



Come and Go, Molly Snow

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Things look good for Carrie Marie Mullins, a Kentucky bluegrass fiddler and the only woman in the Hawktown Road band. She loves the wild music and the late hours. She also loves Cap Dunlap, Hawktown's roughly handsome lead guitarist - she fell hard for him the minute she set eyes on him. But she knows that Cap's not a one-woman kind of man, so "she stomps down that feeling with her cute cowboy boots." And almost succeeds. Without warning, Carrie's beloved daughter, five-year-old Molly, dies in a senseless accident. We meet Carrie a month later, as she recuperates on a ridgy, drought-struck farm. Struggling with loss and her own sanity, cared for by Ona and Ruth, two wonderfully sustaining older women who understand the healing power of the day-to-day, she gradually reaches to take hold of the fact of her life: her guilt and her grief; the cost of her long obsession with Cap; the responsibilities and privileges of her gift for that life-giving music.

Come and Go, Molly Snow Details

Date : Published July 1st 1996 by Avon Books (first published February 1st 1995)

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Diane says

I liked the character, but I read for plot and there wasn't much plot here - simply an account of how a young single mother learns to deal with the accidental death of her five year old daughter. A bit too mystical for me.

Amanda says

About a talented young bluegrass musician who has, and loses, a daughter - and how she learns to keep going. While I have never had, or lost, a child, the book seemed to capture that unendurable pain. The descriptions of bluegrass were also wonderful -- I read this years ago and still remember that they said about how in bluegrass they sing about love and loss without being as earnest about it as country music is.

I love a book that really evokes a region, and this one does. Like Lee Smith, this author writes about Appalachia with understanding.

Lynn says

An Oldie but Goodie, as they say. A lot of sadness in this book about Carrie, a young woman who sets off to seek her fortune in bluegrass music the day she graduates from high school. Mistakenly, she ends up in Lexington, Kentucky, thinking that it was the heart of bluegrass music. She adapts, as the young so often can, and makes a life for herself and joins the local music scene. She falls in love from afar, with Cap, an up and coming musician. Carrie knows that Cap is not a one-woman man and she knows that her first love will always be the music. The relationship she and Cap have is based on music and friendship. One night she gets pregnant on a whim - with a musician just passing through. Having Molly changes everything for Carrie but life goes on and it is mainly good. Until it isn't. After Molly is killed, Carrie falls completely apart. Cap brings her to his two elderly aunts, hoping they can heal her brokenness. The characters are all relatable, and well-drawn. The writing, especially about the music is lovely, lyrical and haunting. As a non-musician myself, I was enchanted by the descriptions and feelings, longing to have a passion like that in my own life. I imagine that people who know music will find it even more irresistible.

Barbara says

I loved this book about a bluegrass fiddling woman, the death of her child, her descent into crippling grief and slow recovery with the help of a pair of old Kentucky country ladies. Lyrical, thoroughly engaging.

Bonnie Tharp says

Taylor-Hall brought the music world to life in this novel of a woman fiddler who wants nothing more than to "make it big." Life has a way of taking unexpected turns and Carrie's life is no different. This bittersweet novel is well worth your time.

Diane Strong says

Really great beginning, but the middle got toooooo long. I pretty much didn't care if she went back with the band after all the sulking and drama. I have a short attention span, it takes a writer who waves a bunny in my face to keep me reading. I'm sure it ended just the way I expected it too. I never rate a book I don't finish. The writing was really good. No complaints in that department.

Terri Kempton says

My friends, this is a really moving story of a young bluegrass musician who loses her daughter. It's heartbreaking and freeing in waves. Written in a unique voice by an under-read author!

Elise says

Recommended to me in Rodney's on Broadway one night. It was not on Kindle, so I forgot about it. Ate dinner again with Ellen, who insisted I must read it (she, as I do, loves all things southern women authors), so I ordered the hardback. Well, it is the best book I've read (in its genre) since A Gracious Plenty, The Poisonwood Bible, The Rapture of Canaan, etc. Really, better than all of those, especially if you love reading a novel written as if it's an album of songs. A wondrous study of southern women helping women suffer through womanhood, as well as a gut-wrenching depiction of how the swooning over a man, who will never settle down, can completely upend a mother and daughter's worlds.

Nona says

Carrie, against tradition is a fiddler of bluegrass music, she play in a band with Cap, a man she has obsesses about for years. When her five-year-old daughter is killed in a senseless accident Carrie falls apart. Cap bundles her up and takes her to his grandmothers farm to heal.

Hollis Fishelson-holstine says

Beautifully written, heartfelt story about grief and reclaiming one's life

Deandra Hall says

I had to go hunting for this book, and finally found it at a used and antique bookseller. I wanted to read it because Ms. Taylor-Hall is the wife of our former poet laureate in this state. I was not disappointed - it was an excellent read.

Tracy says

A beautifully written book about the impact of a child's death on the child's mother. Amazing since the main character is a bluegrass musician and the author is neither a musician nor a mother. Mary Ann, whom I have met several times, is the widow of writer and photographer James Baker Hall. I think she is the better writer of the two, giving her characters real humanity.

Lucy Guerra says

I've read this book at least 3 times, but lent it out a few years ago and never got it back. I love the lyrical quality of the book. The way the author weaves music into the entire story is incredibly moving, sad, and ultimately triumphant. If you are a new mother, though, stay away until you can handle reading about the loss of a child.

Tracy O says

LOVED this book, but I read it before I had Charlie. For my friends without children I would recommend this in a heartbeat. It is very quick paced and I loved the characters - I felt close to them. I also loved the whole milieu - the whole scene of it. But, for those of you with kids, I would not recommend that you read this - let's just leave it at that.

Martha? says

The death of a loved one puts you at a crossroads in your life. In this book, even the question of carrying on living is analyzed. Taylor-Hall does a fine job of explaining the abstract and often bizarre feelings that Carrie has after losing her daughter, and her decisions about which path is worth following in the aftermath. It took me a while to get into the story and characters, but in the end I put everything aside to finish it.
