
If He Hollers Let Him Go

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If He Hollers Let Him Go

A Novel *Da Capo Press*

This story of a man living every day in fear of his life for simply being black is as powerful today as it was when it was first published in 1947. The novel takes place in the space of four days in the life of Bob Jones, a black man who is constantly plagued by the effects of racism. Living in a society that is drenched in race consciousness has no doubt taken a toll on the way Jones behaves, thinks, and feels, especially when, at the end of his story, he is accused of a brutal crime he did not commit. "One of the most important American writers of the twentieth century ... [a] quirky American genius..."—Walter Mosley, author of *Bad Boy Brawly Brown*, *Devil in a Blue Dress* "If He Hollers is an austere and concentrated study of black experience, set in

southern California in the early forties."—Independent Publisher

If He Hollers Let Him Go *Serpent's Tail*

Robert Jones is a crew leader in a naval shipyard in Los Angeles in the 1940s. He should have a lot going for him, being educated, with a steady job and a steady relationship. But in the four days covered in this novel, the impossibility of life as a black man in a white world is made devastatingly clear. Jones is surrounded by prejudice, suspicion and paranoia, and his daily experiences influence his thoughts, dreams and behaviour. Immediately recognised as a masterful expose of racism in everyday life, *If He Hollers Let Him Go* is Chester Himes' first book, originally published in 1945.

If He Hollers Let Him Go

Robert Jones is a crew leader in a naval shipyard in Los Angeles in the 1940s. He should have a lot going for him, being educated, with a steady job and a steady relationship. But in the four days covered in this novel, the impossibility of life as a black man in a white world is made devastatingly clear. Jones is surrounded by prejudice, suspicion and paranoia, and his daily experiences influence his thoughts, dreams and behaviour. Immediately recognised as a masterful expose of racism in everyday life, *If He Hollers Let Him Go* is Chester Himes' first book, originally published in 1945.

If He Hollers Let Him Go

A Novel

If He Hollers Let Him Go

Cotton Comes to Harlem *Penguin UK*

A preacher called Deke O'Malley's been selling false hope: the promise of a glorious new life in Africa for just \$1,000 a family. But when thieves with machine guns steal the proceeds - and send one man's brain matter flying - the con is up. Now Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed mean to bring the good people of Harlem back their \$87,000, however many corpses they have to climb over to get it. *Cotton Comes to Harlem* is a non-stop ride, with violence, sex, double-crosses, and the two baddest detectives ever to wear a badge in Harlem. With a new Introduction by Will Self.

Pinktoes

A Novel *Univ. Press of Mississippi*

Mamie Mason, an influential Harlem society matron, hosts open sexual orgies in hopes of developing harmony between the races

Yesterday Will Make You Cry *W. W. Norton & Company*

Originally published in 1952, this restored autobiographical novel about prison life is now presented in its entirety and captures the harsh realities, determination, and persistence of humanity in the prison world. Reprint. K. PW.

Chester B. Himes: A Biography *W. W. Norton & Company*

Winner of the 2018 Edgar Award for Best Critical/Biographical Work A Washington Post Notable Book The definitive biography of

the groundbreaking African American author who had an extraordinary legacy on black writers globally. Chester B. Himes has been called "one of the towering figures of the black literary tradition" (Henry Louis Gates Jr.), "the best writer of mayhem yarns since Raymond Chandler" (San Francisco Chronicle), and "a quirky American genius" (Walter Mosely). He was the twentieth century's most prolific black writer, captured the spirit of his times expertly, and left a distinctive mark on American literature. Yet today he stands largely forgotten. In this definitive biography of Chester B. Himes (1909–1984), Lawrence P. Jackson uses exclusive interviews and unrestricted access to Himes's full archives to portray a controversial American writer whose novels unflinchingly confront sex, racism, and black identity. Himes brutally rendered racial politics in the best-selling novel *If He Hollers Let Him Go*, but he became famous for his Harlem detective series, including *Cotton Comes to Harlem*. A serious literary tastemaker in his day, Himes had friendships—sometimes uneasy—with such luminaries as Ralph Ellison, Carl Van Vechten, and Richard Wright. Jackson's scholarship and astute commentary illuminates Himes's improbable life—his middle-class origins, his eight years in prison, his painful odyssey as a black World War II-era artist, and his escape to Europe for success. More than ten years in the writing, Jackson's biography restores the legacy of a fascinating maverick caught between his aspirations for commercial success and his disturbing, vivid portraits of the United States.

