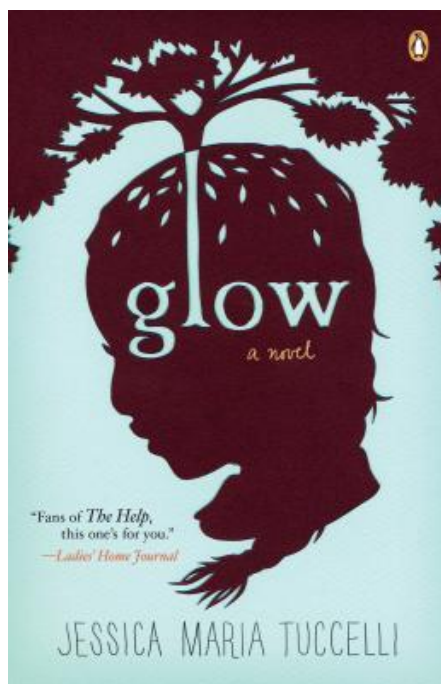




Glow

Jessica Maria Tuccelli

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On the eve of World War II, young Ella McGee sits on a bus bound for her Southern hometown. Behind her in Washington, D.C., lie the broken pieces of her parents' love story—a black father drafted; an activist mother of Scotch-Irish and Cherokee descent confronting racist thugs.

But Ella's journey is just beginning when she reaches Hopewell County, and her disappearance into the Georgia mountains will stir up memories long suppressed. As the secrets of Ella's family history unfold in a vivid generational saga, *Glow* transports us to the Blue Ridge frontier of 1836, where slave plantations adjoin the haunted glades of a razed Cherokee Nation. Ron Rash's Appalachia cascades into Alice Walker's Georgia red clay in this lushly written debut announcing a major new voice in Southern fiction.

Glow Details

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Author : Jessica Maria Tuccelli

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Download and Read Free Online Glow Jessica Maria Tuccelli

From Reader Review Glow for online ebook

Monty says

I greatly enjoyed listening to this historical novel in recorded book form. At times I got a bit mixed up as to who was speaking (the story spans about 100 years with about five different voices), which is normal for me these days. The depiction of the lives of these slaves, African Americans and Cherokee and Caucasian main characters were wonderful to follow. I was impressed by the extensive vocabulary used (I read some where that as languages get older, they get simpler--well 19th century English, at least in this book, was more complex than current English). The stories are wonderful, though not always pleasant. The author must have done much research because there is historical detail, which really gave me a taste of what life must have been like during the span of the book. I certainly recommend this book and would certainly read other books by the author if she has more to offer.

Quiltgranny says

Wow, just wow!

Sometimes slow moving, sometimes confusing, with a sometimes aggravating narrative voice, but wow! These irritating mechanisms were not enough to overshadow how wonderfully written and complex this story is. When I first picked it up, I thought it was going to yet another period slavery story, but it is so much more. The richness of the area, the time, and the multi-layered racial aspects (white, black, Indian) are woven together in such a way that make it oh so much more.

I have to admit that after the first 2/3 of the book, I read late into the wee morning hours with my mouth hanging open, and my heart pounding. What a debut!

Here is an interview with the author, and a reading that might get you hooked.

<http://www.us.penguingroup.com/static...>

Lydia Presley says

I am not going to lie, this book took some getting used to. What it reminded me of is a great bit ball of string, all knotted up, and trying to get it all into one smooth string, you have to follow the knots and work them slowly, one by one.

Glow begins with the story of Mia and Ella - Mia being the teenage mother of Ella, but Ella believing her grandmother is really her mother. There is racial tensions, being as this is set in Georgia in the mid-40's, and the switching back and forth between perspectives makes things a bit tiring.

But then something happens around mid-way through the book. The knots begin to take on lives of their own, and the characters meander through each others lives making the transition between characters and times a bit more easy to stand.

Glow is a fascinating look at not only the lives of characters of mixed race (Native American and African American feature prominently in this book), but also a very interesting look at the publications of the Census

Bureau during the various times in the novel. Glow is a tearjerker - I was weeping and angry at the injustice that was oh so real and happening to people within its pages, and by the time I had closed the book, I knew I'd experienced something that will haunt me into the future.

