

The Earth Remains

A Novel

by Shelley Burchfield



Fiction - Historical - Event/Era

704 Pages

Reviewed on 04/03/2023

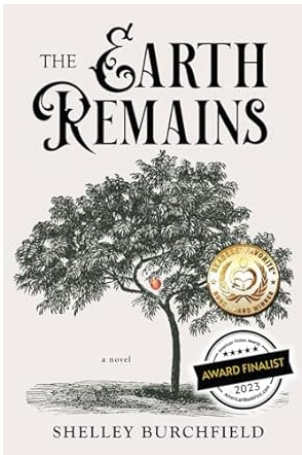
Book Review



Reviewed by Trudi LoPreto for Readers' Favorite

Earth Remains by Shelley Burchfield spans many years. The story starts in September 1848 and takes us late into 1922. It was bad times in the South, both before and after the Civil War was fought. Polly Burgiss, a white woman, is the main character. Ben and his mama Ona, along with several other slaves, play an essential role in the story. Polly's hardships begin early in her life with the death of her two brothers. Ona is the slave who cares for Polly and is always there in times of trouble. Ben is Ona's son and a hard worker who dreams of being a free man someday. We meet many of the other slaves working for Miss Polly, along with the overseer Tom Roper and the man she marries, John Stone. Polly faces many tough times, hard decisions, and frightening situations, but she stands tall and always fights her way back.

Earth Remains is the best book I have read in a long time, causing me to ignore my chores, stay up late and even miss a meal. I believe it can easily become the next Gone With the Wind as a great book and an epic movie. Shelley Burchfield is a brilliant writer who gives us a story with an incredible plot from page one until the last word. In addition, she has created an emotional group of characters meant to be loved or hated. Polly, Ono, Ben, Tom, Cissie, Kate, John, and others became real people to me, and I was magically transported right into the pages. I loved The Earth Remains very much and highly recommend it and anything else that Burchfield writes; it doesn't get much better than this.



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Author Biography



Southern author and former teacher, Shelley Burchfield enjoys writing "what-if" historical fiction that flips notorious events upside down. Shelley lives in beautiful upstate South Carolina with her husband and a menagerie of animals. She pulls inspiration for her novels from the majestic Blue Ridge Mountains beyond her windows and tales told by friends and neighbors. A Southerner by birth, Burchfield's love of history is evident in her debut historical fiction novel, *THE EARTH REMAINS*, published in November 2021.

Her second Southern historical fiction novel, *CLIMBING TO THE SUN*, will be published in October 2023.