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Gloria Naylor, a major 20th century writer of African American literature, was born on January 25, 1950 in New York City, New York to Roosevelt and Alberta Naylor. She was born just six weeks after her parents moved to the city from Robinsville, Mississippi, to escape the racially segregated South. The novel was later adapted into a movie by the same name, which was produced by Oprah Winfrey in 1989. In 1981 Naylor graduated from Brooklyn College and began her M.A. program in African-American Studies at Yale University in Connecticut. In addition to writing professionally, Naylor also taught at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., New York University, Boston University in Massachusetts, and Cornell University. This study employs African American literary criticism and critical discourse analysis to evaluate Julia Peterkin's *Scarlet Sister Mary* (1928) and Gloria Naylor's *Mama Day* (1988). These women write (More). Gloria Naylor's second novel, *Linden Hills*, is a modern version of Dante's *Inferno* in which souls are damned not because they have offended God or have violated a religious system but because they (More).