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# **Cotton Song: A Novel**

Tom Bailey



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In World War II–era Mississippi, the aftermath of a tragedy takes on all the intensity and heat of the Delta summer when the town of Ruleton copes with violence, racism, and a vengeful spree that threatens the life of a young girl and the soul of the small town.

In Hushpuckashaw County in the 1940s, many things are desperately unfair. Letitia Johnson, a young black mother and the nanny for one of the town's most distinguished couples, knows this only too well when the couple's baby is found drowned in its bath. Accused by the grieving family and the enraged townspeople, Letitia quickly sends her twelve-year-old daughter, Sally, out to hide in the brush before she is taken into custody. The angry mob would get revenge when they drag Letitia from her jail cell and hang her that very night. But they wouldn't get Sally.

Baby Allen, a courageous social worker, is assigned to Sally's case, and gradually coaxes the young girl out of hiding, wins her trust, and secures her protection. But once Sally is safe, Baby is left with the greater mission of uncovering the truth about who is responsible for the infant's death—a shocking revelation that will change the ways and attitudes of a town that has been long in need of changing.

Beautiful and gripping, **Cotton Song** is the story of a woman's fight to save the child left behind after the horrific lynching that took her mother's life.

From the Hardcover edition.

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