

Endorsement for Babs Small's *Faith's Reckoning*

Breaking news. Screaming headlines. Urgent commentaries. The daily shock of racial violence, institutional racism, ubiquitous inequities flood our awareness, immerses us. Yet, the intensity of the affect has a strange *distancing* effect, inuring us to the horror. The very “nowness,” the standstill of time, freezes out the real story, like a photograph. The power of the novel form is that, when well written, the depth of story emerges. *Faith's Reckoning* is such a novel. It frees time from the now by alternating the telling from the 1930s and the 1990s. It takes time to allow us to get to know and to feel the full fabric of the characters against the backdrop of genuine history. We are drawn into the intimacy of White and Black families and the entanglements that make the violence of events rending this intimacy, forcing us to *feel* deeply. There is no distance. And in this way, we can begin to understand our deep complicity in realities that continue to haunt us. Is there an answer? Barbara Small's deeply moving story makes a persuasive case for the much-needed healing medicine: the power of truth, the power of music, and most of all, the power of love.

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