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Three Times Lucky



Synopsis

A Newbery Honor Book A hilarious Southern debut with the kind of characters you meet once in a lifetime Rising sixth grader Miss Moses LoBeau lives in the small town of Tupelo Landing, NC, where everyone's business is fair game and no secret is sacred. She washed ashore in a hurricane eleven years ago, and she's been making waves ever since. Although Mo hopes someday to find her "upstream mother," she's found a home with the Colonel--a café owner with a forgotten past of his own--and Miss Lana, the fabulous café hostess. She will protect those she loves with every bit of her strong will and tough attitude. So when a lawman comes to town asking about a murder, Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III, set out to uncover the truth in hopes of saving the only family Mo has ever known. Full of wisdom, humor, and grit, this timeless yarn will melt the heart of even the sternest Yankee. * "A wickedly awesome tale" Mo LoBeau is destined to become a standout character in children's fiction. • Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Turnage's lively novel features a distinctive voice and a community of idiosyncratic characters." • Booklist, starred review "Here is a writer who has never met a metaphor or simile she couldn't put to good use." • Publishers Weekly, starred review

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0560 (What's this?)

Paperback: 336 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 249 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #44,681 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #83 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes #340 in Books > Children's Books > Mysteries & Detectives #999 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Friendship

Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Praise for Three Times Lucky "A wickedly awesome tale" Mo LoBeau is destined to become a standout character in children's fiction. Kirkus Reviews, starred review "Turnage's lively novel features a distinctive voice and a community of idiosyncratic characters." Booklist, starred review "Here is a writer who has never met a metaphor or simile she couldn't put to good use." Publishers Weekly, starred review "Spunky and hilarious, eleven-year-old Mo LoBeau is one of my newest favorite heroines. Three Times Lucky will make everyone want to ride his or her own hurricane all the way to Tupelo Landing, just to join the fun." Ingrid Law, Newbery Honor-winning author of Savvy "A dandy mystery...Humor sweetens the mix, making Tupelo Landing a pleasant place to stay for a spell." Horn Book "Mo's deadpan colloquial narration is robust and often humorous...Mystery lovers and fans of titles like Di Camillo's Because of Winn-Dixie (BCCB 6/00) or Klise's Grounded (BCCB 1/11) will definitely want to set a spell with Mo." Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books "The heroine of Sheila Turnage's Three Times Lucky is so plucky that young readers may wish she lived next door." Wall Street Journal "An irresistible Southern narrator" "a literary descendant of Scout Finch of 'To Kill a Mockingbird.'" Top 12 Children's books of 2012, Newsday "This book will leave readers hoping for more books about Mo and her gang." School Library Journal

Sheila Turnage grew up on a farm in eastern North Carolina. A graduate of East Carolina University, she authored two nonfiction books and one picture book before she started writing about Mo LoBeau and Dale. Three Times Lucky is a Newbery Honor book, a New York Times bestseller, an Edgar Award Finalist, an E. B. White Read-Aloud Honor book, and was included on seven Best Book of the Year lists. The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing, the follow-up to Three Times Lucky, has so far garnered five starred reviews. Today Sheila lives on a farm with her husband, a smart dog, a dozen chickens, and a flock of guineas.

As the 5 star reviews state, this is a well-written and exciting story. For the sake of other parents who might give this book to their kids without reading it first, here is a warning. I found the description of the drunken Dad beating up his wife way too terrifying for the Nancy Drew crowd. She had gotten a restraining order forbidding him to come to their house but he showed up anyway. Here are some excerpts of that incident. "Shut up, Mo," he growled, keeping his eyes on Miss Rose. "You talk too much. If you were my kid I'd knock some sense into you, wouldn't I, Dale? Go ahead,

Rose, call for help." When she didn't move, he sneered, "What's the matter? Phone out?" His hand snaked out. He grabbed the front of her blouse and yanked her forward, onto her toes. "You'll what?" he growled. "Get me thrown out of my own house?" "Daddy!" Dale cried. "Let her go!" Time shifted into slow motion. Mr. Macon's hand swooped down in a clean, vicious arc, slamming Miss Rose's face, snapping her head back. She staggered sideways, her knees buckling as she crashed to the floor. I darted forward to elbow his chin, but she grabbed my arm. "Stop," she gasped. "He'll kill you. Macon, please. She's a child. Just ... just sit down. I'm sorry, I'll get you something to eat." His laugh came jagged as broken glass, and he stepped closer, fist raised. So parents, read the book yourselves (I think you will enjoy it) and decide which of your kids are old enough to read it too.

Three Times Lucky is a book of mystery, small town feelings, and adventure. Moses LoBeau is an 11-year old rambunctious girl who loves adventure. Her best friend Dale is her side-kick and they tend to find themselves in trouble often. When misfortune hits Tupelo Landing, Mo and Dale take it into their hands to solve the murder/robbery case. Mo and Dale find themselves in a more complicated mystery than they thought and must work together with the help of Detective Starr to rescue Colonel and Miss Lana from trouble. This book was a great read and I would highly recommend it to upper elementary and middle school aged children. It kept me hooked and on the edge of my seat with an easy to follow mystery plot. Sheila Turnage does a great job at introducing different family backgrounds such as adoption, abusive parents, and even parents who don't accept anything less than perfect. Each character brings their own baggage and troubles that can be relative to any reader. With the small-town feel of this book as well as the southern vocabulary, Three Times Lucky is a great humorous mystery that is a must read.

I'm a college student that chose to read this book for one of my education classes. It was a great relatable book. The main character Mo is very spunky and driven, but loves to get herself into trouble sometimes. This book is great for middle school students to keep them engaged with tons of twists and turns with great real life and fantasy issues. A lot like middle schoolers, Mo is trying to fit in with her family and her peers. I rated this book at 4 stars instead of 5 because of the unrealistic aspects, but it also had a great platform to talk about different family life issue such as adoption and abuse. If you like mysterious small town adventures, this book would be great for you to read!

Between murder, car crashes, hurricanes, and kidnappings this book will keep you on your toes the entire read. Mo's whole life is one huge mystery. Eleven years ago, Mo washed up

during a hurricane tied to a billboard as a newborn baby. She is found by the Colonel who was in a car crash the same night and lost all memories of his past life. Miss. Lana takes them both in and they all live together in their home connected to the Café that they own. Throughout the book Mo is searching for her "Upstream Mother" and sends bottles with letters hoping one day she will find her. I am a student in the College of Education and I loved this book and would recommend it to any middle grades teacher for their students. I would also recommend this book to any parents that have children reading on a middle school grade level. This book touches on a lot of diverse family situations including an alcoholic father. Although this book is full of mysteries and sadness it is also full of humor which will keep any reader engaged.

We are a group of teachers that read this book for a class. We found this book to be a slow starting book, but after chapter 4 it started to pick up. This book involves an abusive parent and abandonment and should probably be read with fifth grade and up. There is murder in his book but not gruesome at all. The lead is a female 6th grader whose best friend is a boy. They spend the entire book trying to figure out the case of the murder. The characters keep the book going with their outgoing personalities and witty humor. This book is a mystery book with an exciting twist that will keep you on your toes.

Three Times Lucky offers opportunities to talk about bullying, domestic violence, and alcohol abuse while keeping the story light and full of humor. It isn't a scary story. It is a story that may provide an avenue for talking about difficult subjects. It is appropriate for grades 4 - 7, although younger children may need to read it with an adult due to some of the subject matter. There is also a teacher's instructional unit by the same title, Three Times Lucky by Sheila Turnage, for use in classrooms and for home school parents.

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