



Josie and Vic, a novel

by

Debra Thomas

Winner of Sarton Award Winner for *Luz*, a novel

When Josie Serafini’s brother Vic loses his wife and children in a tragic accident, Josie leaves her home and beloved horses in upstate New York to join him in Los Angeles. While helping Vic pick up the pieces of his shattered life, Josie confronts broken relationships with her estranged father, who abandoned their family long ago, and rebellious, singer-songwriter daughter, who abruptly left home the previous summer.

Josie and Vic each struggle to find where they belong in their changing worlds. Josie finds comfort in nature and in a budding, long-distance relationship with the empathetic equine veterinarian caring for her horses back home. Vic battles depression as he seeks purpose in his life.

Josie’s three horses and a Siberian husky help open hearts to tenderness and healing—but it’s an unexpected journey to the US-Mexico border that offers this fragmented family a chance to reconnect. A story of love, loss, and forgiveness, *Josie and Vic* conveys hope—even in the darkest of times.

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Praise for Josie and Vic

"Debra Thomas is a magician. Her artistry and empathy and gentle humor allow *Josie and Vic*, a novel grounded in the deepest of grief, to shine with hope, with compassion, with the reminder that connection and service offer us paths toward healing. An unforgettable, heart-filled, heart-filling novel."

--**Gayle Brandeis, author of *The Book of Dead Birds*, winner of Barbara Kingsolver's Bellwether Prize**

In this beautifully crafted novel, tragedies test family bonds while revealing the power of love and the strength and resilience of the human spirit.

--**Elizabeth McKenzie, author of *The Portable Veblen***

Josie and Vic encompasses personal love, human love beyond borders, and, ultimately, global love, as Madre Tierra's Turtle Islands slowly move together to create a new Pangaea. A new form, and a new hope—the future re-imagined.

--**Alma Luz Villanueva, American Book Award Winner, author of *Song of The Golden Scorpion*, novel, and *Gracias*, poetry.**

Debra Thomas is a master at creating complex and believable characters who deal with abandonment issues, tragedy, starting over when all seems lost—and the soul connection between animals and humans.

~ **Kathleen M. Rodgers, author of *The Flying Cutterbucks*, a 2021 WILLA Literary Award Finalist in Contemporary Fiction**

Josie Serafini—tough yet tender—wins us over from the first page in award-winning Debra Thomas's second novel, *Josie and Vic*. Dealing with layers of anxiety, grief, and loss, Josie shows us that sometimes the longest road home teaches us the most about ourselves. For fans of Ann Patchett, Joyce Carol Oates, and Barbara Kingsolver. A lovely book.

--**Ashley E. Sweeney, New Mexico-Arizona Book Award winner of *Answer Creek***

A clear-sighted, moving, contemporary story of the familial support it takes to bravely move forward, *Josie and Vic* explores what it takes to heal a shattered self in favor of joining a greater whole.

--**Claire Fullerton, author of *Little Tea***

Josie and Vic is about transcending tragedy, finding the way back, or the way forward, with the help of those you love—or those who care enough to leave “blue flags” along the way. An incredibly touching, heartbreaking story, filled with heart and soul.

--**Lorraine Devon Wilke, author of the award-winning novel, *The Alchemy of Noise***

Beautifully crafted and richly detailed, this is a novel with a conscience and something important to say.--**Jeanne Sacken, author of *Behind the Lens*, American Writing Awards Book of the Year 2021, and *Double Exposure***



Debra Thomas is the author of *Luz*, winner of the 2020 Sarton Award for Contemporary Fiction and the 2020 Next Generation Indie Book Award for Multicultural Fiction. Originally from Binghamton, New York, she has lived in Southern California most of her adult life. A writer, teacher, and immigrant rights advocate, Debra taught literature and writing at a Los Angeles public high school and English as a Second Language (ESL) to adults from all over the world. She currently lives with her husband and dog in Simi Valley, California, just minutes away from her two horses. Her second novel, *Josie and Vic*, will be published by She Writes Press April 11, 2023.

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