Shoedog *Grand Central Publishing*

Constantine is a drifter, a man with a lot of miles behind him and

a lot more ahead and a number of jobs in between that never showed up on anyone's books. He hitches a ride on a bright spring morning with a little man named Polk. Heading down a country road in Polk's hopped-up muscle-car, the two men share a few cigarettes. This is how it starts. Later, when Constantine walks toward the big brick house, the Beat in his head, the grip of the .45 warm in his hand, the siren wailing in the night at his back, he thinks that the whole thing started on that road, with the car stopping for his upturned thumb. He thinks that the things that happen to a man are put in motion by something just that small, that random. He thinks about that, and he laughs. But he keeps walking. *Shoedog* is noir writing at its finest, a modern crime novel with the lingering resonance of good whiskey and the brutal recoil of a shotgun blast.

Loving Day

A Novel *One World*

A NEW YORK TIMES NOTABLE BOOK • “[Mat Johnson’s] unrelenting examination of blackness, whiteness and everything in between is handled with ruthless candor and riotous humor.”—Los Angeles Times “Razor-sharp . . . *Loving Day* is that rare *mélange*: cerebral comedy with pathos.”—The New York Times Book Review NAMED ONE OF THE BEST BOOKS OF THE YEAR BY The New York Times • San Francisco Chronicle • NPR • Men’s Journal • The Miami Herald • The Denver Post • Slate • The Kansas City Star • San Antonio Express-News • Time Out New York Warren Duffy has returned to America for all the worst reasons: His marriage to a beautiful Welsh woman has come

apart; his comics shop in Cardiff has failed; and his Irish American father has died, bequeathing to Warren his last possession, a roofless, half-renovated mansion in the heart of black Philadelphia. On his first night in his new home, Warren spies two figures outside in the grass. When he screws up the nerve to confront them, they disappear. The next day he encounters ghosts of a different kind: In the face of a teenage girl he meets at a comics convention he sees the mingled features of his white father and his black mother, both now dead. The girl, Tal, is his daughter, and she’s been raised to think she’s white. Spinning from these revelations, Warren sets off to remake his life with a reluctant daughter he’s never known, in a haunted house with a history he knows too well. In their search for a new life, he and Tal struggle with ghosts, fall in with a utopian mixed-race cult, and ignite a riot on Loving Day, the unsung holiday for interracial lovers. A frequently hilarious, surprisingly moving story about blacks and whites, fathers and daughters, the living and the dead, *Loving Day* celebrates the wonders of opposites bound in love. Praise for *Loving Day* “Incisive . . . razor-sharp . . . that rare *mélange*: cerebral comedy with pathos. The vitality of our narrator deserves much of the credit for that. He has the neurotic bawdiness of Philip Roth’s Alexander Portnoy; the keen, caustic eye of Bob Jones in Chester Himes’s *If He Hollers Let Him Go*; the existential insight of Ellison’s *Invisible Man*.”—The New York Times Book Review “Exceptional . . . To say that *Loving Day* is a book about race is like saying *Moby-Dick* is a book about whales. . . . [Mat Johnson’s] unrelenting examination of blackness, whiteness and everything in between is handled with ruthless candor and riotous humor. . . . Even when the novel’s family strife

and racial politics are at peak intensity, Johnson's comic timing is impeccable."—Los Angeles Times "Johnson, at his best, is a powerful comic observer [and] a gifted writer, always worth reading on the topics of race and privilege."—Dwight Garner, The New York Times

If He Hollers, Let Him Go

Conversations with Chester Himes *Univ. Press of Mississippi*
Collected interviews with the celebrated African American novelist

