



## The Third Angel: A Novel

By Alice Hoffman

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**The Third Angel: A Novel** By Alice Hoffman

**“Alice Hoffman is my favorite writer.” –Jodi Picoult**

Alice Hoffman is one of our most beloved writers. Here on Earth was an Oprah Book Club selection. Practical Magic and Aquamarine were both bestselling books and Hollywood movies. Her novels have received mention as notable books of the year by the *New York Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *People* magazine, and her short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in the *New York Times*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Kenyon Review*, *Redbook*, *Architectural Digest*, *Gourmet*, and *Self*.

Now, in *The Third Angel*, Hoffman weaves a magical and stunningly original story that charts the lives of three women in love with the wrong men: Headstrong Madeleine Heller finds herself hopelessly attracted to her sister’s fiancé. Frieda Lewis, a doctor’s daughter and a runaway, becomes the muse of an ill-fated rock star. And beautiful Bryn Evans is set to marry an Englishman while secretly obsessed with her ex-husband. At the heart of the novel is Lucy Green, who blames herself for a tragic accident she witnessed at the age of twelve, and who spends four decades searching for the Third Angel—the angel on earth who will renew her faith.

Brilliantly evoking London’s King’s Road, Knightsbridge, and Kensington while moving effortlessly back in time, *The Third Angel* is a work of startling beauty about the unique, alchemical nature of love.

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## **The Third Angel: A Novel By Alice Hoffman Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. In this elegant and stunning novel, veteran heartstring-puller Hoffman (*Here on Earth; Seventh Heaven*) examines the lives of three women at different crossroads in their lives, tying their London-centered stories together in devastating retrospect. High powered New York attorney Maddy Heller arrives in 1999 London having had an affair with Paul, her sister Allie's fiancé,; she must now cope with the impending marriage, and with Paul's terminal illness—which echoes the girls' mother's cancer during their childhood. Hoffman then shifts to heady 1966 London and to Frieda Lewis, Paul's future mother, who falls for a doomed up-and-coming songwriter knowing he will break her heart. The narrative then shifts further back, to 1952 and to Maddy and Allie's future mother, Lucy Green. A bookish 12-year-old wise beyond her years, Lucy sails with her father and stepmother from New York to London for a wedding. There, she becomes an innocent catalyst to a devastating event involving a love triangle. Hoffman interweaves the three stories, gazing unerringly into forces that cause some people to self-destruct (There was no such thing as too much for a girl who thought she was second best) and others to find inner strength to last a lifetime. (Apr.)

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### Review

“Is there an American novelist who understands the complicated and multifaceted nature of love in all its manifestations — romantic, familial, platonic — better than Alice Hoffman?... Some critics have minimized the complexity of Hoffman’s work by referring to her as a romance writer. Well, Hoffman is a romance writer, but then so were Flaubert, Proust, the Bronte sisters, and Jane Austen. *The Third Angel* is indeed a romance, but one of intricacy and pathos, with characters beautifully, believably and empathetically drawn....*The Third Angel* represents yet another strong, visceral and deeply, darkly moving tale of love and heartbreak, tragedy and redemption from a writer whose keen ear for the measure struck by the beat of the human heart is unparalleled. *The Third Angel* is an intense, provocative and thoroughly affecting novel.”

— *The Chicago Tribune*

“Like Michael Cunningham’s ‘The Hours,’ Hoffman’s tale weaves the stories of women at key moments in their lives with revelations both stunning and inevitable.”

— *The Pittsburgh Post Gazette*

“Its realism, combined with a refreshing lightness and its success in portraying emotion with empathy, draws the reader into a deep involvement with the books’ appealing yet flawed characters. Each woman faces up to her challenges in her own way, proving that everyone in the end is responsible for his or her own destiny.”

— *The Economist*

“Hoffman’s luminous language bounces us into accepting not only coincident but also its consequences.”

