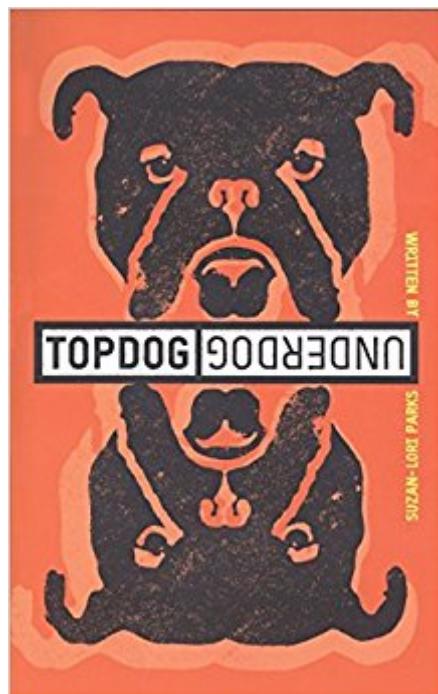


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# Topdog/Underdog



## **Synopsis**

A darkly comic fable of brotherly love and family identity is Suzan-Lori Parks latest riff on the way we are defined by history. The play tells the story of Lincoln and Booth, two brothers whose names were given to them as a joke, foretelling a lifetime of sibling rivalry and resentment. Haunted by the past, the brothers are forced to confront the shattering reality of their future. Suzan-Lori Parks is the author of numerous plays, including *In the Blood* and *Venus*. She is currently head of the A.S.K. Theater Projects Writing for Performance Program at the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

One of the contemporary American theater's most innovative wordsmiths. Her plays include: *Topdog/Underdog* (2002 Pulitzer Prize for Drama), *In the Blood* (2000 Pulitzer-nominee), *Fucking A*, *Venus* (OBIE Award), *The America Play* and *Imperceptible Mutabilities in the Third Kingdom* (OBIE Award, Best New American Play). She is also a screenwriter, novelist, and MacArthur "Genius" grantee.

*Topdog/Underdog* is an accomplished work, and I can't recommend it highly enough. Parks offers a story of two brothers to explore the racial and racializing logics of modern America, thinking smartly about the relation between the past and the present, and delivering a thoughtful, poignant, and suspenseful drama in punchy language. A must.

I really liked this book, although written in play form.

Parks' amazing and masterfully written play explores a complex brother relationship that burns from the opening scene all the way through the dynamic and show-stopping conclusion. No wonder Mos Def, Don Cheadle and Jeffrey Wright gravitated to this work, and brought it to life like very few modern plays. The language is true to form & culture of post 9/11 New York, yet easily fits in the Post-Obama world, because the social dynamics haven't really changed. Would eagerly stand in line for a revival of this work.

Fantastic book! great story, great play, great writing, buy it.

Parks' play is a well crafted drama about two brothers' lives smoothly built around their relationship with 3-card monte. She does a strong job of handling the darker aspects of sibling rivalry, poverty, and family. I mostly enjoyed *Topdog/Underdog* for its raw toughness and the way the two-character structure brought out the inner workings and different demons of the two brothers. While not the greatest play ever, it is a good, solid dramatic work and definitely worth reading.

Other than the fact that this is a great book I also enjoyed the price of this book. Great product and great quality.

It was great

Ms. Park's play is one of the best plays I have read in a long time. her character's jump out at you and from the first page you are hooked into their lives. It focuses on the relationship between two brothers named Lincoln and Booth. The play has twists and turns and there is always a sense of danger looming. She develops both the characters and story in a very clever way, and uses metaphors for what a black man in today's white America may sometimes feel. As a white woman I do not know what those feelings are like, but this play taught me what they may be like. read this play. It says something very important that we all should know.

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