

NEGRO MYTHS  
FROM THE GEORGIA COAST

*TOLD IN THE VERNACULAR*

BY

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IN MEMORY  
OF  
MONTE VIDEO PLANTATION,  
AND OF THE  
FAMILY SERVANTS  
WHOSE FIDELITY AND AFFECTION CONTRIBUTED SO  
MATERIALLY TO ITS COMFORT AND  
HAPPINESS.

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ebery mile pose. Buh Deer nebber bin know nuttne bout dis plan.

Wen de time come fur run de race, Buh Deer an Buh Cooter bofe stat off togedder. Befo you kin tun roun Buh Deer done gone out uh sight, an lef Buh Cooter in de middle er de road duh laugh to isself. Wen Buh Deer git to de fus mile pose, day was Buh Cooter day head er um. Buh Deer couldnt tell how dat happn. Eh men eh pace. At de nex mile pose day was Buh Cooter a crawlin along. Buh Deer git mad. Eh lay isself out ter eh berry lenk, but befo eh ketch de nex mile pose eh meet Buh Cooter in de road dis a passin er dat pose. Buh Deer jump clean ober um an mek fur de nex mile pose. Eh yent bin want fur bleeve eh own yeye wen eh see Buh Cooter dere done git head er um agin. Eh so mad eh try fuh kick Buh Cooter outer de road, an eh straighten fur de las mile pose. Wen eh git day, eh meet Buh Cooter puffin an er blowin an a leanin up gin de pose duh laugh at um.

An dat de way Buh Cooter fool Buh Deer an win de bet.

## IV.

BUH WOLF, BUH RABBIT, AN DE TAR BABY.

Buh Wolf and Buh Rabbit, dem bin lib nabur. De dry drout come. Ebry ting stew up. Water seace. Buh Wolf dig one spring fuh him fuh git water. Buh Rabbit, him too lazy an too scheemy fuh wuk fuh isself. Eh pen pon lib off tarruh people. Ebry day, wen Buh Wolf yent duh watch um, eh slip to Buh Wolf spring, an eh full him calabash long water an eah um to eh house fuh cook long and fuh drink. Buh Wolf see Buh Rabbit track, but eh couldnt ketch um duh tief de water.

One day eh meet Buh Rabbit in de big road, an eh ax um how eh mek out fur water. Buh Rabbit say him no casion fuh hunt water: him lib off de jew on de grass. Buh Wolf quire: "Enty you blan tek water outer me spring?" Buh Rabbit say: "Me yent." Buh Wolf say: "You yis, enty me see you track?" Buh Rabbit mek answer: "Yent me gone to you spring. Must be some edder rabbit. Me nebber bin nigh you spring. Me dunno way you spring day." Buh Wolf no question um no mo:

but eh know say eh bin Buh Rabbit fuh true, an eh fix plan fuh ketch um.

De same ebenin eh mek Tar Baby, an eh gone an set um right in de middle er de trail wuh lead to de spring, an dist in front er de spring.

Soon a mornin Buh Rabbit rise an tun in fuh cook eh bittle. Eh pot biggin fuh bun. Buh Rabbit say: "Hey! me pot duh bun. Lemme slip to Buh Wolf spring an git some water fuh cool um." So eh tek eh calabash an hop off fuh de spring. Wen eh ketch de spring, eh see de Tar Baby duh tan dist een front er de spring. Eh stonish. Eh stop. Eh come close. Eh look at um. Eh wait fur um fuh mobe. De Tar Baby yent notice um. Eh yent wink eh yeye. Eh yent say nuttne. Eh yent mobe. Buh Rabbit, him say: "Hey titter, enty you guine tan one side an lemme git some water?" De Tar Baby no answer. Den Buh Rabbit say: "Leely Gal, mobe, me tell you, so me kin dip some water outer de spring long me calabash." De Tar Baby wunt mobe. Buh Rabbit say: "Enty you know me pot duh bun? Enty you know me hurry? Enty you yeddy me tell you fuh mobe? You see dis han? Ef you dont go

