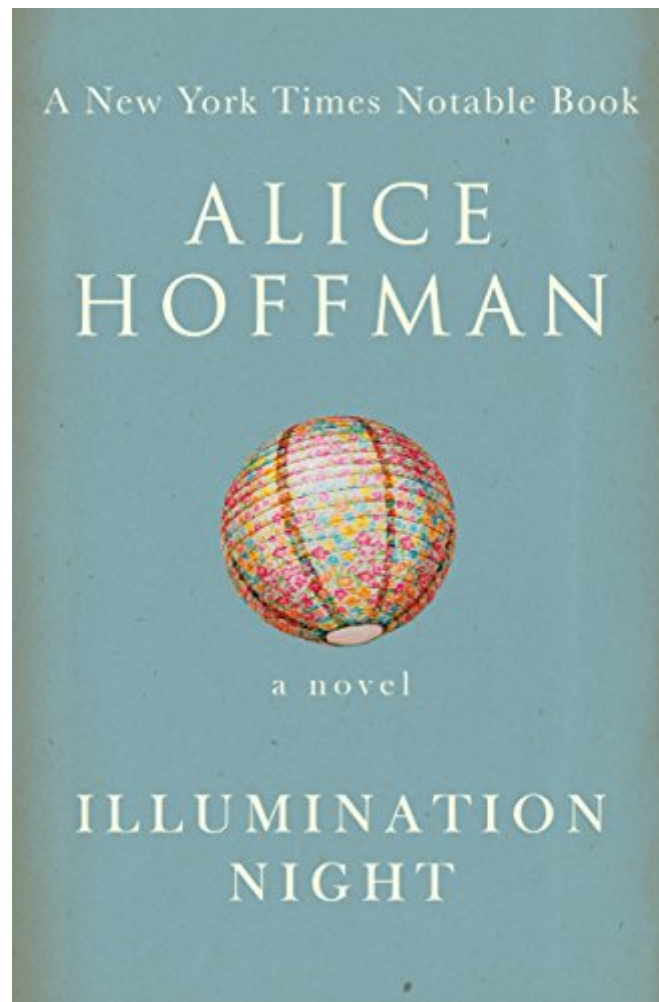


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Illumination Night: A Novel



Synopsis

A moving novel of fear, desire, loss, and discovery on Martha's Vineyard, from the New York Times "bestselling author of *The Dovekeepers* and *Seventh Heaven*. Elizabeth Renny has only made two decisions of consequence in her seventy-plus years. While the first, marrying her husband, had adequate results, the second "deciding she could fly from her bedroom window" is less successful. But her flight sets in motion a series of events that will forever change the lives of six residents of Martha's Vineyard: a young boy who refuses to grow, a wife stifled by her irrational anxiety, a husband tempted by the unknown, a girl flirting with disaster, a gentle giant tortured by his size, and an old woman with nothing to lose. Praised as "an intelligent novel" by the New York Times and "teachingly vivid" by Newsday, *Illumination Night* is a sparkling and heartbreaking narrative that explores marriage, friendship, youth, yearning, disillusionment, and desire, a book as bright and memorable as the festival of lanterns for which it is named.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Andre, his wife Vonny and their nearly 5 year old son, Simon, are living on Martha's Vineyard in a fixer-upper home. Vonny makes & sells pottery while Andre is focusing on building his antique motorcycle restoration business. They love their community, particularly when *Illumination Night*

comes around. The Festival of Grand Illumination, a festival of lanterns, is held on the island every year. This story focuses on one eventful year that brings a ton of drama and challenges for Andre & Vonny to navigate through. It all starts with their elderly, nearly blind, next door neighbor Elizabeth Renny taking a serious tumble that requires her to be on crutches for a lengthy time. Elizabeth's teenage granddaughter, Jody, comes to town to stay with Elizabeth as she heals. Each day, hormonal teen Jody observes good looking Andre going about his business in his garage and quickly begins to develop quite the unhealthy obsession over him. Andre notices Jody's fascination with him and mentally notes that had her fixation started just a few months earlier, he and Vonny would have had a good laugh over it. But Jody's arrival now falls at a tough time in Andre & Vonny's marriage. They're trying to push through a mountain of financial stress as well as just the general mix of stress and fears that come with trying to build a new business. They also have heavy concerns over their son's health issues. With his mind clouded with all this, Andre finds it kind of flattering to be the object of a teenager's fantasy and almost feels tempted to indulge in her whims. So much of the story builds on the "will he or won't he?" question. As Jody's obsession with Andre grew, I honestly thought this story was going to go the way of movies like *Poison Ivy* or *The Hand That Rocks The Cradle*.

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