



1943-1945



Seminar Title: **"In the Time of Will and Dena..."**

Based on the novel: ***Will and Dena*** by Bob Rogers

Book Title: ***Will and Dena: Love and Life in World War II***

(Available in print and for all ebook readers.)

Author: Bob Rogers

Book ISBN: 9780615310350

**E**arly in 1943, Hirohito, Hitler, and Mussolini are near the apex of their powers. In the same year, Will, a lumberjack and amateur baseball player, and Dena, a beautiful co-ed, fall in love.

***Will and Dena*** is history told in story form for students of literature, geography, psychology, sociology, history, African American Studies, and American Studies. This historical novel offers students the opportunity to vicariously experience the struggles of fictional characters interacting with historic figures, feel their frustrations living under the pressures and mores of a forgotten time and place, and hear them debate the philosophies and political positions of writers from the era in which they lived.

**"In the Time of Will and Dena"** begins early in 1943 when the outcome of World War II was much in doubt and ends in January 1945 before the war comes to a close. Students reading ***Will and Dena*** and participating in the seminar will likely engage in vigorous and heated debate over the roles played in the lives of the two central characters and friends by:

- the war
- jim crow laws
- the prominent role of baseball in the 1940s,
- the role of KKK and other southern US mores
- Langston Hughes, Edward Almond, F.D. Roosevelt, Billie Holiday
- parental mate selection
- Judges J. Waites Waring and William T. Stevens

The seminar brings alive the characters and their, times, struggles, dreams, and nemeses for students to discuss with the author, faculty, and each other in the context of syllabi learning outcomes.

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