

The American Opus

Viewpoint Characters

Tom Winans

first-born of the great railroad inventor Ross Winans, his assignment to help build Russia's first railroad makes him rich. His obsessions to escape his father's shadow, grow his power, and craft a marriage paradigm more joyful than society's norm meet obstacles of personal demons, tragedy, and the Civil War...

Celeste Revillon

sweet-hearted, zealous Catholic, driven to help the poor. She plots to escape St. Petersburg by marrying a rich American railroad man. Her musical brilliance wins Tom Winans' heart, but both families oppose their love and Civil War loyalties threaten to unmask her devastating secret and destroy their lives...

John H. B. Latrobe

B&O Railroad's general counsel, patent attorney for Ross Winans, mentor to Tom, and Baltimore's greatest-Renaissance man; civic leader, historian, poet, novelist, and president of the American Colonization Society. His life is Tom's elusive model. The Civil War forces the most painful compromise of his life...

William C. Goodridge

foremost leader of the "Underground Railroad" in York, Pennsylvania, the town that named the movement. After a visit to a much heralded Baltimore Soup House, he develops an unlikely alliance, which provides a station long sought by Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass...

Josh Zimmerman

prominent horseman and Fells Point shipbuilder, becomes Tom's country neighbor, friend, horse broker, and trainer after the railroad man builds *Crimea*. Josh meets Rose Greenhow at Central Racecourse, falls prey to her sexual manipulations, and joins the Confederate master spy's network. Unrequited love causes bitterness and threatens disaster for the Winanses...