



PASSING : A STUDY OF THE MEMOIRS YASHICA DUTT'S COMING OUT AS DALIT AND GAIL LUKASIK'S WHITE LIKE HER: MY FAMILY'S STORY OF RACE AND RACIAL PASSING



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ABSTRACT

Passing is the ability of a person to be regarded as a member of an identity group or category, often different from their own, which may include racial identity, ethnicity, caste, social class, sexual orientation, gender, religion, age and/or disability status. Passing may result in privileges, rewards, or an increase in social acceptance, or be used to cope with stigma. Thus, passing may serve as a form of self-preservation or self-protection in instances where expressing one's true or prior identity may be dangerous.

Yashica Dutt and Gail Lukasik's memoirs deal with the theme of 'Passing'. In India the educated and rich mostly pass as upper caste Brahmins and in America the light-skinned African Americans pass as White. Passing doesn't just means hiding one's real identity it also means losing one's true self, family, friends etc. It is a kind of chosen exile.

KEYWORDS

Passing, identity, ethnicity, caste, gender, race