



# Fifth Born: A Novel

By Zelda Lockhart

Download now

Read Online ➔

## Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart

When Odessa Blackburn is three years old her beloved grandmother dies, and so begins her story, set in St. Louis, Missouri, and rural Mississippi. As the fifth born of eight children, Odessa loses her innocence at first when her drunken father sexually abuses her, and then again when she alone witnesses her father taking the life of his own brother.

*Fifth Born* is Zelda Lockhart's debut novel, lyrically written and powerful in its exploration of how secrets can tear apart lives and families. It is a story of love, longing, and redemption, as Odessa walks away from those whom she believes to be her kin to discover the true meaning of family.

↓ [Download Fifth Born: A Novel ...pdf](#)

📄 [Read Online Fifth Born: A Novel ...pdf](#)

# Fifth Born: A Novel

*By Zelda Lockhart*

## **Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart**

When Odessa Blackburn is three years old her beloved grandmother dies, and so begins her story, set in St. Louis, Missouri, and rural Mississippi. As the fifth born of eight children, Odessa loses her innocence at first when her drunken father sexually abuses her, and then again when she alone witnesses her father taking the life of his own brother.

*Fifth Born* is Zelda Lockhart's debut novel, lyrically written and powerful in its exploration of how secrets can tear apart lives and families. It is a story of love, longing, and redemption, as Odessa walks away from those whom she believes to be her kin to discover the true meaning of family.

## **Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #978838 in Books
- Brand: Brand: Atria Books
- Published on: 2003-08-19
- Released on: 2003-08-19
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.25" h x .60" w x 5.31" l, .56 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 224 pages

 [Download Fifth Born: A Novel ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Fifth Born: A Novel ...pdf](#)

## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set in Mississippi and Missouri in the 1970s, this strong debut novel tackles harrowing if familiar themes of family violence and abuse. As the fifth child in a family of eight siblings, Odessa Blackburn sees herself as the "invisible middle" of her family. Sexually abused by her alcoholic father early in life and then again in late childhood, Odessa feels herself pushed away by her enabling mother and alienated by her own siblings, each of whom has a different strategy for coping with the family dysfunction. As Odessa grows up, she learns that her mother is having an affair with her father's older brother, Leland, and when her father learns of it and murders Leland, Odessa is the only witness. Unable to tell anyone what she's seen or about her own molestations, Odessa turns inward to memories of the one person who has ever shown her any real love: her grandmother, whose funeral opens the book. Odessa discovers a message in her grandmother's Bible that sheds some light on the intergenerational anguish of her family: "I lived in fear so much I couldn't show you any love." As Odessa begins her quest for a haven, she finds a long-lost relative who is also the "fifth born" and plays an important role in helping her rediscover her sense of trust. First-time author Lockhart, student of bestselling author Dorothy Allison, paints a disturbing portrait of childhood sexual abuse and its repercussions, and the strain alcoholism places on a family. While little new territory is covered here from a literary standpoint, Lockhart's narrative is straightforward and lyrical, Odessa's voice is believable and the evolution of her character in the face of overwhelming alienation is as engaging as it is heartbreaking. Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

From [Booklist](#)

Odessa is the fifth of what will eventually be eight children in the highly dysfunctional Blackburn family. She is three years old when her grandmother dies and the last shred of joy goes out of her life. The Blackburns have family ties both in a small town in Mississippi, their place of origin, and in St. Louis, where many family members have journeyed in the mostly fruitless hope of finding a better life. Their father drinks too much and terrorizes the children with his boundless, violent temper. Their mother is an ineffectual woman who makes up stories to explain away injuries and mishaps, stories that become part of family lore and skew the reality of their lives. After her mother, Odessa takes the brunt of much of the brutality, ever shrinking inside herself until she slowly learns the long-held family secrets that underlie the violence. Lockhart's first novel is evocative of Toni Morrison's *Bluest Eye* in its sensitive portrayal of a young girl trapped in family violence, damaged by brutality, and longing for love. *Vanessa Bush*  
Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved

Review

*O Magazine* Lockhart's mastery of sensory detail -- the tastes, smells, sounds, and sights of Odessa's world -- roots us moment to moment in the hardscrabble life of this transcendent tale.

*Essence* A touching story told with incredible grace and subtlety.

*The San Francisco Chronicle* The language in [*Fifth Born*] is eloquent, the writing style poetic and the use of African American dialogue masterful.

Kirkus Reviews A poetic debut....An impressively mature piece of work.

Robin D. Stone With compassion, wit and grace, Zelda Lockhart gives us a new heroine: Odessa -- forgotten, betrayed, wounded in body but strong in spirit that keeps us rooting for her 'til the sweet, sweet end.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Lillian Tobias:**

Reading a e-book tends to be new life style on this era globalization. With looking at you can get a lot of information that will give you benefit in your life. Along with book everyone in this world can easily share their idea. Guides can also inspire a lot of people. Lots of author can inspire their particular reader with their story or their experience. Not only the storyline that share in the ebooks. But also they write about the knowledge about something that you need illustration. How to get the good score toefl, or how to teach your sons or daughters, there are many kinds of book that you can get now. The authors nowadays always try to improve their expertise in writing, they also doing some research before they write to their book. One of them is this Fifth Born: A Novel.

#### **Walter Telford:**

You can spend your free time to study this book this reserve. This Fifth Born: A Novel is simple to deliver you can read it in the park, in the beach, train along with soon. If you did not have much space to bring the printed book, you can buy the e-book. It is make you simpler to read it. You can save typically the book in your smart phone. So there are a lot of benefits that you will get when you buy this book.

#### **Joan Ortega:**

As we know that book is essential thing to add our know-how for everything. By a book we can know everything we would like. A book is a pair of written, printed, illustrated or maybe blank sheet. Every year had been exactly added. This book Fifth Born: A Novel was filled concerning science. Spend your spare time to add your knowledge about your scientific disciplines competence. Some people has various feel when they reading a new book. If you know how big advantage of a book, you can experience enjoy to read a guide. In the modern era like now, many ways to get book that you simply wanted.

#### **Debra Shortt:**

Reading a reserve make you to get more knowledge from it. You can take knowledge and information originating from a book. Book is created or printed or created from each source that filled update of news. In this particular modern era like currently, many ways to get information are available for an individual. From media social just like newspaper, magazines, science book, encyclopedia, reference book, novel and comic. You can add your understanding by that book. Do you want to spend your spare time to spread out your book? Or just seeking the Fifth Born: A Novel when you required it?

## **Download and Read Online Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart**

**#CEZ4RJ5HKDU**

## **Read Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart for online ebook**

Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart books to read online.

### **Online Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart ebook PDF download**

**Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart Doc**

**Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart Mobipocket**

**Fifth Born: A Novel By Zelda Lockhart EPub**