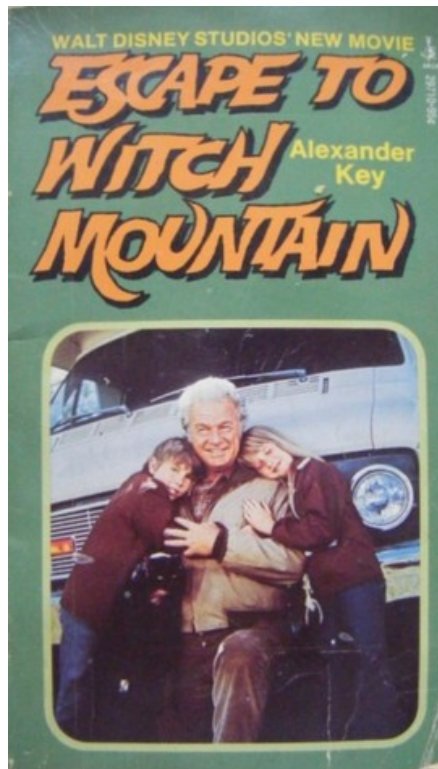




Escape to Witch Mountain

Alexander Key , Leon B. Wisdom Jr. (Illustrator)

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Some terrifying experience has blocked Tony and Tia's memory of the past. But because they have supernatural powers, they are sure that they come from another world--and that their people still exist *somewhere*.

Then Tony and Tia find that they must escape from men who want to use their special powers for evil. They begin a desperate search to find their true home--which leads them to the strange and mysterious Witch Mountain.

Escape to Witch Mountain Details

Date : Published September 1975 by Pocket Books (first published 1968)

ISBN : 9780671297107

Author : Alexander Key , Leon B. Wisdom Jr. (Illustrator)

Format : Mass Market Paperback 180 pages

Genre : Science Fiction, Fiction, Fantasy, Childrens, Young Adult, Adventure

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From Reader Review Escape to Witch Mountain for online ebook

Thom says

Saw the Disney movie well before reading the story, but it must be said the villain has a bumbling Disney-esque style. My daughter enjoyed it well enough; I found myself focused on the lack of technology, even though these aliens are more connected with mental powers.

In the end, the story was plausible (first landing in Hungary, chased out by the Communist take-over and now hunted by elements of the US government ... or perhaps a Communist agent?) and the characters were likeable. The Disney movie reduced the political aspects by giving Lucas Deranian a millionaire boss instead. Sequel movies and a TV series pilot followed; the book also has a sequel.

MattA says

I read this book aloud to my 10-year-old daughter. She loved it. I thought it just OK, at best. Key is a serviceable, if not inspired, wordsmith. The story was rather one-dimensional. I would have found it more enjoyable if the book had focused more on the character of the kids and their gradual uncovering of their abilities, and less on the mechanics of the chase.

Joy says

Such a blast from my childhood! I had a vague memory of seeing this movie in the 1970s but never read the book and really didn't remember the story. It felt like I was seeing the very beginnings of E.T. and Harry Potter. My only complaint is the ending. A definite set-up for another book, it really left me hanging.

Sandi Layne says

Quick, fun sci-fi/fantasy read for children and early teens. How orphans with mysterious abilities find help...and a way to their own people...is a great adventure in a simply-told manner.

Originally written in 1968, it is dated, certainly, but somehow that doesn't seem to matter. :)

Aaron Rosenberg says

One of my favorite books as a kid.

Serethiel says

I read this once a super long time ago. It wasn't my favorite, but that's mainly 'cause this genre just isn't my

thing. :)

Megan says

When I was a kid, the movie *Escape to Witch Mountain*, and its sequel, *Return from Witch Mountain*, was on television all the time. I remember watching it with my brother endlessly, and recently I bought the DVD. I had never realized it was based on a book. Opening this up was like settling into my grandmother's recliner with this and Tom Corbett, Space Cadet novels. (I was quite well-read as a child, thanks to my grandpa's old stash.) It has all the feel of that type of novel, especially since my copy, through inter-library loan, was quite old.

This little book is completely fascinating and not at all condescending to its audience. It's straightforward, not cutesy and admirably not campy. It's a great complement to the movie.

Tiffany Reisz says

Good writing but way too abrupt ending. Sadly all the best scenes in the movie aren't in the book. But on its own it's very charming. Just missing something.

Amy Sturgis says

After learning that author Alexander Key had been inspired by the "Brown Mountain Lights" phenomenon (a true unsolved mystery in my backyard here in the Blue Ridge Mountains) to create the Witch Mountain of the title, I knew I had to read this classic work of juvenile science fiction. I'm glad I did.

Orphaned Tony and Tia know their abilities (such as telekinesis and communicating witho animals) make them special, and they know the man falsely claiming to be their uncle has evil intentions toward them. The majority of the novel is an extended chase sequence, but along the way, the siblings encounter some of the worst of humanity, including the jaded indifference of the city and the fearful suspicion of the country. All they need is one trustworthy adult to believe and help them in their quest to find their people.

Not only did I enjoy how this handled the "humanity through the eyes of extraterrestrials" trope, but I also appreciated the themes of open-mindedness, moral courage, and compassion that this stressed. A friend of mine told me that reading this novel as a child helped to foster her lifelong love of science fiction and fantasy, and I easily can see why this would be the case. I can think of no better compliment for any book.

