

Joy Jordan-Lake

Joy Jordan-Lake is the bestselling author of *A Tangled Mercy*, the award winning novel *Blue Hole Back Home*, and five other books.

Jordan-Lake's first novel, *Blue Hole Back Home*, received the Christy Award for Best Novel in 2009, and has been chosen as the Common Book for a number of middle schools, public and private high schools, colleges, and universities, including Baylor University and Belmont University's Honors Program. Inspired by actual events from Joy Jordan-Lake's teenage years, *Blue Hole Back Home* explores racial violence and reconciliation in the post-Civil Rights South. Ultimately, the novel is not only a story of the devastating effects of racial hatred and cowardice, but more centrally, a celebration of courage, confrontation, and healing.

Jordan-Lake's second and most recent novel, *A Tangled Mercy*, is a #1 Amazon Bestseller in Historical Fiction and Literary Fiction. *A Tangled Mercy* was selected as the November 2017 book for Once Upon a Book Club Box, and was chosen by BookBub as one of the "Top 18 New Historical Fiction Novels to Read With Your Book Club." Part contemporary mystery, part historical novel, *A Tangled Mercy* weaves a tale of racial tension, human brutality, redemption, and hope. The book is dedicated to the people of South Carolina, in particular those connected with Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church, whose courage, forgiveness, insistence on justice, and unwavering hope have inspired so many others to action and faith for over two hundred years.

Jordan-Lake's novels are based on or inspired by actual events, which are not always well known, but are always significant in terms of cultural impact. They include historical storylines with present day resonance, and ask overarching questions about justice, forgiveness, cultural and individual transformation, revenge, and redemption.

Joy Jordan-Lake grew up in Signal Mountain, Tennessee, and received her bachelor's degree from Furman University and her master's from a theological seminary. She also holds a PhD in English Literature from Tufts University. Her varied professional experience has included working as a college professor in at various universities, author, journalist, director of a program for homeless families, chaplain at Harvard University, and—the job title that remains her personal favorite: head sailing instructor. Jordan-Lake currently resides outside of Nashville with her husband and three children.