



2008

### The Chosen One: A Novel

Gabriele I. Kupitz

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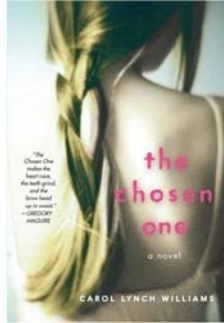
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Williams, Carol Lynch. *The Chosen One: A Novel*. St. Martin's Griffin, 2009. ISBN 9780312555115. \$16.95. 213 p.

Reviewer: Gabi Kupitz

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Outstanding

Genre: Fiction;

Subject: Polygamy--Juvenile fiction; Cults--Juvenile fiction; Coming of age--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Almost fourteen years old, Kyra Leigh Carlson is shocked and becomes physically ill when she learns that she is to marry her uncle, the Apostle Hyrum Carlson who "must be sixty, at least." Kyra "will be his seventh wife in the Lord," pronounces Prophet Childs who arranges all of the marriages in an isolated community of polygamists. But Kyra cannot marry a man she does not love nor can her spirit bend to another's will. Struggling with a decision to leave the Compound and risk losing her large family or worse, having her family lose their loving husband/father--men deemed to be disobedient or who have disobedient children are forced to leave, and their families given to other men--makes life a living hell for Kyra. Patrick, a bookmobile librarian and his cache of reading materials, offers Kyra enlightenment and an escape. Not only does Patrick listen and make reading recommendations, he becomes one of Kyra's dearest and trusted friends.

The author has created a story, that while fiction, asks a lot of questions about the current cultish societies in which young girls are forced to marry older men and where religious fanaticism has hijacked agency. *The Chosen One* is captivating and timely.

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