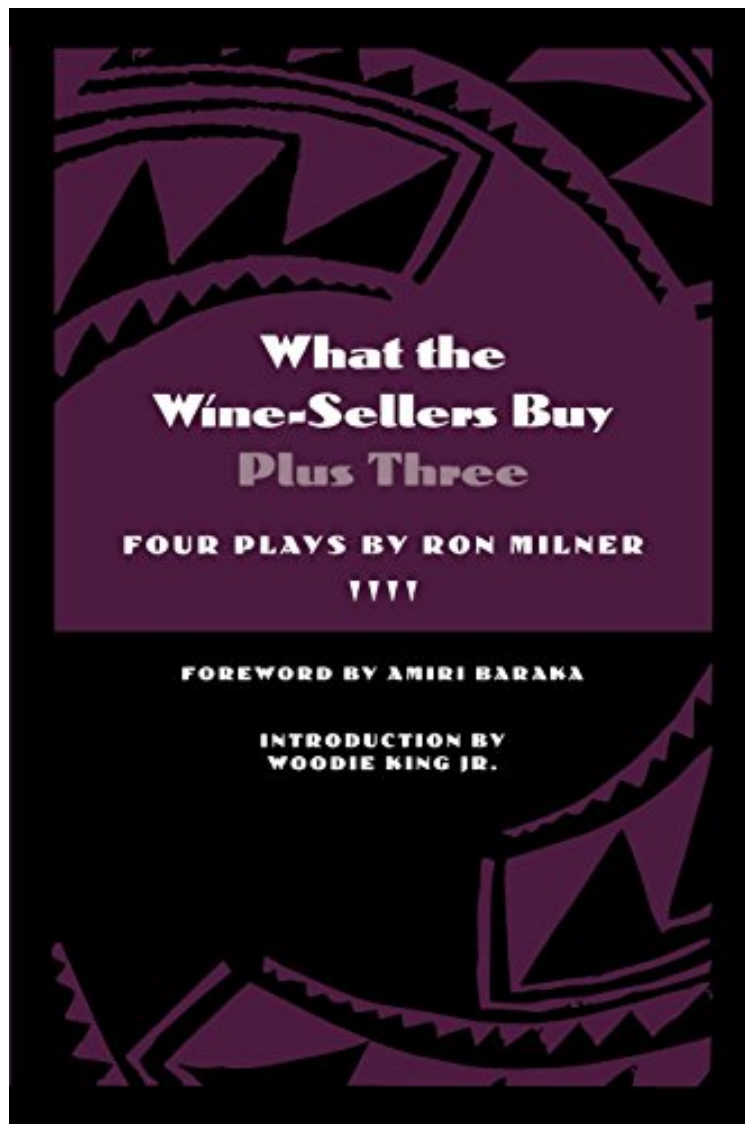


(Download ebook) What the Wine-Sellers Buy Plus Three: Four Plays by Ron Milner (African American Life Series)

## What the Wine-Sellers Buy Plus Three: Four Plays by Ron Milner (African American Life Series)

*Ron Milner*

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**Ron Milner : What the Wine-Sellers Buy Plus Three: Four Plays by Ron Milner (African American Life Series)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What the Wine-Sellers Buy Plus Three: Four Plays by Ron Milner (African American Life Series):

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. One of the lesser known, great African-American playwrightsBy F.

Mercer Ron Milner is one of the great overlooked African-American writers of our time. Perhaps it is because he writes plays--something most people never take the time to read. I can only imagine how great these would be performed. Milner's works are largely didactic--I have read reviews that liken them to Christian morality plays. But, the didacticism is not necessarily preachy--Milner writes what he knows. What he knows is the life of inner-city, poor, African-American youth and the temptations they face. Dealing with those temptations--drugs, sex, easy money--is the thread that connects most of Milner's works. Even *Checkmates*, which is ostensibly about the generation gap, has a certain amount of tension because of "easy money"--the older generation thinks the younger generation has it too easy. Critical reception of Milner's works has been mixed, though predominantly reception has been poor. He has a few stalwart supporters (Amiri Baraka and Woodie King) who feel Milner is the chronicler of the inner-city African-American youth rising out of the Black Theater movement to become the chronicler of middle class African-Americans. I think his works are certainly worth a read.

A collection of four plays by contemporary playwright, screenwriter, and director Ron Milner. Much of Black literature from the 1940s through the 1960s deals with the search for identity and asks the question, Should Blacks define themselves in relationship to white people and white culture? In dramatizing the struggles and desires of the Black working class and lower middle class, renowned Detroit playwright Ron Milner responds to this question by letting Black culture - Black music in particular - be not only his subject but part of his form of expression and way of being in the world. The four Milner plays collected here - *Checkmates*, *What the Wine-Sellers Buy*, *Jazz-Set*, and *Urban Transition* - are characterized by their attention to African American social and psychological culture. *Checkmates* (1990) explores the relationships of two Black couples who are generations apart in age and attitudes - one new at the games and realities of love, the other experienced. *What the Wine-Sellers Buy* (1974), a coming-of-age tale set on Detroit streets in the 1950s, looks at the conflict between the lure of the streets and a mother's teachings. The highly innovative *Jazz-Set* is Milner's tribute to jazz - a play that works like a jazz composition, where the musicians and music are one and characters' life experiences and memories are "played" as music. *Urban Transition* (1995) picks up on themes introduced in *What the Wine-Sellers Buy* to examine how the drug subculture has made its way into current mainstream culture. Ron Milner is one of America's most prolific and foremost playwrights. His plays have become required texts in many of the emerging repertory theaters of the Black and progressive theater communities. *Four Plays* will be of interest to students of the theater, theater scholars, and those interested in African American and American literature.

About the Author Ron Milner is a playwright, screenwriter, and director who lives in Detroit, Michigan.