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Midnight Without A Moon



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Synopsis

Washington Post 2017 KidsPost Summer Book Club selection! It's Mississippi in the summer of 1955, and Rose Lee Carter can't wait to move north. But for now, she's living with her sharecropper grandparents on a white man's cotton plantation. Then, one town over, an African American boy, Emmett Till, is killed for allegedly whistling at a white woman. When Till's murderers are unjustly acquitted, Rose realizes that the South needs a change . . . and that she should be part of the movement. Linda Jackson's moving debut seamlessly blends a fictional portrait of an African American family and factual events from a famous trial that provoked change in race relations in the United States.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 870 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (January 3, 2017)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054478510X

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 14.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 44 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #35,260 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #58 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Prejudice & Racism #64 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s #99

in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Multicultural Stories > African-American
Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Washington Post 2017 KidsPost Summer Book Club selection!"Jackson pulls no punches in the characters' heated discussions and keeps dialogue raw and real..."

"Bulletin"Jackson's debut does an excellent job dramatizing the injustice that was epidemic in the pre-civil rights South and capturing the sounds and sensibilities of that time and place. Her sympathetic characters and their stories will make this thoughtful book

especially good for classroom use." **Booklist** "A powerful story." **Kirkus** "This nuanced coming-of-age story by a debut author is deftly delivered, with engaging characters set against a richly contextualized backdrop of life for African Americans during the Jim Crow era. It's also an authentic work of historical fiction...about a pivotal incident in the civil rights movement." **Horn Book** "An unflinching and sensitively-told coming-of-age story from the perspective of a smart and thoughtful young girl in 1950s Mississippi." **SLJ**

"Midnight Without a Moon offers readers an unflinching bird's eye view of 1955 Mississippi. Young Rose Lee has one foot steeped in the segregated South and the other in the new world where Negroes and girls are expecting more, doing more, and willing to risk all to live lives of their own choosing. Bravo to Jackson, for a magnificent piece of writing!"

Sharon G. Flake, Coretta Scott King Award winning author of *Unstoppable* Octobia May and *The Skin I'm In*

"Rose shines bright in the darkness -- brave, beautiful, and full of hard-won hope. She'll be an inspiration to every reader who meets her, as she has been to me."

Caroline Starr Rose, author of *May B* and *Blue Birds*

Linda Williams Jackson was born in a small town in Mississippi and likes to write about unassuming, everyday characters in small-town settings. She still lives in Mississippi with her husband and children. www.lindajacksonwrites.blogspot.com

The language is spot-on! And at last, a Black Woman from the Delta writes about people and places in the Delta. Linda Williams Jackson is the "Mildred Taylor" of the 21st Century. This is an important book like *ROLL OF THUNDER HEAR MY CRY*. This is an important book like *SOUNDER*

A splendid book! It is just as timely today as the era of Emmet Till's murder. Marketed as a children's read, but I couldn't put it down. Well-crafted characters and the author's Mississippi settings were so real, I felt the sweat starting to run down my back. Told with such insight and compassion, the little girl narrator really had my heart. I recommend it for anyone of any age, but especially someone with children. It should be in every library across the country.

Exactly what I hoped for! An easy read that is taking me back in time. Very well written. I would recommend this book whole heartedly!

The best book I read this summer. Can be enjoyed by all ages. The main character is a young teen

girl but the writing is sophisticated enough that adults can enjoy. I loved how the author tied the Title into the story. I also loved how fiction was tied into real life events.

Great book. I learned a lot. Necessary read for studying civil rights movements in middle grade classrooms. Really enjoyed it.

Excellent writing.

Midnight Without a Moon is both a beautiful and brutal novel that perfectly portrays the atmosphere in 1955 Mississippi and introduces us to a family torn apart by fear and injustice. Young Rosa struggles against despair every day as she faces a future in the cotton fields but dreams of traveling North for a chance at a better life. Abandoned by her mother and taunted because of her dark skin color, she fights against a tyrannical grandmother who thinks that all the efforts to fight for equal rights are foolish and dangerous. As she struggles to discover what role she can play in the struggle, people seem to be dying all around her. The author uses the Emmett Till case as an effective backdrop for Rosa's story. The case blends well into the story, adding to the atmosphere of terror that existed at the time. This is a compelling read, and the author's use of authentic dialogue only adds to the firm sense of time and place. Young readers will be transported to 1955 and will likely be amazed and repulsed by what they learn. The publisher sets an age range of grades 5 to 7. I would be hesitant to recommend this for a fifth grader due to the language. While true to the time, it will be jarring for any young reader who doesn't have a grasp of the period. Ma Pearl's tirades feature some words that made me uncomfortable and her brutal treatment of young Rosa was hard to read. This is an incredibly well written, important story that was hard to put down.

This is an excellent book for older children -- middle school and above -- about a 13-year-old African American girl growing up in the stifling racism of 1950s Mississippi. It's told in a straightforward fashion and in a voice that sounds like a young girl -- but one with some pretty profound thoughts. Rose Lee Carter lives with her bitter, angry grandmother, who favors her cousin, Queen, over her because Queen is light-skinned and Rose is as dark as "midnight without a moon." While Queen lazes in her bed reading fashion magazines, Rose is sent to pick cotton in the blazing heat. Despite that, Rose is a strong student who looks forward to attending college someday. Into this fictional family is woven the story of Emmett Till, the 14-year-old African American boy from Chicago who was murdered by white men for allegedly whistling at a white woman. His body was found

floating in the river. A trial is held, but -- no surprise in segregated Mississippi -- the accused are found not guilty. The effect this has on Rose's family and friends is explored in detail. Through it all, Rose and her friend Hallelujah, a 14-year-old preacher's son, try to stay safe. When Rose's aunt and her fiancé, both active in the NAACP, come to visit, it stirs up trouble with Rose's grandmother, who thinks keeping things the way they are is the best way to stay safe. I found this a satisfying, well-written book that I think could be used in a middle school reading program. The only quibble I have with the story is that I don't agree with a major decision Rose makes in the book. But I understand the reasoning behind it.

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