

Alabama Moon

By Watt Key

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For as long as ten-year-old Moon can remember, he has lived out in the forest in a shelter with his father. They keep to themselves, their only contact with other human beings an occasional trip to the nearest general store. When Moon's father dies, Moon follows his father's last instructions: to travel to Alaska to find others like themselves. But Moon is soon caught and entangled in a world he doesn't know or understand; he's become property of the government he has been avoiding all his life. As the spirited and resourceful Moon encounters constables, jails, institutions, lawyers, true friends, and true enemies, he adapts his wilderness survival skills and learns to survive in the outside world, and even, perhaps, make his home there. This title has Common Core connections.

Alabama Moon is a 2007 Bank Street - Best Children's Book of the Year.

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Alabama Moon By Watt Key Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #55693 in Books
- Brand: Square Fish
- Published on: 2010-08-03
- Released on: 2010-08-03
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.64" h x .82" w x 5.22" l, .56 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 320 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal
Grade 6-8–Moon, 10, has spent most of his life in a camouflaged shelter in the forest with his father, a Vietnam veteran who distrusts people and the government. Pap has educated him in both academics and survival skills. His life suddenly changes when the land is sold to a lawyer and his father dies. The lawyer discovers him and, believing what he is doing is best for the child, turns him over to Mr. Gene from the local boys home. When Moon escapes, Mr. Gene alerts the constable, an emotionally unstable bully who becomes obsessed with capturing him. Once at the home, though, Moon makes his first real friends and learns what friendship is all about. Much of the story revolves around multiple chases, captures, and escapes. The ending might be a bit too perfect, but it is a happy one for Moon. The book is well written with a flowing style, plenty of dialogue, and lots of action. The characters are well drawn and three-dimensional, except for the constable–but then, maybe thats all there is to him. Even those who knew him as a child have nothing good to say about him. The language is in keeping with the characters personalities and the situations. Although Moon is only 10, older readers will also enjoy the book and will better understand the adults perspectives.–*Nancy P. Reeder, Heathwood Hall Episcopal School, Columbia, SC*
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From Booklist
Starred Review This excellent novel of survival and adventure begins with the death of young Moon's father, an antigovernment radical who has been living off the land in rural Alabama with Moon for years. Moon has never known any truth but his dad's, and so he tries to continue his father's lifestyle. Unfortunately, Moon quickly finds himself in the claws of civilization, as personified by a sadistic cop. After a brief stint in jail (a lifetime of hunting and gathering leaves Moon hilariously pleased with the prison food), Moon again lights out for the territories, only to be recaptured and end up in reform school. Of course, no reform school is gonna keep Moon in check. Key's first novel is populated with memorable characters--such as Moon's reform-school buddy's dad, whose life is devoted to drinking and shooting machine guns--and studded with utterly authentic details about rural Alabama and survivalism. Stylistically, the book is perfectly paced, and Moon's narration is thoroughly believable. A terrific choice for reluctant readers and also for fans of Gary Paulsen's Brian novels. *Ilene Cooper*
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Review

“Excellent. A terrific choice for reluctant readers.” ?*Booklist, Starred Review*

“An unusual coming-of-age story.” ?*The New York Times Book Review*

“A winningly fresh look at life and culture almost never seen in children's books.” ?*The Horn Book Magazine*

“Key writes honestly about hunting, trapping and the hardships of survival in this rather unusual coming-of-age story.” ?*Kirkus Reviews*

“Well written with a flowing style, plenty of dialogue, and lots of action.” ?*School Library Journal*

“Compelling.” ?*Voices of Youth Advocates*

“Absorbing.” ?*Publishers Weekly*

“For boys who dream of unfettered life in the great outdoors . . . Moon's a bona fide hero.” ?*The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Esther Price:

Nowadays reading books be a little more than want or need but also get a life style. This reading behavior give you lot of advantages. The benefits you got of course the knowledge the particular information inside the book in which improve your knowledge and information. The details you get based on what kind of guide you read, if you want send more knowledge just go with education books but if you want sense happy read one with theme for entertaining for instance comic or novel. The Alabama Moon is kind of book which is giving the reader unpredictable experience.

Ruth Barnett:

The reserve untitled Alabama Moon is the e-book that recommended to you to see. You can see the quality of the e-book content that will be shown to an individual. The language that creator use to explained their way of doing something is easily to understand. The writer was did a lot of exploration when write the book, therefore the information that they share to you personally is absolutely accurate. You also could possibly get the e-book of Alabama Moon from the publisher to make you far more enjoy free time.

Albert Parks:

In this era globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information much easier to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, newspaper, book, and soon. You can view that now, a lot of publisher that will print many kinds of book. Often the book that recommended to you personally is Alabama Moon this book consist a lot of the information with the condition of this world now. This kind of book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer require to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some investigation when he makes this book. Here is why this book suitable all of you.

William Hughes:

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