



# Becoming Josephine: A Novel

*Heather Webb*

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## **Becoming Josephine: A Novel** Heather Webb

A sweeping historical debut about the Creole socialite who transformed herself into an empress

Readers are fascinated with the wives of famous men. In *Becoming Josephine*, debut novelist Heather Webb follows Rose Tascher as she sails from her Martinique plantation to Paris, eager to enjoy an elegant life at the royal court. Once there, however, Rose's aristocratic soldier-husband dashes her dreams by abandoning her amid the tumult of the French Revolution. After narrowly escaping death, Rose reinvents herself as Josephine, a beautiful socialite wooed by an awkward suitor--Napoleon Bonaparte.

"Webb's portrayal of the range of Josephine's experience--narrow escapes from bloodshed and disease, dinner-table diplomacy, and her helpless love for Napoleon, her children and a small dog--is exceptionally concise and colorful. A worthy fictional primer on Empress Josephine."--*Kirkus Reviews*

"Webb holds up a light into the inner recesses of a fascinating and contradictory woman . . . *Becoming Josephine* is an accomplished debut."--*New York Journal of Books*

"Heather Webb's deft

storytelling sweeps the reader into the world of Rose Tascher, the Creole girl who would become the Empress Josephine Bonaparte. Rose leaps to life from the first page, a lovable, believable character who must seek her own place in a tumultuous, almost unbelievable era in France. Her compelling tale, enriched with sumptuous detail, dazzles. Don't miss it!" --Lynn Cullen, bestselling author of *Mrs. Poe*

"A debut as bewitching as its protagonist." --Erika Robuck, author of *Hemingway's Girl* and *Call Me Zelda*

"Vivid and passionate." --Susan Spann, author of *The Shinobi Mysteries*

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