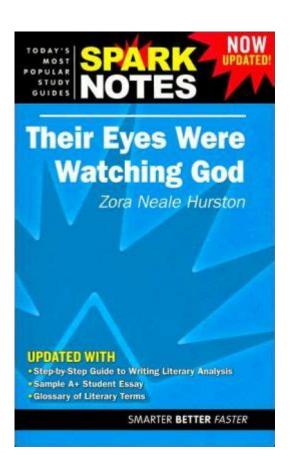
## **Their Eyes Are Watching God Sparknotes**



# Their Eyes Are Watching God SparkNotes: A Comprehensive Guide

Are you diving into Zora Neale Hurston's captivating novel, Their Eyes Are Watching God, but feeling overwhelmed? This comprehensive guide provides a detailed SparkNotes-style overview, breaking down the complex themes, characters, and plot points to help you fully appreciate this American literary masterpiece. We'll explore Janie Crawford's journey of self-discovery, analyze the powerful symbolism, and dissect the novel's enduring relevance. Whether you're a student tackling a literary assignment or a reader eager to understand the nuances of Hurston's prose, this post is your key to unlocking the magic of Their Eyes Are Watching God.

## Understanding Janie Crawford's Journey: A Summary of the Plot

Their Eyes Are Watching God follows Janie Crawford's life as she navigates love, loss, and the search for self-fulfillment. The novel is structured around three distinct marriages, each representing a crucial stage in Janie's evolution. We begin with her forced marriage to Logan Killicks, an older,

pragmatic farmer who represents a life of security but lacks passion and true companionship. This union teaches Janie the limitations of a life dictated by others and the importance of finding a love that ignites her spirit.

Her second marriage to Joe Starks, a charismatic and ambitious man, propels Janie into a world of social standing and power in Eatonville, a predominantly Black town. However, this relationship proves to be restrictive, with Joe controlling Janie's independence and silencing her voice. This period highlights the themes of patriarchal oppression and the silencing of women's voices.

Finally, Janie finds love and self-discovery with Tea Cake, a younger, less conventionally successful man. This relationship, though marked by hardship and ultimately tragedy, represents Janie's true liberation. It's through Tea Cake that Janie finally finds a love built on mutual respect, equality, and shared experiences. The devastating hurricane and Tea Cake's death, while tragic, ultimately solidify Janie's personal growth and allow her to finally understand the true meaning of self-love.

## **Key Characters and Their Significance**

#### Janie Crawford: The protagonist, Janie's journey forms the heart of the novel. Her evolution from a naive young woman to a self-assured individual grappling with complex issues of identity and autonomy is central to the narrative.

#### Logan Killicks: Represents security and stability, but lacks the emotional connection Janie craves. He symbolizes the limitations of a life defined by practicality without passion.

#### Joe Starks: A powerful and ambitious figure, Joe embodies patriarchal control and the suppression of women's individuality. His relationship with Janie explores the complexities of power dynamics within marriage.

#### Tea Cake: Represents a more egalitarian relationship, offering Janie love, respect, and genuine companionship. His character is crucial in Janie's journey toward self-discovery.

## **Exploring the Novel's Recurring Themes**

Their Eyes Are Watching God delves into a multitude of profound themes, including:

#### Self-Discovery and Identity: Janie's journey is a central exploration of self-discovery and the search for personal fulfillment. The novel illustrates the challenges women face in defining their own identity in a patriarchal society.

#### Love and Marriage: The novel presents a complex view of love and marriage, examining the different forms these relationships can take, from oppressive and controlling to mutually respectful and liberating.

#### Race and Gender: Hurston's novel provides a unique insight into the experiences of Black women in the early 20th century, exploring the intersection of race and gender in shaping their lives and opportunities.

#### Nature and Symbolism: Nature plays a significant role in the novel, symbolizing both beauty and danger, mirroring the complexities of Janie's life and experiences.

## The Significance of the Title: "Their Eyes Are Watching God"

The title itself is significant, suggesting a sense of divine observation and the larger social and historical context within which Janie's life unfolds. It hints at the watchful eyes of society and the unseen forces that shape individual destinies. The "eyes" can represent a multitude of perspectives, from the community to a higher power.

