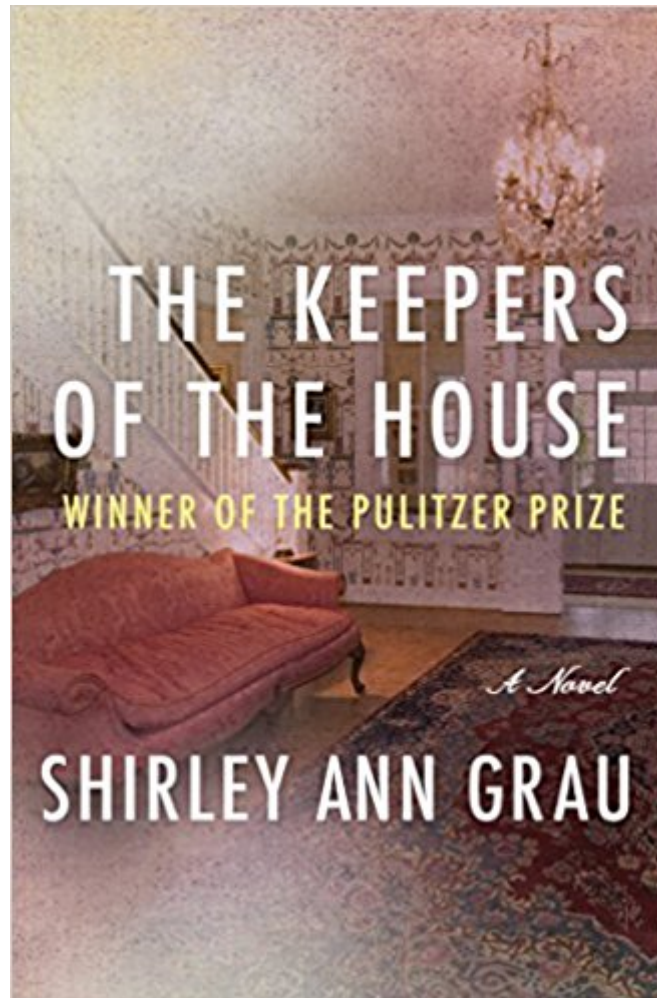




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The Keepers Of The House



Synopsis

A “beautifully written” Pulitzer Prize-winning novel about prejudice and a distinguished family’s secrets in the American South (The Atlantic Monthly). Seven generations of the Howland family have lived in the Alabama plantation home built by an ancestor who fought for Andrew Jackson in the War of 1812. Over the course of a century, the Howlands accumulated a fortune, fought for secession, and helped rebuild the South, establishing themselves as one of the most respected families in the state. But that history means little to Abigail Howland. The inheritor of the Howland manse, Abigail hides the long-buried secret of her grandfather’s thirty-year relationship with his African American mistress. Her fortunes reverse when her family’s mixed-race heritage comes to light and her community is locked in the prejudices of the 1960s turns its back on her. Faced with such deep-seated racism, Abigail is pushed to defend her family at all costs. A “novel of real magnitude,” The Keepers of the House is an unforgettable story of family, tradition, and racial injustice set against the richly drawn backdrop of the American South (Kirkus Reviews). This ebook features an illustrated biography of Shirley Ann Grau, including rare photos and never-before-seen documents from the author’s personal collection.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grau centers her story about the house belonging to a southern farmer/rancher who by astute planning and effort, becomes wealthy. However, he takes a black woman as a mistress, which creates strong feelings in the community. This plays out over the years, largely from the point of view of his daughter. I found the story beautifully written, although at times it wandered and I lost the thread. The lazy, meandering life of the house mimics the southern summer climate, but suddenly, the tension erupts like lightning and the pages sizzle. Readers need patience in the early stages of the book, but in the end, it is most satisfying.

What a book! There is a reason it won the Pulitzer Prize in 1965. Seven generations of Howlands have lived on this rural Alabama plantation in good times and bad. Author Shirley Ann Grau masterfully tells the story of this family from the time its patriarch settled the land in the early 1800s to the mid-20th century. Abigail Howland, who came to the house as a little girl, lives with her crusty but loveable grandfather. Her grandfather's forbidden love life is an open secret, but long after his death it is Abigail who must pay the price for a love match Southern society could not abide. This is a book about the power of family and the power of home, as well as the power of racism and the power of prejudice. It is also the story of a sweet Southern woman who becomes a powerful steel magnolia to protect her kin and hearth. While the book has a commanding and formidable message about the ugliness and hypocrisy of racism that no doubt led to its winning the Pulitzer Prize, it is also a very good read. The second half of the book is absolutely riveting, filled with page-turning action. This book was radical for its time, published at the apex of the civil rights movement. Shirley Ann Grau may have been lauded by book critics, but she was personally targeted and terrorized by those who disagreed with her sentiments. In addition to a cross being burned in her front yard, she was publicly attacked by the Ku Klux Klan.

This was a fantastic book. The language was beautiful, first introducing the previous generations of an old Southern family and then bringing us to the current generation, still fighting the racial battles of Black and White in the Deep South. The last half of the book was as action packed as the first part descriptively beautiful. I would highly recommend it. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize.

Grau's novel, written in 1964, is a probing and still highly relevant look at the racial mores of our society from pre-Civil War to post-Civil Rights! Truly beautifully written. It is important reading in today's world both for what has changed-and has NOT changed- in terms of race relations in the U.S. It surely deserved the Pulitzer Prize it received.

"Keepers of the House" paints a gorgeous swath of family history with language that is rich, lilting and descriptive. This is the Howland family saga, the founding family of a southern community, as they maneuver the intricacies of southern heritage, human desire, and finally, the bold assertion of integrity derived of familial loyalty.

I read novels probably more than most people (4-5/mo) this year. I would not normally have selected this but read the review on Bookbub and decided to give it a look. I can always toss it. I enjoyed and appreciated this writing more than most that I have carefully chosen. The continuity and color are only achieved by great stories and great writers. I also thought that the editing was special, but its hard to tell whose work that is. . . .I rarely see a movie twice and never read a book twice. I think I'll set this one aside and maybeShould I read another Grau novel, or quit while I'm ahead?

This is a brutally honest and beautifully written novel about a wound to the American psyche that has not healed even today. The repercussions of slavery and the ensuing racism as depicted in generations of one family could not be made more clearly.

Compelling story of generations of a prosperous family living in the segregated south. Their traditions and beliefs passed down from one generation to the next. Power, wealth and homestead representing all that was important to them. One generation's secret highlights southern prejudice and double standards.

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