— *The Boston Globe*

“Alice Hoffman paints her books in big strokes and bright colors, with slashes of romantic reds and blacks. She’s a teller of fairy tales, well-worn or new.”

— *The Columbus Dispatch*

“With a graceful nod to the power of redemption, Alice Hoffman reminds readers we are all hurt and broken, stumbling through life and fumbling for love, but sometimes we can still find out way to where we want to go.”

— *Charlotte Observer*

“Headstrong women, reckless love affairs and a liberal dusting of the supernatural are the pleasurable trademarks of an Alice Hoffman novel....Her passionate storytelling and intense characters make a deeply personal connection that should bewitch old fans and new readers alike.”

— *People Magazine* (A “**People Pick**,” 4-stars)

“Un-put-downable....*The Third Angel* soars....an unforgettable portrait of the depth of true love.”

—*USA Today*

“Hoffman makes vivid and new the realization that grace, beauty, and forgiveness can arise out of the most devastating situations.”

— *Elle*

“Alice Hoffman’s richly layered novel, *The Third Angel*, is one of her best.”

—*More*

“Hands down, this captivating book is one of Hoffman’s best. It follows three women’s lives as they flow together and apart, tributaries linked by the same tragic love story and mysterious ghost. You’ll want to start it again as soon as you’re done.”

— *Redbook*

“A book that’s hard to put away completely. Even long after it’s finished, you may find its characters sneaking, like ghosts, back into your head.”

— *St. Louis Post Dispatch*

“These stories capture the fleeting happiness of doomed, misguided love.”

— *Minneapolis Star Tribune*

“Elegant and stunning....Hoffman interweaves the three stories, gazing unerringly into forces that cause some people to self-destruct and others to find inner strength to last a lifetime.”

— *Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

“One of her best...an exceptionally well-structured, beguiling, and affecting triptych of catastrophic love stories....Not only is Hoffman spellbinding in this incandescent fusion of dark romance and penetrating psychic insight, she also opens diverse and compelling worlds, dramatizes the shocks and revelations that forge the self, and reveals the necessity and toll of empathy and kindness. Hoffman has transcended her own genre.”

— *Booklist* (starred review)

“*The Third Angel* places Hoffman at perhaps the pinnacle of her bountiful literary talents.”

—*Bookpage*

“A mesmerizing tale of the human condition....sure to please Hoffman’s fans and win over new readers.”

—*Library Journal*

“*The Third Angel* is brilliantly crafted, deeply moving, and utterly enchanting. I loved these characters for their complexity, their unpredictability and for the way they showed subtle and shifting nuance in human nature. One of the best things about Alice Hoffman's writing is that she grounds you in detail and also frees

your imagination to soar to places it has never been--often simultaneously. Reading her is immensely satisfying--and addictive!”

— **Elizabeth Berg**, author of *The Day I Ate Whatever I Wanted*

### **More Praise for Alice Hoffman:**

“Alice Hoffman is my favorite writer.” —**Jodi Picoult**

“With her glorious prose and extraordinary eyes . . . Alice Hoffman seems to know what it means to be a human being.”

—**Susan Isaacs**, *Newsday*

“Alice Hoffman takes seemingly ordinary lives and lets us see and feel extraordinary things.”

—**Amy Tan**

“Hoffman’s characters, male and female, tend to be defined by the restless, lonely ache of what’s missing in their lives, which becomes clear only when they fill the void with something either unexpectedly right or horribly

wrong. Along the way, Hoffman seems to wriggle into their skin, breathe their air, and think their thoughts.”

—**Entertainment Weekly**

### About the Author

**ALICE HOFFMAN** is the author of nineteen novels, two books of short stories, and eight books for children and young adults. Her work has been published in more than twenty translations and in more than one hundred foreign editions. She divides her time between Boston and New York City.

### **Users Review**

#### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Hugo Mann:**

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**Agatha Roughton:**

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