## Why Their Eyes Are Watching God Remains Relevant Today

Despite being written nearly a century ago, Their Eyes Are Watching God remains strikingly relevant today. Its exploration of themes like female empowerment, the search for identity, and the complexities of race and gender continue to resonate with readers across generations. The novel's enduring power lies in its ability to illuminate timeless human experiences and the enduring struggle for self-discovery.

## **Conclusion**

Their Eyes Are Watching God is more than just a novel; it's a powerful exploration of the human spirit and the complexities of life. By understanding the plot, characters, and recurring themes, you can fully appreciate Hurston's masterful storytelling and the enduring significance of this literary masterpiece. This guide provides a solid foundation for your understanding, allowing you to delve deeper into the richness and depth of this American classic.

## **FAQs**

1. What is the main conflict in Their Eyes Are Watching God? The main conflict is Janie's struggle to find self-fulfillment and true love amidst societal expectations and patriarchal constraints.

- 2. What is the significance of the setting in Eatonville? Eatonville symbolizes a space of Black autonomy and community, yet it also reveals limitations and internal conflicts within the community itself.
- 3. How does Hurston use dialect in the novel? Hurston uses dialect to create authenticity and to showcase the unique cultural identity of her characters.
- 4. What are some major symbols in the novel? Significant symbols include the pear tree, representing Janie's awakening sexuality and desire for self-discovery; the horizon, symbolizing her aspirations; and the hurricane, symbolizing life's challenges and the destructive power of nature.
- 5. What is the overall message of Their Eyes Are Watching God? The novel ultimately champions the importance of self-discovery, the pursuit of genuine love and companionship, and the strength and resilience of the human spirit in overcoming adversity.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Their Eyes Were Watching God Zora Neale Hurston, 1937

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: A Teacher's Guide to Their Eyes Were Watching God Zora Neale Hurston, Amy Jurskis, 2014-06-24 A leading novel in the canon of African American literature—this free teaching guide for Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston is designed to help you put the new Common Core State Standards into practice. "A deeply soulful novel that comprehends love and cruelty, and separates the big people from the small of heart, without ever losing sympathy for those unfortunates who don't know how to live properly."—Zadie Smith One of the most important and enduring books of the twentieth century, Their Eyes Were Watching God brings to life a Southern love story with the wit and pathos found only in the writing of Zora Neale Hurston. Out of print for almost thirty years—due largely to initial audiences' rejection of its strong black female protagonist—Hurston's classic has since its 1978 reissue become perhaps the most widely read and highly acclaimed novel in the canon of African American literature.

**their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Love Medicine** Louise Erdrich, 2010-08-15 The first of Louise Erdrich's polysymphonic novels set in North Dakota – a fictional landscape that, in Erdrich's hands, has become iconic – Love Medicine is the story of three generations of Ojibwe families. Set against the tumultuous politics of the reservation, the lives of the Kashpaws and the Lamartines are a testament to the endurance of a people and the sorrows of history.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: How It Feels to be Colored Me Zora Neale Hurston, 2024-01-01 The acclaimed author of Their Eyes Were Watching God relates her experiences as an African American woman in early-twentieth-century America. In this autobiographical essay, author Zora Neale Hurston recounts episodes from her childhood in different communities in Florida: Eatonville and Jacksonville. She reflects on what those experiences showed her about race, identity, and feeling different. "How It Feels to Be Colored Me" was originally published in 1928 in the magazine The World Tomorrow.

**their eyes are watching god sparknotes:** *A Court of Wings and Ruin* Sarah J. Maas, 2018-05 Sarah J. Maas hit the New York Times SERIES list at #1 with A Court of Wings and Ruin!

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Gods of the Upper Air Charles King, 2020-07-14 2020 Anisfield-Wolf Book Award Winner Finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award From an award-winning historian comes a dazzling history of the birth of cultural anthropology and the adventurous scientists who pioneered it—a sweeping chronicle of discovery and the fascinating origin story of our multicultural world. A century ago, everyone knew that people were fated by their race, sex, and nationality to be more or less intelligent, nurturing, or warlike. But Columbia University professor Franz Boas looked at the data and decided everyone was wrong. Racial categories, he insisted, were biological fictions. Cultures did not come in neat packages labeled

