

A woman's profile with blonde hair is shown against a sunset background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Heart

OF A

Dove

A woman's profile with purple hair is shown against a cloudy sky background. The text is overlaid on the image.

Soul

OF A

Crow



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AWARD-WINNING HISTORICAL SAGA BRINGS TO LIFE A POST-CIVIL WAR AMERICA

Soul Of A Crow Is The Second In A Sweeping Trilogy Of Life, Love And Family In A War-Torn Midwest

Delta, BC – Central Avenue Publishing is proud to present **Soul of a Crow**, the second book in a trilogy by Rochester MN author Abbie Williams. Fans and critics are enchanted by this story of a Civil War prostitute and ex-Confederate soldiers who find each other amidst the ruins of a war-torn country.

The American Civil War cast a long shadow. More than a century later, Americans are still roused by issues relating directly to that conflict. Confederate memorials have been at the forefront of national news in recent months; people rush to take sides even now, debating the potential removal of this particular part of America's history. Is the past, in all its brutal reality and misguided myth, ever really far from the collective consciousness? *Soul of a Crow*, book two in a trilogy set during America's Reconstruction, centers upon the struggle of an ex-prostitute and two former Confederate soldiers attempting to begin new lives far from their Southern homeland, and seeks to explore the possibility of forgiveness in the face of past wrongdoing.

"We couldn't be more proud of this series," says Michelle Halket, Publisher for Central Avenue Publishing. "Abbie has woven an intricate story of torment and redemption in world where love blooms and families unite - all set the magnificent backdrop of the American Midwest. It's no surprise the first book, *Heart of a Dove*, won a Gold Medal at the Independent Publishers Awards last year and was reviewed positively by everyone from Publishers Weekly to well-respected book blogs to loyal fans."

Soul of a Crow will be available everywhere on June 1, 2016. Further details about author appearances will be available at the author's website at abbiewilliamsauthor.com.

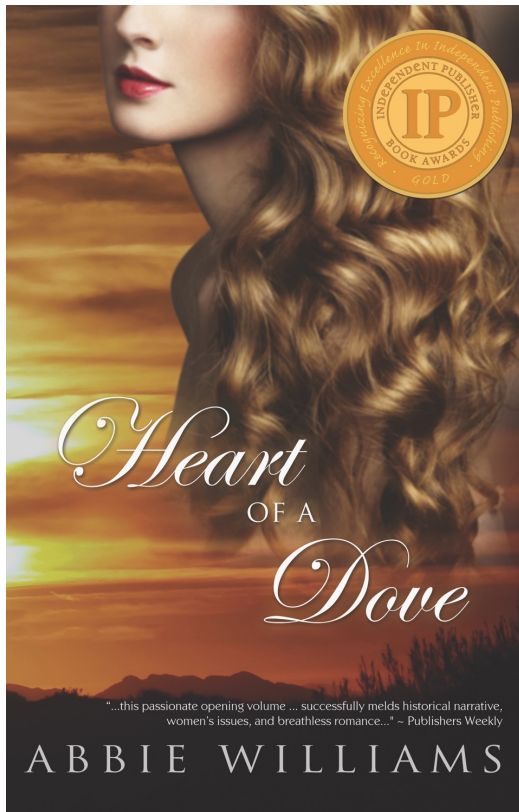
Williams is the author of several other forthcoming novels, contemporary romance stories that weave family history with an element of the paranormal. The first three of her *Shore Leave Cafe* novels will be released in Fall 2016. *Grace of a Hawk*, the book following *Soul of a Crow*, will be released in 2017.

Central Avenue Publishing is an independent press based in Delta, Canada, featuring writers of original fiction, poetry, and creative non fiction. They are also the publisher of the internationally acclaimed and widely-followed Iain S. Thomas, of the poetry and photography blog *I Wrote This For You*. Central Avenue's books are distributed globally by Independent Publishers Group based in Chicago.

