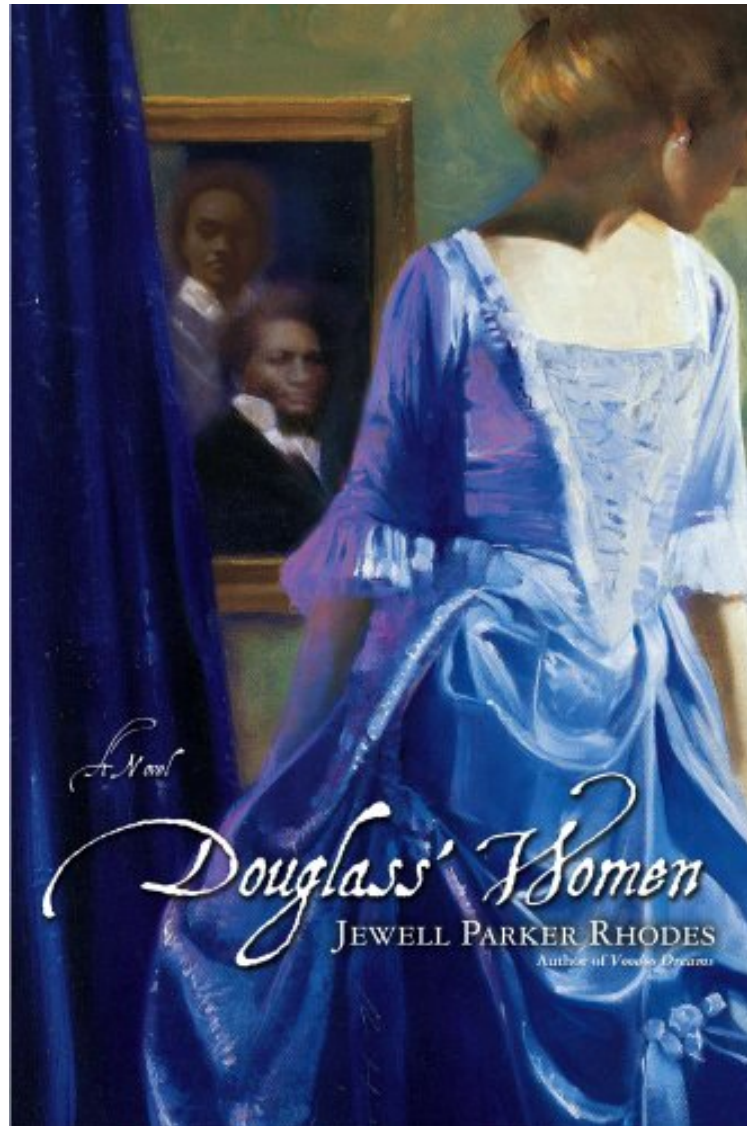


[Download] Douglass' Women: A Novel (English Edition)

## Douglass' Women: A Novel (English Edition)

Von Jewell Parker Rhodes

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**Von Jewell Parker Rhodes : Douglass' Women: A Novel (English Edition)** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Douglass' Women: A Novel (English Edition):

Kundenrezensionen Hilfreichste Kundenrezensionen 1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Tolles Buch, warum keine deutsche Übersetzung? Von Celia Hier handelt es sich um einen sehr gelungenen, spannenden historischen Roman, der Einblick in die Geschichte der Emanzipationsbewegung afroamerikanischer Sklaven gibt. Frederick Douglass, selbst ehemaliger Sklave, setzt sich Anfang des 19. Jahrhunderts öffentlich für die Abschaffung der Sklaverei ein. Seine Intelligenz und sein Charisma machen ihn zu einer bekannten öffentlichen Gestalt. Er hat sogar

