



The Temple of My Familiar

By Alice Walker

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First published in 1990, *The Temple of My Familiar*, Alice Walker's follow-up novel to her iconic *The Color Purple*, spent more than four months on the New York Times Bestseller list and was hailed by critics as a "major achievement" (*Chicago Tribune*).

Described by the author as "a romance of the last 500,000 years," *The Temple of My Familiar* follows a cast of interrelated characters, most of African descent, and each representing a different ethnic strain—ranging from diverse African tribes to the mixed bloods of Latin America—that contribute to the black experience in America.

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The Temple of My Familiar By Alice Walker Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #456634 in Books
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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Part love story, part fable, part feminist manifesto, part political statement, Walker's new novel follows a cast of interrelated characters, most of them black, and each representing a different ethnic strain--ranging from diverse African tribes to the mixed bloods of Latin America--that contribute to the black experience in America. As each tells of his or her life (and sometimes, previous lives in various reincarnations), Walker relates the damage inflicted on blacks by the oppression of slavery in Africa and in the South, and less visibly but just as invidiously, by the racial prejudice existing today. Because her characters are intrinsically interesting, (one is the granddaughter of Celie from *The Color Purple*) this device works most of the time. But when Walker hypothesizes that Western civilization stole and subverted the ancient African deities, metamorphosing their worship of the Mother Goddess into a patriarchal line, the narrative takes on the strident tones of a polemic. Black women have suffered most, is Walker's message, since they were subjugated both by whites and by men. Unfortunately, didacticism mars the narrative; theorizing and pontificating take the place of action. Thus, though it has its own strengths, the book never achieves the narrative power of *The Color Purple*. 175,000 copy first printing; major ad/promo; BOMC featured alternate; paperback sale to Pocket Books, author tour.

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From Library Journal

Nothing in Walker's extraordinary new novel is fixed. Time and place range from precolonial Africa to post-slavery North Carolina to modern-day San Francisco; and the characters themselves change and evolve as their stories are told, their myriad histories revealed. Most often present are Miss Lissie, an old woman with a fascinating host of former lives; her companion, the gentle Mr. Hal; Arveyda, a soul-searching musician; his wife Carlotta, who was born in the South American jungle; Fanny, a young woman who has a tendency to fall in love with spirits; and her husband Suwelo, who tries hard but simply does not understand her. Out of the telling of their stories emerges a glorious and iridescent fabric, a strand connecting all their lives and former lives and seeming to pull all of existence into its folds. Walker's characters are magnetic, even with their all-to-human flaws and stumblings; they seem to contain the world, and to do it justice. Highly recommended.

- *Jessica Grim*,

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Review

"Walker's fictional creations are musicians, storytellers, artists and mothers: all of them embrace life with the characteristic optimism of this author, against a background of colour: love, for instance, blossoms on an "olive-green sailboat with its black-and-yellow sails". HERALD (9.10.04)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Hallie Cathey:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a book. Beside you can solve your long lasting problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *The Temple of My Familiar*. Try to the actual book *The*

Temple of My Familiar as your good friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you sense alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than ever. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let us make new experience and knowledge with this book.

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John Jones:

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Charles Myers:

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