



Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)

By Suzan-Lori Parks

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Finalist, 2015 Pulitzer Prize for Drama

"The finest work yet from this gifted writer."—*The New York Times*

Offered his freedom if he joins his master in the ranks of the Confederacy, Hero, a slave, must choose whether to leave the woman and people he loves for what may be another empty promise. As his decision brings him face to face with a nation at war with itself, the ones Hero left behind debate whether to escape or wait for his return, only to discover that for Hero, freedom may have come at a great spiritual cost. A devastatingly beautiful dramatic work, *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2, & 3)* is the opening trilogy of a projected nine-play cycle that will ultimately take us into the present.

Suzan-Lori Parks became the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize for Drama for her play *Topdog/Underdog* in 2002. Her other plays include *The Book of Grace*, *In the Blood*, *Venus*, *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, *Fucking A*, *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* and *The America Play*. In 2007 her *365 Days/365 Plays* was produced at more than seven hundred theaters worldwide. Parks is a MacArthur Fellow and the Master Writer Chair at the Public Theater.

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Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3) By Suzan-Lori Parks Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"One of the top plays of the year... A richly textured mix of Brechtian allegory and Homeric epic, finding new meaning in an essential American tragedy." —Richard Zoglin, *Time*

"By turns philosophical and playful, lyrical and earthy, *Father Comes Home from the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)* swoops, leaps, dives and soars, reimagining a turbulent turning point in American history through a cockeyed contemporary lens... The wonder of Ms. Parks's achievement is how smoothly she blends the high and the low, the serious and the humorous, the melodramatic and the grittily realistic." —Charles Isherwood, *New York Times*

"Suzan-Lori Parks's stunning new drama is that rare work of art: one that bears the heavy burden of its subject matter—the peculiar institution of American slavery— but that carries it lightly... Parks brings the full force of her dramatic power. She both elevates her themes with echoes of classic literature, while at the same time doubling down on comedy... This is serious work that is seriously entertaining." —Thom Geier, *Entertainment Weekly*

"The best new play of the year... It is bold, hugely entertaining, moving and thrillingly ambitious. Suzan-Lori Parks bids fair to create a sprawling multi-part epic to plant alongside August Wilson's monumental *Century Cycle*, one of the great achievements in theater history. Parts 4 through 9 (or more?) can't come fast enough." —Michael Giltz, *Huffington Post*

"Suzan-Lori Parks may reach back to the ancient Greeks for references and structure, but her play delivers an in-themoment gut punch. *Father Comes Home from the Wars* is an insightful, poetic, often heartbreaking look at the devastations of war and slavery and the complications of freedom." —Robert Feldberg, *Bergen Record*

"One of the most provocative playwrights we have." —Linda Winer, *Newsday*

"Can one-third of something already be a masterpiece? Seems like it to me... People long for stories that engage the deepest possible issues in the most gripping possible ways. *Father Comes Home from the Wars* is one of those stories—or maybe more than one." —Jesse Green, *New York*

"Brilliant, beautiful . . . This haunting work is funny and tragic, whimsical and lacerating, poetic and poignant... If Parks can sustain her sprawling project at this level as it moves forward, there's every reason to hope it will ultimately become no less significant and emotionally resonant an undertaking than August Wilson's ten-play *Century Cycle*." —David Rooney, *Hollywood Reporter*

"Parks's richest, most satisfying play... The real news isn't that Parks has hit the mark with a complex and ambitious work—she undoubtedly has. It's that the playful spirit of her best work turns out to be alive and well." —Tom Sellar, *Village Voice*

"Suzan-Lori Parks has finally arrived at classical proportions: her Civil War triptych is built along the sharp,

symmetrical lines of Greek tragedy and Homeric epic... The language is poetic and formal, a modified nineteenth-century slave idiom, imbued with Parks's improvisatory, jazzy irreverence... After decades in which Parks encouraged us to get lost in the holes of history, she's playing where theater began: with song, story, ritual and catharsis." —David Cote, *Time Out New York*

