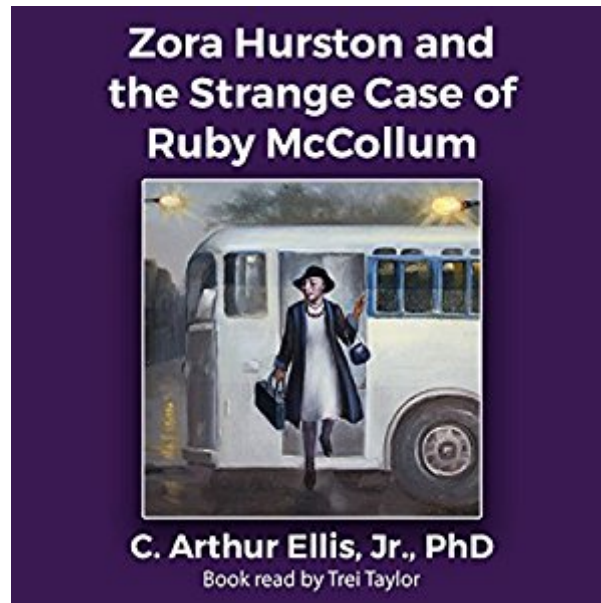




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Zora Hurston And The Strange Case Of Ruby McCollum



Synopsis

In the timber camps of North Florida in the 1930s, Zora Neale Hurston, a famous African-American anthropologist and author, discovered the unwritten segregationist law allowing a white man to force a white woman to have his children. Dr. Ellis coined the term "paramour rights" and attributed it to Hurston's character in this novel. Twenty years later, she received an assignment from the Pittsburgh Courier to cover the murder trial of Ruby McCollum, a wealthy colored woman accused of slaying a white physician who had recently been elected to the Florida state senate - and rumored to be her lover and father of one of her children. Intrigued by what she considered a case of paramour rights, Hurston accepted the Courier assignment. What she discovered in the small town of Live Oak was a sordid tale of interracial sex, greed, drugs, and murder, concealed by the guilty silence of its fearful citizens who did not want their secret involvement in the subterranean world of illegal gambling and liquor sales to be revealed. To paraphrase Hurston, she felt that the story played itself out in a conspiracy of silence, behind a curtain of secrecy. The audio version of the story contains a new introduction and afterword narrated by the author, while the novel itself is narrated by the talented Trei Taylor, who brings a unique depth of character to Zora Neale Hurston.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Customer Reviews

This book told a story that I had never heard before. Not only was it a story about a legendary author (Zora Neale Hurston) and her adventures covering the hot topic of the day it offers historical perspective into the 30's, 40's and 50's in the southeastern United States. I found that even though this book has a bit of age some of those struggles are still present and festering in this country. The

tragic story of misplaced emotion struggling against paramour rights juxtaposed to civil rights was a quick read. The at times long drawn out character building help advance the pace of the book once the drama kicks into high gear. And boy does it kick into high gear. Although the ending is predictable the journey to that end is filled with ups and downs that keep the pages turning. So much drama it's hard to believe this is based on actual events, people and places.

I was over come with this story. How sad that this has happen over and over again over the centuries. The only thing I can say is that I'm glad I'm not the dick in the story...what a price he will pay. It is very well written. This story is based on truth and is hard to lay down. I would read late into the night and early morning. I enjoy Ms Hurston style and the way she relayed the events. Very good book and very sad set of events.

Growing up in Tallahassee, I recall reading about this story in the newspapers. It resurfaced a number of times over the years, so when a friend mentioned it recently, I decided to find out more of the story. And what a tale it is! This account is particularly interesting because it is written from the viewpoint of a black woman. The doctor was much loved in Live Oak because he took care of everyone, including those who could not afford to pay. But he also had a dark side with unhealthy appetites. Ruby was smart and determined to get ahead, wanting to have a "big man" at whatever cost. The two made a very volatile combo and the end was not pretty. Ruby's trial was a mockery. I believe the verdict would have been different had her trial taken place 50-60 years later. All in all, a very fascinating book that you will not want to put down!

I stumbled on this book accidentally but was intrigued by the title. I had never heard of Paramour Rights or Ruby McCollum but was drawn into the story and could not put it down. Afterwards I was saddened by what happened. Here was a woman who was abused not only by the doctor but by the Jim Crow South and knowing that she had no options took the only course that she thought that she had. Well written and informative, this was indeed a strange case. Haunting.

I watch id channel. this story came up until that segment I never heard of this crime. apparently this writer became very involved in this case. she was one of the first writers. so her story is as interesting as rubys story. she seems to be a big name during this time mostly because she started writing about it. the writer seemed really to understand the whole story. how black women were treated unfairly. all the people are unseemly. but was because the way people felt during that time. I

feel I lived this through this story .I one of the best true crime books I have ever read.

Yet another piece of American history not known to many. We've come so far, our Nation, but recent racially charged events make me wonder if we will ever rid ourselves from hatred, and unfair treatment.

Good history of Live Oak(Suwannee County) It was a little too graphic for me but I guess to get the story across the writer felt it needed to be in there. It sure made me think about the place I live. People don't always show there true colors.

I gained such insight into this tragic story. I had never heard of this lady and her struggles. How tragic that murder was thought to be the the only way out of her circumstances. Truly a must read.

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