



Lazaretto: A Novel

By Diane McKinney-Whetstone

Download now

Read Online →

Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone

This stunning new novel from Diane McKinney-Whetstone, nationally bestselling author of *Tumbling*, begins in the chaotic backstreets of post-Civil War Philadelphia as a young black woman gives birth to a child fathered by her wealthy white employer.

In a city riven by racial tension, the father's transgression is unforgivable. He has already arranged to take the baby, so it falls to Sylvia, the midwife's teenage apprentice, to tell Meda that her child is dead—a lie that will define the course of both women's lives. A devastated Meda dedicates herself to working in an orphanage and becomes a surrogate mother to two white boys; while Sylvia, fueled by her guilt, throws herself into her nursing studies and finds a post at the Lazaretto, the country's first quarantine hospital, situated near the Delaware River, just south of Philadelphia.

The Lazaretto is a crucible of life and death; sick passengers and corpses are quarantined here, but this is also the place where immigrants take their first steps toward the American dream. The live-in staff are mostly black Philadelphians, and when two of them arrange to marry, the city's black community prepares for a party on its grounds. But the celebration is plunged into chaos when gunshots ring out across the river.

As Sylvia races to save the victim, the fates of Meda's beloved orphans also converge on the Lazaretto. Long ago, one "brother" committed an unthinkable act to protect the other, sparking a chain of events that now puts the Lazaretto on lockdown. Here conflicts escalate, lies collapse, and secrets begin to surface; like dead men rising, past sins cannot be contained.

↓ [Download Lazaretto: A Novel ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Lazaretto: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Lazaretto: A Novel

By Diane McKinney-Whetstone

Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone

This stunning new novel from Diane McKinney-Whetstone, nationally bestselling author of *Tumbling*, begins in the chaotic backstreets of post-Civil War Philadelphia as a young black woman gives birth to a child fathered by her wealthy white employer.

In a city riven by racial tension, the father's transgression is unforgivable. He has already arranged to take the baby, so it falls to Sylvia, the midwife's teenage apprentice, to tell Meda that her child is dead—a lie that will define the course of both women's lives. A devastated Meda dedicates herself to working in an orphanage and becomes a surrogate mother to two white boys; while Sylvia, fueled by her guilt, throws herself into her nursing studies and finds a post at the Lazaretto, the country's first quarantine hospital, situated near the Delaware River, just south of Philadelphia.

The Lazaretto is a crucible of life and death; sick passengers and corpses are quarantined here, but this is also the place where immigrants take their first steps toward the American dream. The live-in staff are mostly black Philadelphians, and when two of them arrange to marry, the city's black community prepares for a party on its grounds. But the celebration is plunged into chaos when gunshots ring out across the river.

As Sylvia races to save the victim, the fates of Meda's beloved orphans also converge on the Lazaretto. Long ago, one "brother" committed an unthinkable act to protect the other, sparking a chain of events that now puts the Lazaretto on lockdown. Here conflicts escalate, lies collapse, and secrets begin to surface; like dead men rising, past sins cannot be contained.

Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #185099 in eBooks
- Published on: 2016-04-12
- Released on: 2016-04-12
- Format: Kindle eBook

 [Download Lazaretto: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Lazaretto: A Novel ...pdf](#)

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Setting her book once again in her native city of Philadelphia, Pa., McKinney-Whetstone opens her sixth novel on the eve of Abraham Lincoln's assassination. Meda, a beautiful young black woman, delivers the secret child of her employer, lawyer Tom Benin (who is white), at a medical office for clandestine services. After the baby is taken from her at birth, Sylvie, an apprentice to the midwife, lies and tells Meda her infant girl has died. Bereft and ungrounded, Meda seeks consolation by serving as a wet nurse to a pair of white newborn boys at a nearby orphanage, naming them Bram and Linc after the slain president she admired. Through a deal with Benin, Bram and Linc are able to stay with Meda on weekends and holidays. After cruelty and abuse from their employer forces the boys from Philadelphia, Meda and her family continue to treat them as their own. In the meantime, Sylvia has become a formidable and capable nurse at the city's island quarantine hospital, Lazaretto. When the boys return to the city in desperate circumstances, old paths eventually converge at the hospital. McKinney-Whetstone explores racial passing, class prejudice, the nature of family, and the longings of forbidden love, but the disjointed narratives often feel like two separate novels uncomfortably forced together. The emotional content is never allowed to rise above predictable contrivances of plot and unremarkable characterizations. (Apr.)

