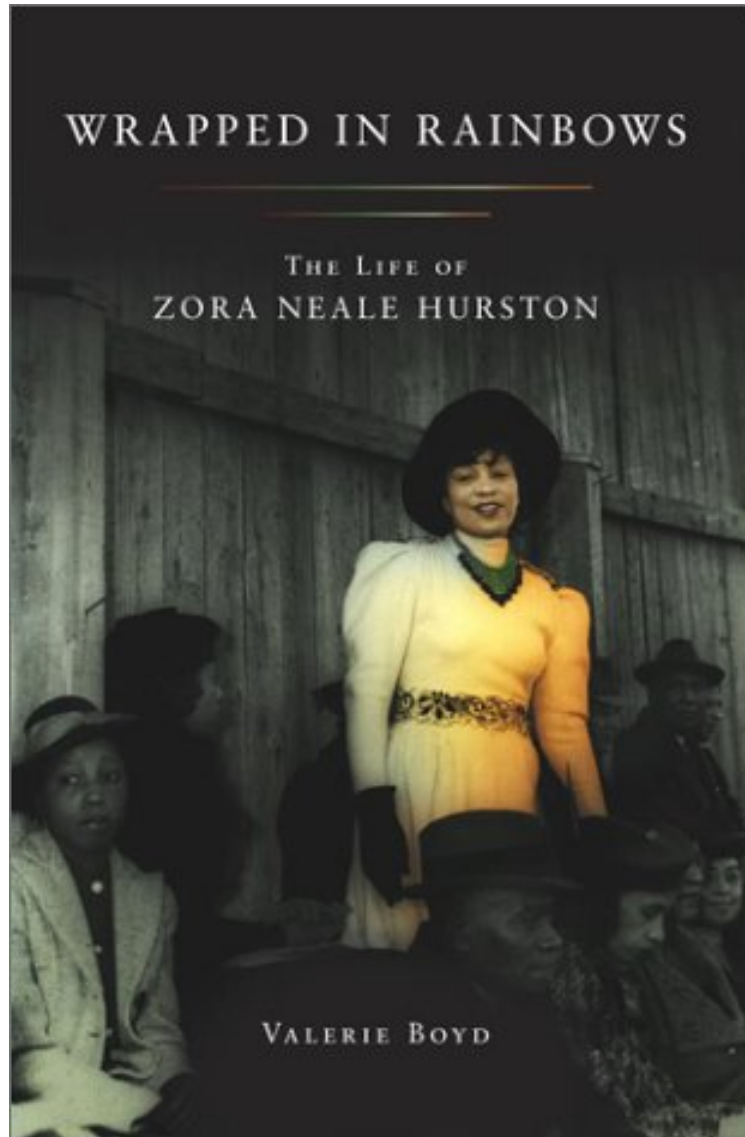


[Ebook free] Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston

Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston

Valerie Boyd

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Valerie Boyd : Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Wrapped in Rainbows: The Life of Zora Neale Hurston:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Everything you wanted to know about Ms. Hurston-and then some By Denise Esther. Berry This book draws you into its nonfiction narrative and you begin to feel like Zora Neale Hurston's best friend...or sister. It is very thorough in terms of her personal and academic history but moves along smartly. Ms. Boyd provides plentiful insights into Ms. Hurston's behavior. This is a solid, fascinating peek into the

heart, mind and soul of an artist. anthropologist who changed forever the landscape of 20th century African-American literature. Kudos to Ms. Boyd for a well-researched representation of Ms. Hurston's life and accomplishments. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. I now know the whole story !By HarveyAfter reading " their eyes were watching god" I fell in love with Zora the novelist and started reading what I could find about her life. I even bought the movie. So several books later, my interest in Ms. Zora [even her name is interestingly different] peaked again after my grand-daughter told me her class read her book "their eyes_____". That is when I found " Wrapped in Rainbows". Valerie Boyd has done a magnificent job in telling Zora's life story. At the end of the book, due to how well Ms. Boyd made you feel as if you personally knew Zora, I felt I had lost a friend due to her death. Thanks to Ms. Boyd I have recently purchased another book by Ms. Hurston, *Jonah's Gourd Vine*". Thank you Ms. Boyd for introducing me to and letting me truly know Zora Neale Hurston. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Four StarsBy Fredric DickerOne of the most interesting but, to say the least, under-appreciated writers/personalities of the 20th Century.