primitive or advanced. What counted as a family, a good meal, or even common sense was a product of history and circumstance, not of nature. In Gods of the Upper Air, a masterful narrative history of radical ideas and passionate lives, Charles King shows how these intuitions led to a fundamental reimagining of human diversity. Boas's students were some of the century's most colorful figures and unsung visionaries: Margaret Mead, the outspoken field researcher whose Coming of Age in Samoa is among the most widely read works of social science of all time; Ruth Benedict, the great love of Mead's life, whose research shaped post-Second World War Japan; Ella Deloria, the Dakota Sioux activist who preserved the traditions of Native Americans on the Great Plains; and Zora Neale Hurston, whose studies under Boas fed directly into her now classic novel, Their Eyes Were Watching God. Together, they mapped civilizations from the American South to the South Pacific and from Caribbean islands to Manhattan's city streets, and unearthed an essential fact buried by centuries of prejudice: that humanity is an undivided whole. Their revolutionary findings would go on to inspire the fluid conceptions of identity we know today. Rich in drama, conflict, friendship, and love, Gods of the Upper Air is a brilliant and groundbreaking history of American progress and the opening of the modern mind.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Mules and Men Zora Neale Hurston, 2009-10-13 Zora Neale Hurston brings us Black America's folklore as only she can, putting the oral history on the written page with grace and understanding. This new edition of Mules and Men features a new cover and a P.S. section which includes insights, interviews, and more. For the student of cultural history, Mules and Men is a treasury of Black America's folklore as collected by Zora Neale Hurston, the storyteller and anthropologist who grew up hearing the songs and sermons, sayings and tall tales that have formed and oral history of the South since the time of slavery. Set intimately within the social context of Black life, the stories, "big old lies," songs, voodoo customs, and superstitions recorded in these pages capture the imagination and bring back to life the humor and wisdom that is the unique heritage of Black Americans.

**their eyes are watching god sparknotes:** <u>Reclaiming Conversation</u> Sherry Turkle, 2015 An engaging look at how technology is undermining our creativity and relationships and how face-to-face conversation can help us get it back.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Jan's Story Barry Rex Petersen, 2010 CBS News correspondent Barry Petersen tells the tender story of his wife's battle with Early Onset Alzheimer's.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: The Catcher in the Rye J. D. Salinger, 2024-06-28 The Catcher in the Rye," written by J.D. Salinger and published in 1951, is a classic American novel that explores the themes of adolescence, alienation, and identity through the eyes of its protagonist, Holden Caulfield. The novel is set in the 1950s and follows Holden, a 16-year-old who has just been expelled from his prep school, Pencey Prep. Disillusioned with the world around him, Holden decides to leave Pencey early and spend a few days alone in New York City before returning home. Over the course of these days, Holden interacts with various people, including old friends, a former teacher, and strangers, all the while grappling with his feelings of loneliness and dissatisfaction. Holden is deeply troubled by the "phoniness" of the adult world and is haunted by the death of his younger brother, Allie, which has left a lasting impact on him. He fantasizes about being "the catcher in the rye," a guardian who saves children from losing their innocence by catching them before they fall off a cliff into adulthooda. The novel ends with Holden in a mental institution, where he is being treated for a nervous breakdown. He expresses some hope for the future, indicating a possible path to recovery..

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: The Poet X Elizabeth Acevedo, 2018-03-06 Winner of the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, and the Pura Belpré Award! Fans of Jacqueline Woodson, Meg Medina, and Jason Reynolds will fall hard for this astonishing New York Times-bestselling novel-in-verse by an award-winning slam poet, about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to

say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself. So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out. But she still can't stop thinking about performing her poems. Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent. "Crackles with energy and snaps with authenticity and voice." —Justina Ireland, author of Dread Nation "An incredibly potent debut." —Jason Reynolds, author of the National Book Award Finalist Ghost "Acevedo has amplified the voices of girls en el barrio who are equal parts goddess, saint, warrior, and hero." —Ibi Zoboi, author of American Street This young adult novel, a selection of the Schomburg Center's Black Liberation Reading List, is an excellent choice for accelerated tween readers in grades 6 to 8. Plus don't miss Elizabeth Acevedo's With the Fire on High and Clap When You Land!