eine Audienz bei der englischen Queen. Erzählt wird hier aus der Perspektive zweier Frauen, die in seinem Leben eine wichtige Rolle spielten: seine schwarze, bodenständige Ehefrau, die ihm zur Flucht verhalf und Otilie Assing, eine deutschstämmige, gebildete Weiße, die ihn bei seinen Aktivitäten unterstützte und seine langjährige Geliebte war. Beide Frauen trümen davon, mit ihm die große Liebe zu erleben, und werden letztendlich enttäuscht. Der entlaufene Sklave entwickelt sich dank seinem steigenden Ansehen in der Öffentlichkeit immer mehr zum viktorianischen Patriarchen. Die zwei Blickwinkel dieser völlig gegensätzlichen weiblichen Figuren, die beide denselben Mann lieben, werden abwechselnd dargelegt. Die Personen sind sehr gut charakterisiert, was vielleicht ein bisschen zu kurz kommt, ist eine genauere Darstellung von Douglass' Anti-Sklaverei-Bestrebungen und der Situation der Schwarzen nach ihrer Befreiung. Trotzdem hat der Roman mir ein völlig neues Geschichtsbild vermittelt: ich wusste nicht, dass Schwarze zur damaligen Zeit bereits öffentliches Ansehen genießen konnten und sich mit weißen Frauen in der Öffentlichkeit zeigten. Ich denke, dieses Buch wäre es wert, auch deutschsprachigen Lesern zugänglich gemacht zu werden. Es werden so viele schlechte Romane übersetzt, die viel uninteressanter sind.

**Kurzbeschreibung** The critically acclaimed author of *Voodoo Dreams* delivers an inspired work of historical fiction about the warring passions that drove the great abolitionist Frederick Douglass and two women -- one black, one white -- who loved him. *Douglass' Women* reimagines the lives of an American hero, Frederick Douglass, and two women -- his wife and his mistress -- who loved him and lived in his shadow. Anna Douglass, a free woman of color, was Douglass' wife of forty-four years, who bore him five children. Otilie Assing, a German-Jewish intellectual, provided him the companionship of the mind that he needed. Hurt by Douglass' infidelity, Anna rejected his notion that only literacy freed the mind. For her, familial love rivaled intellectual pursuits. Otilie was raised by parents who embraced the ideal of free love, but found herself entrapped in an unfulfilling love triangle with America's most famous self-taught slave for nearly three decades. In her finest novel to date, Jewell Parker Rhodes vividly resurrects these two extraordinary women from history, portraying the life they led together under the same roof of the Douglass home. Here, fiery emotions of passion, jealousy, and resentment churn as the women discover an uneasy solidarity in shared love for an exceptional and powerful man. *Douglass' Women* fills the gaps and silences that history has left in an unforgettable epic full of heartache and triumph. From Publishers Weekly Frederick Douglass's love life was nearly as tumultuous as his political career or so Rhodes (*Voodoo Dreams*; *Magic City*) posits in this vividly imagined recreation of the romantic triangle formed by the great abolitionist, his black wife and his white mistress. Anna Murray is Douglass's first love, a free Maryland woman of color who falls in love with the young slave and helps him escape the South. Douglass follows through by marrying Murray and moving her to New Bedford, Conn. Marital life begins blissfully enough, but soon Anna finds herself alone raising Douglass's children while he travels to promote the abolitionist cause. Douglass, meanwhile, meets his intellectual match in German beauty Otilie Assing, and their relationship turns physical when they journey together to England. Anna learns of the affair shortly after their return, but once her temper cools she tolerates Assing's presence, even allowing Douglass to include her in the living arrangements when the family moves to Rochester. The narrative clips along as Rhodes introduces the various romantic angles, but as a character study the book has some noticeable flaws. The uneducated but feisty Anna emerges as a well-drawn, multifaceted character, and Assing is effectively portrayed as she tries to balance her love for Douglass with her desire to be known as something more than the obscure mistress of a powerful, charismatic figure. Douglass, however, remains a shadow figure, mostly because Rhodes never gets beneath the surface of his romantic personality and leaves out elements of his controversial political contributions that would have fleshed out the narrative. This is a solid, well-conceived novel, but by isolating Douglass's passion from his politics, Rhodes creates a book that is as incomplete in its own way as the historical treatments that ignore the personal life of the great orator. 6-city author tour. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. From Booklist Rhodes offers a fictionalized account of the two women at the center of the life of legendary abolitionist Frederick Douglass. Rhodes alternates between the perspectives of Anna, Douglass' wife of 44 years, an illiterate free woman who helped him escape to freedom, and Otilie Assing, a German heiress who was Douglass' avid supporter, sometime secretary, and mistress for three decades. Anna is portrayed as a stolid, long-suffering, and simple woman who would like nothing more than to see her famous husband settle into ministry and help her raise their five children. Otilie sees herself as Douglass' soul mate and remains in the relationship--even occasionally living with the Douglass family--despite the gossip and ostracism their relationship engenders in nineteenth-century Europe and America. Rhodes expertly portrays the tensions and passions in the lives of these women, each carving out a life with an extraordinary man and trying to maintain a sense of dignity in a shared relationship. Vanessa Bush Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved