



Mule Bone: A Comedy of Negro Life

By Zora Neale Hurston, Langston Hughes

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The only collaboration between the two brightest lights of the Harlem Renaissance—Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes

In 1930, two giants of African American literature joined forces to create a lively, insightful, often wildly farcical look inside a rural Southern black community—the three-act play *Mule Bone*. In this hilarious story, Jim and Dave are a struggling song-and-dance team, and when a woman comes between them, chaos ensues in their tiny Florida hometown. This extraordinary theatrical work broke new ground while triggering a bitter controversy between the collaborators that kept it out of the public eye for sixty years.

This edition of the rarely seen stage classic features Hurston's original short story, "The Bone of Contention," as well as the complete recounting of the acrimonious literary dispute that prevented *Mule Bone* from being produced or published until decades after the authors' deaths.

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Editorial Review

About the Author

Zora Neale Hurston, the author of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, was deemed "one of the greatest writers of our time" by Toni Morrison. With the publication of *Lies and Other Tall Tales*, *The Skull Talks Back*, and *What's the Hurry, Fox?* new generations will be introduced to Hurston's legacy. She was born in Notasulga, Alabama, in 1891, and died in 1960.

Langston Hughes (1902-1967) ranks as one of the greatest American poets of the twentieth century. A landmark figure in the Harlem Renaissance, his work profoundly captures and celebrates the trials and triumphs of his exquisitely drawn characters. In addition to his poetry, he was also the author of the novels *Not Without Laughter* and *Something in Common*, the play *Mulatto*, and two volumes of autobiography.

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