LORI CASWELL says

This story spans the years 1836 to 1941 following the female descendants of Solomon Bounds.

Amelia McGee, a young woman of Cherokee and Scotch-Irish descent, is an outspoken pamphleteer for the NAACP and when her home was vandalized in the middle of the night she decides to put her eleven year old daughter, Ella, alone on a bus home to Georgia from Washington, D.C. But when the local bus is out of commission Ella is left walking the last part of her journey. She is preyed on by two drifters and is left for dead on the side of the road with just her dog.

Ella is found by Willa Mae Cotton, a former slave and Mary-Mary Freeborn. They take her back to their cabin to nurse her back to health. While there she learns the secrets of her lineage, she is the youngest of Solomon Bounds kin.

Dollycas's Thoughts

This is a poignant narrative of an important time in history. In 2012 we are still talking about race, it is still a hot button issue even as we have the first president of mixed race.

The author takes us on a journey through Solomon Bounds family tree and each branch and leaf gets to tell us their part of the story. White, African-American, Native American, even mixed together, they all have their own voice in this family. Their words have a lyrical quality that makes the story real and engaging.

It is a story full of history and local customs of the Northeast Georgia. The settings of the mountains and forests surrounding the story are described lovingly, as is the weather endured, the heat, the winds, and the rain.

The theme throughout is love, a mother's love for her child, the lengths we go to to maintain that relationship as well the other relationships in our lives, even relationships that society would deem forbidden. The women in this adventure are very strong and continue to grow throughout their story.

Again, I am amazed that this is a debut novel for this author. She is definitely an author to watch.

This is a beautifully composed novel spanning over 100 years, the readers will definitely see and feel the "Glow".

Gayle says

If I could, I would give this book ten stars. I don't know what the criteria is for a masterpiece, but in my opinion, this meets any requirements for that honor.

What beautiful, beautiful language. The characters are magnificently presented so you feel as if you truly

know these people. The smells, the sights, the sounds are all there to make this a unique experience.

It travels from the 1800s up to WWII. Here is an interview with the author:

<http://us.penguinroup.com/static/htm...>

If you'll listen to this, it will give you a much better feel for this book than I can.

I had an epiphany shortly after I finished reading and I'm curious to see if anyone else sees it the same way as I.

So, if you read this book, please message me on Facebook so I can discuss my opinion with you.

It's difficult to grasp that this is Tuccelli's first novel. I feel sure it won't be her last. I'm not one to read a book more than once, but I will probably make an exception in this case.

Please don't miss the chance to experience the ultimate in writing fiction.

Chanda says

Have you ever taken a look at the questions created for book club discussions? Most of the ones I have read are heavy on literary terminology, forcing participants to dig back to painful discussions from freshman lit. Glow was written for those questions. The book club question writer who was assigned this novel must have been ecstatic to be handed this wordy little volume because it is designed with that purpose in mind. No questions weighing in at under a five-sentence paragraph will do because literary terminology will have to be relied upon to create a discussion at all. This book left me glazed over, wondering what happened to the ten hours I spent holding it.

I'm no slouch, mind you. I've done my time in institutions of higher learning. I've discussed rhetoric and appreciated clever metaphors. I even got A's in all my college literature courses. Here's the thing-I read because I like it. I read because I want to be swept away into another place and time, accompanied by characters I've never met but look forward to getting to know. At the end of it, I want to meet with my book club, a group of fun, intelligent, beautiful women, and discuss poignant questions like, did you like it? It should be a short discussion this week. The advanced feedback I'm hearing from the girls matches my own answer to that favorite of all book club questions-no. We most decidedly did not like it. And we won't spend any time waxing philosophical about the author's ability to tell a tale through generations of ultimately related individuals without bothering herself with any tedious elements of plot or climax. She has created the perfect space for those literary minds who fully enjoy mining for the meaning behind the words and creating depth where there actually may be none. I admire the tenacity of those individuals but sadly can't count myself among them. I don't want to have to work that hard to figure out the author's point and because of that particular character trait (flaw?) I will move on from this experience to other authors with other tales to tell without looking back-or looking forward to any more of Tuccelli's work.

