



The Moon Over High Street

Natalie Babbitt

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The new novel by Natalie Babbitt, author of Tuck Everlasting

Joe Casimir needed help with the choice he had to make. But how do you choose the person who will help you choose? Mr. Boulderwall, the millionaire, knew exactly what he wanted Joe to choose. And millionaires are experts at making choices. Well, aren't they? But Vinnie, the number-two man down at Sope Electric, didn't much approve of millionaires. He said to Joe, "Listen, kid, all of 'em act like they're the only ones with a ticket to the show!" But he didn't have any real advice to offer. Joe's Gran didn't either, as it turned out, and neither did Aunt Myra.

The good advice was there, though. Right across the street. Just waiting right across the street. There are a lot of good things just waiting. You'll see.

The Moon Over High Street Details

Date : Published March 1st 2012 by Michael di Capua Books

ISBN : 9780545376365

Author : Natalie Babbitt

Format : Hardcover 148 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Childrens, Middle Grade, Realistic Fiction, Juvenile, Fiction, Parenting, Adoption, Science, Astronomy, Young Adult, Chapter Books

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From Reader Review The Moon Over High Street for online ebook

Roben says

I enjoyed this book! The epilogue, in particular, made me smile. It's a slice of Joe Casimir's life - Joe was orphaned at the age of 2 months and has been raised by his Gran. When the story opens, Joe is twelve. Gran has decided that they should visit their only other relative, a cousin Joe calls "Aunt" Myra. But Gran falls and breaks her hip so Joe has to make the trip alone. That premise could go 1000 different directions in the land of children's lit. But Natalie Babbitt spins her own particular magic and creates a bit of an old-fashioned tale.

Like I said - I enjoyed it. Characters and emotions rang true. And I found myself thinking, "I remember feeling like that when I was twelve!" I think this would be a good book for a read-aloud to a 4th or 5th grade class. There is a lot to discuss - do they know what they want to do when they grow up? What would they do if they were in Joe's position? Or possibly for a book club choice for 12 year olds!

I fear that the reviews will dissuade people from reading the book, which would be a shame. It's a lovely story with a sweet resolution.

Marjorie Elwood says

What do you want to do with your life? And would that change if you were guaranteed a large income and an 'important' position that was at odds with your passion? Joe Casimir faces that decision during a time of tumult and transition.

Jenn Estepp says

Hey, remember that episode of "The Simpsons" where Mr. Burns adopts Bart, because he thinks he's going to die soon? This is sort of like that, only, not as good. Because at least Mr. Burns had a good reason for adopting Bart, something more compelling than "Hey, kid that I just met. You are polite and your parents are dead. Also, your last name is Polish, so I think I want to adopt you." Um, really? Very random, not at all convincing. Nor was quite a bit of other stuff here. Overall, I think the best word to describe this book is "sketchy," in many senses of the word. Unoriginal and forgettable work, too.

Is that too harsh? Points for, er, an Ohio setting, which always make my Buckeye heart go pitter-patter. And I do think that, had the premise/town/characters been properly developed, it would've made for a nice little outing. Alas.

Oh! Also! Totally not Babbitt's responsibility, but: that is some might bad jacket copy. It's probably petty to mention that, but it irked me incredibly. Somebody should get called to the office for that one.

Teagan Patterson says

The Moon Over High Street was a great book, yet after reading it, it didn't feel like there was much to it. It was pretty short to be a chapter book, considering the storyline doesn't present a theme for young children (not that it would be bad for children to read, just that it doesn't seem directed to young kids, so it's surprisingly short). I am not against the length of the book, as I have read many wonderful stories that are shorter, though I feel like this book should have contained more detail and mood than what was given. With that being said, it was still an enjoyable read and I'm glad to have read it.

