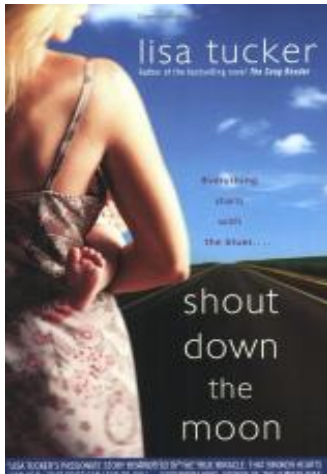


Shout Down the Moon

by Lisa Tucker



About the Book

Her acclaimed debut, **The Song Reader**, won her praise as a "brilliant new literary talent" (*The Albuquerque Tribune*). Now, Lisa Tucker returns with a starkly lyrical novel of page-turning intensity and rare emotional power. Patty Taylor can handle anything. So what if the guys in her band dismiss her as just a pretty face, hired by their manager to make them more popular? She's already survived a bad childhood, a destructive teenage relationship, homelessness, and working twelve-hour shifts washing dishes. Traveling with the band gives her a way to provide for Willie, the two-year-old son she adores. But on a hot summer day in Kentucky, when Willie's father shows up outside her hotel room, newly paroled from prison and intent on having her and his son back, Patty begins a journey that will change her from a girl who can put up with anything to a woman with a voice that can bring the house down. **Shout Down the Moon** is about following dreams and overcoming obstacles, about finding your voice and becoming the hero of your own life. In Patty Taylor, Lisa Tucker has created an unlikely heroine, a gutsy girl with a wry sense of humor, whose life will depend on having the courage to trust in her big talent and even bigger heart.

Discussion Guide

1. In what ways, figuratively and literally, is Patty trapped? What are her means of escape? Do you think she's ever rescued? How does it make you, as the reader, feel that she seems to have no way out?
2. Patty and Rick have similar pasts, but each has a very different present and future. Where does she find the knowledge and strength to want to overcome her past and not repeat it? Why can't Rick seem to change despite the life he says he wants with Patty and Willie?
3. In life, Patty has experienced abuse, rejection, deception and conditional love from the people who are supposed to love her the most. Where does she learn to truly love, care for and protect Willie?

4. Throughout the book, Patty says that Rick loves her. Why is she so convinced? Does Rick love her? How would you characterize the relationship Rick and Patty have? At what point does Patty decide she's no longer afraid of being without Rick?
5. A lot of what Patty tells us about Rick's personality and character is genuinely sweet and kind. How does your perception of Rick change throughout the book? Did you find yourself wishing that he'd transformed his life or did you want Patty to get as far away from him as possible? In what ways does the author make each of the characters multi-dimensional?
6. Overall, what is Patty's life motivator? What fuels her to try new things and stand up for herself? Where does Patty's strength come from?
7. In some ways, Patty lives life on eggshells -- careful not to offend or upset Rick, Fred and members of the band, and careful not to drive her mother back to drinking. In addition, she can't take anyone's word at face value or trust what they say. Still Patty continues to forgive and give people the benefit of the doubt. Why? Explore your thoughts on forgiveness. Would you be able to remain vulnerable, as Patty does, and continue to offer second chances? Read what Patty says about forgiveness on page 112. How does forgiveness free her to remain optimistic and achieve her goals?
8. Patty is on a constant search for the comfort of home. But from what we know about her past, she never really had a stable home. What do you feel Patty is searching for? What do the salt shaker and other items that she spends her money on represent?
9. How would Patty's life have been different had her father not died? What if she'd never met Rick? What if she'd never taken her singing seriously? What if she'd never had Willie? Describe how the turning points in Patty's life shaped her future.
10. Could you hear Patty's singing voice? Who do you think she sounds like?
11. Where do you see the characters in five years? Does Patty become a successful singer? Does Jonathan remain the man in her life? Is her mother able to stay sober? Is Willie able to grow up in a stable, "normal" home? Does Patty get beyond survival-mode and enjoy peace?

Author Bio

Lisa Tucker is the author of six novels: *THE SONG READER*, *SHOUT DOWN THE MOON*, *ONCE UPON A DAY*, *THE CURE FOR MODERN LIFE*, *THE PROMISED WORLD* and *THE WINTERS IN BLOOM*. Her books have been published in 12 countries and selected for Borders Original Voices, Book of the Month Club, the Literary Guild, Doubleday Book Club, People magazine Critic's Choice, Redbook Book Club, Amazon Book of the Year, Barnes & Noble Reading Group program, Target ?Breakout? Books, Books A Million Fiction Club, the American Library Association Popular Paperbacks, the Book Sense list and the Book Sense Reading Group Suggestions.

Lisa has been a guest on the "CBS Early Show," the public radio program "To the Best of Our Knowledge," the BBC, the Associated Press show "Between the Lines," and the syndicated cable program "Connie Martinson Talks Books."

She has been featured in The Philadelphia Inquirer, St. Louis Post Dispatch, The Los Angeles Times, Albuquerque Journal, and Publishers Weekly, and in a variety of magazines and newspapers around the world.

Lisa grew up in Missouri. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania, she went on to receive graduate degrees in English and mathematics and was awarded fellowships in both fields. She has taught creative writing at the University of Pennsylvania, the Taos Writers' Conference and UCLA. Lisa has given readings and talks all over the country, including at the Squaw Valley Community of Writers, A Room of Her Own Foundation/Ghost Ranch, the Southern Festival of Books, the Miami Book Fair, and Book Expo America. Her short work has appeared in *Seventeen*, *Pages* and *The Oxford American*. She currently lives in Philadelphia.

Critical Praise

"Tucker turns an engaging premise into a fascinating novel...the voice, a combination of wistfulness, pragmatism, and humor, is utterly authentic." "

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