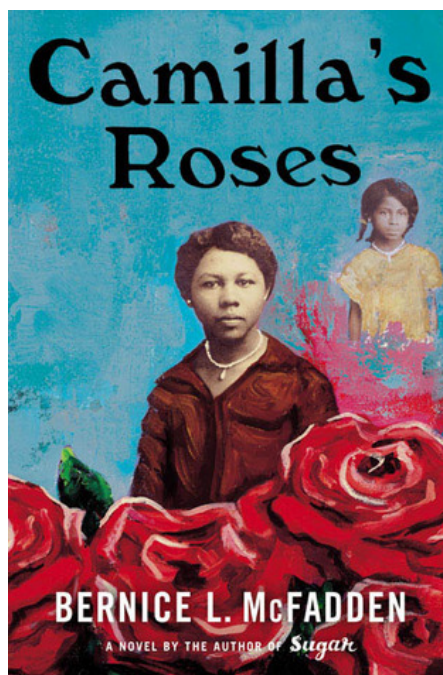




Camilla's Roses

Bernice L. McFadden

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The poignant tale of a woman who discovers the fragility of life and the strength of a family's love, from an author praised by Toni Morrison for "searing, expertly imagined scenes"

Known for bringing to life a host of endearing characters who reveal tender truths about humanity, Bernice L. McFadden now turns her storytelling talents to an unforgettable and deeply troubled woman named Camilla.

Unfolding in a progression of stirring and powerful chapters, *Camilla's Roses* presents a life haunted by the past. Camilla's childhood was immersed in chaos and love, and steeped in the myth of perfection. As an adult, she never looked back, refusing to acknowledge the people and places that had scarred her so many years ago. But a legacy of cancer proves inescapable, forcing Camilla to embrace the past—no matter how painful it may be—and to salvage what is left of her love in order to save her daughter. As Camilla discovers the bittersweet limitations of motherhood and reconciliation, she also awakens an inspiring message about the mortality issues we all must face.

The author of four bestselling novels, Bernice L. McFadden receives consistent accolades from reviewers coast to coast, and has captured the hearts of thousands of readers. With *Camilla's Roses*, she is poised to win over her widest audience yet.

Camilla's Roses Details

Date : Published April 26th 2004 by Dutton Adult (first published April 22nd 2004)

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Author : Bernice L. McFadden

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From Reader Review Camilla's Roses for online ebook

Adrienne Thompson says

I thoroughly and completely enjoyed this impossible-to-put-down family saga. Written in a strong voice, this novel pulls you in and sets you on the wall of this family's home like a fly with a panoramic view. Full of reality and grit, this is a must read for anyone who loves an expertly told story. These characters will stay with you long after you've turned the last page.

Adrienne Thompson
Author of The Been So Long Series

Charlotte says

I am a huge fan of Bernice L. McFadden but this book was not one of my favorites by her. It was very well written but it seemed like she threw in every issue a family could possibly have to make it as dysfunctional as possible...drug abuse, prostitution, (unintentional) incest, mental illness, cancer, sibling betrayal and rivalry, teen pregnancy, adultery...you name it, it's in there. It was also a lot more sexual than her other books. Overall, I found the story to be both depressing and somewhat unrealistic.

Arlene says

Wow..

4 stars.

This is one of the saddest stories I have ever read but it was so good. Camilla is a girl with a seriously rough past, where it seemed like the hits just keep on coming. And grows up to move on with her life never to look to look back, but when she is faced with the presence of cancer, Camilla must come to terms with all the self hate and pain that she has buried deep inside herself before it's too late.

There was nothing happy about this whole book. It was pretty much a sad and sometimes painful read from page one, but it kept a strong hold on me. Ms. McFadden is a brilliant storyteller.

Buffy says

Another amazing story! So many layers, so many emotions! Always a lesson!

Mocha Girl says

Camilla's Roses, Bernice McFadden's latest release, is told in three parts: the present day when Camilla's husband discovers a lump in her breast, a flashback to the haunting past that she would rather erase, and a

return to present day to face reality and her future. Camilla's middle name is Rose and all the women on her maternal side share the same middle name honoring a one-of-a-kind rosebush that only prospers and blooms on her great-great grandmother's land in Southern Georgia despite being stolen and clipped many times over the years.

Camilla suffers from an identify crisis and abandoned her family ten years ago. However, after learning about her childhood, one can understand her self-imposed exodus. Raised in a house full of cousins by her maternal grandmother (Velma Rose) and great aunt (Maggie Rose), Camilla seldom saw her heroin-addicted parents (Audrey Rose and Leroy Brown) and when she did, the results of the visits were disappointing and heartbreaking. Her childhood experiences causes her to develop an identity crisis that leads to serious skin bleaching and lying - to her friends about her family situation and to herself which proves to be most damaging.

