


# My Louisiana Sky

*By Kimberly Willis Holt*

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**My Louisiana Sky** By Kimberly Willis Holt

Tiger Ann Parker wants nothing more than to get out of the rural town of Saitter, Louisiana--far away from her mentally disabled mother, her "slow" father who can't read an electric bill, and her classmates who taunt her. So when Aunt Dorie Kay asks Tiger to sp the summer with her in Baton Rouge, Tiger can't wait to go. But before she leaves, the sudden revelation of a dark family secret prompts Tiger to make a decision that will ultimately change her life.

Set in the South in the late 1950s, this coming-of-age novel explores a twelve-year-old girl's struggle to accept her grandmother's death, her mentally deficient parents, and the changing world around her. It is a novel filled with beautiful language and unforgettable characters, and the importance of family and home.

*My Louisiana Sky* is a 1998 Boston Globe - Horn Book Award Honor Book for Fiction.

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**My Louisiana Sky By Kimberly Willis Holt Bibliography**

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## Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

**Product Description**
*Your momma may have a simple mind, Tiger, but her love is simple too. It flows from her like a quick, easy river.*

Tiger Ann Parker wants nothing more than to get out of the rural town of Saitter, Louisiana—far away from her mentally disabled mother, her “slow” father, and her classmates who tease her relentlessly. When her grandmother dies, Aunt Dorie Kay asks Tiger to live with her in Baton Rouge. Tiger finally has a way out; she can’t wait to go. But she’s finding that leaving her parents and the only home she’s ever known—changing her entire life—isn’t going to be that easy.

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**Amazon Exclusive: Lisa Gardner Reviews *Still Missing***



Sixteen years ago, *My Louisiana Sky* met its first group of readers. Back then I volunteered at my daughter's school library. Those first readers were fourth-graders who gave me twenty minutes of their weekly book-searching time. The story was in manuscript form and hadn't been sent out to potential publishers or agents. As a novice writer, the sessions with those young students were exciting and important to my craft. Their questions steered me back to the page, eager to clear up any confusion. After *My Louisiana Sky* was published I continued to get feedback from readers. A few weeks after the book debuted, I received a phone call from a woman who had grown up with a mentally challenged mother. She thought my story was a memoir. After convincing her it was fiction, I hung up with the startling realization that someone I didn't know had read my book.

Soon I began receiving letters from readers. Some told me they wished a part in the plot had turned out differently. Some liked it just the way it was. Many shared how the book had affected their lives. Last month a college student at a book festival told me *My Louisiana Sky* was one of her favorite books. She said she related to the main character. It was an emotional confession because she, too, had grown up as her mother's caretaker. She's among the readers who convinced me that no matter how old a story is, it has the power to connect with our current life.

Didn't I always know this? After all, I was a lonely seventh grader when I found *The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* in my junior high library. Somehow I didn't feel so alone, knowing that Mick shared the same longing for being accepted that I did.

More than a dozen years have passed since *My Louisiana Sky* was originally published. A lot of my readers weren't even born in 1998. I'm still hearing from them. The story may be old to me, but they are finding it for the first time.

This month *My Louisiana Sky* is getting a fresh look. The transformation stops at the cover. The words and story remain the same. I won't say the same old story because this journey has taught me that opening to the first page of a book is like taking a first step on a trail winding through the woods. The trail may have been carved by countless steps made from former travelers. But discoveries await us. We view the sights believing no one else has ever caught a glimpse of them, as if we are the original travelers. And, for a while, we are. For a while, everything is new.

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From Publishers Weekly
Making an unusually auspicious debut, Holt offers a unique coming-of-age tale. The year is 1957 and the place is Saitter, La., a small town where prejudices reach far beyond skin color. Twelve-year-old Tiger Parker, exceptionally bright and also good at baseball, is shunned by the girls in her class because her mother, Corrina, and her father, Lonnie, are "different" ("Folks around here call it retarded, but I like 'slow' better"). Through Tiger's perceptive first-person narration, readers watch her grow painfully aware of her mother's limitations and become embarrassed by Corrina's childish behavior. She calms herself with the knowledge that her grandmother, who heads the household, has "enough brains for all of us." But Granny dies suddenly, and Tiger is left with an excruciating choice: Should she live with her sophisticated aunt in Baton Rouge, where she could find freedom but would break her parents' hearts, or should she forgo the opportunity and take on more responsibilities at home? While readers may not agree with Tiger's decision, they will admire her courage, loyalty and love for her parents. Holt conveys the innocence of Tiger's fun-loving mother and hardworking father without overdramatizing their intellectual deficiencies. The author presents and handles a sticky dilemma with remarkable grace. Ages 9-12.
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From School Library Journal
Grade 6-8-The summer after completing sixth grade, Tiger Parker becomes aware that her family life is different from that of most of her peers in the late '50s in Saitter, LA. Her hardworking father made it through 12 years of school only on teachers' pity; her mother, more severely retarded, never went to school at all. Because of her parents, Tiger is ostracized by the other girls. Fortunately, she still takes pleasure in excelling in the classroom and on the ball field with best buddy, Jesse Wade, and the other boys. When Jesse dramatically changes the equation by kissing her, and Tiger's grandmother, the linchpin of her family, dies in the butter-bean patch, Tiger is distraught. In a further complication, Aunt Dorie Kay arrives to offer her a new and glamorous lifestyle away from her parents in Baton Rouge, and Tiger must decide for herself what is really important to her. Holt has nicely portrayed the rhythms, relationships, and sometimes harsh realities of small-town life. The past inequality unfairly dealt blacks is touched upon, but not fully explored. The way neighbors look after one another is carefully delineated. However, the big city is depicted as a place in which one must drop all rural identity and adopt a superficial veneer to succeed. Unfortunately, readers are never shown a middle ground. Still, this is a pleasantly readable first novel with lots of authentic characters from a promising author.
*Cindy Darling Codell, Clark Middle School, Winchester, KY*

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## Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**James Kline:**

Book is usually written, printed, or illustrated for everything. You can know everything you want by a e-book. Book has a different type. As we know that book is important matter to bring us around the world. Adjacent to that you can your reading proficiency was fluently. A reserve My Louisiana Sky will make you to end up being smarter. You can feel a lot more confidence if you can know about every thing. But some of you think that will open or reading the book make you bored. It's not make you fun. Why they are often thought like that? Have you looking for best book or suited book with you?

**Brian Mejia:**

Often the book My Louisiana Sky will bring you to definitely the new experience of reading a new book. The author style to clarify the idea is very unique. If you try to find new book to read, this book very ideal to you. The book My Louisiana Sky is much recommended to you to see. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

**Frank Wimmer:**

Typically the book My Louisiana Sky has a lot associated with on it. So when you read this book you can get a lot of gain. The book was authored by the very famous author. The author makes some research prior to write this book. This book very easy to read you can find the point easily after reading this article book.

**Frank Hudson:**

Is it you who having spare time in that case spend it whole day through watching television programs or just laying on the bed? Do you need something new? This My Louisiana Sky can be the reply, oh how comes? A fresh book you know. You are so out of date, spending your free time by reading in this brand-new era is common not a nerd activity. So what these publications have than the others?

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