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: <u>Blood Meridian</u> Cormac McCarthy, 2010-08-11 25th ANNIVERSARY EDITION • From the bestselling author of The Passenger and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Road: an epic novel of the violence and depravity that attended America's westward expansion, brilliantly subverting the conventions of the Western novel and the mythology of the Wild West. Based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s, Blood Meridian traces the fortunes of the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennesseean who stumbles into the nightmarish world where Indians are being murdered and the market for their scalps is thriving. Look for Cormac McCarthy's latest bestselling novels, The Passenger and Stella Maris.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: All the Pretty Horses Cormac McCarthy, 1993-06-29 NATIONAL BOOK AWARD WINNER • NATIONAL BESTSELLER • The first volume in the Border Trilogy, from the bestselling author of The Passenger and the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel The Road All the Pretty Horses is the tale of John Grady Cole, who at sixteen finds himself at the end of a long line of Texas ranchers, cut off from the only life he has ever imagined for himself. With two companions, he sets off for Mexico on a sometimes idyllic, sometimes comic journey to a place where dreams are paid for in blood. Look for Cormac McCarthy's latest novels, The Passenger and Stella Maris.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: We Yevgeny Zamyatin, 2023-03-06 We is a dystopian novel written by Russian writer Yevgeny Zamyatin. Originally drafted in Russian, the book could be published only abroad. It was translated into English in 1924. Even as the book won a wide readership overseas, the author's satiric depiction led to his banishment under Joseph Stalin's regime in the then USSR. The book's depiction of life under a totalitarian state influenced the other novels of the 20th century. Like Aldous Huxley's Brave New World and George Orwell's Nineteen Eighty-four, We describes a future socialist society that has turned out to be not perfect but inhuman. Orwell claimed that Brave New World must be partly derived from We, but Huxley denied this. The novel is set in the future. D-503, a spacecraft engineer, lives in the One State which assists mass surveillance. Here life is scientifically managed. There is no way of referring to people except by their given numbers. The society is run strictly by reason as the primary justification for the construct of the society. By way of formulae and equations outlined by the One State, the individual's behaviour is based on logic.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Salvage the Bones Jesmyn Ward, 2012-04-12 A hurricane is building over the Gulf of Mexico, threatening the coastal town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi, and Esch's father is growing concerned. He's a hard drinker, largely absent, and it isn't often he worries about the family. Esch and her three brothers are stocking up on food, but there isn't much to save. Lately, Esch can't keep down what food she gets; at fifteen, she has just realized that she's pregnant. Her brother Skeetah is sneaking scraps for his prized pit bull's new litter, dying one by one. Meanwhile, brothers Randall and Junior try to stake their claim in a family long on child's play and short on parenting. As the twelve days that make up the novel's framework yield to a

dramatic conclusion, this unforgettable family - motherless children sacrificing for one another as they can, protecting and nurturing where love is scarce - pulls itself up to face another day.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: The Way of Kings Brandon Sanderson, 2014-03-04 A new epic fantasy series from the New York Times bestselling author chosen to complete Robert Jordan's The Wheel of Time® Series

