



# Behind the Moon

*Madison Smartt Bell*

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## **Behind the Moon** Madison Smartt Bell

When Julie skips school and sets off with her best friend and some local boys for a camping trip in the desert, she finds herself the target of unwanted, drug-fueled sexual attention. Running away in fear, she takes a dangerous fall down the shaft of a vast underground cave, and it takes two days for her to be rescued. Lying unconscious in her hospital bed, Julie hovers between life and death as she travels in a seductive parallel universe inspired by remarkable cave paintings left behind by prehistoric humans.

Marko, her attacker, tries to cover his tracks, menacing those who know what happened in the desert that night. Jamal, the youngest son in a family of Iraqi refugees living in Julie's small town, is one of his prime targets. He defies Marko, keeping him away from Julie's bedside and refusing to fall prey to his threats of violence.

Meanwhile, Marissa, who gave Julie up for adoption fifteen years earlier when she became pregnant as an adolescent, is following an instinct that leads her back to the daughter she once abandoned. With the aid of Jamal and a local Native American hitman/shaman, she attempts to draw Julie back to consciousness.

**Madison Smartt Bell** is best known for his trilogy of novels about Toussaint Louverture and the Haitian Revolution, including *All Souls' Rising*, which was a finalist for the National Book Award and the PEN/Faulkner Award.

Praise for *Behind the Moon*:

"Madison Smartt Bell writes with the urgency of someone who just received a dire prognosis. And *Behind the Moon* will remind you that you are alive."--Jonathan Safran Foer, author of *Here I Am*

"Between fever dreams and stone hard reality, Madison Smartt Bell has crafted a powerful examination of what is and what might be. It is simply wonderful."--Dorothy Allison, author of *Bastard out of Carolina*

"I love these characters. I love the writing. *Behind the Moon* is a brilliant work."--Percival Everett, author of *Half an Inch of Water*

"Bell gives us this fast-paced, spiritually inspired dream-story, full of heart and hope and danger. It's adventure at its finest: a spiked drink, a desert cave, a gunshot, a mother looking for her child. Buckle in: you are headed for a terrific ride."--Deb Olin Unferth, author of *Wait Till You See Me Dance*

"*Behind The Moon* is a visceral, full body primal experience; terrifying, seductive, Madison Smart Bell at his best."--A.M. Homes

"*Behind the Moon* is a thrilling and uncannily powerful story by one of the best living American fiction writers. I couldn't put it down."--John McManus, author of *Fox Tooth Heart*

"Madison Smartt Bell is one of the great american masters. This book has a pre-religious power, read it and be inspired."--Darcey Steinke, author of *Sister Golden Hair: A Novel*

"With spare but lyrical prose, Madison Smartt Bell tells a harrowing story with propulsive drama. A haunting and hypnotic read."--Heidi W. Durrow, author of *The Girl Who Fell From the Sky*

"Mr. Bell writes like a scrimshaw's angel, as he's been doing, luckily for us, nigh four decades."--George Singleton, author of *Calloustown*

"In his latest work, Madison Smartt Bell secures his position as one of the country's most innovative, inventive and accomplished writers. From the heart-racing opening to the eye-opening end, you won't be able to put this book down."--Jessica Anya Blau, author of *The Trouble with Lexie*

"This cinematic novel is a rare combination of smart literary novel and compelling page-turner, at once menacing and sweeping, dark and transportive, eloquent and hallucinatory."--Michael Kimball, author of *Big Ray*

"Madison Smartt Bell's new novel renders the many ways in which longing can take form, with both disastrous and redemptive consequences."--Chantel Acevedo, author of *The Distant Marvels*

## Behind the Moon Details

Date : Published May 16th 2017 by City Lights Publishers

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Author : Madison Smartt Bell

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## From Reader Review Behind the Moon for online ebook

### Veronica says

This book had a strong tone and mysterious mystical undercurrent throughout. I will say that it is one of those novels that you have to read all at once or within a short period of time. I read most of it in two days and was enjoying it but then didn't get around to finishing it until weeks later and by that time I had lost all interest and was too far removed to remember all of the elusive and intangible plots. It's all feeling and mystery, and throughout you are guessing what exactly is happening but that can be fun sometimes.

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### French Giant says

What did I just read?

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### R.K. Cowles says

3 1/2 stars

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### D.S. West says

This is another of those novels I don't know I'd recommend to a reader, per se, there's never a lot of concrete resolution, and I understand that's important to people, readers. But, the writer in me loved this book. I'd never read or heard of Madison Smartt Bell, but this seems to be a seasoned novelist having fun. Having passed out of the want to impress, this is my favorite kind of novel-- weird, rich in language, utterly self-indulgent. Spiritual in a way, but not at all specific or dogmatic or preachy in the least. I think I missed a few beats, plot wise-- entirely my fault for finishing the novel over Stone IPA but, I enjoyed the read, and that's what matters, yeah?

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### Kurt Baumeister says

An early personal favorite, Bell is one of those writers who defies categorization and at times even description, his work somehow managing to track the borderland between experimental mind games and the solid characterization and description of mainstream literary fiction. A synthesis of mind and heart told in a language that matches the subtle virtuosity we've come to associate with his work, Bell's thirteenth novel, Behind the Moon, does nothing to diminish his legacy.

<http://thenervousbreakdown.com/kbaume...>

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### **Penny says**

interwoven alternate realities, as they could have happened ... and native american imagery.

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### **Madison Holt says**

DNF'd at page 201. This was boring and going absolutely nowhere. Maybe I just don't appreciate "fever dream" narratives, but it was formless and dry, like the cover suggests.

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### **Rick says**

If you read this while playing Pink Floyd's "Dark Side of the Moon," it acts as a sleep aid.

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### **Cathie says**

Story of a girl, who with a group of friends, skips school to go on a camping trip and ends up unconscious. There is a lot of subplots within, such as Indigenous folklore, visions, an estranged mother-daughter relationship.

There was actually too much going on in this tale and many times I was confused as to what the real story was. I also read a pre-released electronic copy of the book, thanks to the publisher, the author and Edelweiss, and many pages were disjointed with drawings and sometimes one or two bold lettering, different font size words, which was very distracting.

This may have been good if it had tried to tell one story line. I found it hard to get into and even harder to stay involved with it.

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### **Sarah N says**

I thought the premise of the story was interesting and I liked the quick flow of the chapters. However, I found the book confusing and had a hard time keeping up with what was happening.

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