

a reliable wife robert goolrick

****A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick: Exploring Themes, Characters, and Literary Craft****

a reliable wife robert goolrick is a phrase that immediately draws attention to one of the more intriguing works by the American author Robert Goolrick. His novel, **A Reliable Wife**, stands out as a compelling exploration of human nature, love, and the complexities beneath the surface of seemingly straightforward relationships. For readers who appreciate richly drawn characters and atmospheric storytelling, this novel offers a deep dive into the intricacies of trust, loneliness, and the search for connection.

The Allure of **A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick**

Robert Goolrick's **A Reliable Wife** is not just a title—it's a thematic anchor that resonates throughout the narrative. The story revolves around the relationship between two central characters: Ralph Truitt, a wealthy yet lonely widower, and Catherine Land, a woman with a troubled past who answers Ralph's unique advertisement seeking a dependable spouse. The novel's premise invites readers into a world where appearances can be deceiving and where the search for reliability is fraught with unexpected twists.

What makes **A Reliable Wife** fascinating is how Goolrick crafts a narrative that is equal parts suspenseful, tender, and darkly humorous. The novel unfolds in the early 1900s in Wisconsin, evoking a strong sense of time and place that enhances the story's emotional depth. This historical backdrop adds texture to the characters' experiences, making their struggles with loneliness and desire feel authentic and relatable.

Themes in **A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick**

Exploring Trust and Deception

At the heart of **A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick** lies the tension between trust and deception. Both Ralph and Catherine harbor secrets, and their interactions are marked by a careful dance of concealment and revelation. This theme invites readers to consider how much we really know about the people closest to us, and how much we are willing to overlook or forgive in the name of companionship.

The novel challenges traditional notions of reliability—what does it mean to

be reliable in the context of love and marriage? Is it about honesty, loyalty, or something more complex? Through the evolving dynamic between Ralph and Catherine, Goolrick offers no easy answers but instead presents a nuanced portrayal of flawed, human connection.

Loneliness and the Desire for Companionship

Loneliness is a pervasive theme that underpins much of the novel's emotional weight. Ralph's isolation following the death of his wife is palpable, and his desire to find a "reliable wife" through an advertisement underscores the desperation and hope intertwined in his quest. Catherine's own backstory reveals her struggles with abandonment and survival, making her search for stability equally poignant.

Goolrick's treatment of loneliness goes beyond mere melancholy; it probes the ways people cope with isolation and the lengths they will go to avoid it. The novel suggests that companionship, even when imperfect, can be a powerful antidote to solitude.

The Complexity of Female Characters in Goolrick's Work

Catherine Land is far from a stereotypical character. In **A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick**, she embodies complexity and contradiction—resilient yet vulnerable, pragmatic yet yearning for something more. Goolrick's portrayal of Catherine challenges traditional gender roles, particularly in the context of early 20th-century society.

By giving Catherine depth and agency, Goolrick enriches the narrative and invites readers to empathize with her struggles and decisions. This nuanced depiction contributes to the novel's broader commentary on the roles women have historically played and how they navigate limited options.

Robert Goolrick's Writing Style and Narrative Approach

Vivid Descriptions and Atmospheric Setting

One of the notable qualities of **A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick** is the vividness of its descriptions. Goolrick's prose is richly detailed, painting a clear picture of the rural Wisconsin setting and the characters' inner worlds. The atmosphere he creates is both haunting and evocative, immersing

readers in a time and place that feels tangible.

This evocative writing enhances the novel's mood and deepens the emotional resonance of the story. Whether describing the cold, stark landscape or the intimate moments between characters, Goolrick's style is immersive and compelling.

A Blend of Romance and Suspense

While **A Reliable Wife** contains elements of romance, it is not a conventional love story. Instead, Goolrick weaves suspense and psychological complexity into the narrative, keeping readers guessing about characters' true intentions and the eventual outcome of their relationship.

This blend of genres broadens the novel's appeal and allows for a multifaceted reading experience. It's a story about love, yes, but also about survival, redemption, and the shadows lurking beneath the surface of human connections.

Why **A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick Resonates with Readers**

Emotional Depth and Relatable Characters

Readers often praise **A Reliable Wife** for its emotional depth and the authenticity of its characters. Ralph and Catherine's flaws and vulnerabilities make them relatable, and their journey is one that touches on universal themes of longing and trust.