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If you'd like more information about this topic, or to schedule an interview with either Abbie Williams or Central Avenue Publishing, please contact Michelle Halket at 604.765.8194 michelle@centralavenuepublishing.com or Abbie Williams at 507.208.1334 writerabbie@gmail.com

THE DOVE SERIES

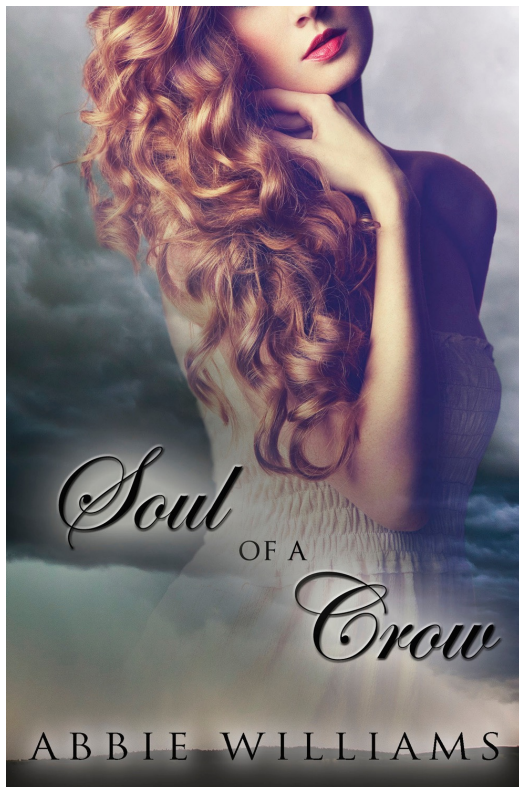


The Civil War has ended, leaving the country with a gaping wound. Lorie Blake, a southern orphan sold into prostitution at fifteen, has carefully guarded her aching soul from the disgrace forced upon her every evening. Two years have passed, leaving her with little hope of anything more. Meanwhile, three men – longtime friends – and a young boy with a heart of gold are traveling northward, planning to rebuild their lives in the north and leave behind the horrors of their time as soldiers in the Confederate Army.

Fate, however, has plans of its own, causing their lives to collide in a river town whorehouse. Forced to flee, Lorie escapes and joins them on the journey north. But danger stalks them all in the form of a vindictive whorehouse madam and an ex-Union soldier, insane and bent on exacting revenge. At last, Lorie must come to terms with her past and devastating secrets that she cannot yet bear to reveal.

Heart of a Dove is the first book in a gripping, sweeping romantic saga of pain, unbearable choices, loss and true love set against the backdrop of a scarred, post-Civil War America.

December 2014
978-1-77168-014-1
\$15.95US \$18.95CA 336pp
Fiction - Historical, Romance



It is 1868 and the country is still reeling from the brutal effects of the Civil War. Lorie Blake, a war-orphan who escaped the miserable prison of her life as a prostitute in a Missouri whorehouse, now takes wing, embarking on a breathtaking overland journey northwest. With Lorie is her newfound family – brothers Boyd and Malcolm Carter, experienced horseman Sawyer Davis, and his beloved paint mare, Whistler. For the first time in years, there seems reason to hope. Thrown together by the circumstances of fate, and now deeply bound by love, each of them are determined to begin new lives as homesteaders in Minnesota.

But, the past refuses to die quietly. Former Confederate soldiers Sawyer and Boyd are haunted by the scavenger-like specters of a War that refuses to stay buried, a conflict never truly put to rest. New friends emerge and old enemies arise, as ancient hatreds boil over in the hearts of the men who survived. In the face of incredible odds, Lorie must rely upon all of the emotional strength in her soul as she battles for the life of her true love, and towards the enduring promise of a new beginning in the north.

June 2016
978-1-77168-036-3
\$16.95US \$19.95CA 384pp
Fiction - Historical, Romance

ABBIE WILLIAMS



Abbie Williams has been addicted to love stories ever since first sneaking her mother's copy of *The Flame and the Flower*. Being an avid lover of language, history and women's studies was what prompted her to pen her sweeping historical saga, *The Dove* series. When she isn't writing, teaching, or taking care of her busy family, you can find her hanging out on the dock, listening to some good bluegrass music.