A woman of enormous talent, remarkable drive, and rare intellectual prowess, Zora Neale Hurston published four novels, two books of folklore, an autobiography, many short stories, and several articles and plays over a career that spanned more than thirty years. Although she enjoyed some popularity during her lifetime, her greatest acclaim has come posthumously. All of her books were out of print when she died in poverty in 1960, but today nearly every black woman writer of significance -- including Maya Angelou, Toni Morrison, and Alice Walker -- acknowledges Hurston as a literary foremother. And her masterpiece, *"Their Eyes Were Watching God,"* has become a crucial part of the American literary canon. Yet, despite the recent renewed interest in Hurston's work, she remains, as a friend and contemporary described her, "a woman half in shadow." *"Wrapped in Rainbows"* -- the first biography of Zora Neale Hurston in twenty-five years -- illuminates the complexities of an extraordinary life. Born in Alabama in 1891, Hurston moved with her family to Eatonville, Florida, when she was still a toddler. In this close-knit community -- the first incorporated all-black town in America -- she spent a pleasant childhood, happily imbibing the rich language and folk culture of the rural black South. When Hurston was still a girl, her mother died, and her father's swift remarriage led to the family's dispersal. Hurston spent the next decade wandering in search of parental figures, working menial jobs, and charting her own course into adulthood. Reinventing herself at the age of twenty-six, she entered high school in Baltimore by claiming to be ten years younger -- a fiction she would maintain throughout her life. Hurston went on to attend Howard University and Barnard College, and during this time launched her writing career in the midst of the blossoming Harlem Renaissance. In New York, she developed relationships with luminaries such as Langston Hughes, Ethel Waters, Fannie Hurst, and Carl Van Vechten. Hurston periodically left New York to travel the country (and the world) collecting black music, poetry, and literature -- becoming one of the most important folklore collectors of her time, as well as one of the most enduring writers of her century. *"Wrapped in Rainbows"* presents a full picture of Hurston as both a writer and a woman, shedding new light on her public and private lives. Drawing on meticulous research and a wealth of crucial information that has emerged over the past twenty years, Valerie Boyd delves into Hurston's thirst for the limelight, her sexuality and short-lived marriages, her mysterious relationship with Vodou, and her occasionally controversial political views. With the Harlem Renaissance, the Great Depression, and World War II as historical backdrops, *"Wrapped in Rainbows"* not only positions Hurston's work in her time but offers implications for our own. Featuring more than thirty-five black-and-white photographs -- including some that have never been published -- *"Wrapped in Rainbows"* is an eloquent profile of one of the most intriguing cultural figures of the twentieth century.

From Library Journal This study of the influential African American novelist/folklorist by the arts editor of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution is billed as the first definitive biography. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From The New Yorker The novelist, folklorist, and playwright Zora Neale Hurston lived a life easily equal to the drama of her best novels. Although her ambitions took her far from the all-black town of Eatonville, Florida, where she grew up, her intellectual and emotional roots remained in its watery environs, where telling tall tales was a way of life. She told a few tall tales herself, especially in her autobiography, *"Dust Tracks on a Road."* But what can lying about one's age or about how many husbands one had matter in the face of having escaped Eatonville to study at Barnard? Hurston's significance as an anthropologist should not be underestimated. She made her readers see the uniqueness of black American speech by printing it the way it was said. Boyd is too laudatory in her approach, but this is a convincing attempt to make sense of a life that continues to defy categorization. Copyright 2005 The New Yorker From Booklist Zora Neale Hurston's preacher father believed that she was "too spirited and too mouthy for her own good," reports eloquent first-time biographer Boyd in this engrossing cornerstone biography of the brilliant, inspired, and courageous African American anthropologist and writer. Born in 1891, Hurston grew up in the all-black town of Eatonville, Florida, a peaceful, front-porch storytelling place that engendered her love for and pride in southern black culture, the impetus for her work. Imaginative, self-possessed, and outgoing, she had the wherewithal to survive her mother's death when she was 13, and to live by her wits after her father rejected her. Finally back in school after a period of harrowing vagabondage, thanks to friends and benefactors (her charisma was as powerful as

her genius), Hurston cut quite a swath at Howard University, Barnard, and Columbia, embarking on unprecedented (and tricky) fieldwork in black folklore and spiritual practices throughout the rural South and, after winning a Guggenheim fellowship, in the Caribbean. A key figure in the Harlem Renaissance, Hurston, dashing and creative, struggled against poverty, sexism, and racism with grace and wisdom. As Boyd adeptly and passionately analyzes Hurston's revolutionary books, intense spirituality, and myriad adventures, Hurston emerges in all her splendor--not only smarter, tougher, and more dazzlingly alive than most people but also free, gloriously and resoundingly free. Donna Seaman Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved