

Southern Living Magazine Books About the South – July 2005

Where the River Runs

by Patti Callahan Henry (NAL Accent, \$12.95)

Books about the journey to self-realization often make us contemplate our own lives and choices. You travel with the characters through joy, heartache, and redemption, and when it's over, you have laughed and cried. This book proves no exception. Even at age 12, when Meridy Dresden meets Danny, she knows her life will never be the same. After he dies in a devastating fire in high school, some part of Meridy dies as well. Years later, she faces dissatisfaction in her marriage to Beau and her "perfect" life in Atlanta. After a trip home to South Carolina's Lowcountry, Meridy discovers a past secret that has the power to destroy or save her. When she learns her flawless sister and mother are less than perfect, the revelation dispels her own feelings of inadequacy.

Descriptive language, paired with heartfelt characters, accentuates the story, which is peppered with Lowcountry culture and customs. The Georgia author includes many old Gullah proverbs, such as "When you are here, you are home." After reading this tale, cherishing family and home becomes the reader's own mantra.

Mary Jo Woods

