



Nowhere Is a Place

By Bernice L. McFadden

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“*Nowhere Is a Place* is a powerful portrait of family secrets, damage, and healing, probing deep below the surface of an African American family’s history to mend present day relationships . . . Ms. McFadden has a beautiful writing style that is simultaneously lyrical and transparent. In parts of the narrative, time seems to stand still as she describes an event in riveting minute to minute detail. Other times she employs a kind of poetic shorthand that condenses long periods of time, years even, into a few sentences.”

--New York Journal of Books

“An engrossing multigenerational saga . . . With her deep engagement in the material and her brisk but lyrical prose, McFadden creates a poignant epic of resiliency, bringing Sherry to a well-earned awareness of her place atop the shoulders of her ancestors, those who survived so that she might one day, too.”

--Publishers Weekly

“Telling her story from two perspectives and on two levels--the mother-daughter relationship and Sherry’s fictional account--McFadden brings added texture to this story of reconciliation.”

--Booklist

“A poignant tale of self-discovery in the face of a complicated family history.”

--Brooklyn Daily Eagle

“Bernice L. McFadden’s *Nowhere Is a Place* is a hauntingly-disturbing and redemptive frame story of many generations of a Yamasee Native-American and African-American family from pre-slavery times until July 1995.”

--Bowling Green Daily News

“With a good dose of poignancy about life and finding the wisdom of the world for ourselves, *Nowhere is a Place* is a fine addition to modern literary fiction collections.”

--The Midwest Book Review

“Compelling, beautifully written, and profoundly human, McFadden has conjured a tale of a fractured family who journey across the country and back

through history to unearth painful truths that unexpectedly reshape their relationships with each other."

--**Lynn Nottage, playwright, author of *Intimate Apparel***

Nothing can mend a broken heart quite like family. Sherry has struggled all her life to understand who she is, where she comes from, and, most important, why her mother slapped her cheek one summer afternoon. The incident has haunted Sherry, and it causes her to dig into her family's past. Like many family histories, it is fractured and stubbornly reluctant to reveal its secrets; but Sherry is determined to know the full story. In just a few days' time, her extended family will gather for a reunion, and Sherry sets off across the country with her mother, Dumpling, to join them. What Sherry and Dumpling find on their trip is far more important than scenic sites here and there--it is the assorted pieces of their family's past. Pulled together, they reveal a history of amazing survival and abundant joy.

Bernice L. McFadden is the author of eight critically acclaimed novels including the classic *Sugar*, *Gathering of Waters* (a *New York Times* Editors' Choice), and *Glorious*, which was featured in *O, The Oprah Magazine* and was a finalist for the NAACP Image Award. She is a two-time Hurston/Wright Legacy Award finalist, as well as the recipient of two fiction honor awards from the BCALA. Her sophomore novel, *The Warmest December*, was praised by Nobel Prize-winning author Toni Morrison as "searing and expertly imagined." McFadden lives in Brooklyn, New York.

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Nowhere Is a Place By Bernice L. McFadden Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

McFadden's *Sugar* and other titles remain key recent novels of black women's search for, and claiming of, origins; this flawed but engrossing multigenerational saga takes its place among them. Pregnant and chronically "displaced" at 38, Sherry sets off with her mother, Dumpling, on a road trip from Nevada to a family reunion in Georgia. Along the way, she presses the reluctant Dumpling for family stories, intending to write a history as a project of self-discovery. The road trip sections are awkward and perfunctory, but Sherry's transformations of Dumpling's stories—creating a book-within-a-book reaching back 150 years—are terrific. One memorable section relates how a group of slaves cannily manages to take over the plantation from its deranged master; a later section tells of Dumpling's mother, Lillie, who fled Georgia for a wild life in Philadelphia; a puzzling slap Sherry received from Dumpling at a family get-together is also eventually explained. With her deep engagement in the material and her brisk but lyrical prose, McFadden creates a poignant epic of resiliency, bringing Sherry to a well-earned awareness of her place atop the shoulders of her ancestors, those who survived so that she might one day, too. (Feb.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Sherry has aimlessly wandered through her life, traveling throughout the U.S and the world looking for a place to belong, going from man to man, moving as far from her mother and her family as possible. After her latest interracial relationship--this one with a white jazz musician--Sherry returns to Mexico for succor and recovery. Even with a new man in her life, she doesn't feel that she is fully recovering and strikes upon the idea of traveling with her mother, with whom she communicates only once a month via phone, for a cross-country trip from Paradise, Nevada, to a family reunion in Birmingham, Alabama. The days-long trip gives them an opportunity to retell the family history. Sherry is writing a fictionalized account that provokes long-buried memories in her mother. Slowly and painstakingly, mother and daughter uncover a family secret that has been at the root of their estrangement. Telling her story from two perspectives and on two levels--the mother-daughter relationship and Sherry's fictional account--McFadden brings added texture to this story of reconciliation. *Vanessa Bush*

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Review

"Riveting.... I am as impressed by its structural strength as by the searing and expertly imagined scenes."

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Michael Scott:

The book Nowhere Is a Place can give more knowledge and also the precise product information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave a good thing like a book Nowhere Is a Place? Several of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim that book can give many info for us. It is absolutely suitable. Right now, try to closer using your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, it is possible to give for each other; you are able to share all of these. Book Nowhere Is a Place has simple shape however you know: it has great and big function for you. You can appear the enormous world by wide open and read a e-book. So it is very wonderful.

Rebecca Wheeler:

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Jill Weber:

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