



Zora and Me

By Victoria Bond, T. R. Simon

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Winner of the 2011 John Steptoe New Talent (Author) Award!

Racial duplicity threatens an idyllic African American community in the turn-of-the-century South in a dazzling debut inspired by the early life of Zora Neale Hurston.

Whether she's telling the truth or stretching it, Zora Neale Hurston is a riveting storyteller. Her latest creation is a shape-shifting gator man who lurks in the marshes, waiting to steal human souls. But when boastful Sonny Wrapped loses a wrestling match with an elusive alligator named Ghost — and a man is found murdered by the railroad tracks soon after — young Zora's tales of a mythical evil creature take on an ominous and far more complicated complexion, jeopardizing the peace and security of an entire town and forcing three children to come to terms with the dual-edged power of pretending. Zora's best friend, Carrie, narrates this coming-of-age story set in the Eden-like town of Eatonville, Florida, where justice isn't merely an exercise in retribution, but a testimony to the power of community, love, and pride. A fictionalization of the early years of a literary giant, this astonishing novel is the first project ever to be endorsed by the Zora Neale Hurston Trust that was not authored by Hurston herself.

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Zora and Me By Victoria Bond, T. R. Simon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-7—A spirit of gentleness pervades this story, along with an air of mystery and natural magic. The novel is set in Eatonville, FL, and imagines Zora Neale Hurston's life from about fourth to sixth grade. The narrator, Carrie Brown, is probably based on the Carrie Roberts in Hurston's autobiography, *Dust Tracks on a Road* (1942). Other major players such as Zora's family, Joe Clarke, and the kindly white man who bestowed Zora with the nickname Sniglets, are also drawn from *Dust Tracks*, and the history of Eatonville. With its combination of adventure, history, and introspection, *Zora and Me* will work best in classrooms—perhaps where an enticing read-aloud is needed but the audience is somewhat captive—for the times when the narrator sounds more like an adult than an 11-year-old, commenting about how “stories guard the pictures of the selves,” memory can be one-sided, and “good things alone don't make up a person who's real.” The authors have taken great care with historical accuracy, and the book is endorsed by the Zora Neale Hurston Trust. Zora's reputation for tall tales and her urge to see the world are directly tied to the real Hurston's natural storytelling ability and desire to travel. A brief biography, time line, and annotated bibliography are included.—Maggie Knapp, Trinity Valley School, Fort Worth, TXα(c) Copyright 2010. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review Told in the immediate first-person voice of 10-year-old Carrie, Zora Neale Hurston's best childhood friend, this first novel is both thrilling and heartbreaking. Each chapter is a story that evokes the famous African American writer's early years in turn-of-the-last-century Eatonville, Florida, and the sharp, wry vignettes build to a climax, as Carrie and Zora eavesdrop on adults and discover secrets. Family is front and center, but true to Hurston's work, there is no reverential message: Carrie mourns for her dad, who went to Orlando for work and never came back; Zora's father is home, but he rejects her for being educated and “acting white,” unlike her favored sister. Racism is part of the story, with occasional use of the n-word in the colloquial narrative. Like Hurston, who celebrated her rich roots but was also a wanderer at heart, this novel of lies and revelations will reach a wide audience, and some strong readers will want to follow up with Hurston's writings, including *Their Eyes Are Watching God* (1937). The novel's back matter includes a short biography of Hurston, an annotated bibliography of her groundbreaking work, and an endorsement by the Zora Neale Hurston Trust. Grades 5-8. --Hazel Rochman

Review

"...this first novel is both thrilling and heartbreaking... Like Hurston, who celebrated her rich roots but was also a wanderer at heart, this novel of lies and revelations will reach a wide audience, and some strong readers will want to follow up with Hurston's writings, including *Their Eyes Are Watching God* (1937)." -- Booklist, October 15, 2010 [Starred Review]

"The brilliance of this novel is its rendering of African-American child life during the Jim Crow era as a time of wonder and imagination, while also attending to its harsh realities. Absolutely outstanding." -- Kirkus Review, October 1, 2010 [Starred Review]

"Debut authors Bond and Simon do their subject proud, spinning a tale about the childhood of writer Zora Neale Hurston, who 'didn't have any trouble telling a fib or stretching a story for fun.' ...the authors adeptly evoke a racially fraught era and formative events--whether they're true or true enough--in Hurston's youth." - Publishers Weekly, September 27, 2010

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Seth Sawyer:

Do you certainly one of people who can't read enjoyable if the sentence chained inside the straightway, hold on guys this specific aren't like that. This Zora and Me book is readable by you who hate the perfect word style. You will find the data here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving even decrease the knowledge that want to give to you. The writer regarding Zora and Me content conveys prospect easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different available as it. So , do you even now thinking Zora and Me is not loveable to be your top collection reading book?

George Lehman:

Hey guys, do you really wants to finds a new book you just read? May be the book with the concept Zora and Me suitable to you? The book was written by renowned writer in this era. The particular book untitled Zora and Meis the one of several books this everyone read now. That book was inspired a lot of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new shape that you ever know prior to. The author explained their strategy in the simple way, thus all of people can easily to recognise the core of this publication. This book will give you a great deal of information about this world now. In order to see the represented of the world within this book.

Russell Hardison:

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Charles Whittaker:

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