



Good Moon Rising

Nancy Garden

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Lambda Literary Award winner "Good Moon Rising" is about two young women who fall in love while rehearsing a school play, realize they're gay, and resist a homophobic campaign against them. "Good Moon Rising," both a New York Public Library Book for the Teenage and a Notable Children's Trade Book in the Field of Social Studies, 'takes us into the dynamics of homophobia" (Horn Book). 'Garden, who gave us one of the first honest, sensitive portrayals of two young women in love in the brilliant "Anne On My Mind," Farrar, 1982, offers us author thought-provoking story of homosexual love."-Voya

Good Moon Rising Details

Date : Published July 19th 2005 by iUniverse (first published 1996)

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Author : Nancy Garden

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From Reader Review Good Moon Rising for online ebook

Katia M. Davis says

This is a young adult novel. I read it because I read *Annie on My Mind* years ago. It is well written and poignant, a coming of age story that deals well with homophobia and bullying. A good read.

paula says

Maybe I am too picky, but I think a good book is one with fleshed out characters, believable plot, and realistic, in whatever way, ending. When you are writing for an underserved, starved audience such as gay and lesbian teens, this is VITAL. Nancy Garden comes close but misses the mark in both books. *Annie On My Mind* was a sweet story that was strangely set, time period wise, with characters and plot points from the 50s. We then only really hear the POV of one of the girls. The development of their relationship was realistic and steady, but then it just stops, with no further interaction or explanation of what happened in the meantime, with the girls or their families or anything.

Good Moon Rising has girls that seem more realistic, closer to real kids, than *Liza* anyway. But, unlike *Annie* and *Liza*, the relationship between these two seems to develop much more quickly and with no basis, really, except that they are both working on the play. It's been a while since I read this but I don't recall the bullies being disciplined nearly enough. Then, in this one we get a more satisfying conclusion, even though the relationship wasn't. We just need to smash both books together and come up with one that is satisfying all the way through!

Sarah Crawford says

The story is about two girls at a high school who are lesbians. One of them, Jan, is coming to terms with realizing that she is a lesbian and the other, Kerry, is a new girl. The story of their growing relationship is based around the school's production of the play *The Crucible*.

Kerry ends up getting the role that Jan expected, and Jan is basically directing the play. Their teacher, Mrs. Nicholson, is very ill and as her condition worsens more and more pressure is put on Jan.

This is where the theme of lesbian relationships and people's reaction to them comes in as the leading male actor in the play is virulently anti-gay and gives Jan a lot of trouble in her role as director. Things get worse as Jan and Kerry end up getting prank phone calls, and anti-gay notes. Things escalate even further when posters are put up around the school about the two of them and their relationship. As expected, there are also some family anti-gay problems that are involved.

The girl's relationship is subjected to a tremendous amount of strain, but things work out and we have a story of how love can survive despite people's prejudice.

The book is very well done as it examines the types of pressure put on loving relationships by people who are narrow-minded and vicious.

Marina says

It was an OK read, but after finishing it, it left me feeling a little empty. It's nice as a summer reading book, but not very deep and insightful, in my mind. It has a good pace and a promising plot, but some characters seem a little flat.

PinkAmy loves books, cats and naps says

**This rating is based on viewing GOOD MOON RISING as a period piece from the 1990s, when the book was first published. Encyclopedias were printed books updated every few years. People still telegraphed. Computers and email weren't part of high school education.

***This book uses the word fag and nigger which probably wouldn't be found in YA books in 2017. The term "the N word" had yet to be coined and while most people didn't use it, it wasn't uncommon to hear on TV or read in books. In my opinion, the ugliness of the word drives home the point more than saying "the N word" in this context.

GRADE: B
4 STARS

Jan is disappointed when the lead role in *The Crucible* goes to new girl Kerry and Jan is named stage manager. Circumstances force Jan to take over as director and soon realizes her feelings for Kerry are more than friendship. A troubled actor is determined to cause problems for Jan and the play.

The late Nancy Garden who wrote the groundbreaking *ANNIE ON MY MIND* in the 1980s follows up with another important lesbian romance. While dated by today's standards, the story is a realistic slice of life of late twentieth century small town America. The writing isn't as crisp or impactful as today's best YA novels, although there is an audience for *GOOD MOON RISING*, now available as an ebook.

