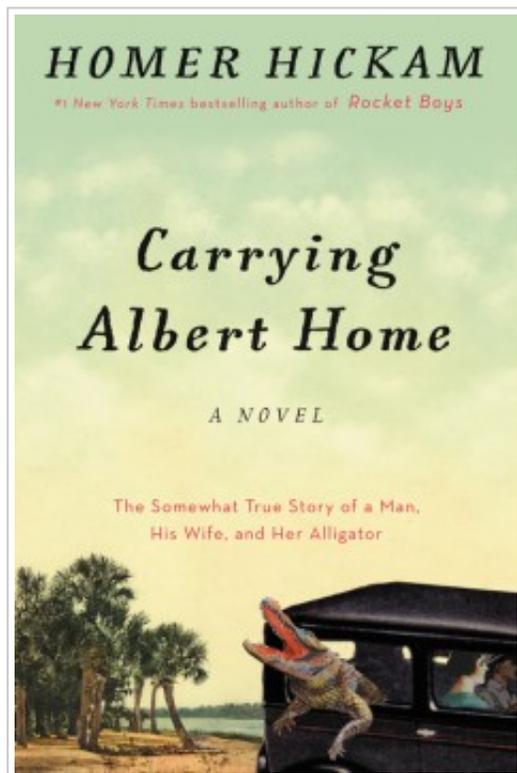


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Carrying Albert Home

A Novel

by Homer Hickam

Price: \$25.99(Hardcover)

Published: October 13, 2015

Rating: 0.0/5 (0 votes cast)

From the Publisher: Big Fish meets The Notebook in this emotionally evocative story about a man, a woman, and an alligator that is a moving tribute to love, from the New York Times bestselling author of the award-winning memoir Rocket Boys—the basis of the movie October Sky. Elsie Lavender and Homer Hickam (the father of the author) were high school classmates in the West Virginia coalfields, graduating just as the Great Depression began. When Homer asked for her hand, Elsie instead headed to Orlando where she sparked with a dancing actor named Buddy Ebsen (yes, that Buddy Ebsen). But when Buddy headed for New York, Elsie's dreams of a life with him were crushed and eventually she found herself back in the coalfields, married to Homer. Unfulfilled as a miner's wife, Elsie was reminded of her carefree...

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What We Say

If I had a bookstore, I'm not sure where I'd stock this new book by Homer Hickam, the author of a string of memoirs and novels, namely "Rocket Boys" aka "October Sky" about his childhood in coal mining country. It's called "Carrying Albert Home" and since it's a sort-of true memoir about a road trip his parents took with their pet alligator down to Orlando Florida during the Great Depression, at first why the Biography section makes sense. Then you keep reading and the stories get wilder and more improbable -- bootleggers, smugglers, bank robbers, union radicals, making a Hollywood movie, a hurricane and both John Steinbeck AND Ernest Hemingway -- make appearances -- and well, maybe fiction makes more sense. By the end, after the ghosts and the wild mountain man spouting poetry with his salacious Muslim wife and that dancing fool actor Buddy Ebsen, I'd be looking for the Tall Tales section. In the end, I'd just stock it up front by the door, so everyone can see the great cover, recognize the name Hickam, glance at a summary, and maybe open a page or two and find themselves sucked in and bingo, you've got another sale. Sweet, funny, and somehow clear-eyed but romantic at the end. And sort-of true. -- Michael Giltz

[Less](#)

What Others Say

"Great memoirs must balance the universal and the particular...In his debut, Hickam...walks the line beautifully...No matter how jaded readers have become by the onslaught of memoirs, none will want to miss the fantastic voyage of BCMA, Auk and Coalwood." - **Publishers Weekly on Rocket Boys**

"Recalling a lost era, the transition between small-town life and the dawning of the new technological age, he brings his American hometown to life with vivid images, appealing characters and considerable literary magic." - **Publishers Weekly on The Coalwood Way**

What You Say

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