



Dessa Rose: A Novel

By Sherley A. Williams

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“Having this treasure of a book available again for new and more readers is not only necessary, it is imperative.” —Toni Morrison

Expanding the canon of African American literature, alongside Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple*, and Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*, Sherley Anne Williams’ critically acclaimed and unforgettable *Dessa Rose* is a novel of two powerfully conceived female protagonists forging a vital friendship in the face of racial divides in the antebellum South.

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Dessa Rose: A Novel By Sherley A. Williams Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Library Journal

In her first novel, poet/critic Williams depicts the story of runaway slave Dessa Rose and a white woman who harbors runaways on her isolated farm. Dessa's story begins when she attacks the master who has killed her husband. Sold to a slave trader from whom she and some companions escape, Dessa is captured and interviewed by a man writing a book on slave rebellions. Her companions free her and, hiding on Miss Rufel's farm, they plot their escape to the West. Dessa's evolving relationship with Miss Rufel speaks volumes about the complex feelings between white and black women then and now. Unfortunately, the initial exposition, alternating between the interviewer and Dessa's dazed flashbacks, is slow-moving and confusing, giving no hint of the richness to come. Rewarding for the persistent reader. Janet Boyarin Blundell, M.L.S., Brookdale Community Coll., Lincroft, N.J.
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Review

"Having this treasure of a book available again for new and more readers is not only necessary, it is imperative." (Toni Morrison)

"A deep, rich, compelling work. . . . I am astonished, moved, and delighted with the language, the thought, the obvious collaboration of the ancestors and the love I read on these pages." (Alice Walker)

"A powerful story. . . . Emotionally affecting and totally unforgettable." (New York Times)

"Extraordinary. . . . These two women achieve one of the most intricate and ambivalent relationships in contemporary fiction." (Los Angeles Times)

"Destined to become a modern classic." (Chicago Tribune)

"Absorbing...Deeply true and brilliantly imagined." (Newsday)

From the Back Cover

This acclaimed historical novel is based on two actual incidents: In 1829 in Kentucky, a pregnant black woman helped lead an uprising of a group of slaves headed to the market for sale. She was sentenced to death, but her hanging was delayed until after the birth of her baby. In North Carolina in 1830, a white woman living on an isolated farm was reported to have given sanctuary to runaway slaves. In *Dessa Rose*, the author asks the question: "What if these two women met?"

From there the story unfolds: two strong women, one black, one white, form a forbidden and ambivalent alliance; a bold scheme is hatched to win freedom; trust is slowly extended and cautiously accepted as the two women unite and discover greater strength together than alone. United by fate but divided by prejudice, these two women are locked in a thrilling battle for freedom, sisterhood, friendship, and love.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Phyllis Richards:

Why don't make it to become your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a e-book. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Dessa Rose: A Novel. Try to make book Dessa Rose: A Novel as your close friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated to suit your needs. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So , let us make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Jeffrey Chambers:

Spent a free time to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their particular friends. Usually they performing activity like watching television, planning to beach, or picnic inside the park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? Could possibly be reading a book is usually option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of e-book that you should read. If you want to consider look for book, may be the book untitled Dessa Rose: A Novel can be fine book to read. May be it can be best activity to you.

Ellis Pauling:

The book untitled Dessa Rose: A Novel contain a lot of information on this. The writer explains the girl idea with easy method. The language is very straightforward all the people, so do not worry, you can easy to read this. The book was written by famous author. The author will bring you in the new period of literary works. It is possible to read this book because you can please read on your smart phone, or model, so you can read the book inside anywhere and anytime. If you want to buy the e-book, you can open their official web-site and also order it. Have a nice go through.

Susan Arnold:

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