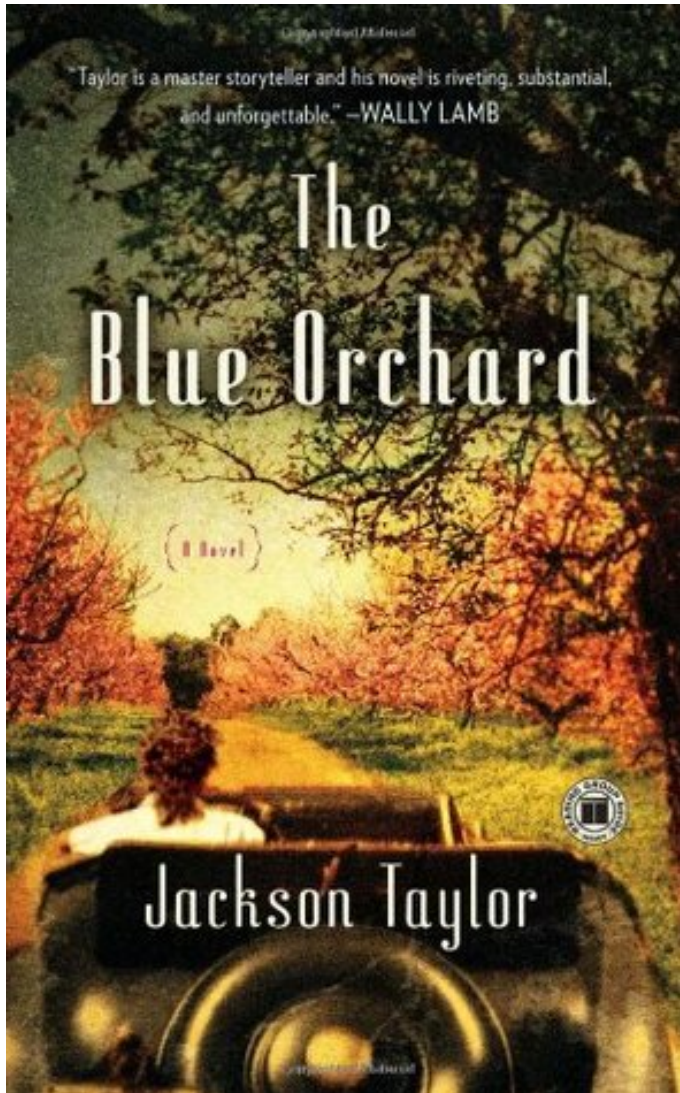

Jackson Taylor

The Blue Orchard



Title: The Blue Orchard

Author: Jackson Taylor

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Description

On the eve of the Great Depression, Verna Krone, the child of Irish immigrants, must leave the eighth grade and begin working as a maid to help support her family. Her employer takes inappropriate liberties, and as Verna matures, it seems as if each man she meets is worse than the last. Through sheer force of will and a few chance encounters, she manages to teach herself to read and becomes a nurse. But Verna's new life falls to pieces when she is arrested for assisting a black doctor with "illegal surgeries." As the media firestorm rages, Verna reflects on her life while awaiting trial.

Based on the life of the author's own grandmother and written after almost three hundred interviews with those involved in the real-life scandal, *The Blue Orchard* is as elegant and moving as it is exact and convincing. It is a dazzling portrayal of the changes America underwent in the first fifty years of the twentieth century. Readers will be swept into a time period that in many ways mirrors our own. Verna Krone's story is ultimately a story of the indomitable nature of the human spirit—and a reminder that determination and self-education can defy the deforming pressures that keep women and other disenfranchised groups down.

Insightful reviews

Connie: I found this book to be extremely thought-provoking, and I am very glad that I found it at my local public library. It was both interesting and heartbreaking to read about the history of both blacks and whites in the eastern US in approximately the first half of the twentieth century.

I have decided that I absolutely despise Verna, who is the main character. She represents much of what I abhor: greed, narcissism, insensitivity, lack of responsibility

I have similar feelings about Dr Crampton, but I am not as critical due to the fact that he did make very significant contributions to his African American community.

Abortion is the major issue in this book, but it was not a main issue for me because I understand all viewpoints on abortion and do not condemn either side.

Mary: Well-written account of the life of Verna Krone, grandmother of the author. Having to drop out of school early to help support her family, Verna overcame many obstacles to learn to read and eventually became a nurse. Because of the lure of money and a conviction to make available a safe and sanitary place for women to obtain abortions, Verna got a job assisting a black doctor in Harrisburg. Read the book to find out why she was exonerated. The story takes place during the first half of the 1900's and was published after ten years of extensive research. Of equal interest to hearing Verna's story, was reading about the history and politics of Harrisburg and the surrounding area since I was born and raised here.

Angie: A book club choice, this novel deals with compelling subject matter (all the more interesting when one learns that it is based on the author's grandmother's life). The first third was supremely engaging--I was invested in the characters' lives, but then the story devolves

into a lot of plot and cliched dialogue. The entire narrative is told via a journal, which has benefits (the beginning is lushly introspective) and drawbacks (it feels awkwardly forced for at least the second half). Overall, I still liked the novel: I liked the multi-layered power dynamic between family members, men/women, business relations, race relations, social class issues; I mainly enjoyed it because I love a good story, I only wished it would have followed on the trajectory that the first 75 pages set.

Zeek: attention-grabbing beginning. uninteresting end. I was once gonna elect 2 stars, simply because it is a good written tale but, pondering again on it, i simply can't permit myself. I loved the references to a city i do know well, Harrisburg, regrettably the atmosphere and time of the radical have been extra extraordinary then the characters. In the 1930s, Verna Krone, leaves tuition early to be able to get a task to aid aid her family. the guy within the kin she's operating for molests and finally rapes her, and each guy after that during her life, should not a lot better. Little ask yourself she finally ends up operating for a Black surgeon who secretly conducts abortions- as but opposed to the law. She manages to upward push above her way of life as a result of it, yet nonetheless got here off embittered by way of it all. Fortunately, the surgeon she works for is likely one of the "good" ones- in that he plays the surgical procedures in a sterile, respectful environment. The publication is known as a flashback on Verna's lifestyles as she stands trial for partaking in her employer's unlawful activities. The publication begins interesting, as i like tales set within the nice melancholy for a few ordinary reason, however the final 3rd of the publication yes fails to have interaction the reader for any such passion-inducing subject. So yeah, 1 star.

Jackie: Blah...Verna Krone, sensible nurse through the depression, must have put in a revolving door at her apartment for the boys that got here and went. She alternatives up all of the losers, bears a son, Sam who she by no means cares for, and works for an African-American surgeon who administers abortions even though they're unlawful on the time. unsure if this can be a political tale in regards to the worth of legalized abortion, or approximately promiscuous ladies and the difficulty they locate themselves in, or simply a narrative with manner too many characters and a whole lot beside the point sub-story lines. only a bore. no longer definitely worth the time to learn it.

L: Verna isn't a particularly sympathetic lead, although a few will most probably characteristic her personality to her early history, which is, indeed, a difficult one. Her motivation for buying concerned with "illegal surgery" is extra complicated than it sounds as if notwithstanding lots of the book. Also, she does achieve a few insights towards the tip of the book. Dr. Crampton, likewise, follows unknown motives, with these he expresses feeling slightly off. All of that said, Taylor invokes Harrisburg, PA from the good melancholy during the very early '50's, utilizing the historical past of abortion in the course of that interval to take on concerns resembling poverty and the altering intersection of race and gender. even if i cannot say i actually beloved any of the characters, they rang true, as did the events. i discovered it tough to place down the book.

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