<http://bibliofilesbookrating.blogspot...>

Phyllis says

I can only echo the sentiment my friend expressed after she read the book "wow" There were times when I was reading this book when I couldn't keep all the characters straight and I thought it jumped around too

much but then the book just over took me. In the end, my heart was breaking for all that had happened to my friends from "Glow". The character development was superb, the voices of all of them so crystal clear. I cared so much for them. It is a beautifully written book. Add it to your list of must reads.

?Laura says

This story spans the years from 1834 to 1941 in Hopewell County, Georgia, and is told non-sequentially by several different narrators. At the heart of this story is the pursuit of freedom, equality and tolerance, from the era of slavery through the years of segregation and the KKK, but the complexity of the characters and their relationships, and more than a sprinkling of magic, take it to another level. I was very impressed with the author's ability to take a subject which has been tackled many times before and present it in a way which felt very fresh. I also found the language just beautiful and felt the author did a wonderful job of providing each character with a unique voice. I just loved this book.

Nancy says

4.5 Stars

What a talented author this is! It is one thing to tie together a generation or two. Quite another to tie together a couple of family trees and generations.

The book is told by multiple perspectives in different time periods. The first voice introduces a couple of characters and the current conflict. The next voice might be a character introduced by the previous character but eventually they all tie together into the same family tree, although not a straight line. The cultures cross between American Indian, Southern white, and black.

One character is struggling because racial tensions have escalated and she no longer feels her young daughter is safe. She puts her on the bus and the girl disappears. She's frantic and sick with worry. Another character is torn from her mother's arms and sold to another family. It is slavery U.S. and my heart broke into a thousand pieces as I read the point of view as a slave.

Another character is a boy who discovers he is part American Indian and left to care for his toddler sister who seems to be mentally unsteady and difficult to keep corralled. He is living in a prejudiced world and wondering who he is - black, Indian, white? Can he rise to his trials? Through him we meet a multitude of other characters who play no small part.

It is part historical fiction, part ghost story, part epic novel. Beautifully written in the language expected (black slave English or 1940's Southern states) with descriptions that paint amazing pictures. All stories are tied together. My only complaint is how loosely they are tied together. I yearned for a more solid ending rather than the assumptions I was to make. I still highly recommend.

Leah says

Glow is the kind of novel I want to shout about, the kind of novel I want to shove into the hands of complete and total strangers. I'm floored that it's a debut and I'm a tiny bit angry with myself for not discovering it

sooner. This is a book written for me. A family deep-rooted in the South, heavy-hitting themes tackled respectfully but without sugar-coating anything, a well of faith, and just a hint of magic. *Glow* is a phenomenal novel that left me breathless. Not only will I be itching for whatever Tuccelli happens to write next, but you can bet I'll be pushing this novel on whoever gets within shouting distance! Do yourself a favor, guys. Read this book.

For the full review and more, head over to [The Pretty Good Gatsby!](#)

Jackleen says

I was delighted to win *Glow* in the First-reads Giveaway contest. This was certainly a very much appreciated surprise Christmas present!

Glow is the exceptionally well written debut novel of Jessica Maria Tuccelli. Indian legends, 'haints' and hoodoo magic flickers through this brilliantly written novel of the history of the southern states. This is an expertly weaved tale written in the vernacular of several different characters from the small mountainous community of Hopewell County, Georgia ranging back and forth in time from the onset of WWII to 1836.

Tuccelli illuminates the history of slavery and the forced exodus of the Indians native to this region of Georgia and their often cruel treatment at the hands of the overpowering white population. The surprising interconnectedness of the community and the contrasting racial barriers are honestly explored in this riveting epic. Most importantly, this is a story about the bonds of family and friendship, as well as, the special relationship between mothers and daughters. It is about human love, kindness and hope in the face of tragedy, shame and cruelty. Ghosts weave in and out of this story as the stains of shame and guilt thread through the tapestry of the history of the colonization of North America.