Review

"A perfect book for the end of the Obama era.... Incredibly daring.... McKinney-Whetstone's trademark poetic prose is still as sharp as it has always been...without sacrificing plot and pacing.... I couldn't be happier that McKinney-Whetstone has returned to show us all how it's done." (*Washington Post*)

"As in any Diane McKinney-Whetstone novel, there is love in all of its many facets and dimensions. The author shows that good writing is like a fine bottle of wine—it just gets better with time." (*Essence*)

"When it comes to creating living and breathing characters, no one can touch Diane McKinney-Whetstone. Her new novel *Lazaretto* is no exception.... I suggest reading *Lazaretto* at the dinner table, because it will leave you full as your favorite meal." (BuzzFeed Books)

"Vibrant.... Completely engaging.... A unique blend of poetic language and graphic depictions of the injustices suffered by African Americans in the post-Civil War period." (*Booklist* (starred review))

"Language sings throughout the whole of McKinney-Whetstone's writing—from the lilt of her characters' colloquial speech to her poetic, visceral descriptions.... A sophisticated and compelling novel that comes alive through a rich cavalcade of vibrant characters and a suspenseful plot." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

"Whetstone's novel explores a fictional crisis that begins in the neighborhood surrounding Philly's Lazaretto Hospital after the Civil War." (*New York Post*, "This Week's Must-Read Books")

"McKinney-Whetstone's trademark poetic prose is still as sharp as it has always been...without sacrificing plot and pacing.... I couldn't be happier that McKinney-Whetstone has returned to show us all how it's done." (*Washington Post*)

"Juggling a wide cast of characters, this book dives into family struggles, romance, Lincoln's assassination, and the racial tensions simmering in post-Civil War Philadelphia. Perfect for fans of history and complicated, rich, character-driven stories." (BookTrib.com)

“Once again, McKinney-Whetstone has managed to bring to life a wide range of characters whose triumphs and tribulations would never show up in a history book.” (*BookPage*)

“In this masterful work of historical fiction, Diane McKinney-Whetstone seamlessly transports us to Philadelphia in the aftermath of the Civil War and Lincoln’s assassination, beautifully evoking powerful stories of love, friendship and humanity amid the vibrant black community that flourished amid the troubled times.” (“Largehearted Boy”, *40 New Books in 2016 That’ll Make You Forget about Netflix*)

“TUMBLING is an accomplished novel, with sharply drawn characters, exuberant prose, plenty of period detail and a wise, forgiving outlook on family life.” (Los Angeles Times Book Review)

“McKinney-Whetstone weaves an intricate tapestry of love, pain and memory. . . . Philly is as much a character as the women. . . . Neena’s dire straits are nicely handled and provide a pretty sharp hook.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“[A] poignant, multigenerational story. . . . An aching tender portrait of familial love and pain.” (Booklist)

“A compelling story. . . . In evocative prose, she re-creates the world of 1940s and 1950s Philadelphia with passionate emotion in a moving novel of love, loss, redemption, and healing.” (Ebony)

“Offers up both wrenching and sweet truths that feel familiar to any reader, in a series of uncloying, unpredictable plotlines. The result is a book that feels honest, filled with people you want to keep reading about.” (Philadelphia Magazine)

