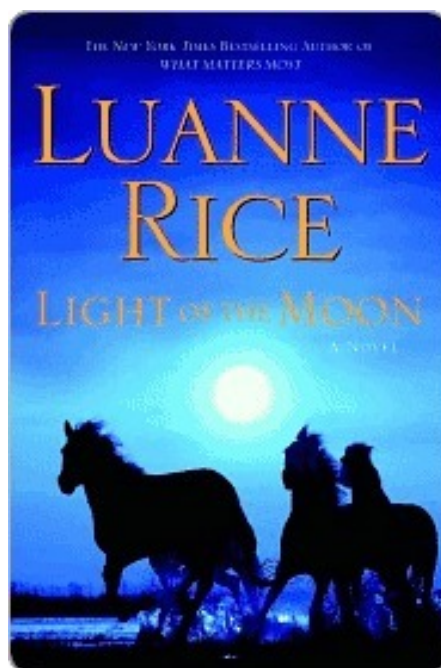




Light of the Moon

Luanne Rice

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Light of the Moon Luanne Rice

New York Times bestselling author Luanne Rice transports readers across the sea in this moving, magical tale of a lonely woman with a promise to keep. Set in a landscape of stunning natural beauty, **Light of the Moon** is a chronicle of mothers and daughters, friendship and family, and an electrifying love that illuminates a path through heartbreak and loss...and will shine in your memory long after the final page.

Spurred by her mother's dying wish, Susannah Connolly has traveled from her lifelong home on the Connecticut shoreline to the fabled French Camargue, to see its famous white horses and find a mysterious saint linked to her family's history. An accomplished anthropologist, Susannah has always been confident of her ability to navigate anywhere on the globe. But in the wake of a failed love affair and grieving the loss of her mother, she is adrift and uncertain, seeking only time alone to dig deeply into the personal archaeology of her own life.

American-born Grey Dempsey had come to the Camargue as a journalist, fell in love with a celebrated Romany rider, and suffered a devastating loss of his own. Now he operates a ranch as he struggles to raise his spirited but troubled young daughter who, after a terrible night years ago, fears the horses she once loved.

Within their bittersweet private orbit, in the midst of the endless silvered marshlands, Susannah Connolly will find a part of herself she hadn't known she had lost. And here she will find herself embraced by a circle of strong and passionate women bound together by their abiding faith in the legendary slave-saint Susannah seeks and in the miracles she is said to still perform for those who believe. Yet old secrets swirl within the fog-shrouded landscape, betrayals that may be beyond the power of any saint, or supplicant, to repair.

Singular, lyrical, **Light of the Moon** is Luanne Rice at her most spell-binding, as she explores—as only she can—how sometimes to find your way home you must travel far away.

From the Hardcover edition.

Light of the Moon Details

Date : Published (first published 2006)

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From Reader Review Light of the Moon for online ebook

Susanne says

I don't normally read romance... that being said the themes, obvious and underlying spoke to me and where I am at in my life. I had the hardest time putting this book down, and read it with lightening speed. It's not one I'm likely to re-read ever... but it was an entertaining read.

Clare Cannon says

This is a fairly sentimental romance, a modern drama interwoven with Gypsy folklore. Late one night a woman leaves her daughter and husband (though the marriage was never valid) to pursue her dreams with someone else, but her daughter hears her leaving and chases after them on horseback. A terrible fall leaves her permanently scarred, both physically and emotionally. Her continued suffering is a heavy burden for her father.

A woman travels to France to follow her mother's dying wish by visiting the shrine of a young saint. It was with the help of her intercession that her previously childless mother managed to have her. She meets the man and they fall in love, but the daughter cannot cope with someone replacing her mother in her father's affections.

The local Romany gypsies must intervene to remove a 'curse' placed on the young girl's mother for marrying outside their clan. The mother returns with her new husband to be reunited with her daughter, and the other woman is free to marry the girl's father.

A sentimental story of love and healing; while the new love is good (they want the good of each other and sacrifices are made generously for what is best), it is primarily described in highly emotional terms, so there is not much depth.