Too often these days, I have picked up books to read based on the back summary only to find upon completion that the descriptions given about the novel have in no way met my expectations. I can honestly say that the back description of *Glow* does not do this fabulous book justice. The story line of Ella McGee lost and left for dead at the side of the road, on the back of the book is one small thread in a multicoloured tapestry consisting of four main storylines. The alternating storylines include: Amelia McGee, of Scotch-Irish and Cherokee descent, and Ella's mother, in two different timelines of 26 years old, searching for her lost daughter, and at the age of nine, surviving a lonely childhood while being bullied as a 'half-breed'; Willie Mae cotton, former slave and wise hoodoo practitioner, who tells her story of growing up on a plantation at the beck and call of an unstable mistress; and, Riddle Young, whose father was white and mother Cherokee, orphaned as a teenager with a small sister to raise on his own, goes on to form a bond with the wealthy Solomon Bound, building and eventually managing the large plantation but never belonging to the white community. Tuccelli like a busy spider spins a tale consisting of these seemingly disconnected stories drawing us further into the center of her web whereupon the connectedness of all the characters is revealed. Yet, this small storyline of Ella is the alpha and the omega of the story, literally the beginning and the end; and in the end, she is the sum total of the community and their future hope.

The strength of this novel is literally the writing. The prose is fluid and, yet sharp. The storylines are distinct, and each told from the first person POV. And, each is told in a different variation of the vernacular and immediately recognizable. In fact, you could easily open the book at any page and know with which character you are reading without hunting for the chapter heading. The characters are so well drawn they could step off the page. The scenery and environs of the community of Hopewell, with the mountains and farms, the alternating heat and rain storms, are well drawn and reflect each different timeline with abundant

detail.

I love big epic stories with multiple storylines and characters. Glow does have a large number of characters some of which flit in and out of the different storylines, and I was quite grateful for the family tree at the beginning of the book and used it repeatedly to keep characters straight in my own mind. While I enjoyed the challenge of keeping track of who is who, I can see how others could find this frustrating. Both the manner and subject matter of this book are in no way light hearted; however, the satisfaction upon the completion of this book was huge.

Days after completing this book, I continue to think of the characters of Glow and their stories. This book was insightful and lent a unique perspective of the non-white history of American. And, although terrible wrongs were committed, the story never lost sight of hope, love and the interconnectedness that makes us human.

I can only hope that Jessica Maria Tuccelli continues to write and I look forward to the next novel.

Glow will be published on March 19, 2012.

For more see my blog <http://jackleenslibrary.blogspot.com/>

Celeste says

Very, very torn between 3-star and 4-star review... but I'm going with three because I got bored several times while reading this book. It just had too many slow parts for my liking - I prefer something that keeps me up all night because I can't wait to see what happens next.

It's a very complex story spanning hundreds of years and connecting dozens of characters - and considering the epic proportions of the tale to be told, I'm really impressed that it was so coherent. I did have to keep going back to the massive family tree in the front of the book to remember who was married to whom, etc., but that's what those things are there for. The book is written from several characters' points of view - and it's amazing how different the "voice" of each person is, as the first person narrative changes from chapter to chapter.

What bothered me - and this may just be my own pet peeve and not a real flaw - was the way the reader is continuously beat over the head with racism. Yes, the book is set in the South, and yes, it takes place during some tumultuous times (from pre-Civil War to the 1940s), but a story centered around racial tensions can still be told without being so damn preachy! The author of *The Help* certainly didn't have this problem. I also wish that there had been more of the "Cherokee lore and hoodoo conjuring" that the book jacket description promised.

Bottom line: it's worth reading - even if you don't love it, you will appreciate it for the huge accomplishment that it is.

Tracy Darity says

Glow the debut novel by Jessica Maria Tuccelli is exquisitely written. Her words are a work of beauty and I immediately fell in love with this novel. *Glow* starts out with Mia (Amelia) McGhee, a civil rights activist on the verge of leading an organized picket against a major grocer in Washington, DC. On the eve of the picket terror strikes too close to home and she places her young daughter Ella and family dog on a bus, alone, headed back to her hometown of Hopewell, Georgia.

Glow is compared to *The Help* for some odd reason. I think comparison's to Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Octavia Butler's *Kindred*, and even Bernice McFadden's *Nowhere is a Place* would be more accurate. The story deals with slavery in all its cruelty, but gives a lesson on the Native Americans that first inherited this land and the co-mingling of foreigners, slaves and slave owners. Tuccelli's research and passion for history is evident as she paves the path of heritage from 1941 back through the early 1800's.

