



Full Cicada Moon

Marilyn Hilton

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***Inside Out and Back Again* meets *One Crazy Summer* and *Brown Girl Dreaming* in this novel-in-verse about fitting in and standing up for what's right**

It's 1969, and the Apollo 11 mission is getting ready to go to the moon. But for half-black, half-Japanese Mimi, moving to a predominantly white Vermont town is enough to make her feel alien. Suddenly, Mimi's appearance is all anyone notices. She struggles to fit in with her classmates, even as she fights for her right to stand out by entering science competitions and joining Shop Class instead of Home Ec. And even though teachers and neighbors balk at her mixed-race family and her refusals to conform, Mimi's dreams of becoming an astronaut never fade—no matter how many times she's told no.

This historical middle-grade novel is told in poems from Mimi's perspective over the course of one year in her new town, and shows readers that positive change can start with just one person speaking up.

Full Cicada Moon Details

Date : Published September 8th 2015 by Dial Books for Young Readers

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Author : Marilyn Hilton

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From Reader Review Full Cicada Moon for online ebook

Latanya (CraftyScribbles) says

Marilyn Hilton's Full Cicada Moon draws comparison to Jacqueline Woodson's Brown Girl Dreaming and we are the wiser and fulfilled for having more to enjoy.

(Check out my full review at <http://www.craftyscribbles.com>)

Vernon Area Public Library KIDS says

Twelve-year-old Mimi Yoshiko Oliver is moving to Vermont with her family and the year is 1969. Because she is half Black, half Japanese, and is interested in some classes usually reserved for boys, she struggles to fit in to this mostly white community where she is constantly dealing with subtle and not so subtle bigotry from classmates, teachers, and neighbors. This book, written in verse, tells how Mimi is able to make friends and how she and her family maintain their unique identities while helping to change their community for the better.

Highly recommended for children in grades 4 through 8 who like character driven books.

Michele Knott says

I feel sorry for the book I read after this....
Beautiful.

African Americans on the Move Book Club says

FULL CICADA MOON is about a young seventh grade girl named Mimi Yoshiko Oliver. She is judged by her race because she is black, but also Japanese; she's misunderstood because she wants to be different. But she won't let that get her down, and she soars high to pursue her dream of being an astronaut. Her courage, strength, and determination will make you fall in love with her, her family, and friends.

I fell in love with this story because of the way Hilton wrote each page to be like a poem. It encouraged me to do my best and not care what other people think being a seventh grader myself. I recommend this story because it will give girls and boys of middle school another look on life of making friends, moving from family, and dealing with being different. And soaring high to pursue their own dream.

Daijah Newhouse
AAMBC Reviewer

Yusra ? says

This was REALLY good ????

the protagonist was super relatable and likeable. def reccomend! Marilyn Hilton really created a diverse character with this novel in verse, and some things will really pull at your heartstrings ?

Chelsey says

I loved this one. Loved it. I want to carry it around. I want to follow people in the streets and read it to them.

Mimi is in seventh grade in 1969, and she's moving from Berkley to Vermont. Her mom is Japanese, and her dad is black, and no one in the little Vermont town looks like them. This novel in verse covers Mimi's first year. What I love is how quietly forthright this book is. It made me imagine the moon landing anew, like it was the first time I'd heard of it - the moon? Are you kidding? That's so magnificent! - and it brought me back to that tween mentality where you're trying so hard to fit in but also to define yourself by embracing how you stand out.

Linda says

A “tuck into your heart “ gem.

Coming of age books are one of my favorites. This is one of the most beautifully written I have ever read with moments we can all relate to.

I cannot find the words to do this book justice, but if you look at the other reviews you will begin to understand . And if you find the time to read with your heart, you will find some magic to savor.

Shayne Bauer says

What a refreshing read. Hilton does an amazing job bringing Mimi to life with the believable innocence of a pre-teen child. Mimi is such an intriguing little girl who draws the reader in through heart wrenching situations, yet she perseveres with admirable courage that teaches a memorable lesson. I love the simplicity of this book, as the story unfolds through verse told in the child's voice. I could hear and feel Mimi's emotions in her words. I typically don't read historical fiction, but I was hooked on this one from the very start. I will definitely recommend it to all age groups.

Heather Taake says

Loved it. Set in 1969, but so relevant to our world today.

Kristina says

I read this entire novel, written beautifully in verse, all today. I can definitely understand where the Brown Girl Dreaming comparisons are coming from because both are genuinely outstanding and I feel should seriously be considered as required reading for schools. (or at least an option!!) Full Cicada Moon is a story about growing up, pursuing your dreams, race in the late 1960's, the questioning of gender roles and much more infused into a lovely story about a thirteen year old girl named Mimi living in Vermont with her Japanese mother and Black father.

"It's funny how people can take up so much room in your heart but you still have plenty left for someone else."

Thanks for taking a place in my heart Mimi. <3

Caitlin says

Ethereal coming of age story also... THE COVER REALISTICALLY PORTRAYS THE PROTAGONIST

Shelby says

5 Stars

I really loved this book. It took me a while to read this book because it was long, but I finally made through it to the end. It was really good. It was different for what I have ever read before, but I liked it for many reasons. The writing of this book was really good. I would read this book again. I would recommend this book to anyone.

Kristen says

I've read some really good historical fiction this year, and Full Cicada Moon ranks right up there among my favorites. YA set in the 1960's and the Civil Rights movement generally focuses on African Americans, and while this story does that, we also get the added issues that being Japanese American post-WWII could cause. Mimi is both (and female--another set of issues), and when her family moves from melting-pot Berkeley to the more homogeneous Northeast, she experiences prejudice and mistrust in multiple forms. I found myself angry and frustrated for kind, intelligent Mimi, who managed to remain poised and courageous throughout. (Her parents also handled things far better than I probably ever could have.) I love that Mimi makes wonderful friends and finds (no MAKES) herself a place in her new world.

Sharon Lawler says

Liked many things about this novel in verse. First of all, I attended college in Burlington Vt, and besides the skiing, I was in love with the weather, which Marilyn Hilton describes perfectly. She also describes the racial ignorance of the time in such a way that these lines became the underlying theme:

"Like raindrops on granite." I say,
because we know that's how I persist---
drip, drip, drip
until the granite cracks."

This book is character and plot driven, but the craftsmanship in creating the poetry is incredible. Not to be missed.

JumbleofJargon says

This was really good! This is written in the same almost prose like style as Jacqueline Woodson's Brown Girl Dreaming. Full Cicada Moon touches on topics similar to those brought out in Brown Girl Dreaming as well; so if you liked that, may like this.

It's a bit shocking to see how similar 1969 is to 2016. I think my main critique is that everything ends so happily and smoothly. I understand that the author is trying to convey a positive message, but in real life people don't always eradicate their prejudices over time. And nothing you do will change their mind. Fortunately not everyone is like this but to deny it's existence in this narrative feels unrealistic.
