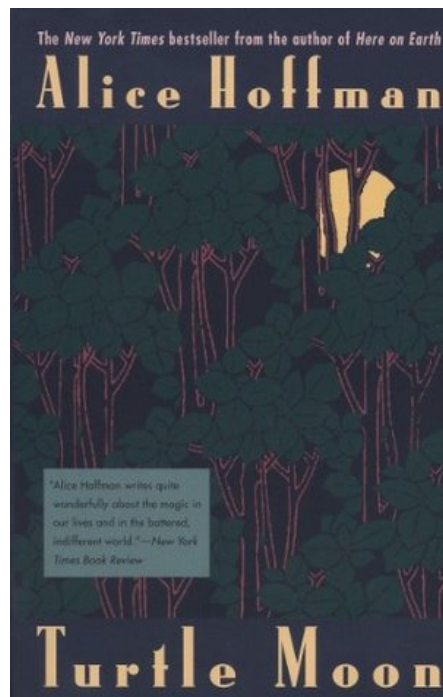




Turtle Moon

Alice Hoffman

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When Keith Rosen runs away from his Florida home—inexplicably taking along a motherless baby—his mother is perplexed, terrified, and ultimately takes off on her own journey to find him. The story of a divorced woman, her disillusioned teenage son, and the events that change their lives in ways both simple and extraordinary, *Turtle Moon* follows their path, in a suspenseful, beautifully written story that confirms once again the exquisite talent of Alice Hoffman.

Turtle Moon Details

Date : Published 1997 (first published 1992)

ISBN :

Author : Alice Hoffman

Format : Kindle Edition 292 pages

Genre : Fiction, Magical Realism, Mystery, Romance, Fantasy

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From Reader Review Turtle Moon for online ebook

Melanti says

I really do like Alice Hoffman, I promise! But for some reason the last 3 or 4 books I've read by her were all rather flawed. The writing style is there, but the plots are not.

This particular book seems really lacking in solid motivations. Why did Keith take the infant? Why did the police let Keith's mother investigate? How likely is it that Keith's mother and the infant's mother would have come from the same area of the country and that the infant's mother would have admitted to that?

And what commercial airline would allow a full grown German Shepherd into the passenger cabin AND would have enough leg room that the dog would have room to lie at the owner's feet? Yeah right.

Then for the more spoilery things that bugged me:

(view spoiler)

LeAnn says

Alice Hoffman leaves the temperate Northeast and heads south to Verity, a fictional town that "is home to more divorced women from New York than any other town in the state of Florida." As with other Hoffman books, it's difficult to pin down a protagonist, but the action revolves around a divorcee named Lucy, a K-9 cop with a nasty scar named Julian, and Lucy's 12-year-old son Keith, the "meanest boy in Verity."

"Turtle Moon" is the magical, maddening month of May when the heat ratchets up and the locals "slip two aspirins into their cans of Coke, wear sunglasses, and avoid making any major decisions." Hoffman has such a skillful way of weaving the impossible along with the improbable into the description of a place that could exist on the coast of Florida, that the reader follows right along, believing it all.

There's not much to the story, and it's another testament to Hoffman's characterization that you get to the end well-acquainted with Julian and Keith especially. Both might rightly be identified as the protagonist; both have been transformed and redeemed, although not necessarily as other characters (or perhaps readers) would have liked.

Without giving too much away, I will say that the basic story is set in motion when Keith, on the way out the door to run away, finds a fourteen-month-old girl who becomes his companion through desperate circumstances. Lucy's efforts to protect Keith bring her into close contact with Julian and lead her to her own desperate measures.

WORDMAN says

“Every May, when the sea turtles begin their migration across West Main Street, mistaking the glow of the street lights for the moon, people go a little bit crazy.”

– This is a novel about loners; dogs; vagabond spirits; angels; and the magical words that swirl around them. Once you enter Verity, you will not want to leave. Even with heat so hot you could fry an egg on the concrete. And once you meet Julian Cash and Keith Rosen, you’ll know. You just will.

“Since Verity is the most humid spot in eastern Florida, local people know enough to drink their coffee iced in the morning. The air all around the town limits is so thick that sometimes a soul cannot rise and instead attaches itself to a stranger, landing right between the shoulder blades with a thud that carries no more weight than a hummingbird.”

The characters jump off the pages, and everything that happens including the murder and kidnapping will keep you riveted.

– This is a novel about a sensual chemistry between two loners; the suspense that slowly creeps-up before you know you’re right in the thick of it; and the seductive lure of a small town – where nothing happens I’ve fallen in love with Alice Hoffman.

