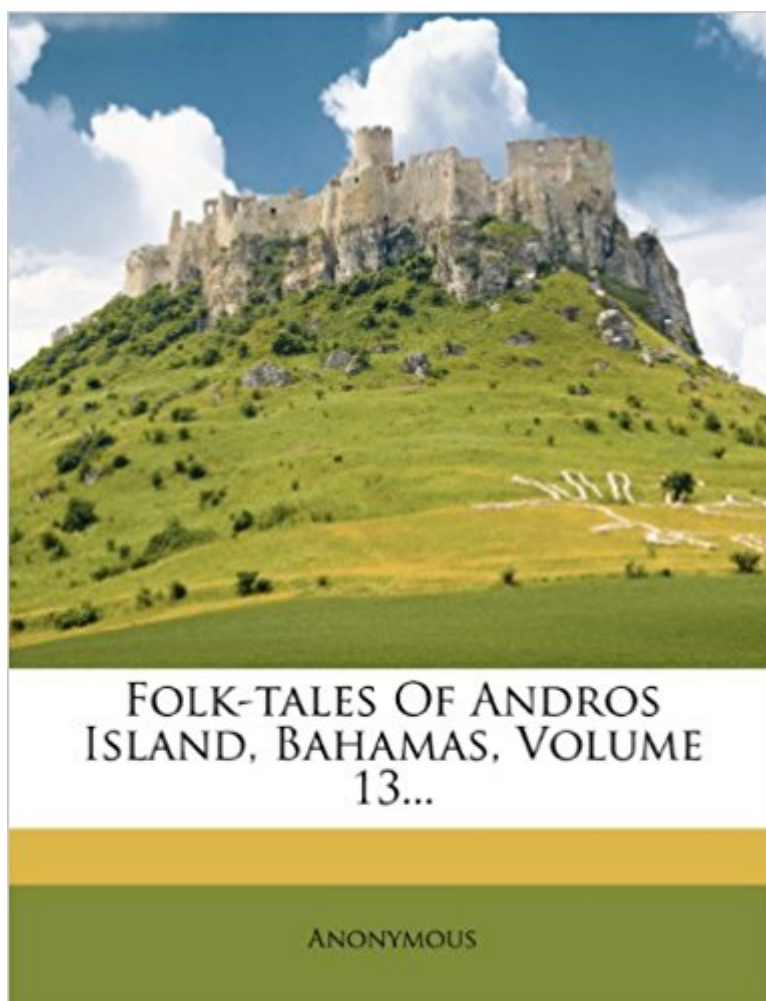


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Folk-tales Of Andros Island, Bahamas, Volume 13...



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This exhaustive collection of Bahamian folk tales from Andros Island was compiled in the early 20th Century. The mixed ethnicities making up the Bahamians are predominantly Black slave stock from the Florida Everglades, Mosquito Coast Indians and Scotch who migrated to Andros Island from the Carolinas during the American Revolution. The oral tradition of these stories bears out with the phonetic spelling of the strong dialect and in fact may take a little adjustment by the reader before feeling familiar. The reader feels like he is becoming part of another time and place in history by

reading the way the story was told. Much of the beauty of these stories is in the raw spoken and magical language that Parsons thankfully has retained. The color and mystery of the language as played out in this version of "Tar Baby" provides just one example: "B'o' Boukee and b'o' Rabbit all de time t'iefin' de people fiel', Now de people set one tar baby in the road. B'o' Boukee say, "Humph, humph, man, dis heah pouty gyirl." Say, "Le'me go play wi' um." When he go to hug de girl, he stick um. When he gone to kiss um he stick um. Say, "Man, I go strike um. Le' go o'me." An' he strike wi' a har' stick. Say, "Mo' [move] from me." When he come to kick, he foot stick. Say, "Man, I butt you wi' my forehead." When he butt him, he forehead stick. "Man," he say, "gwine butt him wi' my bellee." When he butt him, dat stick. Den he hang up on de tree. De woman come. Say, "Oh, you done tiefin' all my victuals." E be, My ol' story is ended. The story is almost carried along by the language itself. Also, these stories do not necessarily or typically end on a happy note. There is seldom a "They lived happily ever after" resolution.

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