For chick lit it is a relatively decent read, along the lines of the more respectable Nicholas Sparks' books like A Walk to Remember.

Elizabeth says

I'm a horse lover. It's a passion that flows into just about everything I do. So when I was handed Luanne Rice's Light of the Moon, a glimpse at the cover was all the motivation I needed to start reading.

The majority of this story is set in France in a place called Camargue. Rich with history, gypsy folklore and ancient herds of wild white horses, it held a magical feel to it. This wasn't a fantasy story, but it felt like a fairytale.

The main character is an anthropologist named Susannah Connolly. She arrives in this beautiful marshland under the guise of doing research. However, her true intention for visiting the Camargue is to fulfill a promise made to her recently deceased mother. Her mother, once barren, gave the Romany's saint, Sarah-la-Kali, credit for the Susannah's birth and bid her to go visit the saint's statue in Camargue. What Susannah found was that her blessing didn't end with her birth. She gets thrown into a two-week wild adventure filled

with horses, romance, tragedy and redemption.

The highlight of Rice's novel lies in the vivacity of Camargue's setting and culture. However, her story takes a cheesy turn as romance begins to unfold. The repetitious illustration of emotions likened to a juvenile crush runs rampant once Susannah meets Grey. It dims the story's allure, but not enough to make you want to give up entirely.

Ironically, it's the running theme of redemption that saves this novel from its iffy romantic plot. A quick and pleasant one-time read, I would recommend giving it a chance.

At the very least, it will make you want to visit France.

Mary says

I listened to this book on tape awhile back and was completely taken by it -- unfortunately I had to return it before it was done so was delighted when I received it as a gift -- it brought the characters to life and I felt more empathy to those who worked through their situations and came out on the other side stronger and more blessed. I wished that the author would have made the story surround the Gypsy culture more rather than the 'perfect' love story of Grey and Susannah. It bothered me that they didn't get Sari the counseling that she needed -- trying to keep a distressed person from situations that they have a hard time coping with is not helping them heal; mental distress just doesn't go away.

Kelly Pratt says

I love reading fiction because it can open up your world and your dreams. In this book Luanne Rice paints a picture of the French Camargue and its famous white horses that is truly magical. I'd never known about this part of France, the horses and the legends of Mary Magdelene. Since reading this story i've become fascinated with all of these things - and I'm GOING TO GO to visit this part of France! Thanks Luanne.

Quinn Barrett says

I read this book over New Years weekend. It is what it is... a predictable warm and fuzzy book and sometimes that's all I want. What I admire about Luanne Rice is that she's a great story teller who does a great job of bring her stories together in the end... which is a real talent.

Lynne says

CIP: Spurred by her mother's dying wish, Susannah Connolly has traveled from her lifelong home on the Connecticut shoreline to the fabled French Camargue, to see its famous white horses and find a mysterious saint linked to her family's history. An accomplished anthropologist, Susannah has always been confident of her ability to navigate anywhere on the globe. But in the wake of a failed love affair and grieving the loss of her mother, she is adrift and uncertain, seeking only time alone to dig deeply into the personal archaeology of her own life.

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Jillian says

I tried really hard to like this story and by the end I did... but it took the touching end to really like it. The characters were pretty realistic and I cared about them, but I didn't feel like I got to know the main guy, even with part of the novel written in his POV. I really liked Susannah (hate the name and the "Oh, Susannah" that was thrown in there - not sure if Rice noticed that one!). She was kind and independent and real. I cared what happened to the poor, damaged teenager and was happy for her to have a happy ending, although I would have liked her to have been able to heal from within instead of from an outside source, but I get it.

The hardest part for me to enjoy was the romance, which is sad since this is a romance novel. I don't get what Rice has with middle-aged, weather-beaten cowboys, but it doesn't do it for me and I was annoyed to find that my third attempt with a Rice novel included yet another one. I'm glad I finished it, but I think I'm more glad that I'm done with it.

Sorry Misty! I tried. I really did try! Is there one WITHOUT a cowboy lover?

