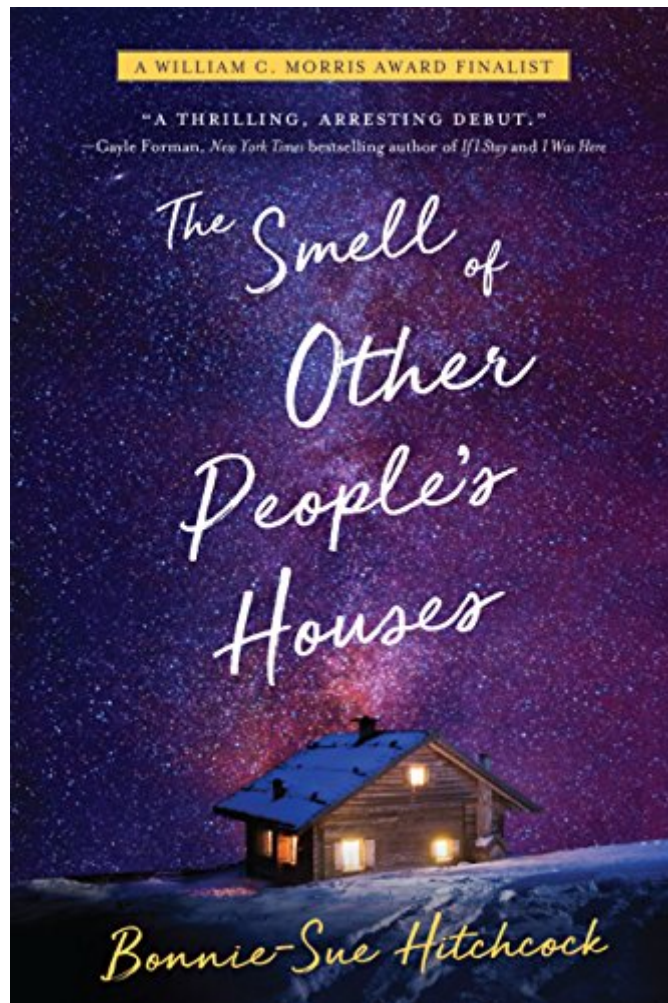




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The Smell Of Other People's Houses



Synopsis

“Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock’s Alaska is beautiful and wholly unfamiliar. A thrilling, arresting debut.” —Gayle Forman, New York Times bestselling author of *If I Stay* and *I Was Here* “[A] singular debut. . . . [Hitchcock] weav[es] the alternating voices of four young people into a seamless and continually surprising story of risk, love, redemption, catastrophe, and sacrifice.” —*The Wall Street Journal* This deeply moving and authentic debut set in 1970s Alaska is for fans of Rainbow Rowell, Louise Erdrich, Sherman Alexie, and Benjamin Alire Saenz. Intertwining stories of love, tragedy, wild luck, and salvation on the edge of America’s Last Frontier introduce a writer of rare talent. Ruth has a secret that she can’t hide forever. Dora wonders if she can ever truly escape where she comes from, even when good luck strikes. Alyce is trying to reconcile her desire to dance, with the life she’s always known on her family’s fishing boat. Hank and his brothers decide it’s safer to run away than to stay home until one of them ends up in terrible danger. Four very different lives are about to become entangled. This unforgettable William C. Morris Award finalist is about people who try to save each other—and how sometimes, when they least expect it, they succeed. Praise: William C. Morris Finalist Shortlisted for the Carnegie Medal Amelia Elizabeth Walden Book Award for Young Adult Fiction Tayshas Reading List • Top 10 List New York Public Library’s Best 50 Books for Teens Chicago Public Library, Best of the Best List Shelf Awareness, Best Children’s & Teen Books of the Year Nominated to the Oklahoma Sequoia Book Award Master List Nominated to the Colorado Blue Spruce Young Adult Book Award “Hitchcock’s debut resonates with the timeless quality of a classic. This is a fascinating character study—a poetic interweaving of rural isolation and coming-of-age.” —John Corey Whaley, award-winning author of *Where Things Come Back* and *Highly Illogical Behavior* “As an Alaskan herself, Bonnie Sue Hitchcock is able to bring alive this town, and this group of poor teens and their families that live there.” —*Bustle.com*

Book Information

File Size: 8151 KB

Print Length: 242 pages

Publisher: Wendy Lamb Books (February 23, 2016)

Publication Date: February 23, 2016

Sold by: Random House LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B00Y6Q9BB8

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #320,034 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #28

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Customer Reviews

Personally, I was able to find a bit of myself in each of the narrators. It's funny how the individual stories of each girl allowed me to recall elements of my youth. I enjoyed reading and learning about ways of life most of us have never been exposed to but can still appreciate and relate to. I so enjoyed watching each of the girls experience some of those pivotal moments that become the foundation of who we are as adults. Young adults reading it will definitely relate to the intensity of emotion and the importance of friendship with your peers. Adults will relate to those life lessons learned as a consequence of youthful mistakes and how important it is to forgive your family for being human and love them anyway. I loved the glimpse of life on a fishing boat and summers spent at fish camp. I hope many young adults will read this book and develop an interest in exploring a world beyond television, video games and the internet...maybe get a hankering to go to Alaska for a summer - do some fishing and watch for orca whales.

I bought this book in order to donate it to a local high school with a severely under-funded library, and wanted to read it first to check the content. I just finished it and am astounded. This is an absolutely spectacular piece of writing! Moving back and forth between the characters was effective in keeping interest, and I think the author did it successfully. Her use of metaphor, however, was what truly hooked me. I smiled often as I conjured up the images she so graciously provided, and

was left feeling both satiated and ready for more!

I love books that transport me to another time and place. This book is rich in detail about life in Alaska in the 70s, and each character is so carefully drawn, facing their own difficulties and challenges. I love stories with many plot threads that find their way together at the end in such a satisfying way. It's a short read, and an absolutely absorbing one.

This novel was beautifully written and even though it was only 225 pages the characters had a lot of depth. I choked up a bit towards the end and that hardly ever happens. This is definitely worth reading and though I think it's possible that it wrapped up too nicely I was still able to enjoy it. I am not even sure who my favorite character was. The book is told from four different perspectives but each character seems to get enough time so that their story doesn't seem incomplete. I hope to read more by this author in the future. I do wish that this book had been longer but not because the story wasn't done well or needed elaboration. I just did not want the story to end!

I loved the author's development of characters. She makes us feel like we have known them our whole life. I can't wait for her to write her next book!

This book is so beautifully crafted. The writing is so lyrical. So many sentences I would go back and read over and over and marvel at their sheer beauty. With this book Bonnie-Sue Hitchcock shows she is much more than a novelist, she is also a poet. I can't recommend this book highly enough!

I loved this book. It follows 4 characters whose lives end up interconnected in unsuspected ways. It is a pretty short novel and quick read. I would definitely recommend this book.

This debut is a stunning portrayal of the intersecting lives of four teenagers in 1970s Alaska. The pages are woven with pain and beauty in a way that mirrors the harsh and arresting Alaskan wilderness. I devoured this book, its characters, its uniqueness.

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