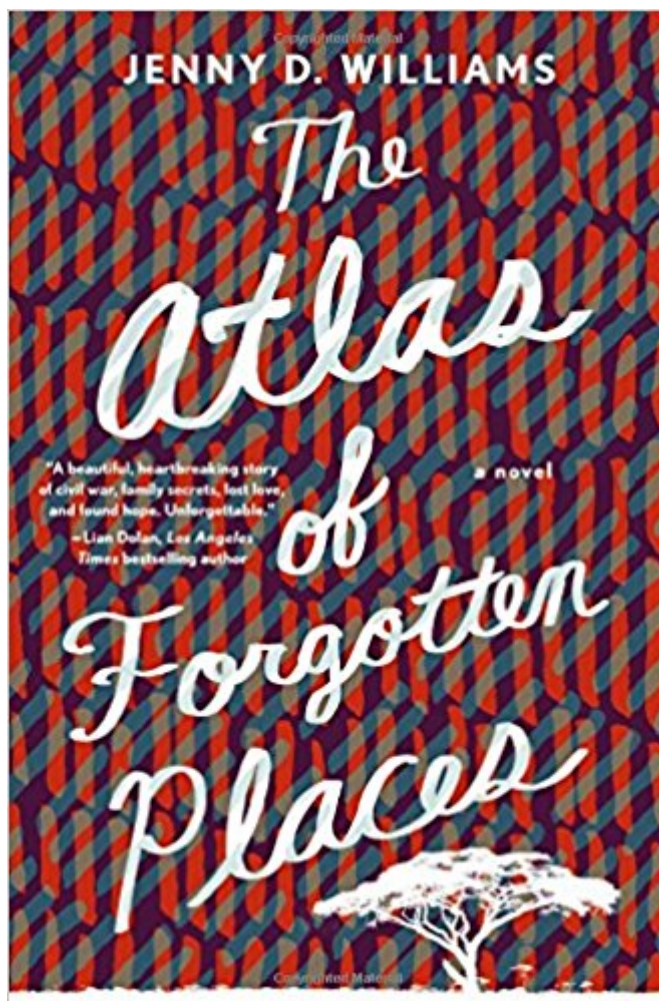


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The Atlas Of Forgotten Places: A Novel



Synopsis

From author Jenny D. Williams, a fresh new voice in fiction, comes her stunning debut novel *The Atlas of Forgotten Places*. Set against the backdrop of ivory smuggling and civil war in Uganda and the DR Congo, it is a story of two women from different worlds, bound in a quest to save their loved ones. “Every page of *The Atlas of Forgotten Places* resonates with an intimate knowledge of life in Africa...the impossible beauty of the landscape, the depths of sorrows carried by ordinary citizens, the miraculous melding of violence and personal grace. Jenny D. Williams has written that rare thing: a page-turning adventure story that simultaneously goes deep into the heart of what it is to be human and present.” Malla Nunn, award-winning screenwriter and author of *A Beautiful Place to Die*, *Silent Valley*, and *Present Darkness* After a long career as an aid worker, Sabine Hardt has retreated to her native Germany for a quieter life. But when her American niece Lily disappears while volunteering in Uganda, Sabine must return to places and memories she once thought buried in order to find her. In Uganda, Rose Akulu -- haunted by a troubled past with the Lord’s Resistance Army and a family torn apart by war -- is distressed when her lover Ocen vanishes without a trace. Side by side, Sabine and Rose must unravel the tangled threads that tie Lily and Ocen’s lives together -- ultimately discovering that the truth of their loved ones’ disappearance is inescapably entwined to the secrets the two women carry. *The Atlas of Forgotten Places* is a book that delves deep into the heart of compassion and redemption. It spans geographies and generations to lay bare the stories that connect us all.

Book Information

Hardcover: 368 pages

Publisher: Thomas Dunne Books (July 11, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1250122937

ISBN-13: 978-1250122933

Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 46 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #250,504 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #9 in Books > Travel > Africa > Rwanda & Uganda #2016 in Books > Literature & Fiction > African American > Women’s Fiction #2949 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Women’s Fiction > Domestic Life