long and lemme git some water, me guine slap you ober." De Tar Baby stan day. Buh Rabbit haul off an slap um side de head. Eh han fastne. Buh Rabbit try fuh pull eh hand back, an eh say: "Wuh you hole me han fuh? Lemme go. Ef you dont loose me, me guine box de life outer you wid dis tarruh han." De Tar Baby yent crack eh teet. Buh Rabbit hit um, bim, wid eh tarruh han. Dat han fastne too same luk tudder. Buh Rabbit say: "Wuh you up teh? Tun me loose. Ef you dont leggo me right off, me guine knee you." De Tar Baby hole um fas. Buh Rabbit skade an bex too. Eh faid Buh Wolf come ketch um. Wen eh fine eh cant loosne eh han, eh kick de Tar Baby wid eh knee. Eh knee fastne. Yuh de big trouble now. Buh Rabbit skade den wus den nebber. Eh try fuh skade de Tar Baby. Eh say: "Leely Gal, you better mine who you duh fool long. Me tell you, fuh de las time, tun me loose. Ef you dont loosne me han an me knee right off, me guine bus you wide open wid dis head." De Tar Baby hole um fas. Eh yent say one wud. Den Buh Rabbit butt de Tar Baby een eh face. Eh head fastne same fashion luk eh han an eh knee. Yuh de

ting now. Po Buh Rabbit done fuh. Eh fastne all side. Eh cant pull loose. Eh gib up. Eh bague. Eh cry. Eh holler. Buh Wolf yeddy um. Eh run day. Eh hail Buh Rabbit: "Hey, Budder! wuh de trouble? Enty you tell me you no blan wisit me spring fuh git water? Who cala-bash dis? Wuh you duh do yuh anyhow?" Buh Rabbit so condemn eh yent hab one wud fuh talk. Buh Wolf, him say: "Nummine, I done ketch you dis day. I guine lick you now." Buh Rabbit bague. Eh bague. Eh prommus nebber fuh trouble Buh Wolf spring no mo. Buh Wolf laugh at um. Den eh tek an loose Buh Rabbit from de Tar Baby, an eh tie um teh one spakleberry bush, an eh git switch an eh lick um tel eh tired. All de time Buh Rabbit bin a bague an a holler. Buh Wolf yent duh listne ter um, but eh keep on duh pit de lick ter um. At las Buh Rabbit tell Buh Wolf: "Dont lick me no mo. Kill me one time. Mek fire an bun me up. Knock me brains out gin de tree." Buh Wolf mek answer: "Ef I bun you up, ef I knock you brains out, you guine dead too quick. Me guine trow you in de brier patch, so de brier kin cratch you life out." Buh Rabbit say:

"Do Buh Wolf, bun me: broke me neck, but dont trow me in de brier patch. Lemme dead one time. Dont tarrify me no mo." Buh Wolf yent bin know wuh Buh Rabbit up teh. Eh tink eh bin guine tare Buh Rabbit hide off. So, wuh eh do? Eh loose Buh Rabbit from de spakleberry bush, an eh tek um by de hine leg, and eh swing um roun, an eh trow um way in de tick brier patch fuh tare eh hide an cratch eh yeve out. De minnit Buh Rabbit drap in de brier patch, eh cock up eh tail, eh jump, an eh holler back to Buh Wolf: "Good bye, Budder! Dis de place me mammy foteh me up,—dis de place me mammy foteh me up:" an eh gone befo Buh Wolf kin ketch um. Buh Rabbit too scheemy.

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V.

BUH FOWL-HAWK AN BUH ROOSTER.

Buh Fowl-Hawk, him fly ebry day dis way and dat way ober de lan, an eh cant fine nuttne fuh eat. Eh hail de Sun one time, an eh tell um eh so hongry eh ready fuh drap; dat eh cant git bittle fuh eat; an

great miration ober wuh Bub Rabbit bin done, an eh say: "Buh Rabbit, you is suttenly de smartest ob all de animel, an you sense shill git mo an mo ebry day. Mo na dat, me gwine pit white spot on you forrud, so ebrybody kin see you hab de bes sense een you head." An dat de way Buh Rabbit come fuh hab er leely tuff er white hair between eh yez.

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 XLI.

## BUH RABBIT, BUH FOX, AN DE FISHERMAN.

Buh Rabbit es er soon man. You haffer git up befo day fuh head um. Wayebber you fine um, eh yez cock up fuh yeddy ebryting wuh duh gwine on. Eh nose duh twis from side ter side fuh ketch all de scent duh float een de element, an wen eh walk bout eh hop so light you tink der sperit. Eh lub fuh lib close big road an settlement, way him kin quaintun wid all wuh happne, an pick eh chance fuh mek eh libbin easy.

