

At thirty-two, Aubrey Lamb is stumbling through adulthood. When she learns she has inherited a stake in a sizable Tennessee farm, she sees an opportunity to get out of the city—and to erase a mounting pile of debt. Watching her all the while are four ghosts—Aubrey's ancestors, who have their own claims to the farm and who never hesitate to pass judgment on the mistakes made by the living, be they romantic, financial, or sartorial.

As Aubrey reconnects with her living family, another story unfolds in parallel: the history of the land, beginning with its purchase by Thomas, Aubrey's great-grandfather and one of the first Black landowners in his community. Despite Thomas's hopes, the land proves a heavy inheritance. Over the years, it turns the Lambs against one another, culminating in a catastrophic tragedy that splinters the family and echoes through the decades.

Now, as the clock ticks on a potential sale of the farm, the ghosts fear expulsion from the home they've made, and Aubrey must weigh the hopes and burdens of her forebears with the very real needs of her future.

An expansive family saga told with a wry and distinctly modern voice, *The Great Wherever* is at once grand and intimate; it explores the ways we define ourselves through and against our families, how we carry on after loss, and how the past lives on in all of us.

SHANNON SANDERS is the author of the linked short story collection *Company*, which won the 2024 *Los Angeles Times* Book Prizes' Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction, was named one of the best books of 2023 by *Publishers Weekly* and *Debutiful*, and was shortlisted for the 2024 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing. Her short fiction has appeared in numerous publications, including *One Story*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, and *Electric Literature*, and has received a PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. She lives in Silver Spring, Maryland, with her husband and three sons.

READ BY KEYLOR LEIGH



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THE GREAT WHEREVER
SHANNON SANDERS

Adult



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