Historical Context Adds Richness

Setting the story in the early 1900s adds an additional layer of interest. The social dynamics, gender expectations, and cultural norms of that era shape the characters' experiences and choices, providing historical insight that enriches the reading experience.

Insight into Human Nature

Ultimately, **A Reliable Wife** Robert Goolrick offers a meditation on human nature—the ways people seek connection, grapple with their pasts, and attempt to forge new beginnings. This insight makes the novel more than just a story;

it becomes a thoughtful exploration of what it means to be human.

Tips for Readers Approaching *A Reliable Wife*

For those interested in diving into *A Reliable Wife*, here are some helpful suggestions to enhance the reading experience:

- ****Pay Attention to Subtext:**** Much of the novel's tension lies beneath the surface. Notice the subtle cues in dialogue and description that reveal more about the characters' motivations.
- ****Consider the Historical Setting:**** Understanding the social context of the early 1900s can deepen appreciation for the characters' struggles and decisions.
- ****Reflect on Themes of Trust:**** As you read, think about how trust operates in your own life and how it compares to the relationships portrayed in the book.

The Legacy of Robert Goolrick's Work

Robert Goolrick has earned a reputation for writing novels that are emotionally resonant and psychologically complex. *A Reliable Wife* stands as a testament to his ability to blend literary craftsmanship with engaging storytelling. His works continue to attract readers who appreciate narratives that challenge and move them.

In exploring *A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick*, readers engage not only with a compelling story but also with a broader conversation about love, trust, and the human condition. It's a novel that lingers long after the last page is turned, inviting reflection on the reliability we seek in others—and in ourselves.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the main theme of 'A Reliable Wife' by Robert Goolrick?

The main theme of 'A Reliable Wife' revolves around loneliness, trust, and the search for companionship, highlighting the complexities of human relationships.

Who are the central characters in 'A Reliable Wife'

by Robert Goolrick?

The central characters are Ralph Truitt, a wealthy but lonely man seeking a wife, and Catherine Land, a woman with a mysterious past who responds to his advertisement.

How does Robert Goolrick develop suspense in 'A Reliable Wife'?

Goolrick builds suspense through the unfolding secrets of Catherine's past and the dynamics between her and Ralph, gradually revealing hidden motives and dark histories.

What role does setting play in 'A Reliable Wife'?

The setting, a small town in Wisconsin at the turn of the 20th century, creates a backdrop of isolation and societal expectations, influencing the characters' actions and moods.

Is 'A Reliable Wife' based on a true story?

No, 'A Reliable Wife' is a work of fiction by Robert Goolrick, although it incorporates realistic elements and historical details to enhance authenticity.

What genre does 'A Reliable Wife' belong to?

The novel is primarily classified as historical fiction with elements of psychological thriller and romance.

How is the theme of deception portrayed in 'A Reliable Wife'?

Deception is central to the plot, as Catherine conceals her true intentions and past, affecting her relationships and the story's outcome.

What critical reception did 'A Reliable Wife' receive?

The novel was generally well-received for its atmospheric storytelling, complex characters, and emotional depth, though some critics noted its dark and unsettling tone.

Are there any notable symbols in 'A Reliable Wife'?

Yes, objects like the house Ralph wants to fill symbolize isolation and the desire for connection, while letters and advertisements represent hope and deceit.

Additional Resources

A Reliable Wife by Robert Goolrick: An Analytical Review of Themes and Narrative Craft

a reliable wife robert goolrick stands out as a compelling exploration of human complexity and moral ambiguity, wrapped in the guise of a historical fiction novel. Published in 2009, this work marked a significant entry in Goolrick's literary career, showcasing his penchant for richly layered characters and atmospheric storytelling. This review delves into the novel's thematic depth, narrative structure, and its place within contemporary literary circles, while naturally incorporating related keywords such as Robert Goolrick's writing style, historical fiction nuances, and character-driven storytelling.

Exploring the Core Themes in A Reliable Wife

At its heart, *A Reliable Wife* is a study of loneliness, sacrifice, and the desperate measures individuals take to secure happiness or survival. Set against the backdrop of early 20th century Wisconsin, the novel captures the isolation of frontier life and the societal expectations imposed on women. The title itself is laden with irony, as the protagonist, Catherine Land, is far from a conventional "reliable wife" in the traditional sense.

The narrative probes into themes of deception and redemption. Catherine's journey from a disgraced socialite in Chicago to a mail-order bride in a remote town reflects the broader struggles of reinvention and the search for identity. Robert Goolrick weaves these themes seamlessly into the plot, inviting readers to question notions of morality and the roles assigned to women in a patriarchal society.

