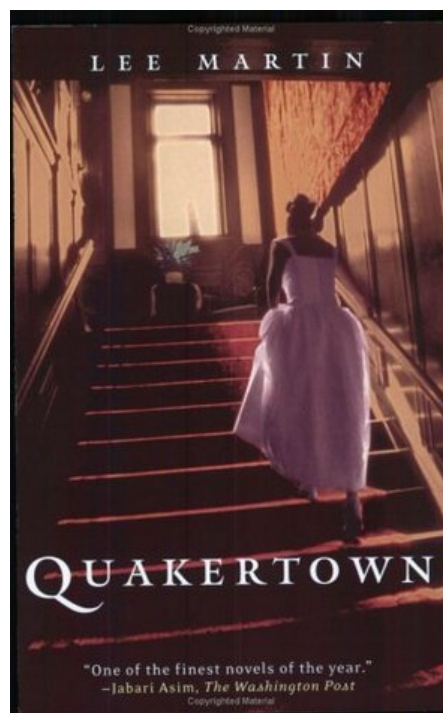




Quakertown

Lee Martin

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In Quakertown, award-winning author Lee Martin travels back to 1920s Texas to tell the story of a flourishing black community that was segregated from its white neighbors -- and of the remarkable gardener, Little Washington Jones, who was asked to make a heartbreaking choice. Based on a true story, Quakertown draws on the rich texture of the South -- of the Pecan Creek running along the edges of the town, the spectacular and rare white lilac, and the rising racial tensions that bubble under the surface and threaten to tear neighbors apart. With rare skill and compassion, Lee Martin carves out the delicate story of two families -- one white and one black -- and the child whose birth brings a gift of forgiveness.

Quakertown Details

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Author : Lee Martin

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From Reader Review Quakertown for online ebook

Sandra Murphy says

Another tragic story, beautifully told. We did this for bookclub. The story is very well developed with in-depth characters. Even as I read it, I saw how delicately the author exposed the gifts and flaws of each individual ... and how he so realistically set these people, brought to life through imagination, into an actual historical event. The beloved characters in this novel exposed the pain and small joys of life in old Quakertown, the injustices of the time, choices made unbearable by judgement and inequity. I thank the author, Lee Martin, as he made Eugie and Bert and Little and Tibby and Ike, and even Mr. Smoke, into real people that I believed I could see and touch. I liked how he went to first person (Eugenia Mattoon) in the epilogue. I loved the sweet connection (never really mentioned aloud) of Eugenia and her grandmother Tibby through their songs, the thread throughout the story of blurred lines between the whites and the "coloreds." Quakertown ... such a poignant portrayal of life in a time that exposed character and perseverance.

Barbara says

This was not a book about the flapper/jazz age 1920's, although it did have some references to them, but was a fascinating look at Denton, TX, in the 1920's. This was a racially turbulent time, in the post Civil War south, after WWI, and before the civil rights movement. I would love to know how much of the fictional history regarding Denton and some of it's citizens and neighborhoods is based on reality or true to fact, something I intend to look up in my free time. A good read for anyone familiar with Denton, TX, or from Texas, I thought.

Nancy Kennedy says

Interesting to read about Denton in the 1920's. Race relations certainly weren't the best; a lot of houses got burned down!

Tammy Parks says

A fictionalized account of Quakertown, a thriving and independent African America community in 1920s Texas. As racial tensions escalate, tragedy befalls the community.

An interesting book about the choices we make, and how those decisions ripple and affect others. Full of complicated, complex characters, and written with an interesting narrative structure (each chapter is told from a different point of view).

"We do this and we do that, and pretty soon we've made a life. Maybe not the one we thought we'd make, but, still, there it is, the only one we've got. It's up to us to find a way to love it."

"We're all ruined, all of us in one way or another. There's no shame in that."

Gloria says

I enjoyed this book that took us back to times that are shameful in what people did and were allowed to do! A Quakertown had been established near Denton, Tx and through this book you get to know many of the people who lived there and had to go through the racial injustices. There were those who were sympathetic (as they dared to be) with the "colored race" of those days and tried to do what they could to decrease the violence surrounding the times. In this book, it shows all the injustices that were done to people and how a few people got the courage to stand out and help and not be quiet anymore. It is a sad story how violence tore apart the town, and families and how they lost family members, property and homes...all because a bunch of white folks got together and decided the others lived too close to their nice little town. Not a nice history or time, but good to get stories like this out there to people as part of the history that no one wanted you to know!

Superstition Review says

The unfortunately true story of an African American community's upheaval in 1920s Texas focuses on the reactions of two quasi-fictional families, one white and one black, who are integral in the town's shift toward further segregation and its fiery aftermath. Little Washington Jones, a talented gardener, has to adapt to changing attitudes towards people of color, making a life for himself in a white man's world while trying to protect his daughter Camellia. Andrew Bell, a banker, tries to make life in nearby Denton more palatable for his fellow townspeople while taking care of his alcoholic wife Tibby and crippled son Kizer. When the demands become too great after a public shooting, both men have to choose between their families and the town they hold so dear. Their children must also live with the often-heartbreaking consequences of their own actions as well as those of their parents.

Though it may be billed as nonfiction, Lee Martin's *Quakertown* reads as what it is--an engaging novel from a talented translator of the past.

By Julie Matsen

Kathleen McRae says

This book is set in Texas but could be anywhere in the south of America where the ideals of the south in the civil war never went away even though the war ended with abolition of slavery. This is about Jim Crow and whether a black person lowered their eyes and were humble enough when in the presence of their former masters.

Lynette Fullerton says

It was good, but didn't feel quite right. The ending seemed a little too tidy, too nice. I know, I've always been a sucker for happy endings. But from the first chapter I had a feeling in my gut, like this book was going to break my heart, and it could have done so many times...but I finished the book with dry eyes and a bit of a shrug. Odd.

Brittany says

While this book was written well, it was such a sad sad tale. Our history in America isn't the best. I never knew about this event in Texas.

The characters were good though. You loved some, and loathed others. I was really hoping Kizer would come back into the mix at the end.

Kari says

This was one of my favorite books! Historical fiction that keeps you reading.

Tami says

I enjoyed this book based on actual events that happened near the area where I live. So much has changed since the 1920's, it's hard to imagine that the community was actually like what is described in the book. I thought Lee Martin did a great job of weaving actual facts and events into his story. I also liked how he presented the characters, showing their flaws along with their good qualities.

Erika says

I judged a book by its cover and it let me down.

This story was draaaaaamaaaaaa. Too much happened and it happened so fast there wasn't time to process much or feel for the characters which weren't really developed well. I finished it, so I guess that says something. Possibly that I was too lazy to get up and get another book.

Argnese Julmist says

The way the author dips into the African American community to express their feelings and lifestyle then flips into the White American community is truly fascinating. He defines love as being colorblind and that color is the only thing that keeps people from understanding one another.

Linda says

Another historical novel. this one set in north Texas during Jim Crow era.

Bethany Daluz says

It's a story about Little Washington Jones and his family and how a flourishing black community went through racial tensions back in the 1920s. Very heart-warming and the storyline was very emotion-driven.