One time er Ole Man hab er fish trap wuh mek wid bode. Eh hab er gate. Wen de tide duh come een de creek, de gate open an

leh de fish een; an wen de tide duh gwine back der ribber, de gate shet an stop all de fish wuh day een de creek. Ebry low tide de Ole Man tek eh leely waggin an wisit eh trap, an collec de fish an pit um een eh waggin an cahr um home fuh him an eh fambly fuh eat.

Buh Rabbit watch de Ole Man es eh pass day arter day long de big road, an eh hanker arter de fish, but eh yent know rightly how fuh git some. Arter er wile eh fix dis plan. De nex time eh see de Ole Man duh comin long de road wid eh waggin an fish, eh led-down dist on de ädge er de road, an eh pant same luk eh bin gwine fuh dead. Es de ole man bin er pass long eh notus um, an eh stop, an eh gone ter um an eh ax um wuh ail um. Buh Rabbit mek answer een er woice so leely you cacely kin yeddy um, an tell um say eh berry sick; dat eh bin gwine home wen eh back an eh leg gie out, an eh couldnt trabble no furder. Den eh bague de Ole Man fuh tek um up een eh waggin an cahr um long de big road tel eh come ter de place way him fuh tun off fuh gwine ter him house. De Ole Man gree fuh do so, an eh liff Buh Rabbit up, an eh pit um een eh waggin long side de pile er fish. Buh Rabbit leddown

luk eh dead. De Ole Man back tun ter Buh Rabbit. Een er leely while Buh Rabbit biggin fuh slip fish outer de waggin, an trow um, onbeknowinst ter de Ole Man, een de bush wuh bin er grow long side er de road. Wen dem mose git ter de place way de Ole Man gwine tun out de big road, Buh Rabbit hop outer de waggin dout de Ole Man shum, an run back an gedder all de fish wuh him bin tief.

Es de Ole Man retch eh big gate, eh look behine fuh see how Buh Rabbit duh mek out; an de fus ting eh know Buh Rabbit yent day een de waggin, an heap er him fish done missin. Den de Ole Man fine out say Buh Rabbit bin fool um an tief eh fish. De Ole Man berry bex, an eh dribe home an tell eh wife bout de ting.

Arter Buh Rabbit done gedder de fish wuh eh bin tief outer de Ole Man waggin, eh pit um on tring, an eh start fuh tote um ter him house. Buh Fox meet um, an eh quire way eh git all dem fish. Buh Rabbit up an tell um. Buh Fox say him want git some too. Den Buh Rabbit mek um senserble wen de Ole Man gwine come long de road, an eh show um good place fuh him fuh wuk eh plan fuh do dist es him bin do.

De nex day Buh Fox tek eh stan sider de big road an wait fuh de Ole Man an eh waggin. Befo long yuh eh come. Buh Fox trow isself on de groun, an roll ober, an moan berry pitiful. De Ole Man shum, an eh light offer eh waggin an run up ter um wid eh big whip een eh han. Buh Fox bin tink say de Ole Man gwine pity um, an tek um een eh waggin same luk eh done Buh Rabbit. Steader dat, an befo eh fine out, de Ole Man knock um een de head wid de butt er eh whip an stunted um. Den eh beat um ter det, an eh tek um up an eh trow um een eh waggin, an eh dribe home. Wen eh git day eh call eh wife an eh show um de tief wuh bin tek eh fish. De Ole Man yent bin know de diffunce tween Buh Rabbit an Buh Fox. Eh tink all two bin de same animal.

Buh Rabbit, him no care so eh sabe isself. Him bin know say Buh Fox gwine ketch de debble wen de Ole Man come pon topper um.



er spade fuh dig de grabe, an bud bin day too fuh sing er hyme.

Wen dem all bin gedder, Buh Rabbit enter dist es careful, an tek eh stan jes by de do. Dem wait leely wile fuh Buh Fox, but him sen wud say him wife hab feber an him couldnt leff um. Den Buh Bear, him tek eh book an eh read um, an eh preach er sar mint. Arter dat de Mockinbud raise er chune, an dem all sing.

