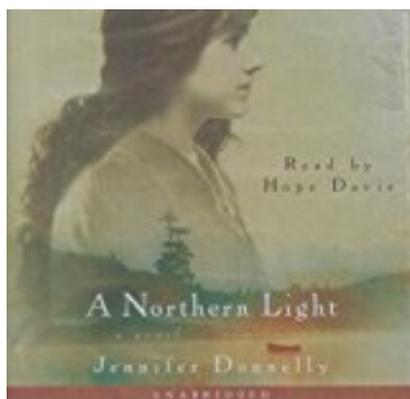


[PDF] Northern Light, A (Lib)(CD)

Jennifer Donnelly, Hope Davis - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Northern Light, a (Lib)(CD)
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Description:

It's 1906 and 16-year-old Mattie Gokey is at a crossroads in her life. She's escaped the overwhelming responsibilities of helping to run her father's brokedown farm in exchange for a paid summer job as a serving girl at a fancy hotel in the Adirondacks. She's saving as much of her salary as she can, but she's having trouble deciding how she's going to use the money at the end of the summer. Mattie's gift is for writing and she's been accepted to Barnard College in New York City, but she's held back by her sense of responsibility to her family--and by her budding romance with handsome-but-dull Royal Loomis. Royal awakens feelings in Mattie that she doesn't want to ignore, but she can't deny her passion for words and her desire to write.

At the hotel, Mattie gets caught up in the disappearance of a young couple who had gone out together in a rowboat. Mattie spoke with the young woman, Grace Brown, just before the fateful boating trip, when Grace gave her a packet of love letters and asked her to burn them. When Grace is found drowned, Mattie reads the letters and finds that she holds the key to unraveling the girl's death and her beau's mysterious disappearance. Grace Brown's story is a true one (it's the same story told in Theodore Dreiser's and in the film adaptation,), and author Jennifer Donnelly masterfully interweaves the real-life story with Mattie's, making her seem even more real.

Mattie's frank voice reveals much about poverty, racism, and feminism at the turn of the twentieth century. She witnesses illness and death at a range far closer than most teens do today, and she's there when her best friend Minnie gives birth to twins. Mattie describes Minnie's harrowing labor with gut-wrenching clarity, and a visit with Minnie and the twins a few weeks later dispels any romance from the reality of young motherhood (and marriage). Overall, readers will get a taste of how bitter--and how sweet--ordinary life in the early 1900s could be. Despite the wide variety of troubles Mattie describes, the book never feels melodramatic, just heartbreakingly real. (14 and older) --*Jennifer Lindsay* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From School Library Journal Grade 7 Up-Letters connected with a tragic drowning in 1906 inspired Jennifer Donnelly to write *A Northern Light* (Harcourt, 2003), a contemporary story about a young woman struggling to fulfill her dreams and commitments. Seventeen-year-old Mattie Gokey yearns to write stories with the new words she learns each day, but a promise to her dying mother has left her caring for her father and three sisters. She's also torn between the handsome neighbor who has asked her to marry him and a feisty black youth, her intellectual soulmate, who urges her to go to New York City where they both have college scholarships. Mattie is forced to confront all her choices as she reads a stack of letters entrusted to her by a female guest at the hotel where she works. Later, the guest is found floating dead in a nearby lake. Hope Davis narrates the novel's intense and humorous moments with equal veracity. She is especially skilled at bringing to life the hotel's Irish cook and Mattie's French Canadian uncle. *A Northern Light* is a treasure trove of richly resonant descriptions of people, place, and feelings. This recording will be one that listeners return to, and it will be a valuable addition to both school and public library collections.

Barbara Wysocki, Cora J. Belden Library, Rocky Hill, CT

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