Although *Glow* opens up with the tale of Mia and the disappearance of Ella after she exits the bus in Hopewell, the book switches gears and becomes the backstory of Mia in her youth. As quickly as the reader makes the adjustment, Tuccelli switches direction again and the reader lands smack dab in additional backstory, even more interesting than the first. It isn't until page 270 that we get back to the original story and it's happily ever after ending.

If Tuccelli wasn't such an amazing writer and the stories within the story weren't so intriguing *Glow* could have been a major flop. My disappointments with the book were my inability at times to keep up with the ethnicity of the characters, and the lack of story between Mia and Obadiah, who is only mentioned in rare instances. I believe their story coupled with Tuccelli's writing could make for a powerful love story.

Glow started out as a 5 star read but there was too much backstory and too little focus on what started as the main story, cost it a star. I am excited for Tuccelli and look forward to reading her future works; she is a rare and gifted writer.

Peace & Blessings,

Tracy L. Darity
www.tracyldarity.com

2K13 Letters & Themes Challenge: Choose Your Own Adventure

Book received by Viking/Penguin

Rebecca says

Beautifully written, mystical. Incorporated history in the southern United States - the effects on people considered subhuman devastating. It's good to read this book straight through to keep characters and times straight. I picked it up at different times and had to try to reacquaint myself with who was who.

rameau says

Glow starts with a quiet, loving moment between two people. It quickly turns into something more sinister.

Soon a mother is rushing to save her daughter, a child who thinks of her as a sister. They go to the bus stop, but there's only room for one, and the mother sends the child ahead alone. Few hours later a phone call reveals the awful truth—the child, Ella, never made to their home town.

Tuccelli throws the reader into the young mother's skin just before sitting them down with the eleven year old girl talking to her dog. She awakens you after a nightmare with gentle hands of an old woman and moves you through the years into another century, into another world. Still further into the past we go before all the pieces are uncovered and the puzzle picture starts to form. It's a gruesome montage of slavery, racism, violence, and life.

It's especially fascinating to an outsider.

I'm not an American, but I've learned enough about the recent American history to recognise certain events. I'm also a fair headed and skinned Scandinavian who doesn't have a clue what being brown or black means. But I was a girl once, now I am a woman, always a daughter, though yet not a mother, and I do recognise the bond between a mother and daughter. I recognise the love, the anxiety, the grief, and the joy. I recognise the human emotions.

I didn't see my complexion darken, but I did feel the dirt under my fingernails and I flinched when the strap sang. I saw a biplane soar and I winced at every demand of freedom papers. That is Tuccelli's talent. She can transport you into another time and place and show you what life was like a little over 150 years ago. She can talk to you in different voices and not sound the same each time. She can bring to life the most gruesome pictures from a history book and show you how people got to that dark place. She can also show you hope.

For me, this book blurs the line between fact and fiction in a good way. It draws from actual events and proposes a story that most likely isn't true, but it feels like it could be. It makes the history be about people, not dates and words on a paper.

As much as I loved this story, I didn't love all of it. I abhor multiple first person points of view in any tense. They're impossible to write right. Tuccelli comes damn near it though. Willie Mae and Riddle Young have two very distinctive voices, and even I might be able to recognise their chapters from a random page sampling. Unfortunately Ella's and Mia's chapters aren't quite as unique and without contextual clues I wouldn't be able to separate one adolescent from another. For a native English speaker it might be an easier task. There are also a few long paragraphs of storytelling that qualify as infodumping. It's understandable in a book of this scope, but it didn't make absorbing them any easier.

I'm glad I stuck with it, though, and I'm telling you this book is worth a read.

I received an Advanced Readers Copy of this book from the publisher through NetGalley.

Cecily says

This novel was much more than I expected from the dust jacket description. What could have been an interesting read as an abduction mystery and tale of the Civil Rights Movement in the 1940s turned into much more. It became a multigenerational tale of mixed-race communities and relationships over a century in Georgia told through the eyes of several characters, free and enslaved.

I feel it is often easy to make characters that are slaves more caricature than human being. The characters in this book seemed to me to be well rounded, often ambivalent, as I feel we all are. Perhaps the story will not

be emotional or graphic enough for some. I appreciated that the author addressed the joys and sorrows but focused more often on the grey area between.

