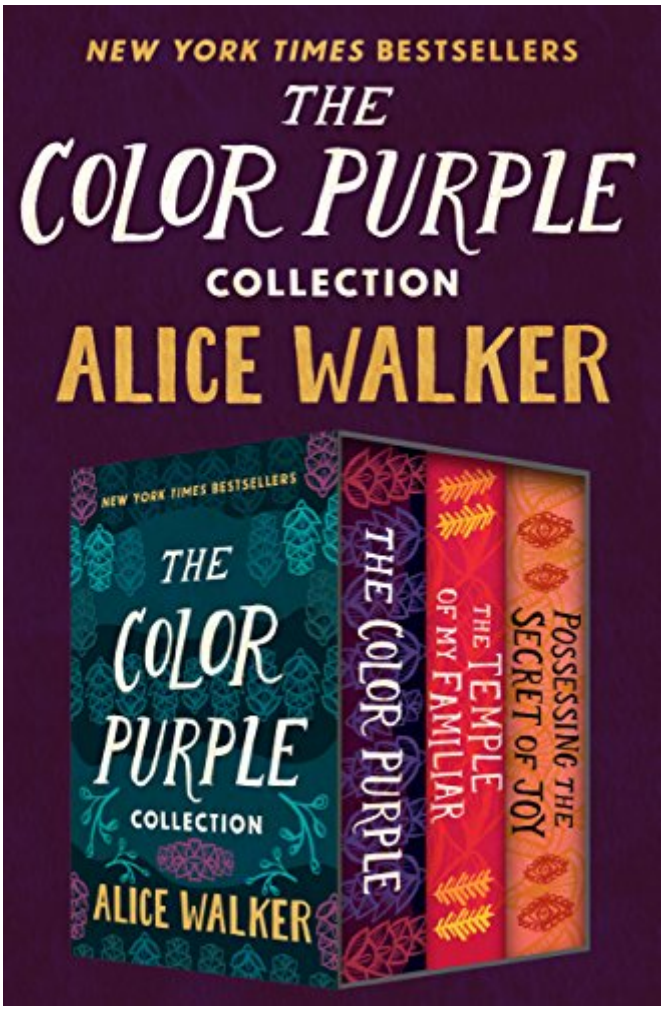
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The Color Purple Collection: The Color Purple, The Temple Of My Familiar, And Possessing The Secret Of Joy



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Synopsis

Three novels by a New York TimesÃ¢â ¬â œbestselling authorÃ¢â ¬â •including the Pulitzer Prizewinner The Color PurpleÃ¢â ¬â •that speak to the African experience in America. Ã Â The Color Purple is Alice WalkerÃ¢â ¬â„¢s stunning, Pulitzer PrizeÃ¢â ¬â œwinning novel of courage in the face of oppression. Celie grows up in rural Georgia, navigating a childhood of ceaseless abuse. Not only is she poor and despised by the society around her, sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s badly treated by her family. As a teenager she begins writing letters directly to God in an attempt to transcend a life that often seems too much to bear. Her letters span twenty years and record a journey of self-discovery and empowerment through the guiding light of a few strong women and her own implacable will to find harmony with herself and her home.Ã Â Ã Â In The Temple of My Familiar, Celie and Shug from The Color Purple follow the lives of a brilliant cast of characters, all dealing in some way with the legacy of the African experience in America. From recent African immigrants, to a woman who grew up in the mixed-race rainforest communities of South America, to CelieÃ¢â ¬â„¢s own granddaughter living in modern-day San Francisco, all must come to understand the brutal stories of their ancestors to come to terms with their own troubled lives. Ã Â Ã Â Possessing the Secret of Joy portrays TashiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s tribe, the Olinka, where young girls undergo genital mutilation as an initiation into the community. Tashi manages to avoid this fate at first, but when pressed by tribal leaders, she submits. Years later, married and living in America as Evelyn Johnson, TashiÃ¢â ¬â„¢s inner pain emerges. As she questions why such a terrifying, disfiguring sacrifice was required, she sorts through the many levels of subjugation with which sheÃ¢â ¬â„¢s been burdened over the years. Hailed by the Washington Post as Ã¢â ¬Å“one of the best American writers of today,Ã¢â ¬Â• Alice Walker is a master storyteller and a major voice in modern literary fiction. Ã Â

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Customer Reviews

The Color Purple, what can I say that hasn't already been said? In my opinion the movie was as ,good as the book thanks to the genius of Steven Spielberg.The Temple Of My Familiar, a learning experience for me. The story includes African history, legends, cultures, and introduces the reader to ways of seeing what could have happened, what may have happened and what did happen in the lives of this group of the most interesting, complex, characters you will ever hope to meet in Africa and America as their lives unfold. A book you will remember.Possessing the Secret of Joy, Another learning experience! This book was written as a protest to the practice of mutilating young girls in a rite referred to as circumcision in Africa and to a lesser,degree in America. The author made her point!

These books are very well written. I applaud the author. However, I don't believe they are for everyone. My feeling is that these books are aimed at a mature female audience. There are issues that come up in these stories that make for very hard reading, as they should. At the same time, all women should be made aware of these practices that are definitely meant to put women "in their place."Overall, I'm very glad I took the time to read these stories and wouldn't hesitate to read more by this author.

Over twenty years ago I began reading this book. I faltered at page 100, and gave up. I saw and liked both the movie and the musical. Then, recently, I bought this collection and read COLOR PURPLE within a few days.Midway through the novel, Celie gains her personhood, her sense of right and wrong, that she has been wronged. Courageously, she speaks up in her own defense. I especially like the line in which she tells Mr.--- that nothing he does will succeed until he's done right

by her. Those were powerful words that revealed she is aware of her predicament. By the end, the two have reconciled and he sees her differently, with respect. Although some of Celie's experiences are a bit painful to read, especially in the beginning, she finds love with Shug, loses her, and ultimately gains a self.Celie's letters to God form a diary that exemplifies her spirituality (a subtheme)--not religiosity, which she rejects because, as she sees it, God had abandoned her. Lastly, I marvel at how the book reflects American history.

WOW! I couldn't stop reading. This collection of writings touches the heart of any woman, regardless of age, race, or nationality. And opened my eyes to the suffering of women who have survived this horrifying "procedure

Alice Walker is so great. I recently watched the movie and I wanted to get the rest of the story. The book and the movie are great companions. The movie was able to provide some moments the book was unable to offer. Together the two will complete the story. If you have seen the movie you owe it to yourself and to Alice Walker to read the book, you will be glad you did.

Loved them all. I had read "The Color Purple" before and seen the movie, but very much enjoyed reading it again. The three novels in sequence kept me wanting it to never end.

I liked this book, albeit grudgingly. I felt troubled by the near-universal bestiality of all the men in the story, but I must concede that this is the perspective of Celie, the narrator and protagonist, a Black woman in the rural South; the most oppressed of an oppressed people. As much as I find myself cringing at the oppressive conditions of life for Celie as a Black woman, it is even more painful to consider her observations of the relationship between Black women and Black men, and the always-dour undertones to the expectations of her and the other women in this tale that unfortunately stings with a ring of truth- regardless of perspective. Though one, including myself, might want to argue that there was more light, at least in flashes, in the darkness of their existence, one cannot argue from the protagonist's perspective, and must also concede, dully, that the near all-encompassing darkness did exist, and even vestiges still linger to this day....

This is the art of writing. It really feels like watching an artist paint, or listening to a masterpiece. Painfully beautiful work.

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