Tracy says

For me when I was a lonely lesbian teenager (thus the target demographic of books like this), this was the peak of LGBT books I read. I enjoyed *Annie on my Mind*, but *Good Moon Rising* was the most romantic book I read (it didn't have much competition, given I mainly read fanfiction online to supplement my interest in reading lesbian romance about characters my age). I was rooting for the characters, and I think the subplot of working together in the play really helped glue the whole story together.

For an LGBT teen book, this had melodrama but didn't wallow in it, unlike I would dare say 85% of its peers.

I also LOVED the final confrontation/climax of the book. Giving more away would be spoiling, but suffice to say it really opened my eyes to how bullying works and one way to potentially diffuse it.

Jacquelyn says

All I can say, without rereading it before writing the review, is I love this book. I loved Annie on My Mind so much I had to reach other Nancy Garden and this novel... wow. It's powerful! And I hope everyone interested in gay romance reads this!

Emma Winona says

This book had a really good concept and...reasonably good execution. As a lesbian and theatre geek (Admittedly not an actress. I kind of winced when Jan was like "The stage manager isn't important!" Honey. No.) I loved all the theatre references. The part where Kerry said that she and Jan were like Hamlet and Horatio and implied my favorite Shakespeare theory, which is gay Hamlet, made me laugh. The scenes with Kent and the play rehearsals were all suitably tense. But my problem with the book was that Kerry and Jan's romance just was...not well-executed. Annie on my Mind is one of my favorite books and to me it was like a copy-pasted remake of Annie on my Mind. And I found seventeen year olds calling each other "my love" and "love" the amount of times they did it to just be unrealistic. (Granted: Annie on my Mind does that too. But in that it felt a little more justified? Since this is the second book like this I've read by Garden I kinda went 'Yeah...no.' at the ones in this.)

But this wasn't a bad book. I just wish it had spent more time on the play. I am gay, and I love reading books with gay characters, and the characters themselves were great, but their relationship just felt kind of contrived to me. The thing that made Annie on my Mind stand out for me was that it wasn't all about the ~gay struggle~, Liza and Annie's relationship was treated just like a straight one would in any other book and the ending was happy. The ending was happy in this one too but the relationship between Kerry and Jan wasn't one I got invested enough in to really want a happy ending, Annie on my Mind had enough tension to make you really care about it. Anyways. I'm totally bombarding this book when I actually really liked it, it just wasn't as good as I expected it to be. Overall, a good book by an author I really like, but not a fantastic book.

Hannah says

Nancy Garden is a treasure. She is not aggressive, like many LGBT authors are inclined to be. Her characters are very real, believable young women who happen to be gay. I love Jan's devotion to theatre and Kerry's growing love of it, and I love their adoration of their teacher. I did feel, though, that this story happened all too quickly. It wasn't an unbelievable plot, but it felt a little rushed. I also would have liked to see a bit more engagement with Jan's family.

Really what I'm saying is that I loved it, but I loved Annie on my Mind more.

Connie McEntee says

Another absolutely wonderful coming out/self discovery story by Ms. Garden. It was just fascinating and I couldn't put it down.

Lisamarie says

I really enjoyed reading this book. I thought the characters were intriguing in their own ways. And kept me interested throughout the book

Vee says

I was born in 1994, came out in 2008 when more people started to become more accepting of LGBT teens. It's always great to read a book that took in a time where homosexuals were less understood because it shows that we have come a long way.

Nancy Garden captures the difficulties and struggles that gay teens had to go through for loving who they love. It's a great book. It also had a lot to do with theater, just a friendly FYI.

Katie Crane says

I connected to the main characters, I love theater and she did a good job of bring the feel of it to the page. This book is what I needed right now; I needed to read about lesbians in theater because well I am one and I really didn't know what to do with that fact in-tell now. 5 out of 5 for sure thanks Nancy Garden.

Cynthia L. says

Delightful. Bring tissues.

Kewpie says

This was Garden's second teen lesbian novel. This was EXACTLY like Annie on my mind. The characters even look exactly like the ones in the other book. The plot is almost identical. This is best suited for readers who just couldn't get enough of her first book. And I am sure there are readers out there who will love to read yet another "Annie" book. I was disappointed. It was like she didn't even make an effort to write a second novel. Read-alikes: Annie on my mind. Literally
