

H\|s HAMILTON STONE EDITIONS

INHERITANCE

A novel by Jane Lazarre

Hamilton Stone Editions announces the publication of **Inheritance**, a novel of American race history: of relationships between people of different and mixed race heritages, relationships of love and friendship and profound loyalty, and relationships of deep ignorance, violence and terrible hatred. In her latest novel, Jane Lazarre moves from the present time, back to the early 20th century, and then back to the period of Slavery, shortly before the Civil War. The white characters are all connected through a black family, whose four generations move through the novel. It is a story of our shared inheritance, a history we forget or deny at our peril; it is a story of what it means, in this nation's history and present, to be "mixed" racially, the history of that identity, and how it is connected to the meaning and history of whiteness.

Inheritance is an American story, and as its intertwined tales are revealed, we are gripped by relationships as they form and reform over the years and within a day; and we are gripped by the voice of the narrator, Samantha Reed, a young woman of mixed heritage who is reading, writing, learning the history, as we the readers do ourselves.

In praise of **Inheritance**:

"Lazarre is unflinching in her depiction of the destructive historical assumptions and taboos on all sides of the color and racial divide. . . .and in [her] luminous prose, *Inheritance* becomes an unsettling and necessary meditation on the messiness of America's shared racial heritage in all its quarrelsome parts."

Wesley Brown - *Darktown Strutters, Push Comes to Shove*

"*Inheritance* is rich in hard-earned wisdom and wonderful characters, resonant with African-American and Jewish history. It drew me and made me think. Lazarre's commitment to story and truth shines in this powerful book."

Joanne Frye - *Living Stories, Telling Lives; Tillie Olsen; Biting the Moon: A memoir of feminism and Motherhood*

"A powerful and poetic narrative that seems to float on a shifting surface of emotion. . . . The novel strengthened my hope that art can stiffen our spines and shape our thinking and feeling around race."

Sekou Sundiata - prize-winning poet and playwright, *The 51st (Dream) State, Blessing the Boats*

". . .reveals deep and painful truths, encompassing the horrific realities of slavery and some of the complex stories of Jews in America. It leaves the reader understanding more about who we are and how to attain forgiveness, wisdom and empathy to move forward."

Rabbi Rachel Cowan - Executive Director Emeritus, Institute for Jewish Spirituality

". . .simply wonderful . . .beautifully orchestrated . . .A fierce and honest novel that once again proves the searing truth of fiction."

Beverly Gologorsky - *The Things We Do To Make It Home*

"A gripping story, [*Inheritance*] shows how the themes of race play out in the most personal ways."

Nan Gefen - publisher, PersimmonTree



Lazarre is the author of many works including the novels *Some Place Quite Unknown*, *The Powers of Charlotte* and *Worlds Beyond My Control* (all available at Amazon or Hamilton Stone) and a book of poetry, *Bodies of Water*, in progress. Her memoirs *The Mother Knot*, *Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness: Memoir of a White Mother of Black Sons*, and *Wet Earth and Dreams, A Narrative of Grief and Recovery* are available from Duke University Press. Her works have been translated into many languages, and her short fiction and essays widely anthologized. Lazarre is praised for her honest, clear and resonant writing:

For *The Mother Knot*

“A wholly original and important book . . . I can’t imagine a woman who would not be moved, or a man who would not be enlightened.” –**Adrienne Rich**

For *On Loving Men*

“A very contemporary document. Meditative, often lyrical . . . Compassionate and honest.”
–**The New York Times Book Review**

For *Some Kind of Innocence*

“ . . . a perfect matching of subject and form . . . the dignity, spareness, the fairness and compassion for everyone in the story make it a delight to read.” –**Philip Lopate**

For *The Powers of Charlotte*

"A beautifully written tour de force of a novel in the spirit of Doris Lessing and Margaret Atwood."
–**American Book Review**

For *Worlds Beyond My Control*

". . . a special sort of literary adventure. It has the rich, dense texture of life itself."
–**Lynn Sharon Schwartz**

For *Beyond the Whiteness of Whiteness*

“An important affirmation of a white woman’s love of her black sons. Jane Lazarre, warrior mother, has crossed over.” –**Alice Walker**

Among various honors, Lazarre received grants in fiction from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York State Foundation for the Arts, and the Myers Center Award for the Study of Human Rights in America. Formerly on the faculty and a director of the Writing Program at Eugene Lang College/The New School, she received two School Faculty Development grants and a University Award for Distinction in Teaching. With John Edgar Wideman, she was a featured writer, discussing autobiography and race, in the PBS series, *Matters of Race* directed by the filmmaker Orlando Bagwell (*Eyes On the Prize, Africans in America*).

INHERITANCE goes on sale October 2011 at Amazon.com

Review copies are available by contacting janelazarre@gmail.com

Go to www.janelazarre.com for more information about Jane Lazarre and her books.