Plan B

A Novel *Univ. Press of Mississippi*

Tomsson Black, political visionary, business genius, and underground revolutionary, plots to avenge injustice by instigating racial turmoil. The roots of racism extend far back into his ancestry, and persecution and suffering have affected many generations of his family. Tomsson's own misfortunes are the impetus for him to found a criminal underworld whose ultimate purpose is the overflow of white society. This novel, the history of Tomsson Black and an indictment of racism in America, ends in apocalypse. It is Chester Himes's ultimate statement about the destructive power of racism and his own personal fantasy of how the American Negro, through calculated acts of violence and martyrdom, could destroy the unequal system pervading American life. However, after reaching an ideological impasse, Himes, one of the angriest writers in the black protest movement,

left this novel unfinished. After his death in Spain in 1984, a rumor persisted that he had left a final, unfinished Harlem story, in which he literally destroys both his Harlem backdrop and his heroes in a violent racial cataclysm. The manuscript, entitled Plan B, is that novel. It was edited and published in France, where it was widely hailed as an unfinished masterpiece by readers and critics alike. This new edition, appearing for the first time in the United States, includes an introduction by Michel Fabre (The Sorbonne) and Robert E. Skinner (Xavier University), who have prepared Plan B for publication.

Chester Himes

An Annotated Primary and Secondary Bibliography
Greenwood

Exhaustively researched and well constructed, this comprehensive bibliography clears up mysteries and misconceptions about the work of this important African-American writer known especially for his Harlem series of detective novels, written in France where he lived as an expatriate. The primary bibliography identifies all U.S., French, and British first and second editions of Himes's novels, the first appearances of his short stories in periodicals, his collected fiction, and his nonfiction. It includes manuscript materials and film adaptations. The annotated secondary bibliography documents biographical and critical work about Himes published in the United States, Britain, and France. The volume introduction outlines Himes's life and career and provides a realistic evaluation of his critical reception based on the secondary

bibliography.

Run Man Run *Da Capo Press*

"A white undercover cop vents his rage and starts a cycle of violence from which there is no escape. Walker, one of New York's embittered policemen, is vicious when drunk. Staggering into a restaurant on a freezing day, he kills two black workers "because they were there," and pursues a third who witnessed the murders in one of the most suspenseful chases ever put on paper." -- Back cover.

The Collected Stories of Chester Himes *Da Capo Press*

Spanning 40 years and including Himes's first work, written during his imprisonment in the 1940s, this collection uncovers the internal struggles of black individuals caught between resignation and rage, probing the heart of the African-American experience with wit, indignation, and ruthless honesty.

Blueschild Baby

A Novel *HarperCollins*

A searing chronicle of the life of a young ex-convict and heroin addict in 1960's Harlem, an unsparing portrait of a man who couldn't free himself from the horrors of addiction Blueschild Baby takes place during the summer of 1967—the summer of race riots all across the nation; the Summer of Love in the Haight Ashbury; the summer of Marines dying near Con Thien, across the world in Vietnam—but the novel illuminates the contours of a more private hell: the angry desperation of a heroin addict who

returns to his home in Harlem after being in prison. First published in 1970, this frankly autobiographical novel was a revelation, a stunning depiction of a marginal figure, marked literally and figuratively by his drug addiction and navigating a predatory underground of junkies and hustlers—and named George Cain, like his author. Now with a new preface by acclaimed writer Leslie Jamison, this is an unvarnished conjuring of the tyranny of dependence: its desperation, its degradation, its rage and rebellion; the fragile, unsettled, occasional shards of hope it permits; the strange joys of being alive and young and lost and hooked and full of feverish determination anyway.

Lonely Crusade

A classic of African-American fiction, Chester Himes's tale of a young black man who becomes a union organizer during WWII examines major problems in American life: racism, anti-Semitism, labor strife, and corruption.

