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Some Bright Morning, I'll Fly Away: A Memoir



Synopsis

The incredible true story of one woman's journey to relocate the place inside herself where strength, hope, and personal truth reside. After Hurricane Katrina, Alice Anderson has returned home to assess the damage to her beloved Mississippi coastline and the once-immaculate home she'd carefully cultivated for her husband, Dr. Liam Rivers, one of the community's highly respected doctors. But in the wake of this natural disaster, a more terrifying challenge emerges as Liam's mental health spirals out of control, culminating in a violent attack at knifepoint, from which Alice is saved by their three-year-old son. Afraid for her life, she flees with her children. What ensues is an epic battle—emotional, psychological, spiritual, and legal—for her children's welfare, for self-preservation, and ultimately for redemption. It's an unrelenting battle that persists even as life goes on, finally coming full circle when the same son who saved Alice ten years before endures an eerily-familiar violent encounter at his father's hands. Yet even as she confronts the harsh realities of high-powered Southern lawyers and an inadequate legal system, Alice forges a new life with her blossoming children and an ultimate reclamation of her true self.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Anderson is a gifted writer who vividly describes both settings and emotions. Her powerful story gives voice and hope to women caught in similarly terrible conditions." -Booklist (starred review)"This chilling memoir shows that storms in the mind can be as devastating as nature's storms." -Mississippi Magazine"Some Bright Morning, I'll Fly Away is as stark as it is

beautiful, a hard-won life so full of sorrow and joy that it runs down the great rain chain of heaven, singing like a choir of determined angels. It broke my heart wide open and out fell all this thunder and lightning and beautiful star stuff and rusty silver, torn silk, and the old diary we carry around in our bodies. Quite possibly the best memoir I've ever read." —Jo-Anne Mapson, author of Los Angeles Times bestsellers *Bad Girl Creek* and *The Wilder Sisters*, and *Solomon's Oak* "I love this book with my entire body. Alice Anderson's *Some Bright Morning, I'll Fly Away* is nothing short of a body and soul retrieval. Fearlessly diving down into the heat and mythos of Mississippi, she unflinchingly tells the truth about what happens when the one you love tries to kill you and your child. I am astonished at how this fiercely beautiful song can arise from such wreckage of violence and lies. In page after riveting page, we're reminded how mothers love their children with ferociousness, and how that love might take shape in the child who saves her life. Maybe, by refusing to surrender our bodies, we are always saving our own lives. Maybe our songs are worth fighting for. *Some Bright Morning, I'll Fly Away* is that necessary song." —Lidia Yuknavitch, author of *The Book of Joan* and *The Small Backs of Children* "Like blowtorching through silk, Alice Anderson's alchemy is to turn the shattering pain of her life into poetry. Heartbreaking, terrifying, and shattering, Anderson's powerful fight for her kids and her own safety becomes a story of breathtaking redemption and yes, beauty." —Caroline Leavitt, bestselling author of *Cruel Beautiful World* "Alice Anderson's stunning memoir begins with cathedrals made of our scars. In this time of fear and doubt, of seemingly perpetual midnight, this book rises to sacredness in its heroic honesty, its warrior's heart, and its profound beauty." —Luis Alberto Urrea, author of the American Book Award winning memoir *Nobody's Son* and novels *The Devil's Highway*, *The Hummingbird's Daughter*, and *Into the Beautiful North*

ALICE ANDERSON's work has appeared in literary journals including *Agni* and *New Letters* and is featured in anthologies such as *American Poetry* and *On The Verge*. Her second collection of poetry, *The Watermark*, contains three Pushcart Prize-nominated poems; her first, *Human Nature*, was published to critical acclaim. The recipient of The Plum Review Prize, the Elmer Holmes Bobst Prize, and The Great Lakes Colleges Best First Book Prize, she also received the Haven Foundation Grant from Stephen King.

It's devastating to know this story is not fiction. It's not a made-up tale of woe. It's not even "based on a true story." Sadly, it's not even a unique account. The events were real. The characters do

exist. This memoir tells of a wife and mother of three who is forced to battle through life as viciously as the hurricane that decimated much of the Gulf Coast. Her only concern is for her "sweet three." Years pass. Her life is still a challenge. Every victory is quickly followed by a traumatizing loss. My heart ached at the hopelessness of it all. While she drowned in misery, I almost couldn't find the strength to read the next chapter. I am glad I finished this read. I am thankful it was written. The author poured her soul into the pages of this book, and I am reaping the benefits of her lessons. Persevere. Don't give up. Don't let anyone make you forget who you really are.

I read this book in one sitting. Just about every horrible nightmarish thing that can occur, happened to the author. From molestation to medical issues, from horrible relationships to endlessly battling her lunatic ex in court, she has seen it all. Alice Anderson personifies perseverance. Her memoir is heartbreaking and riveting to read.

This book was very good. The author went through a lot and it was amazing to follow this couple from their first meeting, to dating to marriage. She also included her growing up and one cannot say that Ms. Anderson did not have a good life. But she made the best of it. And I for one admire her never give up attitude. I also admire her honesty and strength. I do not think she set out to make Liam (the man she married) bad, she just gave it to you straight no chaser and you decide how you feel about things. Yes, this was a hard book to read, but a worthwhile read. Blessings to you Ms. Anderson, I wish you well in all that you do. Thanks to NetGalley, the author and the publisher for the ARC of this book in return for my honest review.

Stunning. I forgot to make dinner, to return emails, turn on the lights until it was too dark to read because I could not tear myself away from the pages of this book. Anderson writes intimately about the abuse she survived, as a daughter, as a wife, as a woman navigating the horribly crappy family courts of the Mississippi trying to keep her children away from the husband who tried to kill her. Juxtaposed against the destruction left after Hurricane Katrina, this memoir is an absolutely chilling portrayal of marital abuse, small town court systems founded/operated on patriarchy, and mental illness/addiction. Anderson writes gorgeous sentences, weaves the narrative together in ways that are at times hypnotic. I was breathless, outraged, I fell in love along with her, I felt her heartbreaks, her love for her sweet three, her resilience. Highly recommend.

A memoir that is hard to believe it's not fiction. As a bonus, written in the prose of a poet. Do yourself a favor and read it!

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