Kate says

A romantic novel, I guess I have to admit. I had a hard time putting it down as the story involves many things I can identify with: a young girl who feels abandoned by her mother, beautiful, magnificent horses, gypsies, an anthropology professor, and a journalist. Located in the south of France, where people know about and worship the Black Madonna. Many different threads and underlying stories and conflicts. Fascinating how simple acts are healing.

Corky says

Romance abounds in this beautifully written story as does a bit of suspense and misunderstanding.

Susannah travels to France shortly after the death of her mother in fulfillment of a promise she made to her earlier. The area of France that Susannah travels to is rich with gypsy culture, magical white horses, and a very traumatized 13 year old girl. While Susannah is trying to find her bearings once again she falls in love with Sari's father and tries to help her get past her trauma.

Donna says

This book was just okay for me, but there were parts that I really liked. However, as a whole, it didn't really work for me. I liked that it takes place in France and that it includes gypsy culture mixed with a little anthropology and some beautiful horses. I also liked that the MCs were more than just pretty faces.

The story line could have used some tension. Everything was just so shiny and pretty. The characters also had been kissed by perfection. The blip on the cover sounded promising, but I didn't like it as much as I thought I would.

Jaime Atkins says

I was captivated by this sad, emotional, gripping tale of past hurts and finding love even in the depth of despair. Grey, Sari, and Susannah each faced their own uphill battles, but in finding each other, they discovered healing and hope. I couldn't feel much sympathy for Maria, but I tried to find understanding and at least respect for her willingness to overcome the past and start again with Sari. I would love to read a future book with Sari and Laurant as the focus. I believe theirs will be a wonderful love story.

Michele says

How did I get tricked into reading a romance novel? I'll tell you - the author lured me in with a main character who is (supposedly) an anthropologist. Unfortunately the best word to describe this book is "hokey."

First of all, no anthropologist worth her salt would use the word "exotic" as much as the main character Susannah does. I didn't believe for a second that she was actually a cultural anthropologist. The post-modern world of anthropological academia has no time for self-absorbed mysticism. Susannah had no sense of current anthropological theories. It was like Rice read a few journal articles, browsed a few university websites, and felt like she knew quite enough to make it convincing. Only she *didn't*.

The relationship that developed between Susannah and her love interest was melodramatic and unmoving. I laughed many times during what I'm sure were supposed to be romantic, thrilling scenes. I finished the book to see if it ended as ridiculously as I thought it would (it did). Also to write a scathing review here. Ha ha

The book's one saving grace was some sincerely moving passages about the love between mothers and daughters.

Heather (Let's-Go-Pens-We're-Gonna-Take-This-One) says

Light of the Moon was a great book. I was impressed that I appreciated the story even though there was no physical romantic description, which until reading Light of The Moon, I'd never encountered before. I also liked that it wasn't a typical romance in the way that there was so much plausible trauma that the characters had to overcome; the daughter's mental illness from being not only abandoned by her mother, but by also being brutally injured as well. I'm rarely actually angry at characters in the books I read, however I just

could not get over how selfish of a mother the gypsy/horse riding lady was.

Kathy says

One of my all time favorite books. I might even read it again some time, which I don't do much. I listened to the audio version, which had an outstanding reader, who was just right for all the parts. I loved the romance, the problem solving, the relationships, the story. Also, something that really adds to the depth of a book for me, is the additional "side learning", which is one reason I love historical novels. Luanne Rice seems to include that in her books--although I have just begun reading her books, the first one I read told all about the habits of sea turtles, and the places on the beaches where people actually guard the eggs until they hatch. Fascinating. In this book, I learned about the white horses of Southern France, the gypsies and their way of life, studying ancient cave paintings, diving into a cave, and the terrain in Southern France marshes. Besides, Rice describes scenery, expressions on faces, etc. in such descriptive detail, that I felt like I could actually picture the countryside, the colors, the gypsy caravans, etc. I hated for it to end on one hand, but on the other hand, I wanted to see the outcome for all those involved. Way to go, Ms. Rice!
