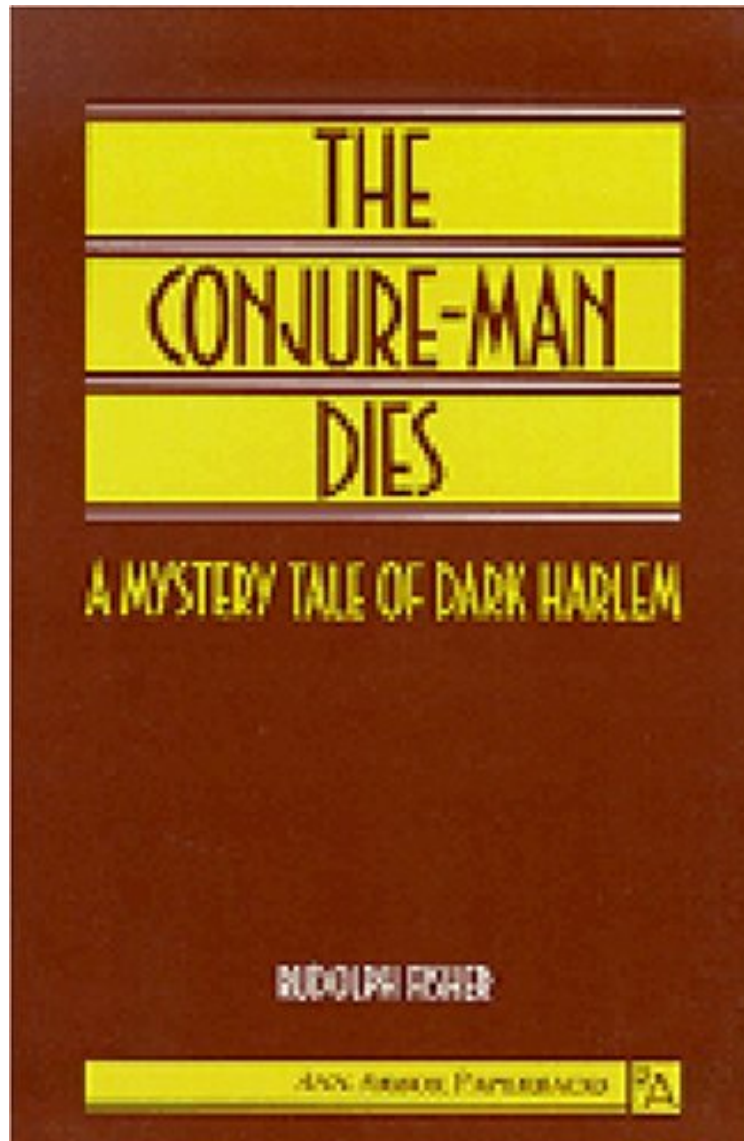


[Free] The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem (Ann Arbor Paperbacks)

## The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem (Ann Arbor Paperbacks)

*Rudolph Fisher*

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**Rudolph Fisher : The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem (Ann Arbor Paperbacks)** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Conjure-Man Dies: A Mystery Tale of Dark Harlem (Ann Arbor Paperbacks):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Timeless story telling  
By Tyler Johnson  
This book was a pleasant surprise. I was introduced to Rudolph Fisher in a Noir class I took, when we read his short story "John Archer's Nose". It was a fast, fun story that, despite its age, read as if it could have been written today. As soon as I was finished I rushed out and bought this. I am pleased to say that I was not disappointed in the least. The Conjure man dies follows Detective Perry Dart, Harlem PD, and Doctor John Archer, as they investigate the death of a local conjure man. The cast of characters are wonderfully written, bursting with charm and character. The mystery surrounding the dead man is inventive, taking several twists before its satisfying conclusion. Unlike so many books in the same genre, despite an archaic term or two, this book reads as if it was written today, with the pace moving along at an enjoyable clip. If you are looking for a murder mystery with charm, wit, and humor, look no further. A definite buy.  
5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. First detective novel by a Black American  
By Patto  
I discovered this book through my recommendations. In this case, their mysterious calculations delivered a treasure!  
Rudolph Fisher, a major figure in the Harlem Renaissance, died at age thirty-seven, having written only two novels and some short stories. His detective novel, *The Conjure-Man Dies*, is a complete delight. According to most sources, this is the first detective novel by an African American. There are no white characters. The crime victim is Frimbo, an African king in his own land, and in Harlem a Harvard graduate who makes his living by the exercise of his tribal psychic powers. He is invisibly and bizarrely murdered in the dark recesses of his office in the very midst of predicting the future. Suspects include the various people consulting with Frimbo that evening, not to mention his cock-eyed servant. There are three investigators, not merely one! Detective Dart, a rare Black detective, is out to prove his worth. Doctor Archer, called to the scene of the crime, lends his logical and forensic insights to help Dart. Then there's Bubber Brown, ex-street cleaner turned private eye, hoping to clear his friend from suspicion of the murder. The plot has such amazing twists that I won't say anything more about it. Published in 1932, *The Conjure-Man Dies* treats us to lots of vintage black humor, including witty insults between loveable ne'er-do-wells and Detective Dart's struggles with Dr. Archer's professorial jargon. I suspect that Fisher, who was a successful doctor as well as an important writer, might have influenced the attractive character of Doctor Archer. *The Conjure-Man Dies* offers a lively picture of Harlem in the twenties. I strongly recommend it as an exotic reading experience, as well as a highly original mystery.  
0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. hands down, a Masterpiece!  
By Anu Ray  
This book is a must have for anyone interested in the Harlem Renaissance, Mystery Literature, and simply good story telling. I eventually bought this book in a first edition copy for several hundred dollars a few years ago. The book adequately and provocatively illustrates the attraction of a good mystery novel. The book is simply brilliant. A great American story about the social interaction of race, justice, and survival in 1920's Harlem with all the pomp, ceremony, and show of a traveling circus. In the end, Fischer was brilliant and far ahead of his time. Langston Hughes often praised him as a savant worthy of the title of artistic genius who died far too early....

The first known mystery written by an African-American, set in 1930s Harlem

From the Back Cover  
Originally published in 1932, this book is the first known mystery novel written by an African-American. Rudolph Fisher, one of the principal writers of the Harlem Renaissance, becomes a 'conjure-man', a fortune teller, a mysterious figure who remains shrouded in darkness while his clients sit directly across from him, singly bathed in light. It is in this configuration that one of these seekers of the revelation of fate discovers he is speaking to a dead man.