



Tomorrow's Bread

Anna Jean Mayhew

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From the author of the acclaimed *The Dry Grass of August* comes a richly researched yet lyrical Southern-set novel that explores the conflicts of gentrification—a moving story of loss, love, and resilience.

In 1961 Charlotte, North Carolina, the predominantly black neighborhood of Brooklyn is a bustling city within a city. Self-contained and vibrant, it has its own restaurants, schools, theaters, churches, and night clubs. There are shotgun shacks and poverty, along with well-maintained houses like the one Loraylee Hawkins shares with her young son, Hawk, her Uncle Ray, and her grandmother, Bibi. Loraylee's love for Archibald Griffin, Hawk's white father and manager of the cafeteria where she works, must be kept secret in the segregated South.

Loraylee has heard rumors that the city plans to bulldoze her neighborhood, claiming it's dilapidated and dangerous. The government promises to provide new housing and relocate businesses. But locals like Pastor Ebenezer Polk, who's facing the demolition of his church, know the value of Brooklyn does not lie in bricks and mortar. Generations have lived, loved, and died here, supporting and strengthening each other. Yet street by street, longtime residents are being forced out. And Loraylee, searching for a way to keep her family together, will form new alliances—and find an unexpected path that may yet lead her home.

Tomorrow's Bread Details

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Download and Read Free Online Tomorrow's Bread Anna Jean Mayhew

From Reader Review Tomorrow's Bread for online ebook

Tracy says

Reviewing for Booklist--more to come 2/9/18

Debbie says

For me, this book was just okay. The story is told in multiple voices. I didn't think it flowed well. Also, I didn't "feel" the characters.

I received an advance copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway.

Sue says

In the early 60s, many large cities started a plan called urban renewal - it was a way to make space for the new large buildings that they planned in the future. In many places, urban renewal meant displacement of the people who lived in the neighborhoods that were being destroyed to make way for the future. Tomorrow's Bread is about urban renewal in Charlotte, NC, where an entire area was wiped out called Brooklyn. The residents of Brooklyn were mostly black and poor but they had a community of friends and a pride in their area that had existed there since the end of the civil war.

This story is told from three viewpoints - Loraylee who lives in a home with her mother, her uncle and her son. She is in love with the white manager of the cafeteria she works at and he is the father of her son - something that had to stay secret during this time. Pastor Ebenezer Polk is the leader of a church that will be demolished with a graveyard that must be moved. There is also a white viewpoint from the wife of one of the men on the planning board who are in charge of the demolition of Brooklyn. She feels the wrongness but knows that there is little she can do. With these three divergent voices, we learn about how urban renewal will affect the families of the people who have lived in Brooklyn for generations. I especially enjoyed the life journey that Loraylee was on. She worked full time, took care of her son and her senile mother but still tried to do the best she could for her neighbors and friends. She knew that leaving Brooklyn would be difficult because generations had lived there and supported each other through the years.

This was a well-written, well-researched novel about a little known area of Charlotte, NC in the 1960s. After I finished the book, I wanted more information about it and found several interesting articles. I love it when I enjoy a book and also learn about a part of history that I had no idea happened. This is one of those books - you will love these characters and ache with them as they leave their old lives behind and work to create new lives in areas very different from the life they've always known.

Thanks to the publisher for a copy of this book to read and review. All opinions are my own.

Alisa says

I thought this book was interesting and gave true insight into an era long gone. I could feel the tension and understood the characters. Well written and I highly recommend.

Verne says

Great book

Pam Kelley says

In the 1960s, under the guise of a program called "urban renewal," the nation bulldozed hundreds of black neighborhoods, destroying communities and undermining hard-won racial progress.

Anna Jean Mayhew sets her page-turning novel in one of these now-lost communities, the Brooklyn neighborhood of Charlotte, as its residents await its destruction.

Mayhew tells the story through three characters. Two are Brooklyn residents – a pastor about to lose his church and a young mother who must hide her relationship with her white boss. The third is a white woman who senses the sin her city is perpetrating, though her husband is championing Brooklyn's destruction in the name of progress. As a Charlotte area resident, I love how Mayhew has reincarnated long-gone Brooklyn. This is a moving, vivid story – historical fiction that's both instructive and entertaining.

Carol says

The Langston Hughes poems at the beginning of the book and at the end say it all about this beautiful, touching book.

"Misery is when you heard on the radio that the neighborhood you live in is a slum but you always thought it was home." Langston Hughes