Characterization and Psychological Depth

One of the most remarkable features of *A Reliable Wife* is its intricate character development. Catherine Land is portrayed with a complexity that challenges readers' sympathies. Goolrick's writing style emphasizes psychological nuance, providing insight into her motivations and vulnerabilities without resorting to simplistic characterizations.

The male protagonist, Miles Murphy, is equally layered. As a wealthy but reclusive farmer, his desire for companionship and a "reliable" partner masks deeper emotional scars. The interplay between Catherine and Miles forms the emotional core of the novel, and their evolving relationship drives much of the narrative tension.

Narrative Structure and Stylistic Elements

Robert Goolrick's prose in *A Reliable Wife* is characterized by atmospheric description and a measured pace that mirrors the slow, often harsh realities of frontier life. His attention to period detail enriches the setting, creating a tangible sense of place that anchors the story.

The novel employs a third-person limited perspective, primarily focusing on Catherine's point of view. This approach allows readers to engage closely with her internal conflicts while maintaining an objective distance. The pacing is deliberate, which may not appeal to readers expecting rapid plot progression but serves to build suspense and deepen character exploration.

Comparisons with Similar Works in Historical Fiction

In the realm of historical fiction, *A Reliable Wife* can be compared to works like "The Painted Girls" by Cathy Marie Buchanan or "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah, where female protagonists confront societal constraints in turbulent times. However, Goolrick's novel distinguishes itself through its psychological intensity and moral ambiguity.

Unlike many historical romances or domestic dramas, this novel refrains from idealizing its characters or their circumstances. The flawed, often morally compromised individuals reflect a more realistic portrayal of human nature, aligning with the trend in contemporary literature toward darker, more introspective narratives.

Reception and Critical Perspectives

Upon its release, *A Reliable Wife* garnered a mixture of praise and critique. Critics lauded Goolrick's evocative writing and complex characters, while some noted the novel's slow pacing and bleak tone as potential drawbacks. The book's exploration of loneliness and isolation resonated with readers seeking emotionally substantive fiction.

From an SEO perspective, the keywords associated with *A Reliable Wife* by Robert Goolrick—such as "historical fiction," "psychological novel," "early 20th century literature," and "complex female protagonists"—enhance the visibility of discussions surrounding the book within literary communities and online platforms.

Pros and Cons of *A Reliable Wife*

- **Pros:** Deep psychological insight, evocative historical setting, complex character relationships, thought-provoking themes.
- **Cons:** Slow narrative pace, occasionally heavy tone, limited action-driven plot elements.

Robert Goolrick's Contribution to Contemporary Literature

A Reliable Wife solidified Robert Goolrick's reputation as a writer unafraid to delve into the darker facets of human experience. His ability to blend historical context with timeless emotional struggles situates him among notable contemporary authors who prioritize character-driven narratives.

The novel's emphasis on flawed humanity, particularly through Catherine's morally ambiguous choices, challenges readers to grapple with empathy and judgment. This approach not only enriches the reading experience but also contributes to ongoing conversations about the portrayal of women and societal expectations in literature.

As readers continue to discover and discuss *A Reliable Wife*, the novel remains a significant example of how historical fiction can transcend mere period detail to engage with universal themes of identity, redemption, and the quest for connection.

[A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick](#)

a reliable wife robert goolrick: A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick, 2009-03-31 Rural Wisconsin, 1909. In the bitter cold, Ralph Truitt, a successful businessman, stands alone on a train platform waiting for the woman who answered his newspaper advertisement for a reliable wife. But when Catherine Land steps off the train from Chicago, she's not the simple, honest woman that Ralph is expecting. She is both complex and devious, haunted by a terrible past and motivated by greed. Her plan is simple: she will win this man's devotion, and then, ever so slowly, she will poison him and leave Wisconsin a wealthy widow. What she has not counted on, though, is that Truitt — a passionate man with his own dark secrets — has plans of his own for his new wife. Isolated on a remote estate and imprisoned by relentless snow, the story of Ralph and Catherine unfolds in unimaginable ways. With echoes of *Wuthering Heights* and *Rebecca*, Robert Goolrick's intoxicating debut novel delivers a classic tale of suspenseful seduction, set in a world that seems to have gone temporarily off its axis.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: A Reliable Wife Robert Goolrick, 2018-04-03 #1 New York Times bestseller USA Today bestseller He placed a notice in a Chicago paper, an advertisement for "a reliable wife." She responded, saying that she was "a simple, honest woman." She was, of course, anything but honest, and the only simple thing about her was her single-minded determination to marry this man . . . and then kill him, slowly and carefully, leaving her a wealthy widow, able to take

