



## Selected Plays

By Alice Childress

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### Selected Plays By Alice Childress

As the first African American woman to have a play professionally produced in New York City (*Gold Through the Trees*, in 1952) and the first woman to win an Obie for Best Play (for *Trouble in Mind*, in 1956), Alice Childress occupies an important but surprisingly under-recognized place in American drama. She herself rejected an emphasis on the pioneering aspects of her career, saying that “it’s almost like it’s an honor rather than a disgrace” and that she should “be the fiftieth and the thousandth by this point”—a remark that suggests the complexity and singularity of vision to be found in her plays. Childress worked as an actress before turning to playwriting in 1949, and she was a political activist all of her life.

Spanning the 1940s to the 1960s, the plays collected here are the ones Childress herself believed were her best, and offer a realistic portrait of the racial inequalities and social injustices that characterized these decades. Her plays often feature strong-willed female protagonists whose problems bring into harsh relief the restrictions faced by African American women. This is the first volume devoted exclusively to the work of a major playwright whose impact on the American theater was profound and lasting.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

Alice Childress (1916—1994) was a playwright, novelist, and actress. Among her best-known plays are *Trouble in Mind* (1955), *Wedding Band* (1966), and *Wine in the Wilderness* (1969). She was the first African American woman to have a play professionally produced in New York City and the first woman to win an Obie Award for Best Play. She is also the author of *A Hero Ain't Nothin' But a Sandwich*, a young-adult novel that was also made into a film.

Kathy A. Perkins is a Professor of Theatre at the University of Illinois. She is the editor of *Black Female Playwrights: An Anthology of Plays before 1950*, *Black South African Women: An Anthology of Plays*, and *African Women Playwrights*. She is co-editor of *Contemporary Plays by Women of Color* and *Strange Fruit: Plays on Lynching by American Women*. She has been an award-winning lighting designer for productions throughout the United States, Europe, and South Africa.

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#### Joel Connolly:

Spent a free time for you to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic within the park. They actually doing same thing every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Can be reading a book can be option to fill your no cost time/ holiday. The first thing that you'll ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to try look for book, may be the reserve untitled Selected Plays can be fine book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

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