Customer Reviews

"Gritty and intricately plotted...Williams's book paints the contours of the real-life conflict admirably, making the thrilling disappearance story relatable with nuanced characterizations and a wealth of strong subplots concerning reclaiming love, protecting family, and guarding hope for a new future when the present seems to be teetering on disaster." *— Publishers Weekly* "A complex and suspenseful tale with dozens of subplots, questioning loyalty and exploring forgiveness at the individual and societal levels." *— Library Journal* "Jenny D. Williams' *Atlas of Forgotten Places* is an extraordinary debut. Written with confidence and compassion, masterfully plotted, her characters drawn in swift, sure strokes...this was a book I could not put down." *— Marisa Handler, Nautilus Award-winning author of Loyal to the Sky* "Every page of *The Atlas of Forgotten Places* resonates with an intimate knowledge of life in Africa...the impossible beauty of the landscape, the depths of sorrows carried by ordinary citizens, the miraculous melding of violence and personal grace. Jenny D. Williams has written that rare thing: a page-turning adventure story that simultaneously goes deep into the heart of what it is to be human and present." *— Malla Nunn, award-winning screenwriter and author of A Beautiful Place to Die, Silent Valley, and Present Darkness* "A young American woman gone missing in Africa, her German aunt forced to revisit her own past. From these elements, Jenny Williams has produced a riveting alchemy. In the vein of Paul Bowles and Robert Stone, *The Atlas of Forgotten Places* is part political thriller, part love story, always attuned to matters of the heart. It's a splendid debut." *— Joshua Henkin, author of The World Without You, Matrimony, and Swimming Across the Hudson* "I think Jenny Williams is a wonderfully gifted writer, who is at the beginning of a long and distinguished career." *— Richard Bausch, author of Peace and Before, During, After, winner of the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence, and a Guggenheim fellow* "A beautiful, heartbreaking story of civil war, family secrets, lost love and found hope. Unforgettable." *— Lian Dolan, Los Angeles Times bestselling author* "The *Atlas of Forgotten Places* is a beautifully written, all-engulfing novel about our responsibility for each other and the faltering ways in which we try to help." *— Erika Mailman, author of The Witch's Trinity* "The *Atlas of Forgotten Places* is a thriller that sweeps the reader into intrigue, adventure, and mystery. In the tradition of socially influential writers, from Shakespeare to Graham Greene, Jenny Williams employs exciting fiction to convey truths about the political, corporate, and economic systems that impact us all." *— John Perkins, New York Times bestselling author of The New Confessions of an Economic Hit Man and The Secret History of the American Empire* "The narrative moves between

Sabine and Rose in this suspenseful, compelling story set in a perilous region that many readers may have only heard about on the news." ~ Shelf Awareness "Williams has created characters the reader will bond with immediately and a narrative that grips the imagination with a vital quest across the boundaries of countries and of the heart...An extraordinary debut, written with a masterful sense of plot and pacing and a keen understanding of the thorny world of western intervention in the developing world...A stunning combination of intrigue and despair, redemption and love." ~ Washington Independent Review of Books

JENNY D. WILLIAMS has lived in the U.S., Uganda, and Germany. She holds an MFA from Brooklyn College and a BA from UC Berkeley. Her award-winning fiction, nonfiction, poetry, and illustrations have been published in The Sun Magazine, Vela, and Ethical Traveler, as well as several anthologies. A former Teachers & Writers Collaborative fellow and recipient of an Elizabeth George Foundation grant for emerging writers, she currently lives in Seattle with her husband and dog. The Atlas of Forgotten Places is her first novel.

I loved this book! It's a beautiful and compelling novel. Jenny D. Williams offers us beautiful writing, interesting characters, vivid imagery, historical geopolitical information and a compelling story. Part of me wanted to rush through to find out what happened, while another part of me wanted to read slowly and enjoy the beautiful writing. Every page is a pleasure to read. I highly recommend this book and promise that you won't be disappointed.

Fabulous book! Well written, engaging and a beautiful story! I couldn't put the book down! I learned so much about an area of the world I've never visited! Can't wait for her next book!

One of the best books I've read this year. Having been to Germany and western Kenya, and having lived in Colorado for 14 years, I was able to imagine the influence of these places on the characters. Ms. Williams brought her characters to life, and I found myself investing emotionally in the way each was developed. Kudos for her first publication. I look forward to the next.

I read this book in just a few sittings because I couldn't wait to find out what happened next. I loved the mix of suspense, sense of place, history, and humanity bound together in this beautiful story!

This was such an interesting book! The story lines were so detailed that I couldn't put it down! I

found myself Googling the locations and time periods. This book really sparked my interest in history. I'm ready for the sequel!

I loved this book. A fascinating story, filled with insights on modern Africa, the international aid community, and the human experience. Highly recommended.

So beautifully written I wanted to keep a highlighter at hand for the best phrases. Really felt I got an education about that area of Africa.

A wonderful new voice with a great sense of place and character development. Looking forward to her next book.

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