care of the one she truly loved. What Catherine Land did not realize was that her enigmatic and lonely new husband had a plan of his own. Filled with unforgettable characters, and shimmering with color and atmosphere, *A Reliable Wife* is an enthralling tale of love and madness, of longing and murder.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: Adult Book Club Kit for Robert Goolrick's *A Reliable Wife*, 2012

a reliable wife robert goolrick: Heading Out to Wonderful Robert Goolrick, 2012-01-01 Charlie Beale meets Sylvan Glass, the bride of the town's richest man, and Sam Haislett, the son of owner of the butcher shop where Charlie gets a job, and soon the interaction between Charlie, Sylvan, and Sam alters the town forever.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *A Reliable Wife* Robert Goolrick, 2010-01-05 Rural Wisconsin, 1909. In the bitter cold, Ralph Truitt, a successful businessman, stands alone on a train platform waiting for the woman who answered his newspaper advertisement for a reliable wife. But when Catherine Land steps off the train from Chicago, she's not the simple, honest woman that Ralph is expecting. She is both complex and devious, haunted by a terrible past and motivated by greed. Her plan is simple: she will win this man's devotion, and then, ever so slowly, she will poison him and leave Wisconsin a wealthy widow. What she has not counted on, though, is that Truitt — a passionate man with his own dark secrets — has plans of his own for his new wife. Isolated on a remote estate and imprisoned by relentless snow, the story of Ralph and Catherine unfolds in unimaginable ways. With echoes of *Wuthering Heights* and *Rebecca*, Robert Goolrick's intoxicating debut novel delivers a classic tale of suspenseful seduction, set in a world that seems to have gone temporarily off its axis.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *A Reliable Wife Book* Robert Goolrick, 2009

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *Broadway Baby* Alan Shapiro, 2012-01-24 As a little girl growing up in Boston, Miriam Bluestein fantasized about a life lived on stage, specifically in a musical. Get married, have a family—sure, maybe she'd do those things, too, but first and foremost there was her career. As a woman, she is both tormented and consoled by those dreams in her day-to-day existence with her family, including a short-tempered husband, a cranky mother, and three demanding children, one of whom, Ethan, shows real talent for the stage. It is through Ethan that Miriam strives to realize her dreams. As she pushes him to make the most of his talent, the rest of her life gradually comes undone, with her husband becoming increasingly frustrated and her other two children—Sam, a mass of quirks and idiosyncrasies, and Julie, hostile and bitter—withdrawing into their own worlds. Still Miriam dreams, praying for that big finale, which, when it comes, is nothing that she ever could have imagined. *Broadway Baby* marks the fiction debut of a nationally acclaimed award-winning memoirist and poet, “an acute observer of moments, people, art and language [who] packs even seemingly simple stories with many layers of meaning” (Publishers Weekly, starred review).

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *The Girl who Fell from the Sky* Heidi W. Durrow, 2011-01-01 After a family tragedy orphans her, Rachel, the daughter of a Danish mother and a black G.I., moves into her grandmother's mostly black community in the 1980s, where she must swallow her grief and confront her identity as a biracial woman in a world that wants to see her as either black or white. A first novel. Reprint.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *West of Here* Jonathan Evison, 2012-01-31 At the foot of the Elwha River, the muddy outpost of Port Bonita is about to boom, fueled by a ragtag band of dizzily disparate men and women unified only in their visions of a more prosperous future. A failed accountant by the name of Ethan Thornburgh has just arrived in Port Bonita to reclaim the woman he loves and start a family. Ethan's obsession with a brighter future impels the damming of the mighty Elwha to harness its power and put Port Bonita on the map. More than a century later, his great-great grandson, a middle manager at a failing fish-packing plant, is destined to oversee the undoing of that vision, as the great Thornburgh dam is marked for demolition, having blocked the very lifeline that could have sustained the town. *West of Here* is a grand and playful odyssey, a