If He Hollers Let Him Go

Words That Wound

Critical Race Theory, Assaultive Speech, And The First Amendment *Routledge*

In this book, the authors, all legal scholars from the tradition of critical race theory start from the experience of injury from racist hate speech and develop a theory of the first amendment that recognizes such injuries. In their critique of "first amendment orthodoxy", the authors argue that only a history of racism can

explain why defamation, invasion of privacy and fraud are exempt from free-speech guarantees but racist verbal assault is not.

The Crazy Kill *Vintage Crime/Black Lizard*

The Crazy Kill Outside the apartment where a wake is going on, the manager of the A&P across the street is robbed. Reverend Short, a storefront preacher addicted to opium and brandy, is watching from a bedroom window in the flat. He leans too far and falls out; a bread basket, sitting outside the bakery below, saves him. Back inside, he says he sees a vision of a dead man. Outside, in the very basket Short landed in, lies the body of Valentine Haines. Who murdered Val? It is up to Grave Digger Jones and Coffin Ed Johnson to find out. "The word is out on the street, and the hopheads and whores and flimflam artists are running scared: Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones are back in print." —Newsweek

Jernigan *Vintage*

From Holden Caulfield to Moses Herzog, our best literature has been narrated by malcontents. To this lineage add Peter Jernigan, who views the world with ferocious intelligence, grim rapture, and a chainsaw wit that he turns, with disastrous consequences, on his wife, his teenaged son, his dangerously vulnerable mistress—and, not least of all, on himself. This novel is a bravura performance: a funny, scary, mesmerizing study of a man walking off the edge with his eyes wide open—wisecracking all the way.

The Flowers *Grove Press*

When his mother marries an Okie building contractor, fifteen-year-old Sonny Bravo finds his life uprooted to a small apartment building, Los Flores, where he becomes embroiled in the lives of his neighbors.

Bad Boy Brawly Brown

Easy Rawlins 7 *Hachette UK*

An Easy Rawlins Mystery - from Bill Clinton's favourite novelist. The year is 1964, and though Easy seems settled into honest work as a Los Angeles custodian, he's having other problems - notably, his adopted son's wish to quit school, and lingering remorse over the death (in *A LITTLE YELLOW DOG*) of his homicidal crony, Raymond "Mouse" Alexander. Yet he remains willing to do "favours" for folks in need. So, when Alva Torres comes to him, worried that her son, Brawly Brown, will get into trouble running with black revolutionaries, Easy agrees to find the young man and "somehow ... get him back home." His first day on the job, however, Rawlins stumbles across Alva's ex-husband - murdered - and he's soon dodging police, trying to connect a black activist's demise to a weapons cache, and exposing years of betrayal that have made Brawly an ideal pawn in disastrous plans.

The End of a Primitive *W. W. Norton & Company*

Depicts a doomed sexual relationship between a tough, down-on-his-luck black writer and a white girl rapidly heading for a life of addiction.

Cast the First Stone

Middle Passage *Simon and Schuster*

It is 1830. Rutherford Calhoun, a newly freed slave and irrepressible rogue, is desperate to escape unscrupulous bill collectors and an impending marriage to a priggish schoolteacher. He jumps aboard the first boat leaving New Orleans, the *Republic*, a slave ship en route to collect members of a legendary African tribe, the Allmuseri. Thus begins a daring voyage of horror and self-discovery. Peopled with vivid and unforgettable characters, nimble in its interplay of comedy and serious ideas, this dazzling modern classic is a perfect blend of the picaresque tale, historical romance, sea yarn, slave narrative, and philosophical novel.

Folly and Glory

A Novel *Simon and Schuster*

In this brilliant saga—the final volume of *The Berrybender Narratives* and an epic in its own right—Larry McMurtry lives up to his reputation for delivering novels with “wit, grace, and more than a hint of what might be called muscular nostalgia, fit together to create a panoramic portrait of the American West” (*The New York Times Book Review*). As this finale opens, Tasmin and her family are under irksome, though comfortable, arrest in Mexican Santa Fe. Her father, the eccentric Lord Berrybender, is planning to head for Texas with his whole family and his retainers, English, American, and Native American. Tasmin, who would once have followed her husband, Jim Snow, anywhere, is

