



The Secrets of Mary Bowser: A Novel

By Lois Leveen



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“Masterfully written, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* shines a new light onto our country’s darkest history.”

—Brunonia Barry, bestselling author of *The Lace Reader*

“Packed with drama, intrigue, love, loss, and most of all, the resilience of a remarkable heroine....What a treat!”

—Kelly O'Connor McNees, author of *The Lost Summer of Louisa May Alcott*

Based on the remarkable true story of a freed African American slave who returned to Virginia at the onset of the Civil War to spy on the Confederates, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* is a masterful debut by an exciting new novelist. Author Lois Leveen combines fascinating facts and ingenious speculation to craft a historical novel that will enthrall readers of women’s fiction, historical fiction, and acclaimed works like *Cane River* and *Cold Mountain* that offer intimate looks at the twin nightmares of slavery and Civil War. A powerful and unforgettable story of a woman who risked her own freedom to bring freedom to millions of others, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* celebrates the courageous achievements of a little known but truly inspirational American heroine.

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Editorial Review

Review

“Masterfully written, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* shines a new light onto our country’s darkest history. Balancing fire and grace, the story of Mary Bowser is an ethical journey we won’t soon forget, one that takes us from hatred to courage to love.” (Brunonia Barry, bestselling author of *The Lace Reader* and *The Map of True Places*)

“*The Secrets of Mary Bowser* is a good old-fashioned historical novel packed with drama, intrigue, love, loss, and most of all, the resilience of a remarkable heroine who forges her own destiny from the first page. What a treat!” (-Kelly O’Connor McNees, author of *The Lost Summer of Louisa May Alcott*)

“Deftly balancing history, romance and adventure, Leveen honors the life and historical importance of a brave, resourceful woman.” (Kirkus Reviews)

“Told with clarity, confidence, and courage, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* illuminates an untold and important story about slavery, the Civil War, and the role of women in achieving emancipation. A riveting and powerful book.” (Naseem Rakha, internationally bestselling author of *The Crying Tree*)

“Lois Leveen has written a captivating novel...[she] demonstrates considerable skill bringing the historical period to life. Mary’s world is nuanced and complicated, but the reader is thoroughly drawn into it, never lost. The narrative voice carries with it a seamless authority, rare in novels of this type.” (Oregonian)

“Deftly integrating historical research into this gripping tale of adventure, love, and national conflict, Leveen brings Mary to life and evenhandedly reveals the humanity on both sides of America’s deadliest war.” (Publishers Weekly)

“*The Secrets of Mary Bowser* is not only fascinating reading, but also historical fiction of the highest caliber.” (Seattle Post-Intelligencer)

“Author Lois Leveen’s meticulously researched historical fiction is best consumed with sweet tea and a porch swing.” (DailyCandy.com)

“This novel will sweep you into the world of Mary Bowser without making you feel as if you’re sitting in school instead of on the beach.” (Statesman Journal (Oregon))

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From the Back Cover

Based on a remarkable true story, *The Secrets of Mary Bowser* is an inspiring tale of one daring woman's willingness to sacrifice her own freedom to change the course of history

All her life, Mary has been a slave to the wealthy Van Lew family of Richmond, Virginia. But when Bet, the willful Van Lew daughter, decides to send Mary to Philadelphia to be educated, she must leave her family to seize her freedom.

Life in the North brings new friendships, a courtship, and a far different education than Mary ever expected, one that leads her into the heart of the abolition movement. With the nation edging toward war, she defies Virginia law by returning to Richmond to care for her ailing father—and to fight for emancipation. Posing as a slave in the Confederate White House in order to spy on President Jefferson Davis, Mary deceives even those who are closest to her to aid the Union command.

Just when it seems that all her courageous gambles to end slavery will pay off, Mary discovers that everything comes at a cost—even freedom.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Allen Mullinax:

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Frank Anderson:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or go to the outside with their household or their friend. Were you aware? Many a lot of people spent their free time just watching TV, or even playing video games all day long. If you want to try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read the book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book that you read you can spend all day long to reading a publication. The book *The Secrets of Mary Bowser: A Novel* it is very good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. They were enjoying reading this book. In case you did not have enough space bringing this book you can buy typically the e-book. You can more simply to read this book from your smart phone. The price is not too expensive but this book provides high quality.

Bennie Gale:

This *The Secrets of Mary Bowser: A Novel* is great publication for you because the content that is full of information for you who all always deal with world and get to make decision every minute. This kind of book reveal it details accurately using great manage word or we can say no rambling sentences inside. So if you are read the item hurriedly you can have whole information in it. Doesn't mean it only offers you straight forward sentences but tricky core information with lovely delivering sentences. Having *The Secrets of Mary Bowser: A Novel* in your hand like keeping the world in your arm, info in it is not ridiculous just one. We can say that no guide that offer you world throughout ten or fifteen tiny right but this reserve already do that. So , it is good reading book. Hi Mr. and Mrs. stressful do you still doubt in which?

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