multilayered saga of destiny and greed, adventure and passion, that chronicles the life of one small town, turning America's history into myth, and myth into a nation's shared experience.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *The High Divide* Lin Enger, 2025-05-01 Lin Enger sets out from the conventions of the traditional Western and brings the reader into new emotional territory, that of the soul of an exquisitely drawn American family. *The High Divide* is a novel to get lost in. —James Scott, author of *The Kept In 1886*, Gretta Pope wakes up one morning to discover that her husband is gone. Ulysses Pope has left his family behind on the far edge of Minnesota's western prairie, with only the briefest of notes and no explanation for why he left or where he's heading. It doesn't take long for Gretta's young sons, Eli and Danny, to set off after him, leaving Gretta no choice but to search for the boys and their father in hopes of bringing them all home. Enger's breathtaking portrait of the vast plains landscape is matched by the rich expanse of his characters' emotional terrain, as pivotal historical events--the bloody turmoil of expansionism, the near total demise of the bison herds, and the subjugation of the Plains Indians--blend seamlessly with the intimate story of a family's sacrifice and devotion. [A] masterfully told Western reinvention of Homer's *Odyssey* . . . set against a backdrop of beauty and danger . . . In its narrative simplicity and emotional directness, it is reminiscent of John Ford's classic *The Searchers*. — Publishers Weekly, starred review Enger's novel is told in beautifully exact, liquid language that wastes no time, just as one cannot afford to waste time when making a journey such as the Pope family's. Highly recommended. — Library Journal, starred review A deeply moving, gripping novel . . . Layered with meaning, this remarkable novel deserves to be read more than once. *The High Divide* proves Enger's chops as a masterful storyteller. —Ann Weisgarber, author of *The Promise* A gripping story with well-portrayed, complex, and sympathetic main characters and a complement of believable secondary figures in a vividly described region nearing the close of an era. Enger is an author worth watching. — Booklist *The High Divide*, a novel about a family in peril, is haunting and tense but leavened by considerable warmth and humanity. Enger writes with durable grace about a man's quest for redemption and the human capacity for forgiveness. —Benjamin Percy, author of *Red Moon*

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *Exley* Brock Clarke, 2011-09-01 For young Miller Le Ray, life has become a search. A search for his dad, who may or may not have joined the army and gone to Iraq. A search for a notorious (and, unfortunately, deceased) writer, Frederick Exley, author of the "fictional memoir" *A Fan's Notes*, who may hold the key to bringing Miller's father back. But most of all, his is a search for truth. As Miller says, "Sometimes you have to tell the truth about some of the stuff you've done so that people will believe you when you tell them the truth about other stuff you haven't done." In *Exley* as in his previous bestselling novel, *An Arsonist's Guide to Writers' Homes in New England*, Brock Clarke takes his reader into a world that is both familiar and disorienting, thought-provoking and thoroughly entertaining. Told by Miller and Dr. Pahnee, both unreliable narrators, it becomes an exploration of the difference between what we believe to be real and what is in fact real.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *The Explanation for Everything* Lauren Grodstein, 2014-05-27 As she did in the bestselling novel *A Friend of the Family*, Lauren Grodstein has written another provocative morality tale, this time dissecting the permeable line between faith and doubt. College professor Andy Waite is picking up the pieces of a shattered life. Between his research in evolutionary biology and caring for his young daughters, his days are reassuringly safe, if a bit lonely. But when Melissa Potter—charismatic, unpredictable, and devout—asks him to advise her study of intelligent design, he agrees. Suddenly, the world that Andy has fought to rebuild is rocked to its foundations. "A well-crafted story of wayward souls searching for forgiveness, healing and personal truth." —Family Circle "Grodstein handles everything with a subtle wit, managing to skewer both the ultraconservative and the ultraliberal without making either seem absolutely wrong . . . Reminiscent of Carolyn Parkhurst's *Dogs of Babel*." —Booklist "Finding or losing God proves to be an equally destabilizing tectonic shift, and this novel is full of them . . . Their cumulative force will leave you happily unsteady, and moved." —The Washington Post "A master storyteller . . . Tackles the tough topics: healing after loss, the relevance and possibility of the divine in our lives, the gilded

shackles of academic life, and life in Southern New Jersey—all while always being terrifically entertaining.” —*Ben Schrank, author of *Love Is a Canoe* “Engrossing . . . You’ll likely close the book with a new perspective on faith, justice, mercy, and the difficulty of holding a moral high ground.” —Bust “A novel of ideas and a deeply felt story of love, loss, hope, and the healing powers of forgiveness . . . A provocative, moving story, and a beautifully written one.” —Dani Shapiro, author of *Devotion*