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Rhythm of War Brandon Sanderson, 2020-11-17 An instant #1 New York Times Bestseller and a USA Today and Indie Bestseller! The Stormlight Archive saga continues in Rhythm of War, the eagerly awaited sequel to Brandon Sanderson's #1 New York Times bestselling Oathbringer, from an epic fantasy writer at the top of his game. After forming a coalition of human resistance against the enemy invasion, Dalinar Kholin and his Knights Radiant have spent a year fighting a protracted, brutal war. Neither side has gained an advantage, and the threat of a betrayal by Dalinar's crafty ally Taravangian looms over every strategic move. Now, as new technological discoveries by Navani Kholin's scholars begin to change the face of the war, the enemy prepares a bold and dangerous operation. The arms race that follows will challenge the very core of the Radiant ideals, and potentially reveal the secrets of the ancient tower that was once the heart of their strength. At the same time that Kaladin Stormblessed must come to grips with his changing role within the Knights Radiant, his Windrunners face their own problem: As more and more deadly enemy Fused awaken to wage war, no more honorspren are willing to bond with humans to increase the number of Radiants. Adolin and Shallan must lead the coalition's envoy to the honorspren stronghold of Lasting Integrity and either convince the spren to join the cause against the evil god Odium, or personally face the storm of failure. Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson The Cosmere The Stormlight Archive ● The Way of Kings ● Words of Radiance ● Edgedancer (novella) ● Oathbringer ● Dawnshard (novella) ● Rhythm of War The Mistborn Saga The Original Trilogy ● Mistborn ● The Well of Ascension ● The Hero of Ages Wax and Wayne ● The Alloy of Law ● Shadows of Self ● The Bands of Mourning ● The Lost Metal Other Cosmere novels ● Elantris ● Warbreaker ● Tress of the Emerald Sea ● Yumi and the Nightmare Painter ● The Sunlit Man Collection ● Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series ● Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians ● The Scrivener's Bones ● The Knights of Crystallia ● The Shattered Lens ● The Dark Talent ● Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● The Rithmatist ● Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds ● The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England Other books by Brandon Sanderson The Reckoners Steelheart ● Firefight ● Calamity Skyward ● Skyward ● Starsight ● Cytonic ● Skyward Flight (with Janci Patterson) • Defiant At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Sometimes I Lie Alice Feeney, 2018-03-13 ALICE FEENEYS NEW YORK TIMES AND INTERNATIONAL BESTSELLER "Boldly plotted, tightly knotted—a provocative true-or-false thriller that deepens and darkens to its ink-black finale. Marvelous." —AJ Finn, author of The Woman in the Window My name is Amber Reynolds. There are three things you should know about me: 1. I'm in a coma. 2. My husband doesn't love me anymore. 3. Sometimes I lie. Amber wakes up in a hospital. She can't move. She can't speak. She can't open her eyes. She can hear everyone around her, but they have no idea. Amber doesn't remember what happened, but she has a suspicion her husband had something to do with it. Alternating between her paralyzed present, the week before her accident, and a series of childhood diaries from twenty years ago, this brilliant psychological thriller asks: Is something really a lie if you believe it's the truth?

**their eyes are watching god sparknotes:** The Road Cormac McCarthy, 2007 In a novel set in an indefinite, futuristic, post-apocalyptic world, a father and his young son make their way through the ruins of a devastated American landscape, struggling to survive and preserve the last remnants of their own humanity

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Goodbye Days Jeff Zentner, 2017-03-07 "Gorgeous, heartbreaking, and ultimately life-affirming." —Nicola Yoon, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Everything, Everything. Perfect for fans of Turtles All the Way Down, Thirteen Reasons Why, and

