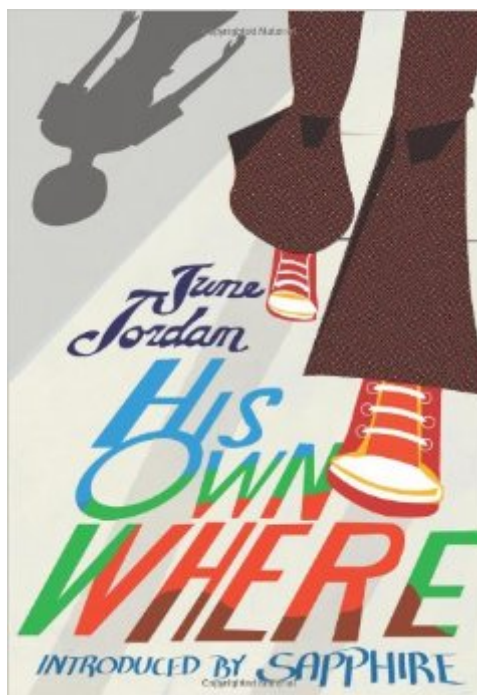


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# His Own Where (Contemporary Classics)



## Synopsis

• This June Jordan treasure is a rare piece of fiction from one of America's most vital poets and political essayists; a tender story of young love in the face of generational opposition, a modern-day Romeo and Juliet that sings and sways. • Walter Mosley Nominated for a National Book Award in 1971, *His Own Where* is the story of Buddy, a fifteen-year-old boy whose world is spinning out of control. He meets Angela, whose angry parents accuse her of being "wild." When life falls apart for Buddy and his father, and when Angela is attacked at home, they take action to create their own way of staying alive in Brooklyn. In the process, the two find refuge in one another and learn that love is real and necessary. *His Own Where* was one of The New York Times' Most Outstanding Books and was on the American Library Association's list of Best Books in 1971. June Jordan was a poet, essayist, journalist, dramatist, activist, and educator known for challenging oppression through her inspirational words and actions. She was the founder of Poetry for the People at the University of California, Berkeley, where she taught for many years. The author of over twenty books, her poetry is collected in *Directed by Desire*; her selected essays in *Some of Us Did Not Die*. Sapphire is the author of *American Dreams*, *Black Wings & Blind Angels*, and *Push*, which was made into the 2009 award-winning motion picture *Precious*.

## Book Information

Series: Contemporary Classics

Paperback: 112 pages

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Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.3 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars • See all reviews (8 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #750,444 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #105 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #148 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways #265 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Physical & Emotional Abuse

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 8 and up

## Customer Reviews

June Jordan's *His Own Where* is more marginalia than novel, more talisman than story. It brings to mind the crackle of a record; the sonic traces indelibly left when experiences score themselves upon our memory. Charting the adolescent love story between Buddy and Angela, its purity of sentiment is admirable and reminds us of the value of human relationships, in the face of multifaceted and institutional opposition. Despite this deep awareness of the complexity of social structure, Jordan's writing retains a clarity of vision that locates her text precisely at the intersection of the political and the poetic. Feel it as it moves over your body, a little off kilter - spark as it reaches particular lyric moments. It hits hard, and you can't quite see it coming. Think dialect, the vernacular and colloquial speech patterns as laid upon a page - Jordan's book becomes accessible to younger readers while performing essential transvaluations within the hierarchy of language (of the written above the oral). Ultimately, Jordan's book transcends the limits of how and what can be said from a variety of minority positions. *His Own Where* promises to reach diverse audiences - a valuable read for all.

Can I just tell you about the rhythm of the story? It ebbs and flows and rolls through your mind. The sincere and genuine love between Angela and Buddy is the naive yet unyielding love that I know I have experienced back when I was the kid who was going up against the world. I read this in a sitting because the story soothed me. Although Angela and Buddy were living in the brokenhearted Brooklyn they had love. There was always a struggle but they were there to love one another the consequences of their love... because the love was there; Buddy had his Angela and she had him. Loved it. So poetic. I wish it was longer.

It's wonderful to see a new edition of this in print. Jordan's fiction is often overshadowed by her brilliant poetry and essays, but this book shouldn't be neglected--it's a great starting point for someone who hasn't dipped much into Jordan's body of work, and just because it's a novel doesn't mean it's any less poetic or political than her other writings. This beautiful book is given a valuable introduction by Sapphire, who focuses on the deceptively simple language Jordan uses. Worth reading for June Jordan fans, Sapphire fans, and people who haven't read either of them before--absolutely essential for anyone wanting to give just representation to modern black women writers in his or her library.

How this brilliant piece of literature was ever out of print escapes all logic. *His Own Where* is

categorized as Young Adult fiction, but its artistic merits demand the attention of readers of all ages. The combination of Black English and June Jordan's poetic narrative makes for a beautiful and intriguing read, as well as an efficient and fascinating way of capturing the emotions and actions of young love. In addition to Jordan's outstanding use of language, the plot and characters hold one's attention and offer a social commentary that is still relevant thirty-nine years after the book's initial publication. Sapphire's introduction celebrates and brings attention to Jordan's impressive manipulation of language, building expectations that Jordan never fails to meet.

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