“At 27 Long Boat Street, just off West Main, in a pink stucco condominium facing the flat blue bay, there lived a twelve-year-old boy, a mean little Scorpio named Keith Rosen, who would have liked nothing better than to knock someone’s block off.”

When I turned the last page, I actually blurted ‘No’ out-loud, then turned back to the ‘last’ page and read it again. I wasn’t ready for my trip to Verity to end. But it was over. I didn’t want it to be. I already missed everyone, and the book was still in my hand.

Great place to escape – if you’ve a mind to Even in the sweltering heat. Even in the month of May.

Maria Clara says

Impresionante! Es increíble cómo un libro que no te atrae, es capaz de convertirse en una maravillosa sorpresa. Una novela que ha llegado a mis manos por azar y se ha convertido en una de las mejores lecturas de este año.

Alyssa Oppelt says

ugh. I absolutely do not like to read books after just reading a really good one. Everything pales in comparison. That's what happened here with Turtle Moon. After reading Skylight Confessions, I decided I wanted to read more books by Alice Hoffman, so I made a list of the ones I wanted to read and figured I'd buy any of them that I saw in the thrift stores I frequent. Well, I saw Turtle Moon and Here On Earth both at a Goodwill in La Crosse and was pretty torn between which one looked better. (didn't want to spend a lot of money) Neither were on my list because Here On Earth had some negative reviews on the first page (and

was about an affair apparently? not interesting to me) and Turtle Moon's synopsis just sounded boring. I wouldn't say it was boring.. it kept me interested. The problem I had was with the main mom in the book. She came off as pretty arrogant and conceited. She left her husband awhile ago and when she went back to her hometown to get info on the woman that was killed (all while her son is MISSING, no less) she demands her ex-husband take her to their high school reunion. Even though he had a date. And then she's stealing the poor gal's clothes while she stays at this ex's house.. I don't know, that character just really pissed me off. She acted concerned for her son, but yet... not. All the other characters were either well liked or tolerable. The Angel was the most interesting character but NOTHING HAPPENED in his story, if that even makes any sense. Love the way this author writes, still plan on reading more of hers in the future. This book didn't turn me off from her too much. :)

elissa says

The first Hoffman book that I ever read (it was recommended to me by another librarian--Karlan Sick). It started me on a frenzy of reading her books. I read everything of hers that had been published up to then, and I've read most of her books since. She's one of my very favorite authors.

Davis Aujourd'hui says

Take another journey into the heart. That is what all of Alice Hoffman's books will do for you. She is an old soul who knows how to spin a fantastic tale ripe with the beingness of the human experience. This book is no exception.

Turtle Moon was actually the first of her books which I read. I became an avid fan following this first experience. Ms. Hoffman delves into the richness of human relationships while exploring the mystical dimensions which we can all experience if we open ourselves to them. This book may just give you a hankering that will lead you in that direction.

Turtle Moon is a book with a strong spiritual theme. Being the author of a spiritually-oriented book entitled "The Misadventures of Sister Mary Olga Fortitude," I always appreciate books that explore this oftentimes hidden dimension of the human experience. Turtle Moon will help you make a soul connection.

Davis Aujourd'hui, author of "The Misadventures of Sister Mary Olga Fortitude"

Heidi Larew says

I often pick a favorite quotation from a book and keep it in my own personal list of books I've read. Here's my favorite from this one. The book was written poetically and had a sad and accepting feel to it. "He was waiting to see if his mother would come back for him, even after it became clear that she never would. With every night he spent at the window, his heart closed up a little more, and it would have stayed that way if Bobby hadn't come looking for him. He remembers exactly the way it felt, sitting on the porch with his bucket of toads, blinking in the sunlight, not quite believing that someone had actually found him. He knew, even at the age of seven, how dangerous it was for someone like him to have hope. He knows how to have no expectations. He can completely control not just what he wants, but what he needs."

~?~Autumn♥♥ says

I don't think I finished this as she just rambled on and on and on.....in the strangest most pointless fashion. A couple of her books are excellent but this is NOT one of them. I got very bored.

Michele Harrod says

This was my first Alice Hoffman novel and she immediately became my absolute favourite author. I can only describe Alice's writing as poetry in the novel form. I often have to stop at the end of a sentence and close my eyes, so I can imagine it, smell it, or feel it brush past my skin. Her writing is so vivid I sometimes think I absorb her words rather than just read them. Quirky, raw, heartbreaking and lovely. Treat yourself to every single one.

