

Wiregrass Chronicles
Bluebirds, Sharpshooters, and the Lure of Faraway Places

This second book in the *Wiregrass Chronicles* series continues the life journeys of Alabama Wiregrass families from peace time marred by the Great Depression to denial of the billowing thunder clouds of a second world war.

Epitomizing the Modern Woman of the Roaring Twenties, Eden Coltayne deserts the family farm in newfound independence as an urban wage earner, only to find that a steady paycheck and bright city lights cannot protect her from heartbreak.

Amid widespread poverty and despair, determined souls such as Nathan Knightley and Leonard Cauley muster every survival skill to ride out the Depression, not only supporting their families but helping others as well.

Preacher's son Joshua Waldron struggles to make his father understand the depth of his musicality, miserable in his fear that he will never achieve the greatness of the musicians he idolizes.

Keziah Cates, caregiver and surrogate mother to Benjamin Tomlin, shepherds him through rough patches and takes pride in his accomplishments. But although she encourages his quest for knowledge, she does not support his desire to know the truth about the Tomlins' dark history in antebellum Virginia.

Inheriting Granny Nora's healing instincts and yearning to be a registered nurse, Theora Waldron is unfazed by the knowledge that no nursing schools for black women exist in Alabama; but her family fears she will remain locked in her segregated existence, never achieving her burning desire to be a nurse.

As the 1930s draw to a close, descendants of Wiregrass settlers enjoy the plenty of abundant crops, the beauty of the southern countryside, and the development of better job opportunities. But the lure of faraway places, such as Chicago in the frigid North, tropical Daytona Beach, and distant Rome, call to those yearning to spread their wings and fly.