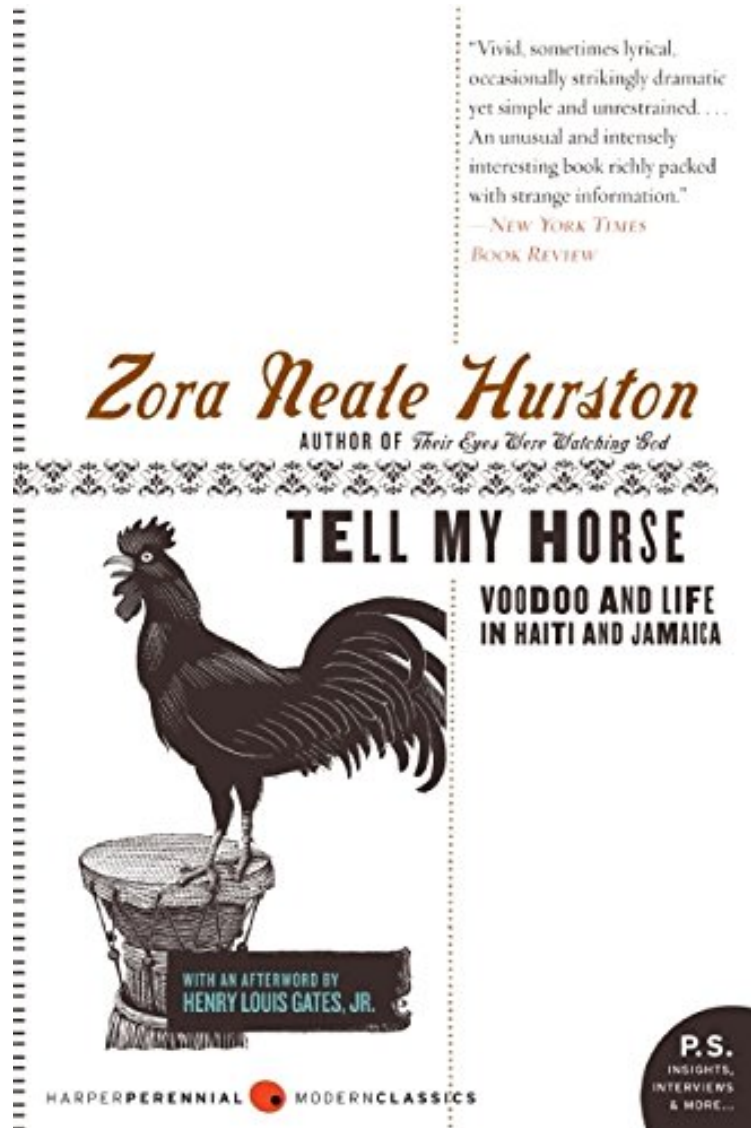


## Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica

Zora Neale Hurston

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#31540 in Books Zora Neale Hurston 2008-12-30 2008-12-30 Original language: English PDF # 1 8.00 x .76 x 5.311, .55 #File Name: 0061695130336 pages Tell My Horse Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica | File size: 64.Mb

**Zora Neale Hurston : Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tell My Horse: Voodoo and Life in Haiti and Jamaica:

5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Zombies and politics and wild hogs, oh my! By Persephone Although most of those who recognize Zora Neal Hurstons name think of her fiction, Hurston was also an anthropologist, a Student of Franz papa Boas, one of the last great public intellectuals in the 20th century. This wonderful, unique

monograph provides a history of key events and impressions of daily life in Haiti in a beautiful, accessible manner. History, politics, and Voodoo are the main topics, and each is covered in a way that is both readable and informative. Hurston's voice is uncommon as an anthropologist (there were not many black women anthropologists at the time), and her narrative weaves observation with interpretations smoothly and beautifully, so that it has about it the feel of a folktale, with scenes joyous, haunting, horrible, and at times, downright creepy. Hurston, who did not often (if ever) say why she was there, was truly a part of the daily lives of the people with whom she stayed, and she withheld information about why she was there because she knew that if she told the people, she would see a performance of people's lives, rather than actual lives, staged dances rather than real dances. Hurston also brings us a superb example of participant observation, and she makes no pretense that she can somehow get data that is completely uninformed by her presence. Neither does she accept stated perceptions at face value, but rather, challenges them when she feels it is appropriate. Consequently, her grasp of what is going on around her is much stronger. One critique I do have is that Hurston makes sweeping, reductionist statements that betray her positionality (an educated black woman from the United States) in some aspects. I am not saying she wasn't reflective, as there are many comments throughout the book that lead me to believe she was, but rather, that reflectiveness isn't ever explicitly stated. For those who enjoy political intrigue, reading about the death of Leconte (chapter 9) might prove quite enjoyable. Leconte isn't the only memorable character in the book, even if, historically speaking, he may be the best known. Or perhaps that nod goes to Vilbrun Sam. In any case, there is also the buffoon president, his Voodoo priestess daughter, and her husband the goat. Oh, and zombies. The layout of Hurston's book sets the reader up for the world in which voodoo is at work at that period of time in history, in all places, at all levels of society, leading up to the title chapter, *Go Tell My Horse*, which refers to the mounting (or possession) of a person by a loa. Whether for enjoyment or assignment (although I do hope those aren't mutually exclusive), *Go Tell My Horse* is an enjoyable, fascinating observation of Haiti in the first half of the 20th century, and I highly recommend you give it a read.

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Zora Neale Hurston and Haiti  
By Maryann Pasda  
Diedwardo  
This book has changed my life. As a speaker who presents talks on Zora Neale Hurston, I highly recommend this text. The remembrances about Zora's life in Haiti are remarkable and will certainly add to your research. When I found the text on , I bought the book right away. When I took the text to a conference, I was delighted to see how other Professors who were surprised to see the publication.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Indeed, truth is stranger than fiction  
By C. Plaia  
This book is as mysterious and thought-provoking as expected from the author. As always, she presents the reader with a point of view that is very personal, and so deeply informed. I don't believe anyone else could have had the range of resources she did on the subjects. I knew very little about Voodoo, or the history of Jamaica and Haiti. I trust Ms. Hurston to have given us an insightful, if brief overview of the state of affairs at that time, in these places. The photos are remarkable.

Based on acclaimed author Zora Neale Hurston's personal experiences in Haiti and Jamaica where she participated as an initiate rather than just an observer during her visits in the 1930s *Tell My Horse* is a fascinating firsthand account of the mysteries of Voodoo. An invaluable resource and remarkable guide to Voodoo practices, rituals, and beliefs, it is a travelogue into a dark, mystical world that offers a vividly authentic picture of ceremonies, customs, and superstitions.

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.