Amanda says

Recent rants about Alice Hoffman books obviously didn't hold me back from trying another one. In this case, I'm glad I did. While it still took me a little while to get used to the drawn out descriptions, "Turtle Moon" turned out to be a great read.

In a small town called Verity, divorced women walk around with green hair, Diet Dr. Pepper addictions, and children who are generally unhappy, wanting their no longer present fathers. One woman chooses Verity as an escape from in-laws bent on taking her little girl from her. For another, it's where she hopes her son will become a better person. Unfortunately, he becomes known as the meanest boy in town.

But seeing the murder and saving the baby becomes the ultimate step that the boy needs to grow up. While coming to terms with his adulthood, the boy doesn't realize the danger he's in. Meanwhile, his mother and one of Verity's more infamous townsmen become involved in their own affair, one which leads them to solve the mystery of the dead woman.

Though not overly strong, Hoffman puts a beautiful piece of supernatural in this book and even that small story becomes a great part of the flow of the book. I'm a little more excited to read some of her other books now that I read this one. A good read and one I actually came away from feeling satisfied with.

Rick Bylina says

It took ten years, but I finally finished "Turtle Moon" by Alice Hoffman, an off-beat magical, romantic, mystery journey that several characters embark on after a runaway wife is murdered and her baby taken. Some reviewers called this novel suspenseful and thrilling, but its beat sways to the lazy, hot weather in Verity, Florida, where emotions drip like the sap from a gumbo tree and relationships are as messy as the squashed turtles on the road in May. One must wade through a muddled beginning, but the story line eventually straightens out, clarifying the obstacles each character must overcome. Some wonderful moments and insights, especially concerning "...the meanest boy in Verity," kept this reader reading on. However,

spread some pixie dust to believe the resolution of the plot, the murder, the kidnapping, and the redemptions. Through all this, it is a good read, and I anoint with a 4.

Emily says

I bought this book today for a long subway ride to Morningside Heights. I thought I'd read a chapter or two. I finished it a few minutes ago. I tried to do other things but I just couldn't put this book down. Like a lot of Alice Hoffman's work, it has a magical realistic touch. And unlike a lot of magical realism, it feels very realistic; its details evocative of a real life somewhere. Yet, there is still magic. I think this is why I love Alice Hoffman's work. She creates worlds where magic is entirely credible, like it could happen to me or someone close to me. She also creates such richly human characters that it feels like they are the someone close to me.

The heat of this book is palpable. In other books, people talk about it being hot but in this one, somehow, she made me really feel Florida. It might warm a person up in the middle of winter!

Nikoleta says

Μια γυνα?κα δολοφονε?ται, δυο παιδι? εξαφαν?ζονται, ?να κακ? αγ?ρι πι?νει φιλ?α με ?ναν τρελ? σκ?λο, ?νας ?σχημος ?ντρας ερωτε?εται μια ?μορφη γυνα?κα και ?νας ?γγελος προσπαθε? να συγχωρ?σει για να περ?σει στον Παρ?δεισο. Καταπληκτικ?ς συνδυασμ?ς μαγικο? ρεαλισμο? και αστυνομικο? αναγν?σματος. Διαβ?ζεται ευχ?ριστα χαρη στην τρυφερ? και ονειροπ?λα αφ?γηση και γρ?γορα χ?ρη στην ελαφρ?ς αγωνι?δη δρ?ση. Μου αρεσε πολ?.

Jane Stewart says

I loved the unique and odd characters. I hated the ending which left me grieving for days.

STORY BRIEF:

Karen is divorced with a baby. She is on the run from her ex-husband and moves to Verity, Florida. Twelve-year-old Keith is the meanest boy in town and lives with his divorced mother Lucy. Julian is a policeman who uses dogs for police work. Julian rarely uses words and believes that bees and mosquitoes don't sting or bite him because he is too ugly. There is a murder. Keith runs off and may be a witness.

REVIEWER'S OPINION:

This book is fantastic for its unique, odd and mesmerizing characters. I loved reading about these odd people, but as a story, there were too many unanswered questions and too much sadness for me. Throughout the book, too many people lose loved ones. The worst part of the book was the death of a character at the end. Two days after reading the book, I was still grieving. Why must great authors do this? Why do authors want to depress their readers? On balance, I do recommend the book, but only if you think you can handle the sadness at the end.

(view spoiler)

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 275 pages. Swearing language: moderate to strong. Sexual language: none to mild. Number of sex scenes 2. Total number of sex scene pages: 3. Setting: unspecified time, think 1980s, Florida and New York. Copyright: 1992. Genre: human relationships fiction with mystery and romance.
