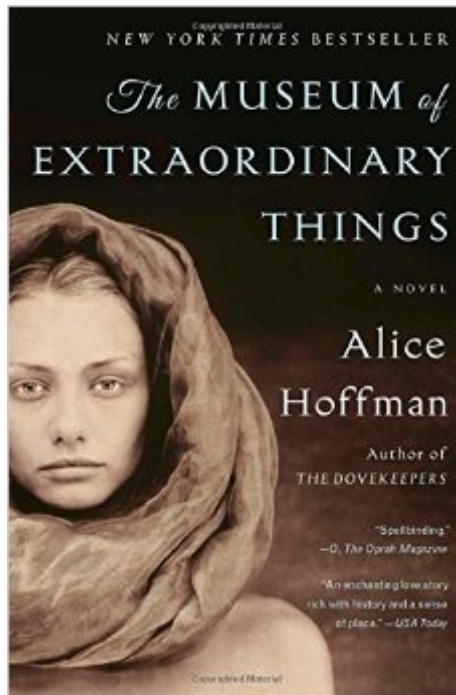


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The Museum Of Extraordinary Things: A Novel



Synopsis

The *spellbinding* (People, 4 stars), > bestseller from the author of *>*: an extraordinary novel about an electric and impassioned love affair "an enchanting love story rich with history and a sense of place" (>). Coralie Sardie is the daughter of the sinister impresario behind The Museum of Extraordinary Things, a Coney Island freak show that thrills the masses. An exceptional swimmer, Coralie appears as the Mermaid in her father's museum, alongside performers like the Wolfman and the Butterfly Girl. One night Coralie stumbles upon a striking young man taking pictures of moonlit trees in the woods off the Hudson River. The dashing photographer is Eddie Cohen, a Russian immigrant who has run away from his community and his job as a tailor's apprentice. When Eddie photographs the infamous Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire, he becomes embroiled in the mystery behind a young woman's disappearance. And he ignites the heart of Coralie. Alice Hoffman weaves her trademark magic, romance, and masterful storytelling to unite Coralie and Eddie in a tender and moving story of young love in tumultuous times. The Museum of Extraordinary Things is, "a lavish tale about strange yet sympathetic people" (The New York Times Book Review).

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The nitty-gritty: A magical history of Brooklyn, filled with mysteries and monsters, written in Alice Hoffman's incomparable style. Alice Hoffman used to be one of my favorite authors before I started blogging. I've read many of her books (although not all "she's written over thirty!), but as book bloggers know, once you start accepting books for review, many of your favorite

authors fall by the wayside. But when this one came up on Edelweiss, I knew it was time to make time for Hoffman again. And I'm so glad I did. Reading *The Museum of Extraordinary Things* was like a balm on my soul. Hoffman's familiar writing style is so comforting, and even though this book lacked the magic realism that she's known for, I found myself loving every word. The story takes place in Brooklyn, New York in the year 1911, but flashes back to the early lives of the two main characters, as we get to know more about their family histories. Coralie is eighteen and has been part of her father's Museum of Extraordinary Things as a sideshow attraction for nearly half her life. She is the 'human mermaid,' forced to wear a fake mermaid tale and swim in a tank of water for hours a day. At night, Coralie practices swimming in the freezing Hudson River in order to increase her lung capacity, while dreaming of an easier life that doesn't include being exploited by her strict father. Parallel to Coralie's story we meet Eddie, a refugee from the Ukraine who has become adept at taking journalistic photographs of crime scenes. When Eddie is hired by a stranger to find a missing girl named Hannah, Eddie's and Coralie's lives become linked through a series of events. As Hoffman reveals bit by bit what happened to Hannah, the paths of Eddie and Coralie slowly come together, before the mystery is solved.

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