

The Short Stories Of Langston Hughes

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for the first time in many years langston hughes s published collections of stories are now available in a single book included in this volume are ways of white folks originally published in 1934 laughing to keep from crying originally published in 1952 and additional stories from something in common and other stories originally published in 1963 as well as previously uncollected stories these fictions carefully crafted in the language hughes loved manifest the many themes for which he is best known we meet and come to know many characters black and white young and old men and women all as believable as our own families friends and acquaintances hughes s stories portray people as they actually are a

mixture of good bad and much in between in these short stories as in the simple stories the reader enjoys hughes s humor and irony the stories show us his inclination to mock himself and his beloved people as much as he ridicules the flaws of those who belittle his race his genuine characters interact and realistically bring to life this era of america s past by maintaining the form and format of the original story collections this volume presents hughes s stories as he wanted them to be read this volume will be an invaluable addition to the library of anyone interested in african american literature generally and the fiction of langston hughes specifically

forty seven stories written between 1919 and 1963 from hughes first stories written for his high school magazine to the masterful work from laughing to keep from crying something in common and the ways of white folks

the simple stories langston hughes s satirical pieces featuring harlem s jesse b semple have been lauded as hughes s greatest contribution to american fiction in not so simple donna akiba sullivan harper provides the first full historical analysis of the simple stories harper traces the evolution and development of simple from his 1943 appearance in hughes s weekly chicago defender column through his 1965 farewell in the new york post drawing on correspondence and manuscripts of the stories harper explores the development of the simple collections from simple speaks his mind 1950 to simple s uncle sam 1965 providing fresh and provocative perspectives on both hughes and the characters who populate his stories harper discusses the nature of simple harlem s everyman and the way in which hughes used his character both to teach fellow harlem residents about their connection to world events and to give black literature a hero whose day after day heroism would exemplify greatness she explores the psychological sociological and literary meanings behind the simple stories and suggests ways in which the stories illustrate lessons of american history and political science she also examines the roles played by women in these humorously ironic fictions ultimately hughes s attitudes as an author are measured against the views of other prominent african american writers demonstrating the richness and complexity of this langston hughes character and the harlem he inhabited not so simple makes an important contribution to the study of american literature

young langston hughes was a dreamer he dreamed about heroes like booker t washington who was black just like him when he heard the clackety clack of train wheels he dreamed about the places it had been but most of all he dreamed about having a happy home and so one day he began turning those dreams into beautiful prose as he did he discovered where his home really was in the words and rhythms of his poetry that reached people all over the world the beloved langston hughes comes to life in a book for poets dreamers children and adults anyone who has ever thought of what home means to them teachers looking for a good way to introduce youngsters to this prominent poet will find this book to be an excellent accompaniment to his work school library journal like hughes poetry the power of cooper s story is that it confronts sadness even as it transcends it booklist his text is as inviting as his illustrations the new york times book review

in volume 8 of the collected works of langston hughes the genial harlem everyman jesse b semple returns with his more cosmopolitan bar buddy ananias boyd social climber joyce

lane is now mrs jesse b simple and simple has minimized his flirtatious contacts with other women despite these ongoing characters the later simple stories are very different from the earlier simple tales the later stories evoke the historical and social context within which they were written a politically dangerous time for the fictional adventures and fantasies of the main characters the later simple stories returns to print hughes s third and fourth simple collections simple stakes a claim and simple s uncle sam along with some episodes hughes did not include in any of his books simple stakes a claim was published in 1957 and it reflects the troubled and troublesome era of the cold war and mccarthy hearings simple s uncle sam appeared in 1965 and it captures the turbulent decade when black americans asserted their rights including the privilege to call themselves black and wear their hair in natural styles the nonviolent strategies of civil disobedience and the violent strategies of urban rioting had converged to amplify african american voices as they demanded justice the innocent humor of the earlier simple stories is replaced here by new strengths remarkably powerful female characters emerge in this volume we observe cousin minnie s self preservation skills and her willingness to riot to defend her rights as a citizen we read about simple s cousin lynn clarisse who is a social activist educated at fisk university and we see joyce herself emerge from her prim niche to display pride and knowledge about her african heritage the later simple stories rounds out hughes s presentation of jesse b simple and the various people of his world simple and his foil still make us chuckle but more important they make us think while these episodes often focus on particularities of the times they also articulate broader truths that remain valuable

this is the first comprehensive look at african american picture books from the mid nineteenth century to today

published for devotees of the cowboy and the west american cowboy covers all aspects of the western lifestyle delivering the best in entertainment personalities travel rodeo action human interest art poetry fashion food horsemanship history and every other facet of western culture with stunning photography and you are there reportage american cowboy immerses readers in the cowboy life and the magic that is the great american west

even well meaning fiction writers of the late jim crow era 1900 1955 perpetuated racial stereotypes in their depiction of black characters from 1918 to 1952 octavus roy cohen turned out a remarkable 360 short stories featuring florian slappey and the schemers romancers and ditzes of birmingham s darktown for the saturday evening post and other publications cohen said i received a great deal of mail from negroes and i have never found any resentment from a one of them the black readership had to be satisfied with any black presence in the popular literature of the day the best known white writers of black characters included booth tarkington herman and verman in the penrod books irvin s cobb judge priest s houseman jeff poindexter roark bradford widow duck the plantation matriarch hugh wiley wildcat marsden the war veteran who traveled the country in the company of his goat and charles correll and freeman gosden radio s amos n andy these writers deservedly declined in the civil rights era but left a curious legacy that deserves examination this book focusing on authors of series fiction and particularly of humorous stories profiles 29 writers and their black characters in detail with brief entries covering 72

others

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