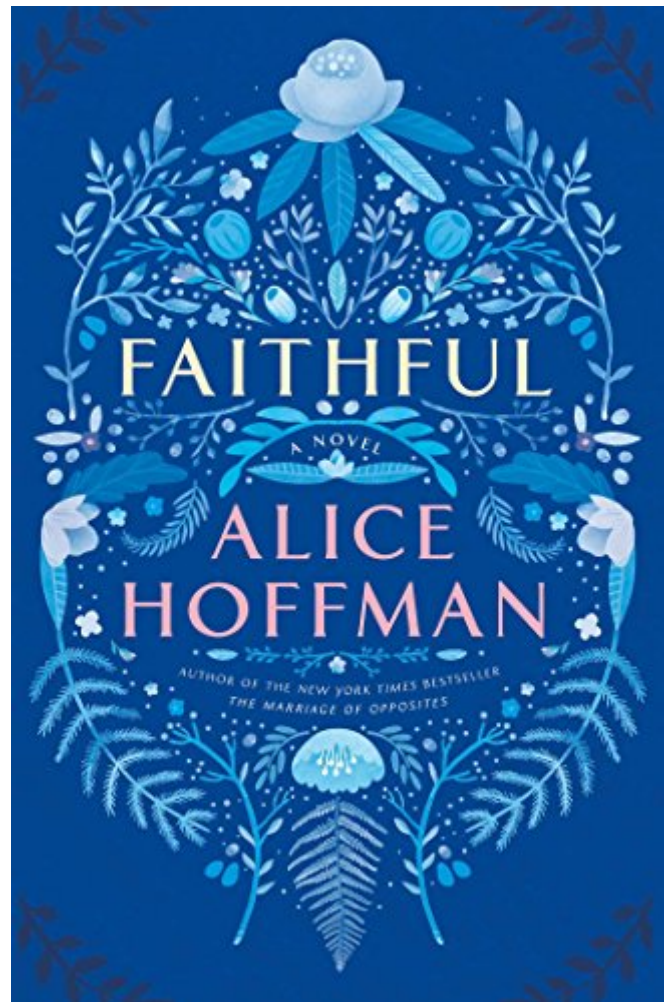


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# Faithful: A Novel



## Synopsis

From the New York Times bestselling author of *The Marriage of Opposites* and *The Dovekeepers* comes a soul-searching story about a young woman struggling to redefine herself and the power of love, family, and fate. Growing up on Long Island, Shelby Richmond is an ordinary girl until one night an extraordinary tragedy changes her fate. Her best friend's future is destroyed in an accident, while Shelby walks away with the burden of guilt. What happens when a life is turned inside out? When love is something so distant it may as well be a star in the sky? *Faithful* is the story of a survivor, filled with emotion "from dark suffering to true happiness" a moving portrait of a young woman finding her way in the modern world. A fan of Chinese food, dogs, bookstores, and men she should stay away from, Shelby has to fight her way back to her own future. In New York City she finds a circle of lost and found souls "including an angel who's been watching over her ever since that fateful icy night. Here is a character you will fall in love with, so believable and real and endearing, that she captures both the ache of loneliness and the joy of finding yourself at last. For anyone who's ever been a hurt teenager, for every mother of a daughter who has lost her way, *Faithful* is a roadmap. Alice Hoffman's "a trademark alchemy" (USA TODAY) and her ability to write about the "delicate balance between the everyday world and the extraordinary" (WBUR) make this an unforgettable story. With beautifully crafted prose, Alice Hoffman spins hope from heartbreak in this profoundly moving novel.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

How did this book find me? I was there, hiding out in the section with thrillers, suspense, serial killers, crazed stalkers... and then I chose this lovely book. And for a while it made cynical me a bit less cynical. Shelby and Helene are high school best friends. They wear matching bracelets. They do everything together. So when beautiful Helene is dumped by her boyfriend and wants to throw rocks through his window, Shelby reluctantly goes along and drives through the winter night. She hits a patch of ice and skids. Instead of turning into the skid (remember that from driver's ed?) she hits the brake. The car spins and collides. Shelby thinks she has died, but she suffers minor physical injuries. Helene is in a coma. Helene is eventually moved to her home, and is thought to be the bestower of miracles, a sleeping beauty in Long Island. People line up to spend a moment in her presence, to hold her hand and perhaps be cured. Shelby, meanwhile, is institutionalized. She stops speaking. She cuts herself. She shaves her head. She feels guilty for every bad thing that happens to others. She is convinced she causes bad things. She feels guilty and responsible for what happened to Helene. Then one day she receives a mysterious postcard. It has a drawing and a simple message. "Say something." Thus begins Shelby's slow climb back to life. What makes it a great book. Well, since you asked... 10. Even in my deep cynicism, I believe that miracles happen. Alice Hoffman apparently believes this, too. 9. If I had to start on motherhood all over again, I would want to be exactly like Shelby's mother, who stands by her daughter through the deepest tragedies. She doesn't judge.

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