

Honorée Fanonne Jeffers is at a crossroads.

Traditional African/Black American cultures present the crossroads as a place of simultaneous difficulty and potential. In contemporary times, Kimberlé Crenshaw coined the phrase “intersectionality” to explain the unique position of Black women in America. In many ways, they are at a third crossroads: attempting to fit into notions of femininity and respectability primarily assigned to White women while improvising strategies to combat oppression.

In *Misbehaving at the Crossroads*, Jeffers explores the emotional and historical tensions in Black women’s public lives and her own private life. She charts voyages from Black girlhood to womanhood and the currents buffeting these journeys, including the obstacles of racially gendered oppression, the challenges of documenting Black women’s ancestry, the adultification of Black girls, the irony of Black female respectability politics, the origins of womanism/Black feminism, and resistance to White supremacy and patriarchy. As Jeffers shows with empathy and wisdom, naming difficult historical truths represents both blues and transcendence, a crossroads that speaks.

Necessary and sharply observed, provocative and humane, and full of the insight and brilliance that have characterized Jeffers’s poetry and fiction, *Misbehaving at the Crossroads* illustrates the life of one extraordinary Black woman—and her extraordinary foremothers.

**HONORÉE FANONNE JEFFERS** is a fiction writer, poet, and essayist. She is the author of the acclaimed *New York Times* bestseller and Oprah’s Book Club pick *The Love Songs of W. E. B. Du Bois*, which won the National Book Critics Circle Award in Fiction and the Dayton Literary Peace Prize and was nominated for the National Book Award; as well as five poetry collections, including the NAACP Image Award–winning *The Age of Phillis*, also nominated for the National Book Award.

READ BY KAREN CHILTON

 Harper Audio

Runtime: 11h. 35m. • Unabridged

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The Playaway format is recommended for children ages 5 and up.



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