



[When the Moon Was Ours](#) by Anna-Marie McLemore

Wednesday Books, an imprint of St. Martin's Publishing Group, 2018

ISBN: 9781250160102 (Paperback)

*Age Range: 12-18 (Suggested by Publisher)

Grade Range: (Recommended by *School Library Journal*)

BOOK SYNOPSIS

From the author of *The Weight of Feathers* comes a young adult novel about a girl hiding the truth, a boy with secrets from his past, and four sisters who could ruin them both.

To everyone who knows them, best friends Miel and Sam are as strange as they are inseparable. Roses grow out of Miel's wrist, and rumors say that she spilled out of a water tower when she was five. Sam is known for the moons he paints and hangs in the trees and for how little anyone knows about his life before he and his mother moved to town. But as odd as everyone considers Miel and Sam, even they stay away from the Bonner girls, four beautiful sisters rumored to be witches. Now they want the roses that grow from Miel's skin, convinced that their scent can make anyone fall in love. And they're willing to use every secret Miel has fought to protect to make sure she gives them up.

REVIEWS AND PRAISE

★ "With luminous prose infused with Latino folklore and magical realism, this mixes fairy-tale ingredients with the elegance of a love story, with all of it rooted in a deeply real sense of humanity. Lovely, necessary, and true."

—[Booklist](#), starred review

★ "McLemore mesmerizes once again with a lush narrative set at the thresholds of identity, family, and devotion... Readers will be ensnared in this ethereal narrative long before they even realize the net has been cast."

—[Kirkus Reviews](#), starred review

★ "Readers who stick with this novel will be rewarded with a love story that is as endearingly old-fashioned as it is modern and as fantastical as it is real." —[School Library Journal](#), starred review

"It is a story of secrets, and of speaking them, and the power of saying—and living—your truth, without fear."

—[Lambda Literary](#)

"McElmore blends magical elements with a culturally vibrant cast to create a haunting modern fairy tale...Lush, reverential language remains a hallmark of McElmore's work... Readers interested in gender identity and the pull of family and history will find this to be an engrossing exploration of these and other powerful themes."

—[Publishers Weekly](#)

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"McLemore's lush writing gives way to a necessary tale of love and truth that spans across gender, sexuality, and even ethnicity—all with just a hint of magic." —Nivea Serrao for Entertainment Weekly

"You've never read a book quite like this one...The story is lush, sexy, and ethereal, making you feel like you've been enraptured by some old fairy tale that, strangely, feels completely modern at the same time." —Bustle

"One of the most delightfully unusual YA fantasy novels of the past year. There's dark magic, deep friendship, and queer romance bound together by a lovely, well-written narrative." —Tor.com

"McLemore dances deftly across genres, uniquely weaving glistening strands of culture, myth, dream, mystery, love, and gender identity to create a tale that resonated to my core. It's that rare kind of book that you want to read slowly, deliciously, savoring every exquisite sentence. I adored this book." —Laura Resau, Américas Award winning author of *Red Glass* and *The Queen of Water*

"Lushly written and surprisingly suspenseful, this magical tale is not just a love story, but a story of the secrets we keep and the lies we tell, and the courage it takes to reveal our authentic selves to each other and to the world." —Laura Ruby, Printz award winning-author of *Bone Gap*

AWARDS AND ACCOLADES

- Longlisted for the National Book Award for Young People's Literature
- A Kirkus Best Book of 2016
- A Booklist Editor's Choice
- ALA Stonewall Book Award - Honor Book
- James Tiptree, Jr. Award Winner
- A Junior Library Guild selection
- A 2017 Rainbow List Top Ten Book

MEDIA AND RESOURCES

[Interview: Anna-Marie McLemore on "When the Moon Was Ours" at the 2016 Miami Book Fair](#)

[Interview with BookPage](#)

*A NOTE ON AGE RANGES

A publisher-suggested age range covers the gamut of readers that publishers envision using the book, whether for independent reading, family sharing, group study, or in other ways. Educators have the best sense of the appropriate age range for the diverse learners they work with and understand these ranges vary depending on a book's intended use.

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