

# GREEN PASTURES

A Humorous Reading

by  
Marc Connelly



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Author's note: Unburdened by the differences of theologians, the untutored black Christians of the deep South accept the Old Testament as a chronicle of wonders which happened to people like themselves in vague but actual places and of rules of conduct, true acceptance of which will lead them to a tangible, three-dimensional Heaven. In this Heaven, if one has been born in a district where fish fries are popular, the angels do have magnificent fish fries through an eternity somewhat resembling a series of earthly holidays.

The opening scene is a corner in a Negro church where an elderly preacher is just finishing the reading of the Scriptures.

REV. DESHEE: Want to ask me any questions?

CARLISLE: How God decide He want de worl' to be right yere and how He git de idea He wanted it?

DESHEE: Now, dat's a good question. When I was a little boy de same thing recurred to me. An' de ol' preacher, he said: "De answer is dat de Book ain't got time to go into all de details." And he was right. You know sometimes I think de Lawd expects us to figure out a few things for ourselves. We know that at one time dey wasn't anything 'cept Heaven; den one day de Lawd got the idea he'd like to make some places. He made de sun and de moon, de stars. An' he made de earth.

MYRTLE: Who was aroun' den, nothin' but angels?

DESHEE: I suppose so.

FIRST BOY: What was de angels doin' up dere?

DESHEE: Oh, I suppose dey jest flew aroun' and had a good time.

FIRST BOY: Did dey have picnics?

DESHEE: Sho, dey had the nicest kind of picnics! Dey probably had fish fries. Yes, sir, I bet dey had a fish fry every week.

MYRTLE: When was dat, Mr. Deshee?

DESHEE: Why, when he was gettin' things started down heah.--Pretty near time fo' you chillun to go home to dinner, but before I let you go I wan' you to go over wid me de main facts of de lesson. De name of de book is Genesis. And dis yere's Chapter One.

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