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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

If the Creek Don't Rise

by
Rita Williams

**“Williams is a gifted storyteller, and her tales of Daisy are unforgettable.”
- Publishers Weekly (starred)**

In her emotionally-charged memoir, *If the Creek Don't Rise: My Life Out West With the Last Black Widow of the Civil War* (Harcourt, May 2006, \$23.00), Rita Williams shares her amazing coming-of-age story set amid the cold, harsh splendor of the Colorado Rockies.

When Rita Williams was four, her mother died in a Denver boarding house, leaving her in the care of her aunt Daisy, the last surviving African American widow of a Union soldier. A maverick in her own right, Daisy spirited her sharecropping family out of the lynching South and reinvented them as ranch hands and hunting guides out West. One by one family members slipped away, either by death or to an easier existence elsewhere, leaving Rita as Daisy's own personal project to right the racial wrongs of the past and to make good on a lifetime of hardships and thwarted ambitions. *If the Creek Don't Rise* tells the story of how Rita

found her way out from under the crippling legacy of her family, and, instead of becoming a perfect credit to her race, discovered a way to be herself.

With raw yet tender insight, this book is a beautifully moving and unique account of the lives families live and the moments of truth and beauty that save us.

Rita Williams lives in Los Angeles. She has been an actor, musician, professor, recovery counselor, and radio announcer as well as a writer. Her previous work has appeared in *LA Weekly* and *O, the Oprah Magazine*. This is her first book. For further information on this author, please check out her Web site, www.ritawilliams.com.

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