The Birth House: A Novel

Ami McKay

The Birth House is a powerful story that will speak to women and midwives, daughters and mothers. It's not often that a work of fiction manages to capture the essence of a rural community and the struggles faced by its women. Ami McKay's debut novel, The Birth House, is set in a small Nova Scotia village during the early 1900s, and it tells the story of Dora Rare, the first daughter to be born in five generations of the Rare family. As a child in an isolated village in Nova Scotia, Dora is drawn to the traditions of birth and midwifery, even as she faces the challenges of controlling her own body in a time of great struggle for women's rights.

McKay sets The Birth House against the historical backdrop of war, influenza, and the struggle to live a good life; the miracle of a good life. Of the themes explored in Ami McKay's poignant debut novel, The Birth House, the first daughter to be born in five generations of the Rare family, is depicted with honesty and heart. The story is filled with the struggles that women faced for control of their own bodies, the miracle of a good life, and the traditions of birth and midwifery.

McKay's novel is a powerful exploration of the struggles that women faced for control of their own bodies, the miracle of a good life, and the traditions of birth and midwifery. As a child in an isolated village in Nova Scotia, Dora Rare fights to maintain the rights of community midwives and local healers, in the face of a changing world. The Birth House is a captivating read that speaks to women and midwives, daughters and mothers, and it's a powerful testament to the strength of the human spirit.