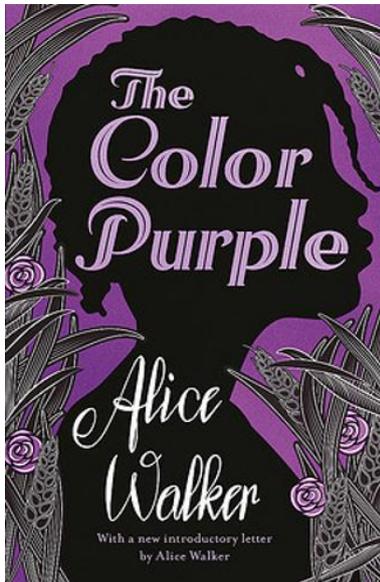


The Color Purple

Alice Walker



'The great irony about The Color Purple is that it transcends colour. To do that you have to be a magician or a genius... Not a word is wasted, every breath accounted for. We all know that this is one of the greatest books of all time.' - Benjamin Zephaniah

The classic, Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that made Alice Walker a household name.

Set in the deep American South between the wars, The Color Purple is the classic tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation.

Raped repeatedly by the man she calls 'father', she has two children taken away from her, is separated from her beloved sister Nettie and is trapped into an ugly marriage.

But then she meets the glamorous Shug Avery, singer and magic-maker - a woman who has taken charge of her own destiny.

Gradually Celie discovers the power and joy of her own spirit, freeing her from her past and reuniting her with those she loves.

A great book to explore in LGBT+ History month.

What was your reaction to the first few pages of the book? Were you drawn in quickly? Why/why not?

How do you feel in general about epistolary novels (books told through letters)? Do you think the story would have had the same impact if it were not told solely through letters?

What do you think the book says about how we see ourselves, and how others perceive us?

Is the story believable to you? Why or why not? Does believability matter to you in a “real-life” type book?

What do you think the title, *The Color Purple*, refers to?

How did you feel about Celie’s and Shug’s relationship?

About the author

Alice Walker (born February 9, 1944) is a writer and activist. She has written 20 other books and poetry collections. She is also known for recovering the work of Zora Neale Hurston and for her work against female circumcision. She won the Pulitzer Prize in 1983 and the National Book Award in 1984. She is best known for her stories about African American women who achieve heroic stature within the borders of their ordinary day-to-day lives.

If you liked this, try..

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

Beloved by Toni Morrison

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe

The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck

One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest by Ken Kesey