Just for good measure, there is a dash of folklore in the story with ghosts of the past (or haints) haunting some of these characters. At first I considered this a detraction. As the story progressed, however, I found myself wanting resolution for these poor souls as well. The jury is still out on this aspect of the story, but I greatly appreciate I'm still thinking about it, even after closing the book.

I believe this novel will resonate with me long after reading it. Like many Americans, I can count among my ancestors such free persons of color. Not enough is said about these mixed race communities. We have until recently focused too much on the stark relief version of a good/bad national history i.e. all slave owners were sadists, all Native Americans went to reservations, the lives of freed men and women were immediately better (never mind the 100 year gap in the rights struggle) and so on. With this novel I can ruminate upon what my ancestors may have witnessed in their lives. In all, I am thankful for a rich fiction which makes me yearn to learn more.

Holly P says

3.5

Although a little complex with the multiple time periods and narratives, Glow is an engrossing novel which convincingly captures the essence of the time period, especially the parts taking place in Hopewell County, GA during the mid-1800's. While the novel touches on the forced removal of the Cherokee from Georgia and also slavery in the county, the focal point of the story is the family connections which are related by a fascinating and varied cast of characters.

"No matter what trouble he stirs up, what law he breaks, Obidiah Bounds will always be her cool sip of hyssop nectar on a sunny day."

This quote opens the novel which starts off in October of 1941 with an adult Amelia McGee putting her daughter Ella on a bus to her brother Buddy in the middle of the night after the arrest of her draft dodging husband Obadiah and the receipt of threats for her work with the NAACP. Things do not go as planned and Ella encounters trouble with two unsavory characters who leave her badly injured. Fortunately she is found by Willie Mae Cotton and Mary-Mary Freeborn-two old former slaves who take her to their cottage in the mountains to nurse her back to health. Here the story shifts back and forth between Ella and her saviors in the 1940's to her mother Amelia's childhood growing up in those same mountains. As the novel continues on we are led into Willie Mae's story and through her comes the connection to Riddle Young and Solomon Bounds who also feature prominently in the story. Glow also has a bit of a supernatural bent featuring ghosts or "haints" and hoodoo magic woven throughout the tale.

The writing here is wonderful and really sucked me in. There were a few things that did make reading a little difficult though. The biggest issue is that while the stories of each of the characters are connected, there is nothing to ease you from the narrative of one character into the narrative of another. A section will deal with Ella, then her mother as an adult, then Ella again, then Ella's mother as a girl and then it moves onto Willie Mae's story. Because the book is written in this manner the family tree in the beginning is essential to being able to follow the book fully and I found myself referring to it often. The good thing is that I found myself liking each character and their story arc so well that I started not to mind this eventually. It did prove distracting at first though and if I didn't have to keep pulling myself out of the story to refer to the family tree I probably would have given this book a 4/5. As the accounts of Willie Mae, and the McGee, Young, and

Bounds families unwind the reader eventually begins to see the connection between them. Interspersed throughout Glow are US Census instructions for the different eras covered in the book which was a unique way to illustrate the view of the different races for the time period being written about. I have always been a big fan of family sagas and historical fiction set in the US and I really enjoyed this debut by Ms. Tuccelli. I was entertained from the moment I started reading of Ella's encounter with the drifters, through the multiple lives of the other characters, and all the way to the end when we finally find out what happens with Ella. I will definitely be checking out her work in the future.

review copy from NetGalley

Spinningjenny says

This is probably a 3.5 for me. Beautifully written tale about small town Georgia and the intertwining history of its families. I was engrossed by the characters and drawn in by their stories, though Mia and Ella's narratives were hard for me to tell apart at first. There are a lot of great things about this book--the descriptions were evocative without veering into self-indulgence and the interplay of race relations between white, black and Cherokee rang true to me. I thought it was a sensitively written book but I admit that at the end I was left wondering what the point was. These great narratives of people and families coming together and drifting apart through the years was interesting (and uniquely familiar to those from small towns) and compelling. But at the end I suppose I was left wondering what I, the reader, was meant to do with all this info. At the end I'm not sure what this rich history is supposed to mean and, frankly, why it matters. What is the ultimate point of this story? I don't think the author convinces me that this story burns to be told. The plot framework does not support a reason for this engrossing look into Ella's ancestry and leaves me wishing that there was something in the 1941 storyline that desperately called for making sense of the past. Don't get me wrong. Great storytelling. Interesting characters. Definitely worth reading. But lacking in overall plotting and an overarching reason for this tale to be told. An entertaining weekend read.