Zentner's own The Serpent King, one of the most highly acclaimed YA novels of 2016, Goodbye Days asks what you would do if you could spend one last day with someone you lost. Where are you guys? Text me back. That's the last message Carver Briggs will ever send his three best friends, Mars, Eli, and Blake. He never thought that it would lead to their death. Now Carver can't stop blaming himself for the accident and even worse, a powerful judge is pressuring the district attorney to open up a criminal investigation. Luckily, Carver has some unexpected allies: Eli's girlfriend, the only person to stand by him at school; Dr. Mendez, his new therapist; and Blake's grandmother, who asks Carver to spend a "goodbye day" together to share their memories and say a proper farewell. Soon the other families are asking for their own goodbye day with Carver—but he's unsure of their motives. Will they all be able to make peace with their losses, or will these goodbye days bring Carver one step closer to a complete breakdown or—even worse—prison? Jeff Zentner, you perfectly fill the John-Green-sized hole in our heart. —Justine Magazine "Evocative, heartbreaking, and beautifully written. —Buzzfeed Masterful. —TeenVogue.com "Hold on to your heart: this book will wreck you, fix you, and most definitely change you." —Becky Albertalli, Morris Award-winning author of Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Words of Radiance Brandon Sanderson, 2014-03-04 From #1 New York Times bestselling author Brandon Sanderson, Words of Radiance, Book Two of the Stormlight Archive, continues the immersive fantasy epic that The Way of Kings began. Expected by his enemies to die the miserable death of a military slave, Kaladin survived to be given command of the royal bodyguards, a controversial first for a low-status darkeyes. Now he must protect the king and Dalinar from every common peril as well as the distinctly uncommon threat of the Assassin, all while secretly struggling to master remarkable new powers that are somehow linked to his honorspren, Syl. The Assassin, Szeth, is active again, murdering rulers all over the world of Roshar, using his baffling powers to thwart every bodyguard and elude all pursuers. Among his prime targets is Highprince Dalinar, widely considered the power behind the Alethi throne. His leading role in the war would seem reason enough, but the Assassin's master has much deeper motives. Brilliant but troubled Shallan strives along a parallel path. Despite being broken in ways she refuses to acknowledge, she bears a terrible burden: to somehow prevent the return of the legendary Voidbringers and the civilization-ending Desolation that will follow. The secrets she needs can be found at the Shattered Plains, but just arriving there proves more difficult than she could have imagined. Meanwhile, at the heart of the Shattered Plains, the Parshendi are making an epochal decision. Hard pressed by years of Alethi attacks, their numbers ever shrinking, they are convinced by their war leader, Eshonai, to risk everything on a desperate gamble with the very supernatural forces they once fled. The possible consequences for Parshendi and humans alike, indeed, for Roshar itself, are as dangerous as they are incalculable. Other Tor books by Brandon Sanderson The Cosmere The Stormlight Archive ● The Way of Kings ● Words of Radiance ● Edgedancer (novella) ● Oathbringer ● Dawnshard (novella) ● Rhythm of War The Mistborn Saga The Original Trilogy ● Mistborn ● The Well of Ascension ● The Hero of Ages Wax and Wayne ● The Alloy of Law ● Shadows of Self ● The Bands of Mourning ● The Lost Metal Other Cosmere novels ● Elantris ● Warbreaker ● Tress of the Emerald Sea ● Yumi and the Nightmare Painter ● The Sunlit Man Collection ● Arcanum Unbounded: The Cosmere Collection The Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians series ● Alcatraz vs. the Evil Librarians ● The Scrivener's Bones ● The Knights of Crystallia ● The Shattered Lens ● The Dark Talent ● Bastille vs. the Evil Librarians (with Janci Patterson) Other novels ● The Rithmatist ● Legion: The Many Lives of Stephen Leeds ● The Frugal Wizard's Handbook for Surviving Medieval England Other books by Brandon Sanderson The Reckoners Steelheart ● Firefight ● Calamity Skyward ● Skyward ● Starsight ● Cytonic ● Skyward Flight (with Janci Patterson) ● Defiant At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Barracoon Zora Neale Hurston, 2018-05-08 One of the New York Times' Most Memorable Literary Moments of the Last 25 Years! • New York Times Bestseller • TIME Magazine's Best Nonfiction Book of 2018 • New York Public Library's Best Book

of 2018 • NPR's Book Concierge Best Book of 2018 • Economist Book of the Year • SELF.com's Best Books of 2018 • Audible's Best of the Year • BookRiot's Best Audio Books of 2018 • The Atlantic's Books Briefing: History, Reconsidered • Atlanta Journal Constitution, Best Southern Books 2018 • The Christian Science Monitor's Best Books 2018 • "A profound impact on Hurston's literary legacy."—New York Times "One of the greatest writers of our time."—Toni Morrison "Zora Neale Hurston's genius has once again produced a Maestrapiece."—Alice Walker A major literary event: a newly published work from the author of the American classic Their Eyes Were Watching God, with a foreword from Pulitzer Prize-winning author Alice Walker, brilliantly illuminates the horror and injustices of slavery as it tells the true story of one of the last-known survivors of the Atlantic slave trade—abducted from Africa on the last Black Cargo ship to arrive in the United States. In 1927, Zora Neale Hurston went to Plateau, Alabama, just outside Mobile, to interview eighty-six-year-old Cudjo Lewis. Of the millions of men, women, and children transported from Africa to America as slaves, Cudjo was then the only person alive to tell the story of this integral part of the nation's history. Hurston was there to record Cudjo's firsthand account of the raid that led to his capture and bondage fifty years after the Atlantic slave trade was outlawed in the United States. In 1931, Hurston returned to Plateau, the African-centric community three miles from Mobile founded by Cudjo and other former slaves from his ship. Spending more than three months there, she talked in depth with Cudjo about the details of his life. During those weeks, the young writer and the elderly formerly enslaved man ate peaches and watermelon that grew in the backyard and talked about Cudjo's past—memories from his childhood in Africa, the horrors of being captured and held in a barracoon for selection by American slavers, the harrowing experience of the Middle Passage packed with more than 100 other souls aboard the Clotilda, and the years he spent in slavery until the end of the Civil War. Based on those interviews, featuring Cudjo's unique vernacular, and written from Hurston's perspective with the compassion and singular style that have made her one of the preeminent American authors of the twentieth-century, Barracoon masterfully illustrates the tragedy of slavery and of one life forever defined by it. Offering insight into the pernicious legacy that continues to haunt us all, black and white, this poignant and powerful work is an invaluable contribution to our shared history and culture.

