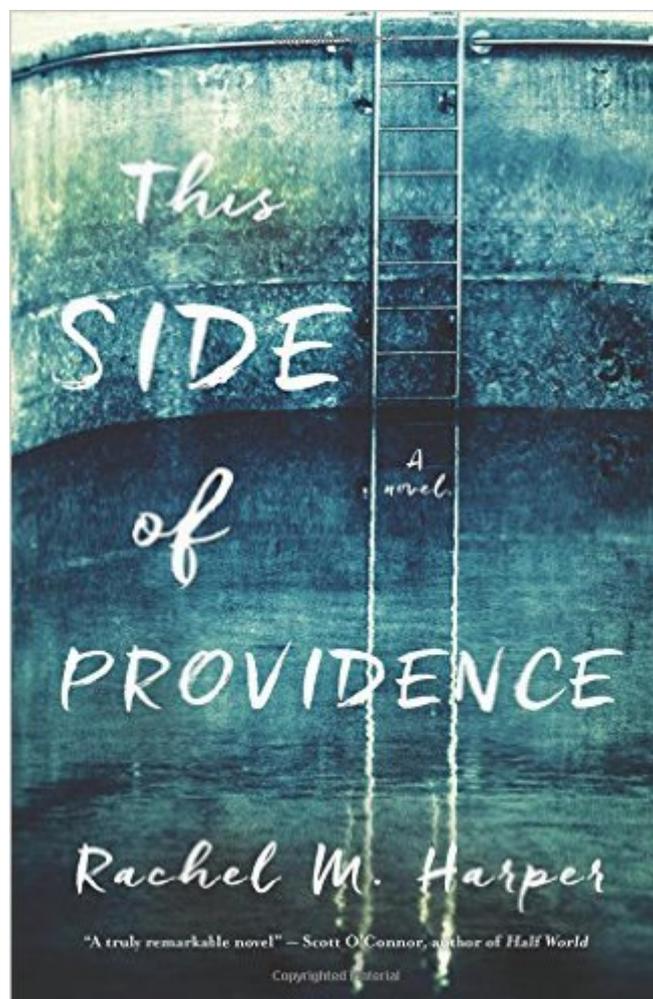


The book was found

This Side Of Providence



Synopsis

It is a book of such power that it is as if a completely new layer of the American experience has been exposed to our view...not one line is wasted and every single word rings true. •

Alice Walker, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Color Purple* Arcelia Perez fled Puerto Rico to escape a failed marriage and a history of abuse, but instead of finding her piece of the American dream, she ends up on the wrong side of Providence. With three young children, Arcelia follows a rocky path that ultimately leads to prison and an agonizing drug withdrawal. But her real challenge comes when she's released and must figure out how to stay clean and reunite the family that has unraveled in her absence. Through rotating narrators, we hear from the characters whose lives and futures are inextricably linked with Arcelia's own uncertain fate: her charming, street-savvy son, Cristo, and brilliant daughter Luz; their idealistic teacher, Miss Valenti'n, who battles her own demons; and the enigmatic Snowman, her landlord and confidante. This powerful story of hope and redemption reveals the unacknowledged side of one of our oldest American cities, where even the bleakest of realities can't destroy the bonds between parent and child. Rich in humanity, *This Side of Providence* is a novel of exceptional force and originality.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This is a Book You Do Not Want To Put Down! Getting to know this family, you really feel for them. I hoped for the best for the struggling mother, trying to do right for her kids.....for her poor children who are trapped in this whirlwind kind of life they cannot escape from. You get to know each character extremely well and the kind of details that Rachel Harper puts into her novel gives you

perfect visuals in one's mind of each characters life and the way they see their world. My heart felt for this family and the family friends that are in their lives. I could not put the book down! It was suspenseful, heartbreaking, warming, incredibly sad and made you also remember to not take the life you have for granted. I highly recommend this book. It is a wonderful read. It's the kind of book that you want to see what happens to this family next, but when you start to get to the end of the book, you want to slow down because you don't want the story to end. Give it a look and also check out Rachel Harper's first novel, Brass Ankle Blues.....another fabulous, well written novel.

Rachel Harper gives a remarkable account of life in the troubled neighborhoods of South Providence. She takes you into the lives of unforgettable characters...some with affection, some not! Ms. Harper writes with complexity, far beyond her years, in this moving piece.

This book is well written and drew me right in. I liked learning about the characters. The story was good. It is an easy read, but I learned so much and it changed my perspective on somethings. I had a hard time putting it down, but when I did, it was easy to come back to.

I received this book as part of the Library Thing Early Reviewer's program. This was for sure one of the "I can't put it down" variety. Right off the bat I was hooked by the author's ability to make the characters feel so real. The story is written from the viewpoint of a number of different people....Arcelia the drug addicted mom, Cristo her 5th grade son and Luz one of her younger daughters, Snowman drug dealer/landlord, Teacher who was Cristo's 4th grade teacher, Lucho who was Arcelia's lesbian partner and friend. As Arcelia worked her way through a short prison stay, detox and recovery there were many twists and turns for all involved. I had to constantly remind myself that Cristo was so young since he ended up having to take the role of caretaker for his sisters as well as his mom. I was trying to explain to a friend, the uncanny way this author had of making the characters so real and multi-faceted. Just when I thought Snowman was a low down drug dealing jerk, he took Cristo under his wing, helped Arcelia out when she got out of prison. I saw real transformation in his character. The Teacher is the sort of person we all want to be teaching and guiding our children. As she dealt with the ever changing circumstances involving Cristo and Luz, she was also coming to terms with her own addiction to food. All I can say about the ending is that I sort of saw it coming but kept hoping it wouldn't happen. There were many moments through out the book that made me gasp, that made me cheer, that made me cry. All in all a very impressive work and I look forward to more books by Rachel M. Harper.

Rachel Harper's *This Side of Providence* redefines the bueno, the malo and the verdad of what it is to be family while relating the story of a modern immigrant and her first generation of children in a style William Faulkner would admire.

There were passages where I gasped out loud because of the beauty of its writing and the honesty of its story. Its characters, so human, flawed and real, come together in a beautifully woven arc. Harper's fiction gives voice to stories and characters that are too often overlooked in our society. It is a book that I won't soon forget.

I could not put this book down! I found that I wanted to read it instead of doing the things I was supposed to be doing. The characters were compelling! I loved hearing the story through the different voices and found them all to be believable and relatable. I just loved so many of the lines in this book. This story is definitely going to stay with me. Thank you, Rachel Harper, for writing such a powerful, important story.

Rachel M. Harper is unbelievably talented. She really pulls you in and makes it difficult to put the book down. I've also found that I forget I'm reading because the emotion each character expresses is palpable. Beautifully written.

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