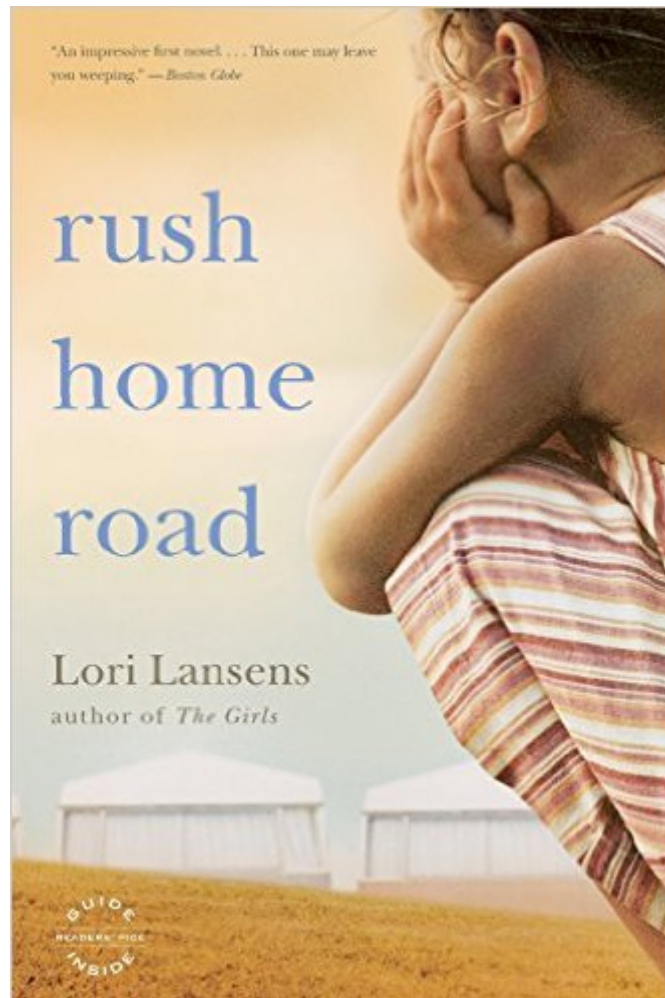


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Rush Home Road: A Novel



Synopsis

Rush Home Road: A Novel

Book Information

Paperback: 416 pages

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Customer Reviews

This novel is a page turner. I simply could not put it down, and read it all in one day. The story of an old lady with many stories to her life and a little girl with terrible stories of her own. You will want only the best for Addy and Sharla- and burn with the need for justice when the best doesn't always happen. Lori Lansens is a wonderful story teller, I found myself compelled to keep going to find out what would happen next, and sad when I awoke this morning to realize that I had already finished the book and the story was over. It is written in a rather spare style, which makes the events even more poignant. It is non-sentimental, and Addy Shadd is one of the best heroines I had recently read. Five stars is the least award I would give this wonderful book.

If you are looking at these reviews in 2006, it may be because you have just read Lori Lansens latest novel, "The Girls" and found it to be so enthralling that you want more more more. That's why I picked up "Rush Home Road", and am I ever glad I did because it is every bit as enthralling, page-turning, heart-wrenching and endearing as "The Girls". This woman can write a story! Maybe it's her experience as a screenplay writer that makes her able to keep you interested, to teach you something you didn't know, and to make you want to know what happens next. I can't wait for her next novel! Brava!

I only meant to read the first couple of pages to see what the story and writing style was going to be like when I opened this book, but I found myself immediately involved in the lives of Sharla Cody and Addy Shadd. Sharla is a five-year-old child and Addy is a seventy-year-old woman. Their lives are joined together when Sharla's mother asks Addy to watch the child for the summer, then abandons her. Having Sharla in her life and home brought back memories for Addy of her childhood in Rusholme, Ontario, Canada, and later years in Detroit, Michigan and Chatham, Ontario, Canada. Sharla reminds Addy of her own daughter that she did not see grow up. Although they had a rocky start, Sharla and Addy become friends as Addy bestowed some of her wisdom on Sharla. Sharla in turn learns to be a loving little girl now free of abuse. Most of the story is Addy reminiscing about her first love Chester Monk, her rape by a family friend, her lonely existence as the town outcast, her marriage, her children, friends and her job at the bakery. Addy's memories of these good and bad times surface as she dreams during her naps. While sleeping she has conversations with her brother, Lil Leam, who served as an advisor and helpmate to Addy. Unbeknownst to Addy, she is also talking aloud in her sleep and Sharla is taking in it all. I think the author did a fantastic job of making clear and precise transitions between the past and present. She includes a little history about the Underground Railroad and the city of Rusholme, a black community in Ontario, Canada. Her writing style easily engages the reader as the dialogue between the characters tells the story better than anyone else ever could. This book is highly recommended.

If Oprah's bookclub was back in business this would surely be a novel she would love. Black Canadian history, hardship, heartache and joy all figure prominently in this very readable first novel. This is the story of Addy Shadd, an elderly Black woman with plenty of heartbreaking secrets in her past. Addy comes to "inherit" five year old Sharla Cody, a mixed race child with no father and a less than caring mother. The fascinating story of Addy's life is carefully weaved into her present relationship with Sharla, it makes for a story you won't want to put down. My only minor negative comment would be that at times the volume of tragedy in Addy's life seems overwhelming even for the reader. That aside, I would highly recommend seeking out this novel. 4.5 stars.

Addy was a fantastic character that lived a memorable life. Following her journey was sad and captivating. The back and forth of the book was interesting and sometimes slow. I did skip a few pages, the fifty shades sex scenes I didn't find necessary.

When I actually began this book I really did not care for it, as the language and description seemed

so crude to me. However, after about an hour I fell in love with this story. This story was so captivating. The man character is 70 year old Addy Shad. She lives in a trailer park, and has had a very hard life. One morning a woman knocks on her door, and asks Addy if she could take her 5 year old daughter for a while. Sharla, is the 5 year old. Addy says yes and takes Sharla in. Sharla's is dirty and in rags. The mother does not care for this child, and takes off. Addy begins to attempt to mother the child who's own mother never really cared for her. Addy treats this child with love and kindness. Addy gives the child a good life. While taking care of Sharla, memories of Addy's own past come to head. This author's description and use of words pull you right in to Addy's life story. A rape that resulted in a pregnancy, leaving home and fleeing to Detroit, the loss of her child, lost loves, marriage, more children, etc. The author also manages to mix in a good portion of history into the story from the Underground Railroad to Prohibition. This book kept my interest and I loved that the human heart triumphed.

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