



Eden's Gates

Charles Roberts

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Lavinia Williamson, born into an abolitionist family in the mountains of Virginia, falls in love with a handsome plantation owner from eastern Virginia, marries him, and becomes the lady of the manor. Viewing the social injustice of human bondage on their plantation, she becomes a friend to the family's slaves. After the death of her own daughter, she is especially taken with one of her husband's daughters by a beautiful slave. Lavinia is torn between the love/hate relationship she has with her philandering husband, the responsibilities of running a tobacco plantation worked by the slaves she begins to love as her own people, and the question of human rights. What can one woman do to change the world around her? Lavinia's involvement with the Underground Railroad that secretly operates through Virginia gives her life meaning, but it also creates fear, secrecy, hope, failure, triumph, and the conviction that she is in the right. Charles Roberts grew up in the mountains of Virginia. He attended several universities in Virginia as well as New York University. He was a professor for twenty five years at a college in New England. "During this tenure, I became astutely aware of the still-existent social pressures caused by racial prejudice. Having been raised in the South, I was very conscious of the differences in the lives of American blacks and whites. I am totally devoted to the acknowledgement of human dignity by all societies and hope the true facts behind the story of Lavinia's trail of tribulation can spark respect for others in many of my fellow men." Publisher's website: <http://sbprabooks.com/CharlesRoberts> Author's website: www.edensgates.com

Eden's Gates Details

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From Reader Review Eden's Gates for online ebook

Laura Brown says

This is a great first novel by a Macon, GA author who self published in 2014. Though a bit long, it is a great read and it keeps moving. The characters are multi-faceted and engaging. I would love to find out what's next for these characters and keep on reading!

Viviane Crystal says

Lavinia Williamson, raised in an Abolitionist family, marries a Virginia plantation owner who owns slaves. For the most part, the slaves are treated well who work in the house, but those who work in the fields suffer from the harsh work and the treatment of overseers. Lavinia thus becomes a careful slave runner, helping slaves to escape to the North. But this is an extremely dangerous enterprise for the cost of escape is huge and death is the likely outcome of being captured.

Lavinia and her husband have lost a daughter to death, and their marriage has become shattered, aggravated by Lionel's affairs with other women and the slave women. Now, she discovers Henny, a young slave, whose eyes are a perfect replica of her dead daughter's eyes and Lavinia knows that Lionel has fathered her. When looking at Henny, Lavinia knows she can find peace and some comfort in raising this young girl as her own daughter. But the cost of doing this is more estrangement from Lionel.

This then is the essence of this novel which focuses not only on raising Henny to read and write and be a cultured lady but the tension of more slaves escaping and Lavinia's part in their freedom through the Underground Railroad (as it was then called, a journey from house to house all the way to the North of America). It covers the effects of one woman's arrest after aiding over two hundred slaves to escape.

Many of the scenes in between these highlights allow the reader to observe the Southern belle mentality that often sets the standards of behavior but also exposes the hypocrisy and unchristian behavior toward those who believed in the equality of all men and women despite color.

Eden's Gates is an intriguing, engaging read reflective of a time in American history when animosity and division failed to stop the Abolition movement from effectively growing and freeing thousands of slaves. Commendable and highly recommended historical fiction!