"Provocative and rich... earthy and irreverently funny, neither pompous tragedy nor Ken Burns-type reenactment." —Elisabeth Vincentelli, *New York Post*

About the Author

Named one of *TIME* magazine's "100 Innovators for the Next New Wave," in 2002 Suzan-Lori Parks became the first African American woman to receive the Pulitzer Prize in Drama for her Broadway hit *Topdog/Underdog*. A MacArthur "Genius" Fellowship recipient, she has also been awarded grants by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the New York State Council on the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She is the recipient of a Lila Wallace–Reader's Digest Award, a CalArts/ Herb Alpert Award in the Arts (Theatre) for 1996 and a Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. She is an alumna of Mount Holyoke College and New Dramatists.

Her numerous plays include *Father Comes Home From the Wars* (2015 Pulitzer Prize finalist, 2015 Edward M. Kennedy Prize for Drama Inspired by American History, 2014 Horton Foote Prize), *The Book of Grace*, *Topdog/Underdog* (2002 Pulitzer Prize), *In the Blood* (2000 Pulitzer Prize finalist), *Venus* (1996 OBIE Award), *The Death of the Last Black Man in the Whole Entire World*, *Fucking A*, *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* (1990 OBIE Award for Best New American Play) and *The America Play*. Parks's work on *The Gershwins' Porgy and Bess* earned the production a Tony Award for Best Revival of a Musical in 2012. In 2007 her *365 Plays/365 Days* was produced in more than seven hundred theaters worldwide, creating one of the largest grassroots collaborations in theater history. Her work is the subject of the PBS Film *The Topdog Diaries*.

Suzan-Lori's first novel, *Getting Mother's Body*, was published by Random House in 2003. Her first feature-length screenplay was *Girl 6* written for Spike Lee. She's also written screenplays for Brad Pitt, Denzel Washington, Jodie Foster and Oprah Winfrey, adapting Zora Neale Hurston's classic novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, which premiered on ABC's Oprah Winfrey Presents. As a film actor Parks has appeared in the fictional documentary *The Making of Plus One*, which premiered at the Cannes Film Festival in 2009.

In November 2008 Suzan-Lori Parks became the first recipient of the Master Writer Chair at The Public Theater. At The Public, and as she tours the country, she performs her innovative performance piece, *Watch Me Work*, a play with action and dialogue/a meta-theatrical writing class. She also serves as a visiting arts professor in dramatic writing at New York University's Tisch School of the Arts.

Holding honorary doctorates from Brown University, among others, Suzan-Lori credits her writing teacher and mentor, James Baldwin, for starting her on the path of playwriting. One of the first to recognize Parks's writing skills, Mr. Baldwin declared Parks "an astonishing and beautiful creature who may become one of the most valuable artists of our time."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Kara Corbett:

The book Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3) can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave the great thing like a book Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3)? Wide variety you have a different opinion about book. But one aim which book can give many data for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer with the book. Knowledge or info that you take for that, you can give for each other; you could share all of these. Book Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3) has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and large function for you. You can appear the enormous world by open and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Roberto Reyes:

Reading can called thoughts hangout, why? Because while you are reading a book specially book entitled Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3) your brain will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each and every aspect that maybe unidentified for but surely might be your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a publication then become one type conclusion and explanation that will maybe you never get prior to. The Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3) giving you yet another experience more than blown away your head but also giving you useful information for your better life with this era. So now let us present to you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind is going to be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a game. Do you want to try this extraordinary wasting spare time activity?

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Richard Vedder:

What is your hobby? Have you heard that will question when you got college students? We believe that that problem was given by teacher with their students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. Therefore you know that little person just like reading or as reading through become their hobby. You need to understand that reading is very important as well as book as to be the thing. Book is important thing to increase you knowledge, except your own personal teacher or lecturer. You find good news or update about something by book. Amount types of books that can you decide to try be your object. One of them is this Father Comes Home From the Wars (Parts 1, 2 & 3).

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