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Told in alternating tales at once haunting and redemptive, *A Tangled Mercy* is a quintessentially American epic rooted in heartbreaking true events examining the harrowing depths of human brutality and betrayal, and our enduring hope for freedom and forgiveness.

After the sudden death of her troubled mother, struggling Harvard grad student Kate Drayton walks out on her lecture—and her entire New England life. Haunted by unanswered questions and her own uncertain future, she flees to Charleston, South Carolina, the place where her parents met, convinced it holds the key to understanding her fractured family and saving her career in academia. Kate is determined to unearth groundbreaking information on a failed 1822 slave revolt—the subject of her mother’s own research.

Nearly two centuries earlier, Tom Russell, a gifted blacksmith and slave, grappled with a terrible choice: arm the uprising spearheaded by members of the fiercely independent African Methodist Episcopal Church, or keep his own neck out of the noose and protect the woman he loves.

Kate’s attempts to discover what drove her mother’s dangerous obsession with Charleston’s tumultuous history are derailed by a horrific massacre in the very same landmark church. In the unimaginable aftermath, Kate discovers a family she never knew existed as the city unites with a powerful message of hope and forgiveness for the world.

“Riveting.... A novel of secrets, racial tensions, family, and a love that withstands the passage of time, *A Tangled Mercy* is truly enthralling.” -Historical Novel Society

“Jordan-Lake brings us the aroma, taste, and view of Charleston as vividly as if we stood in the middle of the scene. The depth of emotion and veracity of the story sets this novel apart, as it brings a lost and critical piece of southern history to light. [It] is about the important things in our life—how art undoes our chaos; how history is part of our present; and how defiant love and forgiveness conquer hatred and bigotry.”

—Patti Callahan Henry, New York Times bestselling author of *The Bookshop at Water’s End*

Joy Jordan-Lake is the author of seven books, including the #1 Amazon Bestseller *A Tangled Mercy* and *Blue Hole Back Home*, which won the Christy Award in 2009 for Best First Novel. She holds a PhD in English Literature, is a former chaplain at Harvard, and has taught literature and writing at several universities. Jordan-Lake lives outside of Nashville with her husband and three children.



Learn More at joyjordanlake.com

Praise for A TANGLED MERCY

Over 6,900 ratings and 700 reviews on Goodreads with a 4.1 out of 5 star average rating.

Over 1,400 reviews on Amazon with a 4.5 out of 5 star average rating.

“A must-read novel for today. Weaving the story of a slave uprising in 1822 Charleston with one set during the 2015 massacre at Charleston’s AME Church, *A Tangled Mercy* reminds us of yesterday’s atrocities and today’s ongoing racial travesties. Throughout the novel, author Joy Jordan-Lake offers readers compelling characters, evocative writing, and an engrossing and appalling look at time past and time present.”

—**M.K. Tod, author of *Time and Regret***

“I chose *A Tangled Mercy* because I felt I was ready for a more important novel that might actually become a piece of kindling in the bonfire we need to ignite so that the message of hope and love and mercy can burst forth.”

—**Amazon Top 100 Reviewer Andy Anderson/Travis C.**

“Joy Jordan-Lake has done a masterful job with her new novel, *A Tangled Mercy*. She captures the beauty, charm, and challenges of one of America’s great cities, Charleston, South Carolina. In the historical-cultural context of Charleston, her writing is an inspiration. Through rich character development, she gives us an intimate view of its African American life. *A Tangled Mercy* is a must-read for those who want to experience the South. We meet a variety of people, both living and dead, that represent the iconic, ‘Emmanuel Nine.’”

—**African Methodist Episcopal Bishop John Richard Bryant, retired**

“Joy Jordan-Lake’s *A Tangled Mercy* is an incredibly compelling and meticulously researched historical novel that will have you thinking about it long after you turn the last page. The dual narrative interweaves the story of Harvard grad student Kate Drayton’s journey to Charleston, South Carolina, to find answers about her deceased mother’s troubled past, with the little known but fascinating story of the Charleston slave uprising of 1822. It is a powerful and culturally relevant tale that should be on everyone’s must-read list.”

—**Jane Healey, author of *The Saturday Evening Girls Club***

“Satisfying...[*A Tangled Mercy*] will appeal to admirers of Sue Monk Kidd’s *The Invention of Wings*.”

—**Library Journal**

About the Author

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

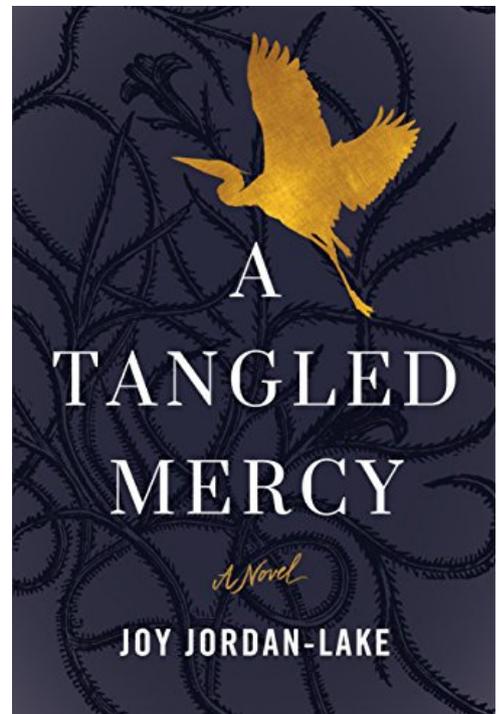
Her second and most recent novel, *A Tangled Mercy*, is a #1 Amazon Bestseller in Historical Fiction and Literary Fiction. *A Tangled Mercy* was selected as the November 2017 book for Once Upon a Book Club Box, and was chosen by BookBub as one of the “Top 18 New Historical Fiction Novels to Read With 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.

Events

Jordan-Lake is open to a variety of events, including book signings, speaking engagements, and more, and is willing to travel as her schedule allows. She has also facilitated a number writing workshops, and is open to interviews.

Please contact her through one of the options below to discuss an opportunity.



Contact Joy Jordan-Lake

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