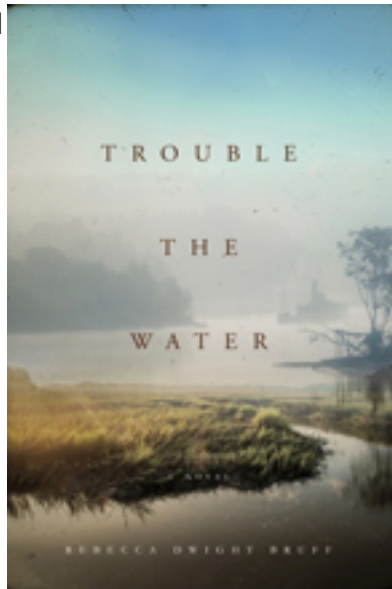


Trouble the Water,



the debut novel from Rebecca Dwight Bruff, is inspired by the larger-than-life true story of Robert Smalls, the first African American hero of the Civil War. On May 13, 1862, the enslaved Smalls commandeered the Confederate vessel *The Planter* in Charleston harbor, which he sailed to the Union blockade, securing freedom for his own family and the enslaved crew with him. Smalls served with distinction as Union captain of the

Planter

during the duration of the war and was later a U.S. Congressman representing his native lowcountry.

Join us on Monday, May 13, the 157th anniversary of Smalls' escape, at 5:30 p.m. for *Trouble the Water's*

launch event to be held at Tabernacle Baptist Church (901 Craven St.), featuring a welcome by Rev. Kenneth Hodges, introduction by Victoria Smalls, remarks by the author, and a musical performance by Marlena Smalls. A book signing and reception will follow at the Pat Conroy Literary Center (905 Port Republic St.), across the street from the church. Presented in partnership between the Pat Conroy Literary Center and Tabernacle Baptist Church, these events are free and open to the public. Please register in advance at

<https://troublethewaterlaunch.brownpapertickets.com>

Bruff fell in love with the story of Smalls on her first visit to South Carolina. Captivated and



<https://rebeccabruff.com>