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: Discipline Equals Freedom Jocko Willink, 2020-10-13 In this expanded edition of the 2017 mega-bestseller, updated with brand new sections like DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY, SUGAR COATED LIES and DON'T NEGOTIATE WITH WEAKNESS, readers will discover new ways to become stronger, smarter, and healthier. Jocko Willink's methods for success were born in the SEAL Teams, where he spent most of his adult life, enlisting after high school and rising through the ranks to become the commander of the most highly decorated special operations unit of the war in Iraq. In Discipline Equals Freedom, the #1 New York Times bestselling coauthor of Extreme Ownership describes how he lives that mantra: the mental and physical disciplines he imposes on himself in order to achieve freedom in all aspects of life. Many books offer advice on how to overcome obstacles and reach your goals--but that advice often misses the most critical ingredient: discipline. Without discipline, there will be no real progress. Discipline Equals Freedom covers it all, including strategies and tactics for conquering weakness, procrastination, and fear, and specific physical training presented in workouts for beginner, intermediate, and advanced athletes, and even the best sleep habits and food intake recommended to optimize performance. FIND YOUR WILL, FIND YOUR DISCIPLINE--AND YOU WILL FIND YOUR **FREEDOM** 

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: You Have Seven Messages Stewart Lewis, 2012-09-11 A smart, heartbreaking mystery about unexpected love, art, family, and finding yourself. It's been a year since Luna's mother, the fashion-model wife of a successful film director, was hit and killed by a taxi in New York's East Village. Luna, her father, and little brother are still struggling with grief. But when Luna goes to clean out her mother's old studio, she's stunned to find her mom's old cell phone there—charged and holding seven unheard messages. As Luna begins to listen, she learns more about her mother's life than she ever wanted to know . . . because the tidy tale she's

been told about her mother's death may not be the whole truth. With the help of Oliver, the musically gifted boy next door, Luna won't stop until she finds answers. But what else will she find along the way?

their eyes are watching god sparknotes: The Signifying Monkey Henry Louis Gates (Jr.), 2014 A groundbaking work of enduring influence. The Signifying Monkey illuminates the relationship between the African and African American vernacular traditions and literature. Examining the ancient poetry and myths found in African, Latin American, and Caribbean culture, Henry Louis Gates, Jr., uncovers a unique system for interpretation and a powerful vernacular tradition that black slaves brought with them to the New World. This superb twenty-fifth-anniversary edition features a new preface and introduction by Gates that reflect on the book's genesis and its continuing relevance for today's culture, as well as a new afterword written by the noted critic W.J.T. Mitchell. --Book Jacket.

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saved Akeela's life, but he'd never forgotten the brutal lessons of the streets he'd grown up on. A bond of loyalty stronger than blood linked these two men—but no two souls could be more different. And as Akeela and Lukien entered their enemy's stronghold on a mission of peace, neither man could forsee the turmoil this historic mission would wreak on their lives. For, to seal the peace, King Karis of Reec would bestow upon Akeela the hand of his charming, beautiful, and accomplished daughter Cassandra. But Cassandra hid a terrible secret. She was experiencing the first symptoms of a disease which would threaten her life and cause unimaginable strife for all who loved her. For Akeela and Lukien, the quest for Cassandra's salvation would overwhelm every bond of loyalty, every point of honor, every dream of peace. For only the magical amulets known as the Eyes of God could halt the progress of Cassandra's illness. But the Eyes of God would also open the way to a magical stronghold which could tear their world apart and redefine the very nature of their reality.

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too hard after the wedding... I didn't see you again until a month ago. It was a Wednesday. You were rocking back on your heels, balancing on that thick yellow line that runs along the subway platform, waiting for the F train. I didn't know it was you until it was too late, and then you were gone. Again. You said my name; I saw it on your lips. I tried to will the train to stop, just so I could say hello. After seeing you, all of the youthful feelings and memories came flooding back to me, and now I've spent the better part of a month wondering what your life is like. I might be totally out of my mind, but would you like to get a drink with me and catch up on the last decade and a half? M

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