no longer even sure she likes him, or knows where to go to next. Neither does anyone else—even Captain Clark, of Lewis and Clark fame, is puzzled by the great changes sweeping over the West, replacing red men and buffalo with towns and farms. In the meantime, Jim Snow, accompanied by Kit Carson, journeys to New Orleans, where he meets up with a muscular black giant named Juppy, who turns out to be one of Lord Berrybender’s many illegitimate offspring, and in whose company they make their way back to Santa Fe. But even they are unable to prevent the Mexicans from carrying the Berrybender family on a long and terrible journey across the desert to Vera Cruz. Starving, dying of thirst, and in constant, bloody battle with slavers pursuing them, the Berrybenders finally make their way to civilization—if New Orleans of the time can be called that—where Jim Snow has to choose between Tasmin and the great American plains, on which he has lived all his life in freedom, and where, after all her adventures, Tasmin must finally decide where her future lies. With a cast of characters that includes almost every major real-life figure of the West, *Folly and Glory* is a novel that represents the culmination of a great and unique four-volume saga of the early days of the West; it is one of Larry McMurtry’s finest achievements.

Chester Himes

A Life *Open Road Media*

“[A] smart, conscientious, often stylish biography” of the great African American crime writer of the mid-twentieth century (*The New York Times*). Best known for *The Harlem Cycle*, the series of

crime stories featuring Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones, Chester Himes was a novelist and memoirist whose work was neglected and underappreciated in his native America during the 1950s and '60s, even as he was awarded France's most prestigious crime fiction prize. In this major biography, literary critic and fellow writer James Sallis examines the life of this "fascinating figure," combining interviews of those who knew Himes best—including his second wife—with insightful and poignant writing (*Publishers Weekly*). "Himes wrote some of the 20th century's most memorable crime fiction and has been compared to Jim Thompson, Raymond Chandler, and Dashiell Hammett. His life was just as spectacular as his novels. Sentenced to 25 years in prison for armed robbery when he was 19, he turned to writing while behind bars and, when released after serving eight years, published two novels. Their poor reception by the white establishment only confirmed Himes's beliefs about racism in America. He eventually moved to Paris, spending most of the rest of his life abroad. While in Paris, he began to produce the crime fiction that would make him famous, including *A Rage in Harlem* and *Cotton Comes to Harlem* . . . [a] riveting biography." —*Library Journal* (starred review) "Satisfying, thoughtful, long-overdue." —*Publishers Weekly* "As intelligent, and as much fun to read, as a book by Himes himself. There is no higher praise." —*The Times* (London)

A Case of Rape *Carroll & Graf Pub*

Four Black American men living in Paris are charged with the rape of a white woman

Axis/Axes to Grind

Political Slants in American World War II Novels, 1945-1975

A study of political themes in American World War II novels from 1945 to 1975, including rebellion against military authority, treatment of minorities, future projections and retrospective interpretations of the war.

All Shot Up

The several lives of Chester Himes *Univ. Press of Mississippi*

The Writings of Chester Himes are colored by a fascinating blend of hatred and tenderness, of hard-boiled realism and generous idealism. His life was complex, his relationships complicated. How did this gifted son of a respectable southern black family become a juvenile delinquent? How did he acquire self-esteem and a new sense of identity by writing short stories while in the Ohio state penitentiary? Drawn from his letters, notebooks, memoirs, and fiction, this straightforward account of Himes's varied, episodic life attempts to trace the origins of his significant literary gift. It details the socioeconomic, familial, and cultural background that fed his ambivalent views on race in America. His Deep South childhood, his adolescence in the Midwest, his young manhood in prison, his years as a menial laborer, his struggle as an author in California and New York City, and finally his glory days as an expatriate and celebrity in France and Spain are plumbed deeply for their effects upon his creative urges and his works. In his native country Himes is recalled more as the author of successful

detective novels such as *Cotton Comes to Harlem* than as a practitioner of the art of fiction. In France and Spain, his adopted countries, he is regarded as a literary master. This critical biography is the bittersweet story of a troubled man who found salvation in writing.

