

Tales of Uncle Remus (Puffin Modern Classics): The Adventures of Brer Rabbit

By Julius Lester


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Whether he is besting Brer Fox or sneaking into Mr. Man's garden, Brer Rabbit is always teaching a valuable lesson. These classic tales are full of wit, humor, and creativity, and Julius Lester brings an added contemporary sense to these forty-eight timeless stories.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Lester juxtaposes a contemporary voice and settings (like shopping malls) with some dialect in these "wonderfully funny folktales," said PW. "For many purists, though, it will not replace the original stories." Ages 8-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grades 3-6--Using what he refers to as a modified contemporary southern black English, Julius Lester gives a first-rate reading of this book (Dial, 1987). Through his retelling of Joel Chandler Harris's tales, Lester has made this unique collection of African-American folktales accessible to today's listeners. Brer Rabbit, Brer Fox, and a host of critters come to life under Lester's auspices. His full, rich voice is friendly and inviting. With vocal inflections, he gives each character a distinct voice and attitude. Through his slow, precise timing, listeners are able to savor the wit and humor of each story. Tales are smoothly linked together by introductory paragraphs that connect each story to the one preceding it. In keeping with black storytelling tradition, contemporary references become part of the story. Thus, Brer Rabbit dons his Nike sneakers to run the race with Brer Turtle, and takes off like a 747 jet. Listeners can only wonder why 14 years elapsed between the publication of the book and the audiobook. Hopefully the hiatus will not be as lengthy before Lester's *More Tales of Uncle Remus* and *The Last Tales of Uncle Remus* are recorded. The cassettes are clearly labeled and contain helpful on-tape listening instructions. Although the range of stories is listed on each cassette, a list of all 48 titles would have been a nice addition. This thoughtful presentation of these classic tales is an excellent choice for school and public libraries.

Bonnie Bolton, Cleveland Public Library, OH

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Review

This is a landmark collection. . . . Lester's retellings are sharp and flavorful and grounded in the here and now. -- *Booklist, starred review*

Users Review

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