All dis time Buh Wolf bin er leddown, tretch out ter eh full lenk, and stiff lucker eh bin dead fuh true. Eh hole eh bref so tight, nobody could yeddy um breave. Wen de preachin an de singin done ober, dem all gone up fuh tek dem las look at Buh Wolf befo dem tote um out fuh bury um. Dem raise up de clorte wuh bin ober eh face, an eh look dist es natrul; an dem tell um goodbye one by one. Buh Rabbit, him walk up las, an eh yent gone berry close needer. Buh Rabbit always tote eh good sense bout um, an eh nebber wil run no resk. Es eh come fuh look topper Buh Wolf, Buh Wolf bin spec say eh woulder tan so close dat eh coulder graff um. But wen eh fine Buh Rabbit sorter skittish, an eh duh ease ehself off, eh tek de chance, an, all ob er

sutten, eh trow ehself offer de bench an eh mek arter Buh Rabbit. Buh Rabbit, him bin hab eh yeye on Buh Wolf all de time, an befo Buh Wolf could mek eh way tru de crowd an come up long um, Buh Rabbit slip out de back do an trow ehself een de brier patch, way Buh Wolf couldnt foller um. De people all stonish, an wen dem fine out de trute er de ting, dem berry bex; an, befo dem leff, dem bemean Buh Wolf sich er fashion eh bin shame fuh show ehself een de settlement fuh many er days. Dat bin er dutty trick wuh Buh Wolf play on eh fren and on Buh Rabbit, but Buh Rabbit, him outdo um.



#### XLVII.

##### DE NEW NIGGER AN EH MOSSA.

Er New Nigger notus say eh Mossa heap er time duh seddown wid eh foot cross, yent duh say nuttne an yent duh do nuttne, wen him haffer wuk all de time. One day eh ax eh Mossa huccum dat. De Buckra man answer: "Wen you see me duh seddown, an you tink me duh lazy, same time me duh



wuk long me head, an duh mek plan, an study pon ting."

Soon arter dat de Buckra man come pon topper de New Nigger een de fiel. De sun hot. Eh bin drap eh hoe, an bin er sed-down on de cotton bed duh res ehself. De Buckra man git bex case de Nigger bin er glee eh wuk, an eh say ter um: "Huccum you stop de wuk wuh me bin gen you fuh do? Wuh mek you duh lazy disher fashion?" Den de New Nigger, him mek answer: "Mossa, me duh wuk long me head." Wen de Buckra man quire wuh kind er head wuk him duh do, de New Nigger say: "Mossa, ef you see tree pigeon duh set on dat tree limb, an you shoot an kill one er dem, how many gwine leff?" Eh Mossa reply: "Any fool kin tell dat. Ob scource two gwine leff." De New Nigger, him mek answer: "No, Mossa, you miss. Ef you shoot an kill one er dem pigeon, de edder two boun fuh fly way, an none gwine leff."

De Buckra man bleege fuh laugh, an eh yent do nuttne ter de New Nigger case eh glee eh wuk.

## XLVIII.

## BUH RABBIT AN DE KING DARTER.

Dere was er King wuh bin hab er pooty Darter, an heap er people bin er cote um. De gal couldnt mek up eh mine which one fuh tek, an so eh ax eh farruh fuh help um pick. Den eh farruh, wuh bin de King, gen out wud say de one wuh kin fetch ter um de Alligatur yeye teet, an water from de Deer yeye, shill hab eh Darter.

All dem wuh bin er cote de gal fix plan fuh git dem ting, but dem fail. Ebry body bin faid Alligatur, an nobody could outrun Buh Deer. Buh Rabbit, him bin berry lub de gal, an him hanker arter marry um, so eh study bout de ting an mek eh scheme. Eh tek eh fiddle an eh gone ter de ribber bank, an eh play er funny chune, an eh sing er funny song. Buh Alligatur yeddy um; an bimeby eh crawl outer de mash grass, an eh leddown close by Buh Rabbit, so him kin ketch all wuh Buh Rabbit der play an der sing. Buh Rabbit do eh bes, an de ting tickle Buh Alligatur so bad eh laugh berry harty. Buh Rabbit play an sing, an pick eh chance, an wen Buh Alligatur duh shet eh