And Father O'Day rocks: "Do you think the Lord on high is so frail that this little planet, with it's greedy little people, is all that He can do? Bah!... Go tell the rest of your kind there are marvels in Creation far beyond their narrow dreaming." Enough said!

Karen says

The Disney movie made from this was a big part of my childhood.

Loucindy says

Loved the movie as a kid (and just picked this up for no real reason), but man, most of the adults in this book are the worst.

Rachel says

Wow, very different from what I remember about the movies. Almost wish there was more to it. It was a good adventure though.

June says

This book was first published in 1968 but it's still quite a sweet and interesting story.

Christopher says

Escape to Witch Mountain has always been among my favorite Disney live-action films, so when I saw this book at my local library, I had to give it a try. I expected to like it, but I ended up simply adoring it. It's without a question one of the best books I've ever read; the plot is simple but not simplistic and the element of suspense was terrific. Most of all, Escape to Witch Mountain touches on deep themes such as sense of belonging, hating people without justification, and even stewardship of the planet. Its profound questions will haunt you long after the book's end. As you can already tell, I highly recommend this book. Read it as soon as you get the chance!

Side note: if you've watched the movie, there are some major differences. But unlike other instances when I've both read a book and watched the film adaptation, I don't necessarily hate the differences. Yes, I prefer the book, but the movie keeps the mood intact; I appreciate both.

Idamus says

I liked it, it was fun to visit this universe again, but I think I prefer the movie ;-)

Or, I grew up. O.O

Noooo, nononono, that can't be it.

Val says

I don't remember this book all that well, but it was one of my favorites way back. I loved the adventure.

darryl ohrt says

Holds up pretty well any worthy for nostalgia.

John Conrad says

I read this book and its sequel as a 12-year old and enjoyed it immensely. I quickly went to the library and devoured all the rest of Key's novels which are all too few, and some are hard to find. Key's novels focus on young people who have special abilities and who are from other worlds. The theme is obvious, that people of this world can be cruel to outsiders or anyone who is different, but there are also a few who will help and accept you if you search for them. As a kid who was sometimes bullied, this theme was particularly apt for me in my teenage years. I identified with Tony and Tia in their search for people who would help and accept them for who they were, not fear or hate them for being different.

If you are looking for more like this, [the forgotten door](#) is available, and sometimes you can find [the magic meadow](#) as well.

Deborah Markus says

I grew up with this book and have loved it all my life, so it's hard for me to tell how well it's aged. I can say that it was a lot of fun to reread in the Harry Potter era. A few pages in, I started checking "hero" characteristics off in my mind.

Here. Take this handy quiz – maybe *you* have what it takes to be a hero!

Are you an orphan? (At the beginning of *Escape*, Tony and his sister Tia have just suffered the loss of the grandmotherly woman who's cared for them as long as they can remember. She wasn't really a relative, but she was nice to them. But now she's dead. And so far as they know, they have no blood ties.)

Are you a good kid who's surrounded by people who misunderstand and are inclined to assume the worst about you? (Tony "has a bad reputation for fighting," though all he ever does is fend off bullies. Tia is accused of theft when really she only broke into a building in order to rescue a trapped kitten.)

Do you have any unusual physical characteristics? (No lightning bolts here, but Tony and Tia's "pale hair" contrasts sharply with their "olive skins" and "dark-blue eyes that were almost black." Also, Tia is mute, although she can "talk" to her brother – see below.)

Any magical powers to report? (Heck, yeah. Telekinesis, telepathy – you know, the usual. Okay, and some

unusual: Tony can get an accurate picture in his head of any place he hears about, even if he's never been there in his life; Tia has total recall, going all the way back to her toddler years.)

If "yes" to the above, do your magical powers manifest in morally upstanding ways? (Tia can effortlessly open any lock, but only if it's "right" for her to do so. She could never open a locked door if she was trying to steal money, for instance, but she can get through one in order to save trapped kittens no one else can hear. Tony can play his harmonica so beautifully, even wild animals are charmed. And this music amps his telekinetic abilities.)

Not to get too personal, but can you quite literally speak another species' language? (See above re Tia and kittehs. Also bears. Pretty much any animal, in fact.)

Have you always felt, well, kind of different from the people around you? (Tony and Tia have sensed all their lives that this world isn't truly their own. Boy howdy, are they right.)

Might there be a community of people just like you out there somewhere, and are you trying to find them so you can live your life without feeling like such a weirdo all the time? (Yes and yes.)

Got a nemesis? (Big time. The scariest thing about Lucas Deranian is that he doesn't want to kill Tony and Tia. He wants to *own* them.)

Okay, pencils down, please. The quiz is over. If you enjoyed it, I recommend this story as a good old-fashioned adventure. (And if you're old enough to remember the movie – the book is nothing like it. It's much more serious and intense.)

Sara says

Funny how it is with these Goodreads recommendations. If you read this, you'll also like this! And I look at the books and think - oh, yeh, I read these. This is one that looks oh-so-familiar, cover and all. I think I got it AFTER the movie from the 70's came out. (Considering the cover, that would be logical.) I think I liked the movie better. Could be wrong on that one, but I remember really liking the movie and really wanting to be Tia.
