



## Eve's Garden

By Glenda Bailey-Mershon

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Fiction. Women's Studies. Eve Gates is intent on finding a way to fly away from the small town where her millworker family lives a wary existence and where her best friend meets tragedy. Tired of battling her loving but close-mouthed mother, Maisie, for details about Evangeline, the grandmother who died before Eve was born, and whose death seems to be the heart of the mystery that swirls around her family, Eve heads for New York, for Paris, for all the places she has conjured through her love of reading—only to be called back due to family illnesses. Now she must decide whether she will settle back into her old home town or move into the larger world she has always craved. If she stays, can a romance in a small-minded community provide a large-enough window on life? If she goes, will she ever resolve the mystery that her mother and aunts guard so closely? The path forward lies through a search for the friend she thought was lost forever, and by connecting with the grandmother she never knew.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

This virtuoso novel, like a fine symphony, succeeds on many levels, sweeping the reader away. The hard and soft edges of small-town life, especially for women coming of age in the rural South before the feminist movement, sings with details that are familiar to those of us who grew up in that era.

Told with a relish of humor, set in a lush landscape where persimmons that represent remembrance grow, *Eve's Garden* is a satisfying and mature novel, one that is sure to steal the hearts of those who read it.

Christine Swanberg, "Literary Hook," The Rock River Times, June, 2014

While I devoured *Eve's Garden*, the laundry piled up and the kids were reduced to eating peanut butter sandwiches three times a day because I neglected to go to the grocery. The women in this book - Holy Joan of Arc, I LOVE STRONG WOMEN - grabbed my attention on page one, and by Chapter 3 I was in their thrall, all eyes and ears and senses on alert as I learned about a culture that had been entirely foreign to me.

Tricia Book, triciabooker.com, November 13, 2014

#### About the Author

Glenda Bailey-Mershon grew up in the Appalachian South in a family with roots on three continents. A former bookstore and small press owner, she has taught women's studies, anthropology, history, writing, and GED preparation. Her publications include *sa-co-ni-ge: blue smoke: poems from the Southern Appalachians*; *Bird Talk: Poems*, and *A History of the American Women's Movement: a Study Guide*. She has edited or co-edited four volumes of *Jane's Stories'* anthologies by women writers, including *Bridges and Borders*. EVE'S GARDEN is her first novel.

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**Kenneth Hill:**

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