



Summer of the Cicadas

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After attempting the unthinkable the summer before, a fragile Viola Moon escapes south to a small black college, determined to leave her summer stay at a mental health center behind. But once Vi is uncomfortably situated on A&M's campus, a family mystery begins to erupt in unlikely ways, and the mental stability she imagined begins to dissipate. Vi becomes convinced the only way to fully regain her sanity is to pursue a relationship with Perry, the only son of a black southern elite family, who is just as precariously positioned in his own ancestral angst. Vi's struggle to find her place at A&M and alongside Perry leads to an obsessive search for the father she can neither clearly remember nor completely forget.

Bounded by place and unrecoverable history, Summer of the Cicadas is a haunting tale of one woman's search for home and healing.

Summer of the Cicadas Details

Date : Published May 6th 2016 by Willow Books Press

ISBN : 9780996139

Author : Cole Lavalais

Format : Paperback 194 pages

Genre : Fiction, Cultural, African American, Unfinished

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From Reader Review Summer of the Cicadas for online ebook

Lisa B. DuBois says

As Cole gifts us with her protagonist Viola Moon, we are treated to an hauntingly drawn heroine who in her struggles, bears striking resemblance to the selves of our own memories. A lovely read...

L.D. Barnes says

OMG, so good. The story of an empathetic girl who navigates a world where her talents are not recognized or appreciated, the world that most of us inhabit every day. I could not get out of Vi's head space once I started reading and I could not stop reading until I got to the very end.

Alyse Stolz says

There are not many books that tell the story of a main character going through life with a mental illness. This book does just that, and I don't have enough words to explain how powerful so many scenes in this book are. The book is heavy- it will make you feel as Viola does in so many moments, and often times you will want to cry and tear you insides out. It is so beautifully written. Cole Lavalais is an amazing writer.

Emily says

This was a tough read in a lot of ways: uncomfortable, even violent sometimes, unclear about what's reality and what's not, getting deep into some heavy themes and thoughts. Surprisingly funny too at times. Rewarding, though, I had multiple mornings of glancing up and realizing my whole bus ride had gone by, and many afternoons of longing to get back into Vi's world. The feeling of being haunted by her story every time I shut the book is fitting, and while not everything is sorted out, Lavalais really sticks the ending.

(And honestly I think a lot of my difficulty with the bits in between comes from Lavalais writing so thoroughly from a Black woman's perspective and unapologetically not even trying to edit herself for me. It's a refreshing kind of inaccessible, not hard because the author's using a million SAT words or doing weird for the sake of weird, but because she's writing what matters to her and isn't about to pander to a different reader for a second. It's like the opposite feeling of every intellectual novel that made me think I wasn't clever enough to be on its level.)

Tiffany Robinson says

I did not like this book at all. Not the characters or story. It was very tedious to make it all the way through.

Kate says

What an absolutely haunting and thought-provoking book. Lavalais moves us through Viola's coming of age (and struggles with reality) in a beautiful, dreamlike way. My only issue was the number of typos/errors not caught by the editor.

Lisa of Hopewell says

Found at <http://www.themillions.com/2017/05/fi...>

Megan says

Interview with Nichole Perkins

Sierrah says

This book is amazing. Vi is such an interesting character who is trying to understand her present while absorbing the past of others. Truly a work of art

Rena says

I haven't quite digested this yet, but I have so many thoughts.

Kira Caillouet says

Vi Moon's coming of age story intrigued me from the first pages. Lavalais tackles the difficult subjects of breast cancer and yearning for a father with ease and grace.

LiteraryMarie says

I don't know what I just read. Like I'm really confused on what was real, imagined, history or present day.

Beverlee says

Summer of the Cicadas is a glimpse into the life of Vi Moon, a young lady who can be characterized many

ways. I'd like to think of her someone who's searching for their place in this world, seeking a way to define self by self. I could be wrong, but if my memory is correct, cicadas appear every so many years. I think cicada can be applied her in the fact that Vi's life could possibly be seen as a continuance of Cecilia's (her mother). I don't mean this as an exact parallel, but more like every so many years a life altering event occurs. This particular event is life or death, do or die. Because Vi has attempted death, I would like to think the new baby represents life beginning anew. This is great because I think Vi deserves a second chance. She's not perfect, but none of us are. I think Ms. Lavalais did an excellent job bringing mental health into the forefront of Summer of the Cicadas. It is usually a topic that does not merit much attention in the African American community. The majority of the characters in the book are reflections of everyday people, but what's really impressive (in my opinion) is that the characters have some sort of "flaw", mostly shown by attitudes (varying between disrespect, apathy, and callousness). To balance a particular flaw, the characters show some degree of goodness (empathy, helpfulness), I suppose that is what it means to be human. I'm especially glad that the story did not turn into a who's the baby's father or whether Vi and Cecilia reunite and live happily ever after. I personally think they will reunite, but that is not imperative to the immediate story. The only thing that I didn't like was that it could be hard to determine what was real and what was imagined. This was somewhat confusing at first, but looking back at how the story is written it makes sense that not everything is linear. It's a good thing that I had to think and come to my own conclusion.

Jaya says

Great book! Very well written novel about a young woman facing her demons. The best book I've read all year!
