

Full Biography

Alice Hoffman was born in New York City on March 16, 1952, and grew up on Long Island. After graduating from high school in 1969, she attended Adelphi University, from which she received a BA, and then received a Mirrellees Fellowship to the Stanford University Creative Writing Center, which she attended in 1973 and 74, receiving an MA in creative writing. She currently lives in Boston.

Hoffman's first novel, *Property Of*, was written at the age of twenty-one, while she was studying at Stanford, and published shortly thereafter by Farrar Straus and Giroux. She credits her mentor, professor and writer Albert J. Guerard, and his wife, the writer Maclin Boccock Guerard, for helping her to publish her first short story in the magazine *Fiction*. Editor Ted Solotaroff then contacted her to ask if she had a novel, at which point she quickly began to write what was to become *Property Of*, a section of which was published in Mr. Solotaroff's magazine, *American Review*.

Since that remarkable beginning, Alice Hoffman has become one of the most distinguished novelists. She has published over thirty novels, three books of short fiction, and eight books for children and young adults. Her novel, *Here on Earth*, an Oprah's Book Club choice, was a modern reworking of some of the themes of Emily Bronte's masterpiece *Wuthering Heights*. *Practical Magic* was made into a Warner Brothers film starring Sandra Bullock and Nicole Kidman. Her novel, *At Risk*, which concerns a family dealing with AIDS, can be found on the reading lists of many universities, colleges and secondary schools. Hoffman's advance from *Local Girls*, a collection of inter-related fictions about love and loss on Long Island, was donated to help create the Hoffman Breast Center at Mt. Auburn Hospital in Cambridge, MA. Hoffman has written a number of novels for young adults, including *Aquamarine*, *Green Angel*, and *Green Witch*. In 2007 Little Brown published the teen novel *Incantation*, a story about hidden Jews during the Spanish Inquisition, which *Publishers Weekly* chose as one of the best books of the year.

Hoffman's work has been published in more than twenty translations and more than one hundred foreign editions. Her novels have received mention as notable books of the year by *The New York Times*, *Entertainment Weekly*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Library Journal*, and *People Magazine*. She has also worked as a screenwriter and is the author of the original screenplay "Independence Day," a film starring Kathleen Quinlan and Diane Wiest. Her teen novel *Aquamarine* was made into a film starring Emma Roberts. Her short fiction and non-fiction have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe Magazine*, *Kenyon Review*, *The Los Angeles Times*, *Architectural Digest*, *Harvard Review*, *Ploughshares* and other magazines.

Toni Morrison calls *The Dovekeepers* "... a major contribution to twenty-first century literature." The story of the survivors of Masada is considered by many to be Hoffman's masterpiece. *The New York Times* bestselling novel was adapted for television in a 2015 miniseries starring Rachel Brosnahan and Cote de Pablo.

Her most recent novels have received many accolades and are *New York Times* bestsellers. They include *The Museum of Extraordinary Things*, *The Marriage of Opposites*, and *Faithful*. Her novel, *The Rules of Magic*, is the prequel to her cult-classic *Practical Magic*. It was selected as a LibraryReads and IndieNext List Pick for October 2017, and was one of the Most Anticipated Books on iTunes. Reese Witherspoon picked it as her October 2017 Book Club read, remarking that the “story is full of magic, love, family, heartbreak and redemption.” Set in New York City at the cusp of the sixties, *The Rules of Magic* is a timeless story that reminds us that the only remedy for being human is to be true to yourself. *The World That We Knew*, published in 2019, is an exploration of humanity set in France during the Holocaust. Her most recent novel, *Magic Lessons*, the third book in the *Practical Magic* series was published in October 2020, and received praise from *The New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *The Boston Globe*, and was a Book of the Month Top Pick for October.