The Heat's On *Vintage Crime/Black Lizard*

Detectives Coffin Ed and Grave Digger Jones are in the hot seat in one of the most chaotic, brutally funny novels in Chester Himes's groundbreaking Harlem Detectives series. From the start, nothing goes right for Coffin Ed and Grave Digger. They are disciplined for use of excessive force. Grave Digger is shot and his death announced in a hoax radio bulletin. Bodies pile up faster than Coffin Ed and Grave Digger can run. Yet, try as they might, they always seem to be one hot step behind the cause of all the mayhem—three million dollars' worth of heroin and a giant albino called Pinky.

The Autobiography of Chester Himes: The quality of hurt
Doubleday Books

The Real Cool Killers

All Shot Up

The Classic Crime Thriller *Simon and Schuster*

"The greatest find in American fiction since Raymond Chandler."—*The Observer* [London] The shocking and explosive hardboiled classic: From murderers to prostitutes, corrupt

politicians and racist white detectives, Coffin Ed Johnson and Grave Digger Jones, Harlem's toughest detective duo, must carry the day against an absurdist world of racism and class warfare.

Ann Petry: The Street, The Narrows (LOA #314) *Library of America*

In one volume, two landmark novels about the terrible power of race in America from one of the foremost African American writers of the past century. Ann Petry is increasingly recognized as one of the essential American novelists of the twentieth century. Now, she joins the Library of America series with this deluxe hardcover volume gathering her two greatest works. Published in 1946 to widespread critical and popular acclaim—it was the first novel by an African-American woman to sell over a million copies—*The Street* follows Lutie Johnson, a young, newly single mother, as she struggles to make a better life for her son, Bub. An intimate account of the aspirations and challenges of black, female, working-class life, much of it set on a single block in Harlem, the novel exposes structural inequalities in American society while telling a complex human story, as overpriced housing, lack of opportunity, sexual harassment, and racism conspire to limit Lutie's potential and to break her buoyant spirit. Less widely read than her blockbuster debut and still underappreciated, *The Narrows* (1953) is Petry's most ambitious and accomplished novel—a multi-layered, stylistically innovative exploration of themes of race, class, sexuality, gender, and power in postwar America. Centered around an adulterous interracial affair in a small Connecticut town between the young black scholar-athlete Link Williams and white, privileged munitions

heiress Camilo Sheffield, it is also a fond, incisive community portrait, full of unforgettable minor characters, unexpected humor, and a rich sense of history. Also included in the volume are three of Petry's previously uncollected essays related to the novels and a newly researched chronology of the author's life, prepared with the assistance of her daughter Elisabeth Petry. LIBRARY OF AMERICA is an independent nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1979 to preserve our nation's literary heritage by publishing, and keeping permanently in print, America's best and most significant writing. The Library of America series includes more than 300 volumes to date, authoritative editions that average 1,000 pages in length, feature cloth covers, sewn bindings, and ribbon markers, and are printed on premium acid-free paper that will last for centuries.

The Night Burns Bright *Lake Union Publishing*

In this coming-of-age thriller, a twelve-year-old boy's spark of courage to question the harmonious wooded commune he calls

home may burn down more than just his own illusions. Lucien has everything he needs: a loving mama, a library full of books, and House of Earth, a private school nestled safely in the woods of upstate New York. It's where Lucien is taught the importance of living in harmony with nature and building a peaceful and sustainable future. But when his youthful curiosity draws him into town and to Gabrielle, a public-school student living a life wholly different from his own, Lucien's inquisitiveness about life beyond the commune and questions regarding the events of 9/11 threaten to unbalance everything he thought he knew. Slowly, things begin to change at House of Earth. The outside world is off limits. Security measures tighten. New rules are put in place, and anyone who violates them is asked to leave and never spoken of again. As forbidden questions pile up, Lucien's willingness to obey weakens. Continuing to meet Gabrielle in secret only reinforces his gnawing fear that something about his world is terribly wrong. Unable to remain silent any longer, Lucien will soon discover that looking for answers at House of Earth may be the most dangerous rule he can break.