“[McKinney-Whetstone] creates a unique, believable black middle-class world where there are no villains—just individuals trying their very best to get through life while inflicting minimum pain on each other, or themselves. . . . These people are flawed, human, engaging in the best sense.” (Washington Post)

“Even the air is palpable in TUMBLING. . . . The story moves forth on the power of Ms. McKinney-Whetstone’s characters. Ms. McKinney-Whetstone captures the formidable struggle to protect both a community and a family.” (The New York Times Book Review)

“[A] beautifully written tale [and] a lyrical read.” (USA Today)

“[A] remarkable first novel. . . . The story probes beneath its residents’ lives to tell a powerful tale of damage and healing.” (Publishers Weekly (starred review))

“A bouncy, moody, musical debut by an author who, like a good blues singer, is strong on style and interpretation. . . . A gifted prose writer with a tremendous sense of place.” (Kirkus Reviews)

From the Back Cover

This stunning new novel from Diane McKinney-Whetstone, national bestselling author of *Tumbling*, begins in the chaotic backstreets of post—Civil War Philadelphia as a young black woman gives birth to a child fathered by her wealthy white employer.

In a city riven by racial tension, the father’s transgression is unforgivable. He arranges to take the baby, so it falls to Sylvia, the midwife’s teenage apprentice, to tell the mother, Meda, that her child is dead—a lie that will define the course of both women’s lives. A devastated Meda dedicates herself to working in an orphanage and becomes a surrogate mother to two white boys; while Sylvia, fueled by her guilt, throws

herself into her nursing studies and finds a post at the Lazaretto, the country's first quarantine hospital, situated near the Delaware River, just south of Philadelphia.

The Lazaretto is a crucible of life and death; sick passengers and corpses are quarantined here, but this is also the place where immigrants take their first steps toward the American dream. The live-in staff are mostly black Philadelphians, and when two of them arrange to marry, the city's black community prepares for a party on its grounds. But the celebration is plunged into chaos when gunshots ring out across the river.

As Sylvia races to save the victim, the fates of Meda's beloved orphans also converge on the Lazaretto. Here conflicts escalate, lies collapse, and secrets begin to surface. Like dead men rising, past sins cannot be contained.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gertrude Knudsen:

In this 21st centuries, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive right now, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of often the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated the idea for a while is reading. Yep, by reading a publication your ability to survive enhance then having chance to stay than other is high. For yourself who want to start reading a book, we give you this Lazaretto: A Novel book as beginning and daily reading publication. Why, because this book is more than just a book.

John Rivera:

Reading a book can be one of a lot of pastime that everyone in the world really likes. Do you like reading book therefore. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a reserve will give you a lot of new facts. When you read a e-book you will get new information due to the fact book is one of a number of ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, examining a book will make you actually more imaginative. When you reading through a book especially fictional book the author will bring one to imagine the story how the characters do it anything. Third, you may share your knowledge to other individuals. When you read this Lazaretto: A Novel, you can tells your family, friends and soon about yours e-book. Your knowledge can inspire the mediocre, make them reading a publication.

Cinthia Jacobsen:

The e-book with title Lazaretto: A Novel contains a lot of information that you can find out it. You can get a lot of profit after read this book. This specific book exist new understanding the information that exist in this e-book represented the condition of the world right now. That is important to yo7u to learn how the improvement of the world. This book will bring you in new era of the syndication. You can read the e-book on your own smart phone, so you can read it anywhere you want.

Weston Brock:

The reason? Because this Lazaretto: A Novel is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will distress you with the secret the item inside. Reading this book beside it was fantastic author who write the book in such remarkable way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining technique but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This phenomenal book will give you a lot of benefits than the other book possess such as help improving your skill and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I have been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

**Download and Read Online Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane
McKinney-Whetstone #3CKTZD97YBP**

Read Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone for online ebook

Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone books to read online.

Online Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone ebook PDF download

Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone Doc

Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone Mobipocket

Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone EPub

3CKTZD97YBP: Lazaretto: A Novel By Diane McKinney-Whetstone