



## The Land

By Mildred D. Taylor

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**The Land** By Mildred D. Taylor

**A stunning repackage of a companion to Mildred D. Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*, with cover art by two-time Caldecott Honor Award winner Kadir Nelson!**

The son of a prosperous landowner and a former slave, Paul-Edward Logan is unlike any other boy he knows. His white father has acknowledged him and raised him openly—something unusual in post-Civil War Georgia. But as he grows into a man he learns that life for someone like him is not easy. Black people distrust him because he looks white. White people discriminate against him when they learn of his black heritage. Even within his own family he faces betrayal and degradation. So at the age of fourteen, he sets out toward the only dream he has ever had: to find land every bit as good as his father's, and make it his own. Once again inspired by her own history, Ms. Taylor brings truth and power to the newest addition to the award-winning Logan family stories.

**\* "Readers...will grab this and be astonished by its powerful story."—*Booklist*, starred review**

**\* "Taylor's gift for combining history and storytelling is as evident here as in her other stories about the Logan family."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review**

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## The Land By Mildred D. Taylor Bibliography

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## Editorial Review

### Amazon.com Review

*The Land* is Mildred D. Taylor's wonderful prequel to her Newbery Medal winner, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*. In the stories Taylor has to tell, life is not fair, hard work doesn't always pay off, and the good guy doesn't always win. That's because this extraordinary author tells the stories of her African American family in the Deep South during and after the Civil War, a time of ugly, painful racism.

Paul-Edward Logan, the son of a white, plantation-owner father and a slave mother, is our narrator, bound and determined to buy his own land and shape his own future at whatever cost. Caught between black and white worlds and not fitting into either one is devastating for him, but his powerful, engaging tales of the love of family, the strength of friendship, and growing up will inspire anyone to dare to persevere despite terrible odds. Taylor's books are not only essential in understanding what led up to the Civil Rights movement in America--they are also breathtaking page-turners, full of suspense, humor, love, and hope. *The Land* certainly stands alone, but the other award-winning tales of the Logan family--*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry*; *Let the Circle Be Unbroken*; and *The Road to Memphis*--are excellent as well. Heartily recommended. (Ages 12 and older) --Karin Snelson

### From Publishers Weekly

Taylor's gift for combining history and storytelling are as evident here as in her other stories about the Logan family. This prequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* focuses on Cassie's grandfather, Paul-Edward Logan, and explains how the seeds were planted for feuds between the Logans and other families, as well as certain loyalties. Here, the author deftly explores double standards in the South during the years following the Civil War. She lays the groundwork for these issues to be examined through two key relationships in the childhood of Paul-Edward, a boy of mixed race: the strong bond he shares with Robert, his white half-brother, and a tenuous friendship with Mitchell, whose parents were born into slavery and whose father works for Paul-Edward's father. Through them, the hero becomes painfully aware of the indelible line dividing black and white society. Though it is acceptable that his father, plantation-owner Edward, keeps an African-American mistress and helps rear her children, Paul-Edward and his sister, Cassie, are not allowed the same privileges as their half-brothers. An incident of family betrayal and a broken promise prompts Paul-Edward to run away from home and pursue his dream to farm his own piece of land. After arriving in Mississippi and setting his sights on the acreage he wants to buy, he soon discovers that becoming a landowner of color is more complicated and dangerous than expected. Like any good historian, Taylor extracts truth from past events without sugarcoating issues. Although her depiction of the 19th-century South is anything but pretty, her tone is more uplifting than bitter. Rather than dismissing hypocrisies, she digs beneath the surface of Paul-Edward's friends and foes, showing how their values have been shaped by social norms. Here, villains are as much victims as heroes, but only those as courageous as the protagonist challenge the traditions that promote inequality. Even during the book's most wrenching scenes, the determination, wisdom and resiliency--which become the legacy of the Logan family--will be strongly felt. Taylor fans should hasten to read this latest contribution to the Logan family history, and newcomers will eagerly lap this up and plunge into the author's other titles. Ages 12-up. (Step.) Taylor's gift for combining history and storytelling are as evident here as in her other stories about the Logan family. This prequel to *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* focuses on Cassie's grandfather, Paul-Edward Logan, and explains how the seeds were planted for feuds between the Logans and other families, as well as certain loyalties. Here, the author deftly explores double standards in the South during the years following the Civil War. She lays the groundwork for these issues to be examined through two key relationships in the childhood of Paul-Edward, a boy of mixed race: the strong bond he shares with Robert, his white half-brother, and a tenuous friendship

with Mitchell, whose parents were born into slavery and whose father works for Paul-Edward's father. Through them, the hero becomes painfully aware of the indelible line dividing black and white society. Though it is acceptable that his father, plantation-owner Edward, keeps an African-American mistress and helps rear her children, Paul-Edward and his sister, Cassie, are not allowed the same privileges as their half-brothers. An incident of family betrayal and a broken promise prompts Paul-Edward to run away from home and pursue his dream to farm his own piece of land. After arriving in Mississippi and setting his sights on the acreage he wants to buy, he soon discovers that becoming a landowner of color is more complicated and dangerous than expected. Like any good historian, Taylor extracts truth from past events without sugarcoating issues. Although her depiction of the 19th-century South is anything but pretty, her tone is more uplifting than bitter. Rather than dismissing hypocrisies, she digs beneath the surface of Paul-Edward's friends and foes, showing how their values have been shaped by social norms. Here, villains are as much victims as heroes, but only those as courageous as the protagonist challenge the traditions that promote inequality. Even during the book's most wrenching scenes, the determination, wisdom and resiliency-which become the legacy of the Logan family-will be strongly felt. Taylor fans should hasten to read this latest contribution to the Logan family history, and newcomers will eagerly lap this up and plunge into the author's other titles. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grades 7-10--*The Land* by Mildred Taylor (Putnam, 2001) is a wonderful novel of close friendship, harsh prejudices, and deep yearning. Fans of the author's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* (Dial, 1976) saga will enjoy learning how the love of the land was instilled into the family through the story of Paul-Edward Logan, Cassie's grandfather. His mother was a slave freed by the Civil War. Usually acknowledged by his white father, he has more education and training than most blacks of the time. However, frustrated by the inequalities caused by his mixed heritage, he leaves home to find work in order to earn land of his own. Experienced actor Ruben Santiago-Hudson is a wonderful reader for this story. Told in the first person, he becomes Paul-Edward and reads believably with a soft Southern accent. He moves easily from correct English to the uneducated speech full of grammar errors of other characters. When repeating dialogue, the narrator changes tone to differentiate the sexes. He uses pauses effectively, and knows exactly when to emphasize a word to enhance the realism. This historical novel brings this period of American history to life.

*Claudia Moore, W.T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA*

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## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Susan Frame:**

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**Calvin Cline:**

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**George Williams:**

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**Corey Watts:**

What is your hobby? Have you heard in which question when you got students? We believe that that query was given by teacher to the students. Many kinds of hobby, Everyone has different hobby. And also you know that little person including reading or as reading become their hobby. You need to know that reading is very important as well as book as to be the point. Book is important thing to provide you knowledge, except your personal teacher or lecturer. You see good news or update in relation to something by book. Different categories of books that can you choose to adopt be your object. One of them is actually The Land.

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