Barbara says

Although the writing in this book is exquisite and feels as though you're being dipped gently into a comfortable bubble bath drawn by someone you love, ultimately the book disappointed me. Joe Casimir is a likeable boy who has been reared by his grandmother after the death of his parents. When she injures herself, she sends him to stay with an older cousin, Myra. While there, he meets a neighbor girl with plenty of common sense, and he also meets Mr. Boulderwall, a millionaire whose invention is essential in every car. The man takes a liking to Joe and decides to adopt him. The rest of the story revolves around Joe's having to make a choice about staying with his family and being able to reach his career goals or having enough money to do anything he wants but agreeing to head Mr. Boulderwall's business. I don't know about this one. There are plenty of things I liked about it, but the situation just seemed so unlikely. What kind of kid is going to forsake the small family he has to live with someone he hardly knows, even if there is a financial lure? How could someone's wealth or position lead someone to make such an offer? The story ends satisfyingly, just as it should be, but the offer of a wonderful future life seemed somewhat spontaneous to me.

Nancy says

I thought this was a sweet little story. It was a quick read and I think my kids will like it. I want to say more but I don't want to spoil it. Let's just say I liked the message.

Tra-Kay says

Even when her stories are simple, Babbitt is such a warm, wise writer that her books usually give me a glow. She sees the good in life and wants to help her readers see it, too.

Akshay Venkat says

I thought that this was an exceptionally great book about the tough choices in life that you make and how you choose which one. I loved this book so much that I couldn't stop reading it because it was so amazing. When Joe's grandmother got the letter about the adoption and when she told Joe I agreed with the author that

it was like a meteorite hit them and like Vinnie said it just comes out of nowhere, unexpected, and it smashes you, but in this case it smashes you with a big load of shock. At the end of this book I realized that on the cover it shows a piggybank and the moon, I think this represents choices Joe has to make in this story. The piggybank represents being rich and the moon represents, well the moon and the reason that makes sense is because he wanted to protect the moon and study it and there are no branches covering it just like Joe saw when he looked outside his window. I think the choices are basically be rich and run a factory that he won't feel happy running a business for Mr. Boulderwall or study the moon and protect it and do what he wants. I thought that the cover was amazing since it basically captured the whole story. I admired the part when Beatrice showed Joe that the answer was so simple because life's choices seem so complicated, but really there so simple. I gave this book a 5 star rating because this was a really spectacular book

Deb Hill says

This reminded me of a Leminy Snicket book, somewhat. I did not really get the point of the storyline. It was rather simplistic.

Rachel says

I liked the characters and the setting (though I didn't recognize any of the Ohio I grew up in in the Ohio of this book), and though the major issues of the book seemed easily solved, it was still an interesting enough read.

Carolyn says

This was a disappointment, coming from the same author of Tuck Everlasting, very heavy-handed and obvious.

Mahjong_kid says

While I came away with a sense of what Babbit was going for in this story, the book felt more like a sketch than a finished product. The story was simplistic, fantastic, and absolutely unbelievable.

Peter Bylone says

This book was kind of simplistic, and had some really odd premises to it. I can't imagine even my 10 year old son will read this and find it plausible that a rich business owner would want to adopt a boy based on a chance meeting and a shared heritage. Beyond that, we never really get a feeling for what is going on inside Joe's head (except that he has a crush on the girl across the street). I mean, the climactic scene doesn't even have the main character in it! Instead of giving him the intestinal fortitude to resolve the situation on his own, and despite his young age it could have been convincingly done that way, Joe's Grandmother does the

moralizing about what's for sale and what isn't, and the value placed on pursuing ones dream.

I think it's an ok book for kids to read, I just don't think they'll fall in love with it in any way.

Michelle Cook says

Good story! This book explores the themes of family, being true to oneself, and the definition of success.

Angela says

This is a nice, old-fashioned children's book that emphasizes the importance of following your own dreams instead of settling for something that will make you money. The plot isn't very complicated or fast-paced, but the writing is excellent--almost lyrical. I've never read any of Babbit's other books, but this one makes me want to give them a try.