With her usual flair, McFadden cuts to the core of humanity and deals with raw pain, loss, and suffering. This book deals with a multitude of issues: breast cancer, the affects of drug addiction, abandonment, self-hate, infidelity, etc. Every character is fully developed with a rich history and strong role in the plot - making it a well told story. The subject matter is dark and harrowing, but there is a silver lining embedded between the lines -- despite the despair, like the rose bush planted so long ago, Camilla and her "Roses" are made with a strong constitution and we are left with a glimmer of hope that they will be all right.

Ivy says

Oh, my gosh! I thank God for coming across Bernice McFadden's books! There are few authors out there whose works completely ensnare me, yet she has done it. Beauty drips from the pen of this author. After reading "Gathering of Waters" earlier this year, I was hungry for more of her works. Only Ms McFadden can write about the most tragic family circumstances and make them appear a thing of beauty. She spins her magic around the reader and compels us to love her characters completely, despite their imperfections. Lately, I have been reading many books that have not left much of an impression on me, so coming across a talented author whose works so eloquently embody that passion is very exciting. Can't wait to read more of her works!

Antigo Martin-Delaney says

I continue to enjoy Bernice McFadden's books, but this time the title character was almost an after thought. She was mostly invisible for the first 2/3s of the book. I found the character development of other family members strong.

Sarah Weathersby says

There was a lot of pain in this story. The mother of the girls in the family gave each one a middle name of "Rose." First there was Maggie Rose who never seemed to grow up even after a tragic automobile accident that killed Lloyd, the love of her life. And there was Audrey Rose who could not shake her addiction. The mother, Velma was never able to give Audrey the help she needed and abandoned her emotionally. The father, Chuck tried his hardest to lead Audrey on the right path. Sometimes it's the Dad who loves that child "in spite of."

Audrey got married and bore a baby-girl, Camilla, who should have been the love of Audrey's life. But it was always Velma who did the most for Camilla, while Audrey was doing drugs, stealing anything that could bring a little money, in the street, in prison, while Camilla was watching it all.

Camilla was the smart one, got good grades in school, and went off to a major college. But she could not shake the presence of Audrey from her life. Camilla was fair-skinned to start with, but bleached her skin to remove the presence of Audrey from Camilla's psyche. Camilla married and moved to the suburbs with her husband and baby Zola. When she got cancer, the husband stopped being attentive and cheated on Camilla with one of her best friends.

And then there was the backdrop of September 11, 2001. The whole world was watching. Camilla gathered up her wigs and her baby and went HOME! Home to mother Velma and sister Maggie.

Antoinette says

I read this book years ago and to this day it's the only book I've ever read that actually evoked tears. I plan to read it again.

Didi says

Camilla's Roses is Bernice L. McFadden's sixth novel. I'll have just reached the halfway mark on my book challenge to read all of her books in order of publication this year. So far this has been an interesting challenge. I'm enjoying observing how her writing style has developed and improved with each novel. <https://browngirlreading.com/2017/09/...>

Winter Sophia Rose says

Emotional, Touching, Captivating, Engaging & Beautiful! A Powerful Story! I Truly Loved It!

ArtBooksLife Denise D Cooper says

I am certain I will read this again. This family had tough times from, children being abandoned, grandparents being overwhelmed with the responsibility of raising their kids and grandkids, drug addiction, sex, tragedy and loss, trying to forget who you are and where you came from, self hate to restorative love and bonds that are always there in the very foundation you tried to disown. This is a full circle family tale. I thought of Morrison's Bluest Eye often. Great read.

RenishaRenewed says

Another great one! I did find, though, that Camilla's Roses moved very fast toward the end. I felt myself going back to be sure I didn't miss anything. The story didn't feel rushed, just fast and moved through several

scenes of Camilla's life within a few pages. It was a welcome change from her previous 2 books I've read. I seem to devour these books and I don't mind that at all.

Theresa says

Disappointing...

I was very disappointed in this book, particularly after reading Butterfly. There was nothing redeeming in this story. I didn't like the storyline nor the layout...one minute you're reading a particular part and in the next, the sentence has jumped to something entirely different and it takes a moment to realize it and further down it jumps back to the previous part. Like I said, very disappointing and a waste of my time.

Stephanie says

i loved this book. found it at dollar tree. i could not put it down!! i like how there were 2 points of view for every story!!