Beth says

As a piece of literary fiction, Glow intrigued me for many reasons. First, the flowing conversation allowed me to stay engaged right there with the story:

Mia had tried again, treading gingerly, not wanting to spoil the beauty of her daughter, not wanting to seed ugliness in her head.

They won't let folks with brown faces work there. Only pink faces like them. White folks, she conceded.

Not even you?

Especially not me.

Why not?

Because some folks don't know any better; they weren't taught to do the right thing.

"I'm ten and a half. You only nine," I say.

"So you're the older one. Fine by me."

"Don't you forget it," I say.

"I'll remind you to your dying day."

"Don't doubt it. You a pest," I say. "You like a fly around a horse's eye."

"And you're the one around his ass."

We cracked ourselves up, Mary-Mary and me.

Secondly, you know how much I love rich word choice, right? Well, this novel delivered. Jessica Tuccelli chose just the right words necessary to provide vivid imagery for the reader.

"An epoch later, we heard the double bang of the screen door and Poppa's brogans sweeping across the floorboards..."

"I squinted and imagined the puzzle pieces: the corner of a window, the jutting edge of an oak-shingled roof, a sunken porch, and the top of a crumbling chimney."

"When I deposited the wormy being into his hand, Turner seemed to forget himself as he caressed it. His jaw dropped, a dab of wet glossing his bottom lip. He laughed silently as the caterpillar undulated across his wrist and up his forearm."

"That one is unfortunate in death as well as in life. And now she stuck like nobody's business. She got nothing left of conscience or reason, just painful rememory and terrible want. That's the worst state a haint [Southern colloquialism - ghost, lost soul] can be in --wandering so long, there ain't nothing left of their humanity."

Each chapter held one page on which was printed authentic historical information, in the form of an official document, in order to help stage the cultural mindset, actual laws of the time, racial integration (or lack thereof), census taking protocols.

This book will appeal to readers who enjoy Southern States in the 1940's, historical fiction, evolution of cultural mores, and engagingly written literary fiction.

Cindy Hudson says

When Amelia McGee gets a threatening rock through her window on the eve of a picket by blacks in Washington, D.C. in 1941, the first things she thinks to do is send her daughter Ella back to the homestead in Georgia where she will be safe. But something goes wrong on the way. The bus breaks down and deposits Ella late. When she begins to walk to her uncle's home, two men in a pickup attack her, but she's rescued before she is seriously injured. So begins the tale in *Glow*, a novel by Jessica Maria Tuccelli that starts with these early stirrings of the Civil Rights Movement and goes back in time to slavery and the removal of Native Americans from their land.

In remote Hopewell County, Georgia, a mix of fiercely independent people worked a hardscrabble existence in the hills. When preacher Solomon Bounds brings in a hardy strain of tobacco and builds a home with his family and slaves, he lays the footwork for a dynamic that will exist for generations to come.

The storytellers are mostly women: Amelia, Ella and Willa Mae Cotton. Ella is still young and impressionable, not aware of the cruelties of the world for a mixed race child in the 1940s. Amelia suffered the taunts of children who called her a half-breed when she was young, and she remembers her Cherokee grandmother sharing with her the lore of her people. She couldn't understand hating or loving someone because of the color of their skin, and it seemed natural to her to fall in love with Obadiah Bounds, a black man who is Ella's father. Willa Mae was born into slavery, and she knew that both her happiness and grief depended on the character of the man who owned her. She navigated the tricky waters of freedom and survived as a bridge from the old ways to the generations that came after her.

Throughout the saga, *Glow* paints a story of people for generations who want nothing more than the freedom

to decide their own fate and care for their families. It's a sweeping tale that reminds me of *Cold Mountain* with its descriptions of life in the Georgia mountains, and of *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* for its scope of American history. Mother-daughter book clubs with girls aged 15 and above will find a lot to talk about including the role of women in the times represented, slavery, Civil Rights and the relocation of Native Americans from their homeland.

The publisher provided me with a copy of this book to review.
