



Essie's Roses

By Michelle Muriel

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#1 Amazon bestseller. Readers' Favorite Silver Medal Winner Best Southern Fiction. A sweeping, moving historical novel set before the Civil War about secrets, freedom, and the power of love.

"Impressively well written from beginning to end, *Essie's Roses* is an inherently absorbing and skillfully presented read, establishing author Michelle Muriel as an exceptionally talented novelist." -*Midwest Book Review*

"...tremendously impressive debut novel ... A richly moving reading experience." -*Historical Novel Society*

"Miss Muriel's novel is a thing of beauty. **5 Stars!**" -*Readers' Favorite*

"...all I can say is - wow, what an amazing read. ...I fully expect to see *Essie's Roses* on the silver screen someday, but until then I will simply look forward to reading future works by this author. **5 Stars** (and then add some more)!" -*Feathered Quill Book Reviews*

"...Ms. Muriel writes in four such distinct voices I felt like I was in the space with each one. ... exceptionally well written and it was very hard to put down. **5 Stars!**" -*Patty Woodland, Broken Teepee*

Growing up in the Deep South during the years leading to the Civil War, two young girls find freedom on a hillside overlooking Westland, an Alabama plantation. Essie Mae, an intuitive, intelligent slave girl, and Evie Winthrop, the sheltered, imaginative dreamer and planter's daughter, strike up a secret friendship that thrives amidst the shadows of abuse.

Told from the viewpoint of four women: Katherine Winthrop, kind mistress and unexpected heiress to her father's small, cotton plantation; Delly, her sassy and beloved house slave; Essie Mae, her slave girl; and Evie Winthrop, Katherine's only child, *Essie's Roses* tells of forbidden relationships flourishing in secret behind Westland's protective trees and treasured roses.

After scandal befalls Westland, Evie and Essie, aged nineteen, travel to Richmond, Virginia, to escape their abusive pasts. There, they face the gross indecencies and divisions leading to the War Between the States. Though the horrors of slavery and discrimination prompt action, Evie and Essie's struggles

lie within. The secrets they hold and the pain of the past lead them away from one another and back home again.

A story about a black slave who frees a white woman, *Essie's Roses* reveals the innocence of children's friendships, the diverse meanings of freedom, the significance of a dream, and the power of love. In their efforts to save each other, will the women of Westland find the true freedom they desire?

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Essie's Roses By Michelle Muriel Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Review

"...all I can say is wow, what an amazing read. What a well-written, completely believable and insightful book. Essie's Roses is a 'fictional' novel, yet it encompasses the same importance of message, and will certainly remind readers of their intrinsic knowledge of right versus wrong with the same quiet strength of conviction that Harriet Beecher Stowe provided to her readers when she wrote Uncle Tom's Cabin. Michelle Muriel has penned a wonderfully moving work of fiction. I fully expect to see Essie's Roses on the silver screen someday. Five Stars!" -*Charline Ratcliff, Feathered Quill Book Reviews*

"Miss Muriel's novel is a thing of beauty. I loved the changing perspectives. It was refreshing to see various points of view of the same story, and the author did it seamlessly. I could tell the author took a great deal of time researching the era, and that is something I always appreciate in a historical novel. Overall, *Essie's Roses* will make you laugh and cry, but most of all, appreciate the innocence of children's friendship. Michelle Muriel should be very proud of her accomplishment in this novel and I will happily recommend it on to others." -*Heather Osborne, Readers' Favorite*

"Michelle Muriel's tremendously impressive debut novel takes place in the Antebellum South and centers on the experiences of four remarkable women... Muriel does an extremely confident job of moving her complex, multi-part novel forward. Her characters are vividly drawn, and the many period details - social, linguistic, and even literary - with which she fleshes out her story never feel forced or melodramatic. Fans of both *Gone with the Wind* and Geraldine Brooks' *March* will find *Essie's Roses* a richly moving reading experience." -*Historical Novel Society*

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From the Author

WATCH THE BOOK TRAILER NOW!

Visit Michelle Muriel's Amazon Author page to watch the official book trailer for her historical novel ESSIE'S ROSES. Just click "Michelle Muriel" under the book's title in the listing above!

From the Author

Michelle Muriel: Essie's Roses

"At every stage the rose's fragrance varied offering something tempting and sublime. When the red buds were beginning to open, they smelled rich like wine. The delicate yellow roses teased me with their perfume. In the morning their outer petals hinted of mint and their centers smelled of vanilla cake. On a warm afternoon, their scent laced with ginger and honey tickled my nose, and in the cool of the evening, sweet sugar icing." -Excerpt from ESSIE'S ROSES a historical novel by Michelle Muriel

Essie's Roses is an inspiring story that focuses on the power of love and those childhood friendships that stay in our memory forever. But it also takes a look at history in a unique way, and will remind us all to treasure the precious gift of freedom and the power and hope that comes in doing a dream. I'm excited to share it with you.

The journey of writing for me is more than filling that blank computer screen. It's more than spending years of research coming up with a unique story you pray will engage and entertain a reader. It's about learning, sharing, illuminating history in a unique way and inspiring others.

Yes, I truly hope you are entertained. After all, that is why we read fiction... to escape... to be transported somewhere else. And when that happens, even for a moment, it's magical. It's wonderful! But I also hope you're encouraged and inspired.

Stories and history have a way of coming together to inspire us, perhaps make us look at things differently. Look at ourselves. I chose to explore the diverse meanings of freedom in my first novel because ironically, living in the freest country in the world, freedom can be so allusive for many.

My desire is that the message of *Essie's Roses* will inspire you to be everything you've ever dreamed to be. To revisit dreams. Dust them off. Pay attention to them. Do them. To step out of fear. Silence critical, harsh, maybe even abusive voices. Stand up tall and be free.

Essie's Roses has taught me not only about history, but about myself. I'm changed forever writing this book. Many writers say it's a long, hard journey writing a book: it's a long hard journey knowing yourself. Discovering and knowing your worth. What is it tied to? When things are tied down they can't fly. Writing a book is easy.

No matter who is screaming, you are not. You are. **You matter.** Your dreams are not over. And if anything in your life is holding you back, you can face it, knock it down, banish it, release it, and never look back. So my dear friend and reader, thank you. Thank you for saying yes to *Essie's Roses*. Enjoy!

Spread the word... spread the message... Be free!

Michelle Muriel

I would love to hear from you! Follow me on Amazon, Facebook, Goodreads, and Pinterest.

From the Inside Flap

Growing up in the Deep South during the years leading to the Civil War, two young girls find freedom on a hillside overlooking Westland, an Alabama plantation. Essie Mae, an intuitive, intelligent slave girl, and Evie Winthrop, the sheltered, imaginative dreamer and planter's daughter, strike up a secret friendship that thrives amidst the shadows of abuse.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Eric Reynolds:

The book Essie's Roses can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. So just why must we leave a very important thing like a book Essie's Roses? Several of you have a different opinion about guide. But one aim that will book can give many information for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer together with your book. Knowledge or data that you take for that, you may give for each other; it is possible to share all of these. Book Essie's Roses has simple shape but the truth is know: it has great and massive function for you. You can look the enormous world by open and read a publication. So it is very wonderful.

Ella McCoy:

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Aida Zambrana:

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Daryl Pena:

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