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# The Dovekeepers: A Novel



## Synopsis

Alice Hoffman's bestselling, spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women in Masada in 70 A.D. will be a four-hour miniseries airing on CBS and produced by Roma Downey and Mark Burnett, the married team behind the History Channel's Emmy Award-winning *The Bible* and Fox's feature film *Son of God*. Nearly 2,000 years ago, nine hundred Jews held out for months against armies of Romans on Masada, a mountain in the Judean desert. According to the ancient historian Josephus, two women and five children survived. Based on this tragic and iconic event, Hoffman's novel is a spellbinding tale of four extraordinarily bold, resourceful, and sensuous women, each of whom has come to Masada by a different path. The lives of these four complex and fiercely independent women intersect in the desperate days of the siege. All are dovekeepers, and all are also keeping secrets about who they are, where they come from, who fathered them, and whom they love. *The Dovekeepers* is Alice Hoffman's masterpiece.

## Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 592 pages

Publisher: Pocket Books; Media Tie-In edition (March 17, 2015)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1501103717

ISBN-13: 978-1501103711

Product Dimensions: 4.1 x 1.3 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.1 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

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## Customer Reviews

"Dovekeepers" is the first book I've read of Alice Hoffman's. In fact, one evening my wife looked at the book while I was reading in bed and said: "You're reading Alice Hoffman? I've read Alice Hoffman. But you don't read Alice Hoffman!" And so I DID read Alice Hoffman and I liked Alice Hoffman. This is a very good book. It's real deep and very weighty. "Dovekeepers" orbits around the real life events of the early 70s A.D. in ancient Judea. Rome was large and in charge and in the

midst of shattering a Judean rebellion (seen commemorated in the famous Arch of Titus in the Roman Forum only a few hundred yards from the Colosseum in Italy). Several hundred Jews fled Jerusalem to the desert near the Dead Sea and moved into the former mountain fortress of King Herod at Masada. While the proud Jewish rebels held off a Roman legion for several years, Rome ultimately prevailed and all but two women and five children killed themselves rather than allow themselves to be overrun. Hoffman's novel follows the lives of four women who all find themselves on Masada. Each woman has a dedicated 100-150 pages that weave in and out of each other's stories with the collective whole building a comprehensive picture of their mutual plight. The stories connect the women together in ways that are obvious and follow the primary arc of the novel, but also in ways that are surprising and poignantly fulfilling. The connections build and develop on many levels: physically, emotionally, and symbolically. The book is full of characters who are broken and hurt; affected by some deep trauma catalyzed by the Roman attacks on Jerusalem; driving each, by their own will or otherwise, to the fortress in the desert.

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