

Stormy Weather: A Novel

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<blockquote>

From Paulette Jiles, the acclaimed New York Times bestselling author of *Enemy Women*, comes a poignant and unforgettable story of hardship, sacrifice, and strength in a tragic time—and of a desperate dream born of an undying faith in the arrival of a better day

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Oil is king of East Texas during the darkest years of the Great Depression. The Stoddard girls—responsible Mayme, whip-smart tomboy Jeanine, and bookish Bea—know no life but an itinerant one, trailing their father from town to town as he searches for work on the pipelines and derricks; that is, when he's not spending his meager earnings at gambling joints, race tracks, and dance halls. And in every small town in which the windblown family settles, mother Elizabeth does her level best to make each sparse, temporary house they inhabit a home.

But the fall of 1937 ushers in a year of devastating drought and dust storms, and the family's fortunes sink further than they ever anticipated when a questionable "accident" leaves Elizabeth and her girls alone to confront the cruelest hardships of these hardest of times. With no choice left to them, they return to the abandoned family farm.

It is Jeanine, proud and stubborn, who single-mindedly devotes herself to rebuilding the farm and their lives. But hard work and good intentions won't make ends meet or pay the back taxes they owe on their land. In desperation, the Stoddard women place their last hopes for salvation in a wildcat oil well that eats up what little they have left . . . and on the back of late patriarch Jack's one true legacy, a dangerous racehorse named Smoky Joe. And Jeanine, the fatherless "daddy's girl," must decide if she will gamble it all . . . on love.

Paulette Jiles is a novelist, poet, and memoirist. She is the author of *Cousins*, a memoir, and the novels *Enemy Women*, *Stormy Weather*, *The Color of Lightning*, *Lighthouse Island*, and *News of the World*. She lives on a ranch near San Antonio, TX.

Colleen Delany brings out the strength of character in three women who struggle to survive the Depression in Texas. Delany's drawings as true as the author's research, and her narration adds to the local color that is so much a part of the story. Delany differentiates the Stoddard daughters with varying tonality. Writer Bea is dreamy; Mayme is practical. The focus character is Jeanine, beloved by her late father, a charming, alcoholic gambler. Delany portrays Jeanine as a complex character, showing her determination when she fights for her family and her confusion as she tries to choose what she really wants in life. S.W. AudioFile 2007, Portland, Maine-- Copyright AudioFile, Portland, Maine

Other Books

Come Rain Or Shine, A warm-hearted rural romance from the authentic voice of Australian storytelling, bestselling author Tricia Stringer. A warm-hearted rural romance from the authentic voice of Australian storytelling, bestselling author Tricia Stringer A wedding and a will, a bushfire and a baby: who said the country was quiet? Paula knew when she moved to the country that the life would be tough. Nearly a year into her marriage with farmer Dan, and now pregnant, she is proud of her ability to feed shearers, bake a pastie and fix a fence while still running her accountancy business from home. With a wedding to plan, the

farm to run and neighbours to help out, life is busy but good. But there are clouds on the horizon. Dan is increasingly tired and distant. He promised he would always tell her the truth, so why is he being so mysterious about his late father's will? And why is his abrasive Aunt Rowena suddenly so interested in the sex and due date of Paula's baby? As bushfires rage, Paula makes a discovery that shocks her and threatens all she holds dear.

★★★★★ . A warm-hearted rural romance from the authentic voice of Australian storytelling, bestselling author Tricia Stringer."