

Black History Month

Author Zora Neale Hurston



The Skanner News

Zora Neale Hurston, a literary luminary of the Harlem Renaissance, left an indelible mark on American literature, carving a path as a novelist, anthropologist and folklorist.

Born Jan. 7, 1891, in Notasulga, Alabama, Hurston's journey unfolded against the backdrop of a racially charged Amer-

ica, yet she emerged as a fearless chronicler of the human experience.

Hurston's childhood was marked by upheaval, with her family relocating to Eatonville, Florida, one of the first all-Black incorporated towns in the United States. This unique setting would later serve as the backdrop for much of her literary work. Despite facing financial challenges, Hur-

ston's passion for education led her to Howard University, where she immersed herself in the vibrant cultural and intellectual milieu of the Harlem Renaissance.

Literary Exploration

Hurston's literary jour-

ney unfolded against a tapestry of rich storytelling traditions and cultural nuances. Her immersion in folklore studies, particularly during her time at Barnard College under the tutelage of Franz Boas, fueled her

fascination with Black oral traditions. This fascination bore fruit in her groundbreaking anthropological work, "Mules and Men" (1935), a collection of folklore from the Black communities of the South.

Hurston's magnum opus, "Their Eyes Were Watching God" (1937), stands as a literary masterpiece and a cornerstone of Black literature. The novel, set in the fictional Eatonville,

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