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PRAISE

Independent Publishers Awards Gold Medalist 2015

"Set just after the U.S. Civil War, this passionate opening volume of a projected series successfully melds historical narrative, women's issues, and breathless romance with horsemanship, trailside deer-gutting, and alluring smidgeons of Celtic ESP." ~ *Publishers Weekly*

"There is a lot I liked about this book. It didn't pull punches, it feels period, it was filled with memorable characters and at times lovely descriptions and language. Even though there is a sequel coming, this book feels complete." ~ *Dear Author*

"With a sweet romance, good natured camaraderie, and a very real element of danger, this book is hard to put down." ~ *San Francisco Book Review*

"This story haunted me so much I gave up trying to sleep and just finished it. It's beautifully done, even those miserable moments that were painful to follow. We experience everything through Lorie's point of view, including the charm of her Southern roots through flashback memories as well as the rigors of the travel through the prairie. Her relationship with the three men and the young Malcolm was special, her burgeoning romance with one of them extraordinary." ~ *The Book Nympho*

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Q - How did you get the idea for the story that began with Heart of a Dove?

A - I have always been fascinated by the era of the American West, both the mythology and the actual history. I am most especially intrigued by the women involved. I believe they were brave, strong, courageous and capable in ways we cannot even imagine. What they suffered through, and how they are often subsequently vilified or reviled, makes my soul ache. I want to learn everything I can about this era, these women, and their lives, and give them a voice. It's a small thing, but it is something tangible that I can do as a writer.

Q - Which character in the book would you most/least like to have dinner with?

Oh, definitely Malcolm Carter is the one I would MOST want to have dinner with – and here is why: So one evening this boy blazed into my story in a lightning flash, completely unanticipated. Initially, when I was first writing Heart of a Dove, I had created four characters who would accompany Lorie after she flees Ginny's (the whorehouse where she is a prisoner.) I envisioned them as four grown men, former soldiers, rough around the edges, but in a sexy, appealing way. However, as I wrote, I realized that one of the men was not a man at all but instead a boy, whose voice flowed so clearly in my mind that I can hear him as plain as you would someone speaking directly into your ear. He has popped into my dreams a time or two as well, with all the forthright attitude he possesses in my book. It's enough to make you start fully believing in ghosts.

Q - How did you research this era?

Because I love reading, researching the 1860s and 70s was not only fascinating, but fully enjoyable. I prefer specialized research books that go into great depth – such as a book focusing specifically on clothing fabrics, eyeglasses, wagons, or horses. Since horses play an important role in the book, I read a great deal about them, and was fortunate enough to be able to spend time at my mother's farm, hanging out with her horses. I love conducting hands-on research whenever possible. I read books about the conditions inside whorehouses – the farther west and the less established the city or town, typically the rougher the circumstances. Some of it made me cringe in horror, but I feel as though if these women had the courage to live through it, the least I can do is read about it.

Q - Have you always loved writing?

Yes – writing has always been an integral part of who I am. From the time I was a little girl, I filled notebooks with stories, written longhand. I was nearly finished with high school before we had a computer in the house – what a gift it was to be able to edit on a computer screen, rather than erasing and rewriting (literally!) on lined paper. And the late 19th century has always been a time period of intense fascination for me – I spent hours reading such amazing authors as Larry McMurtry and Lucia St. Clair Robson, which sparked my imagination and fired up my spirit – I knew that I wanted to write about the people who lived and died in this era, too.

Q - Is there anything else you want to add or say to your readers?

Definitely keep envisioning and pursuing your dreams! If you don't like something, change it and try a new path. And don't use the words "slut" and "whore" in reference to women. When researching prostitution for my books, I studied the etymology of these words and discovered so many captivating things that I couldn't explain short of a book-length work. People should not defame each other in that way – especially when both words have a long history of keeping women powerless, marginalized and unduly ashamed.