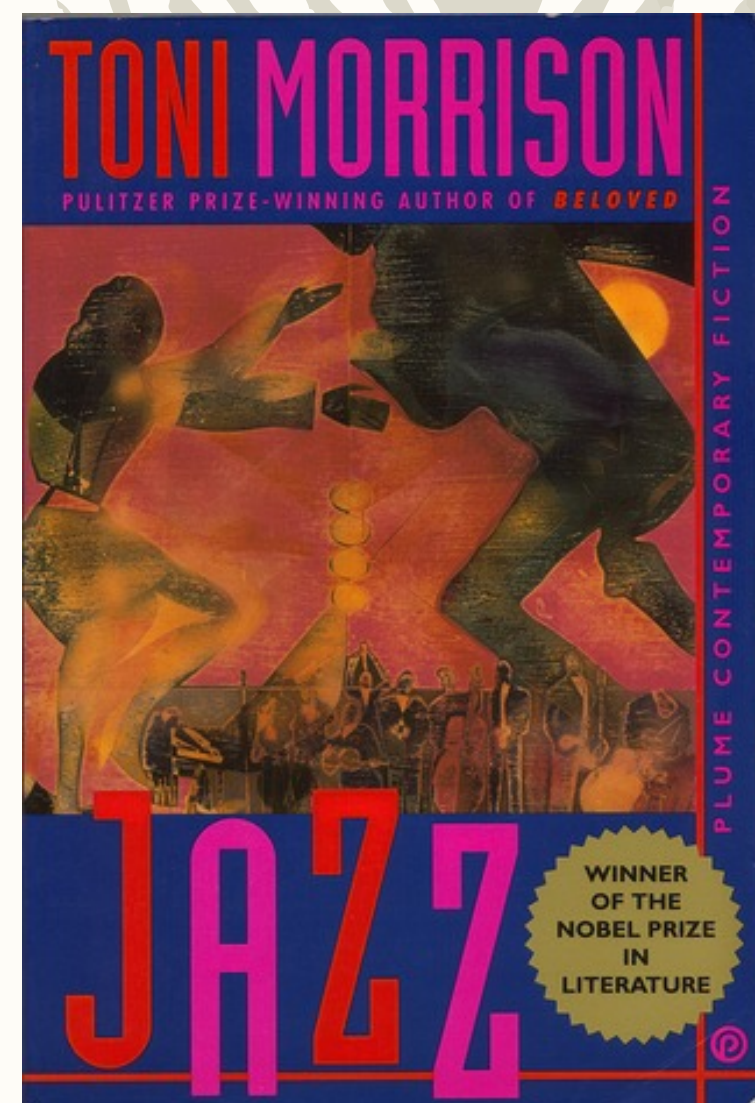
This thesis project aims to **pinpoint expressions of liminality in jazz aesthetic literature**, theorizing how liminal characters find power in transitions and use **interchanges between the margins as a survival tactic**. Ultimately, I claim that **centering healing within a Black feminist tradition** is necessary in realizing both inner and communal wellness, as well as understanding how music can be an effective restorative tool.

*“Are you sure, sweetheart, that you want to be well?”*

- Minnie Smith In *The Salt Eaters*, Toni Cade Bambara

## Discussion

My formal and contextual intervention calls attention to a common thread throughout these female-centered jazz aesthetic novels that I find crucial in understanding why their authors turn to jazz to reflect the Black experience. Few scholars bring these three together—Black feminism, jazz, and liminality—in their discussions of the texts. Doing so would expand the conversation on Black feminist reparative methods, particularly regarding music.



## Contact

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## References

Bambara, T. C. (1992). *The Salt Eaters*. New York, NY: Vintage Books.