



# Not So Simple: The "Simple" Stories by Langston Hughes

*Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper*

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The "Simple" stories, Langston Hughes's satirical pieces featuring Harlem's Jesse B. Semple, have been lauded as Hughes's greatest contribution to American fiction. In *Not So Simple*, Donna Akiba Sullivan Harper provides the first full historical analysis of the Simple stories.

Harper traces the evolution and development of Simple from his 1943 appearance in Hughes's weekly *Chicago Defender* column through his 1965 farewell in the *New York Post*. Drawing on correspondence and manuscripts of the stories, Harper explores the development of the Simple collections, from *Simple Speaks His Mind* (1950) to *Simple's Uncle Sam* (1965), providing fresh and provocative perspectives on both Hughes and the characters who populate his stories.

Harper discusses the nature of Simple, Harlem's "everyman", and the way in which Hughes used his character both to teach fellow Harlem residents about their connection to world events and to give black literature a hero whose "day-after-day heroism" would exemplify greatness. She explores the psychological, sociological, and literary meanings behind the Simple stories, and suggests ways in which the stories illustrate lessons of American history and political science. She also examines the roles played by women in these humorously ironic fiction. Ultimately, Hughes's attitudes as an author are measured against the views of other prominent African American writers.

Demonstrating the richness and complexity of this Langston Hughes character and the Harlem he inhabited, *Not So Simple* makes an important contribution to the study of American literature.

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Not So Simple: The "Simple" Stories by Langston Hughes can be one of your starter books that are good idea. We recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocab, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nonetheless delivering the information. The writer giving his/her effort to put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Not So Simple: The "Simple" Stories by Langston Hughes nevertheless doesn't forget the main place, giving the reader the hottest and also based confirm resource details that maybe you can be one of it. This great information can certainly drawn you into brand-new stage of crucial thinking.

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