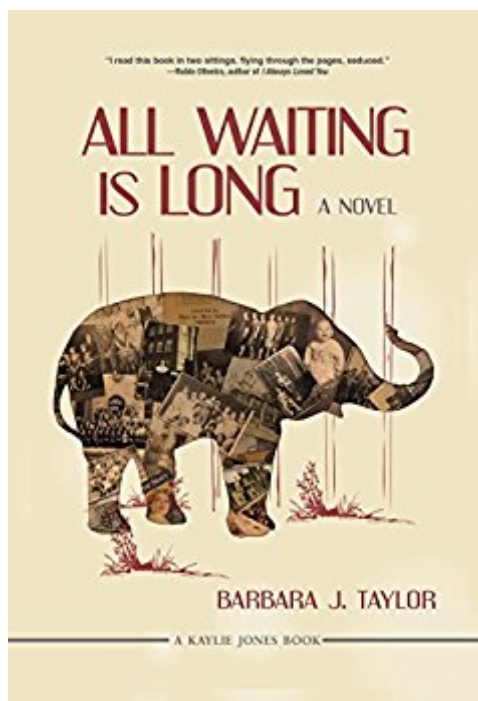


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All Waiting Is Long



Synopsis

"Powerful...Every page is saturated with the 1930s milieu as the sisters navigate the adversities of their reality on a sea rough with the unrealistic expectations of well-intended idealists both religious and secular. As if to highlight those expectations, Taylor periodically interrupts her third-person narrative with Greek chorus-type commentary from the Scranton-based Isabelle Lumley Bible Class, including excerpts from a 1929 sex manual for women. The overall result is a thought-provoking book club discussion cornucopia."--Booklist, Starred review"Set in the 1930s, Taylor's suspenseful and intricate follow-up to *Sing in the Morning, Cry at Night* tells the story of sisters Violet and Lily Morgan...Taylor delivers startling plot twists and incisive commentary on the social unrest of a coal-mining town during the Great Depression. Covering a six-year span, the novel reveals the consequences of arduous labor and widespread sterilizations that came with the eugenics movement. Among the prostitutes, mobsters, and miners is a web of interconnected lives that come together for a breathtaking ending in Taylor's fine sequel."--Publishers Weekly"Barbara J. Taylor has created another suspenseful page-turner . . . revealing shocking details of enlightened thinking in the 1930s against the backdrop of political corruption, unions, rampant prostitution, coal mine strikes, and judgmental Christians. But it's Taylor's finely honed characters and plot twists that make *All Waiting Is Long* an unforgettable novel."-- BookMark on WPSU"In this richly populated community, old ties are either torn or tightened, and the characters left behind when the sisters went off are nicely fleshed out...Ms. Taylor writes with total mastery of her craft. Her similes and metaphors are born of a highly developed abstractive sensitivity, and her dialogues are unerringly true to their respective speakers."--BookPleasuresThe latest novel in Akashic's Kaylie Jones Books imprint.*All Waiting Is Long* tells the stories of the Morgan sisters, a study in contrasts. In 1930, twenty-five-year-old Violet travels with her sixteen-year-old sister Lily from Scranton, Pennsylvania, to the Good Shepherd Infant Asylum in Philadelphia, so Lily can deliver her illegitimate child in secret. In doing so, Violet jeopardizes her engagement to her longtime sweetheart, Stanley Adamski. Meanwhile, Mother Mary Joseph, who runs the Good Shepherd, has no idea the asylum's physician, Dr. Peters, is involved in eugenics and experimenting on the girls with various sterilization techniques.Five years later, Lily and Violet are back home in Scranton, one married, one about to be, each finding her own way in a place where a woman's worth is tied to her virtue. Against the backdrop of the sweeping eugenics movement and rogue coal mine strikes, the Morgan sisters must choose between duty and desire. Either way, they risk losing their marriages and each other.The novel picks up sixteen years after the close of Barbara J. Taylor's debut novel, *Sing in the Morning, Cry at Night*--a Publishers Weekly Best Summer Book of 2014--and continues

her Dickensian exploration of the Morgan sisters and other characters of Scranton in the early twentieth century.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Barbara Taylor's *All Waiting is Long* is a reminder that the good old days were not always good for everyone. Set in Scranton, Pennsylvania in 1930, the novel highlights the attitude toward fallen girls and women, the exploitation of and the hardship experienced by those working in the coalmines, and the prejudice based on religion or nationality. In spite of those themes, this story is also one of love, self-sacrifice, and the strength of family. Sixteen-year old Lily Morgan is unmarried and in the family way. Along with her older sister Violet, she travels to Philadelphia where she will await the birth of her child at the Good Shepherd Infant Asylum located in a former convent and staffed by nuns. Self-centered, Lily insists Violet tell no one about the pregnancy and birth. "I just don't want you ruining my reputation." This restriction includes not telling Stanley Adamski, a young man Violet plans to marry after he completes law school. As an eight-year old boy working in the coalmines and as the result of an industrial accident,

Stanley lost a hand. His life depicts the conditions in coalmines during the period. Unselfish, always thinking of others and because of her mother's nervous episodes, Violet had given up a scholarship to Bloomsburg Teachers College. Violet felt obliged to stay. Her self-sacrificing attitude and her subsequent actions lead to a fateful decision. As *All Waiting is Long* moves through the story toward its conclusion, the decision will have an impact on both sisters' lives and on the lives of others. The attitudes and prejudices detailed in this novel will surprise younger readers. Couples sometimes abandoned children born with physical challenges; single mothers gave birth secretly and did not keep the child.

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