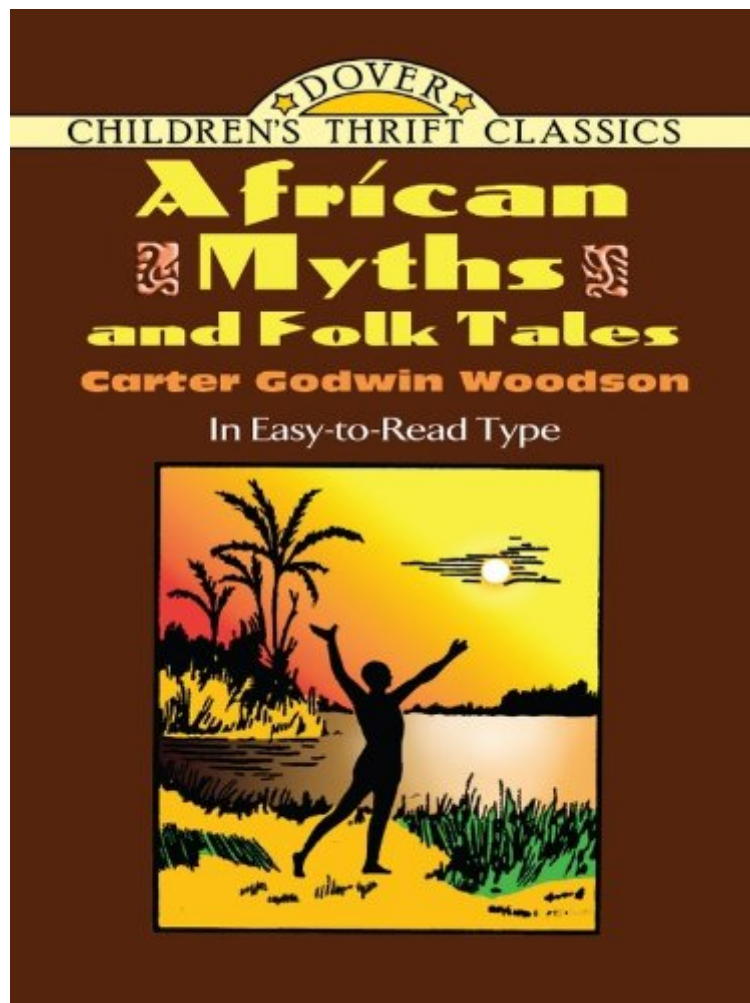




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African Myths And Folk Tales (Dover Children's Thrift Classics)



Synopsis

How was the earth formed, and where did animals come from? Why does the hippopotamus live in water, and why do cats chase rats? Imaginative answers to these and other age-old questions can be found among the rich oral traditions of Africa. Generations of listeners have delighted in these fanciful explanations of the natural, moral, and spiritual worlds, which unfold amid a realm of talking animals, magic drums, tricksters, and fairies. Known as the "Father of Black History," Carter Godwin Woodson was among the first scholars to promote the history and achievements of African-Americans. His compilation of fables about a jealous blind man, a disobedient daughter, a rivalry among brothers, and other timeless predicaments is punctuated with thought-provoking proverbs and gentle humor. Told in simple language, these tales will enchant readers and listeners of all ages. Over sixty evocative illustrations appear throughout the book.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book brings together a series of stories in which african animals have a series of misadventures according to their nature and character. The tales are simplistic but they have their charm. If you enjoy rudyard kipling you will most likely enjoy these.

Since this book has the words "Children's Thrift editions," don't be fooled. This book is perhaps better appreciated by the adult reader. Dr. Carter G. Woodson (father of Black History month) strongly believed in the use of folklore in the understanding of a people, and of the intelligence of the native-born African. In 1928, Woodson published this book at a time when few laypeople thought much of African (and African-American by extension) intellect. This book has a number of fascinating African tales, most with morals and additional proverbs. It makes for an entertaining and educational read. This gives you a good idea of the kind of griot's (African storytellers and oral historians') tales that were the ancestors of the Brer Rabbit stories (a number of the fables here involve hares) and unintentional cousins of Aesop. A good budget read for an airline flight or long trip where you don't have to drive. Also good for a relaxing afternoon on the front porch.

Wow, I never know Dr. Carter G. Woodson edited a children's book! This is absolutely wonderful! He is such an inspiration! Black History Month (Black History Week...when he first introduced it) was supposed to be a time to review of all that was learned about African-American history over the year.)

I like this book for its price and variety. There are many different folk tales so supplemented our study on West Africa well. Morals/lessons given at the end similar to Aesop and is child friendly.

The stories are very interesting and reconnect you back to how our Ancestors would convey stories from generations to generations

very good

Wonderful stories, exactly what I was searching for

Compact yet imaginative. Kids intrigued by stories.

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