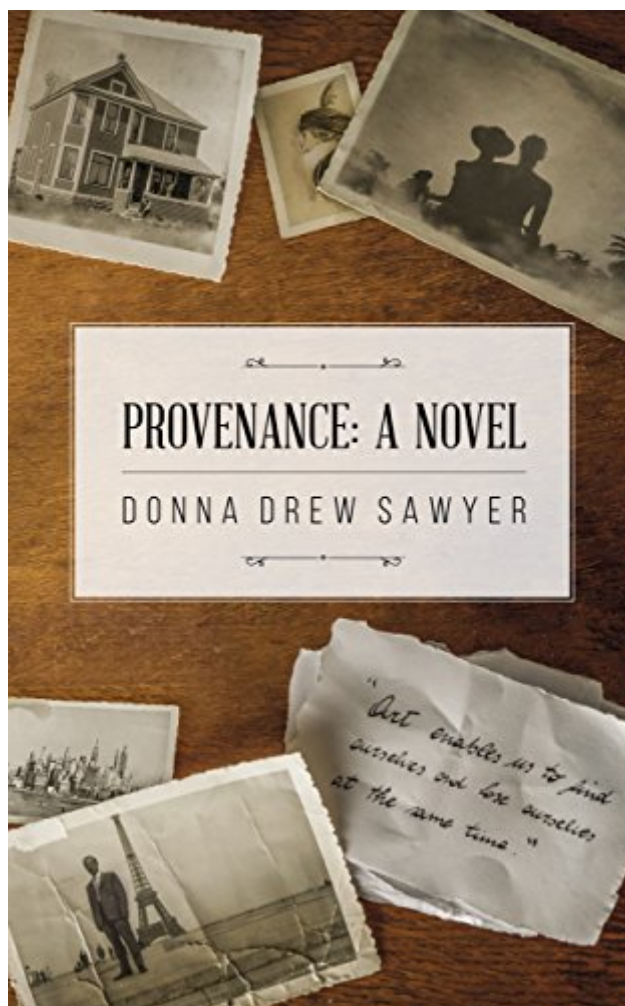


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Provenance: A Novel



Synopsis

Winner of the 2017 Maryland Writers' Association Annual Book Award for Historical Fiction.

Selected for the 2017 "Go On Girl Book Club" reading list and, a finalist for 2016 "Phillis Wheatley Award for First Fiction." "Southern civility turns savage when Hank Whitaker's dying words reveal the unimaginable. No one—not his socialite wife, Maggie, or young son, Lance—ever suspected the successful businessman, husband, and father they knew and loved was a black man passing for white. In 1931, in the segregated South, marriage between whites and blacks is illegal. Maggie is now a criminal facing jail. When Lance receives death threats to atone for his father's betrayal, the family flees the U.S. for the racial freedom of Paris. Still grieving Hank's death and fearful of their uncertain future as Europe marches toward war, Lance and Maggie mourn the lives they loved but lost. As they struggle to create new lives and identities for themselves, they find a surprising community of artists and American expats that are on the same journey and show them a different way to live and to love. Provenance is a sweeping historical saga about love, betrayal, tragedy, triumph, passion, privilege and the universal desire for acceptance—regardless of who you are or where you're from. Such a satisfying read. This page-turner has characters steeped in psychological depth, a setting rich with historical context and a narrative that explores the heart-wrenching evolution of racial identity in America. Sawyer has brought us some solid storytelling with this fine book. I didn't want it to end! •Karen Deans author of "Playing to Win" and "Swing Sisters" Provenance is a gripping story with wonderful characters, and Sawyer manages to blend fiction and history in a convincing way. This is quick, but substantive read that will nudge (if not force) you to rethink your perceptions of wealth, art, and racial identity. • Kelly Hand author of "Au Pair Report" Provenance is the perfect combination of a love story and historical fiction with added reflection on our country's struggle with race. Although this novel is set in the early 1900s, it was striking how many of the themes around race, privilege and survival are still relevant today. • Kristin Battista-Frazee author of "Pornographer's Daughter" A memorable tale of love, loss and redemption. •Kirkus Review

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I enjoy history and books that deal with race. Provenance is the best of both worlds sprinkled with some arts and culture. There were a few grammatical errors in my kindle version. Other than that this was a great read. It kept me wanting more at the end though.

This was a good read, interesting although sad but true and thought provoking. It had good ending even though it was left open to interpretation.

This was an amazing story. Well worth the 4 stars I've given it. Wished I could have made it a 5 star rating but the ending was too abrupt. It was like dropping a microphone! I would rate this novel as very good read. And hope to see more from the author!

I was very disappointed with the way this story ended. The author just leaves the reader hanging. When I turned the page and saw "THE END", I was like....Huh?!

Excellent read. Couldn't put it down. I felt each and every emotion of the characters as if I was living their life. People of all colors will both love and benefit from this story.

Beautifully written. I enjoyed this book so much!!!

Simply a good read. I did not figure out how the story was going to end before finishing

Provenance was one of the best novels I have read in a long time. The characters are real as they interact both emotionally and historically. The author draws on her real life experiences to place the real in the middle of a compelling story.

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