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *The Taste of Salt* Martha Southgate, 2011-09-13

Award-winning novelist Martha Southgate (who, in the words of Julia Glass, “can write fat and hot, then lush and tender, then just plain truthful and burning with heart”) now tells the story of a family pushed to its limits by addiction over the course of two generations. Josie Henderson loves the water and is fulfilled by her position as the only senior-level black scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute. In building this impressive life for herself, she has tried to shed the one thing she cannot: her family back in landlocked Cleveland. Her adored brother, Tick, was her childhood ally as they watched their drinking father push away all the love that his wife and children were trying to give him. Now Tick himself has been coming apart and demands to be heard. Weaving four voices into a beautiful tapestry, Southgate charts the lives of the Hendersons from the parents’ first charmed meeting to Josie’s realization that the ways of the human heart are more complex than anything seen under a microscope.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *Good Kings Bad Kings* Susan Nussbaum, 2013-11-12

Bellwether Award winner Susan Nussbaum’s powerful novel invites us into the lives of a group of typical teenagers—alienated, funny, yearning for autonomy—except that they live in an institution for juveniles with disabilities. This unfamiliar, isolated landscape is much the same as the world outside: friendships are forged, trust is built, love affairs are kindled, and rules are broken. But those who call it home have little or no control over their fate. *Good Kings Bad Kings* challenges our definitions of what it means to be disabled in a story told with remarkable authenticity and in voices that resound with humor and spirit.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *Writing 21st Century Fiction* Donald Maass, 2012-09-18

Capture the minds, hearts, and imaginations of 21st century readers! Whether you're a commercial storyteller or a literary novelist, whether your goal is to write a best-selling novel or captivate readers with a satisfying, beautifully written story, the key to success is the same: high-impact fiction. *Writing 21st Century Fiction* will help you write a novel for today's readers and market, filled with rich characters, compelling plots, and resonant themes. Author and literary agent Donald Maass shows you how to:

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a reliable wife robert goolrick: *Pictures of You* Caroline Leavitt, 2011-01-01 After Isabelle accidentally kills April in a highway collision, Isabella must pick up the pieces of her own life and, with the help of April's husband and son, figure out where April was running to.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *King of Poisons* John Parascandola, 2012 Murder--and chemical warfare--most foul.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *Voices of the Soul* Charles A. Dundee, 2017-10-24

Occasionally, the day-to-day monotony of life is unexpectedly interrupted by thoughts and experiences—beautiful and profound, or painful and sad. Depending on the person, these moments may be instantly forgotten or even go unrecognized. But these moments are crucial because they lift us from the mundane into the experience of the transcendent or facilitate our demise into what Hobbes called “life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish and short.” Lucidly written in both verse

and prose, *Voices of the Soul* is at once existential and simple in the revelation of the sacred. A provocatively straightforward exposé, these poems fully engage the revealing power and beauty of nature and explore what it means to be human—a complex enigma discovered in the inspired nuances of the poetic imagination. In a materialistic age of disbelief, isolation, anxiety, and spiritual yearning, the words you'll discover in this book—written with emotional urgency—moving, powerful, and beautifully transparent, will revitalize and sustain your mind, body, and soul reminding us that we are not alone—and more importantly, that we're a dynamic part of an ineffable and meaningful cosmos.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *The Dying of the Light* Robert Goolrick, 2018-07-03 From the author of the bestselling *A Reliable Wife* comes a dramatic, passionate tale of a glamorous Southern debutante who marries for money and ultimately suffers for love—a southern gothic as written by Dominick Dunne. It begins with a house and ends in ashes . . . Diana Cooke was born with the century and came of age just after World War I. The daughter of Virginia gentry, she knew early that her parents had only one asset, besides her famous beauty: their stately house, Saratoga, the largest in the commonwealth, which has hosted the crème of society and Hollywood royalty. Though they are land-rich, the Cookes do not have the means to sustain the estate. Without a wealthy husband, Diana will lose the mansion that has been the heart and soul of her family for five generations. The mysterious Captain Copperton is an outsider with no bloodline but plenty of cash. Seeing the ravishing nineteen-year-old Diana for the first time, he's determined to have her. Diana knows that marrying him would make the Cookes solvent and ensure that Saratoga will always be theirs. Yet Copperton is cruel as well as vulgar; while she admires his money, she cannot abide him. Carrying the weight of Saratoga and generations of Cookes on her shoulders, she ultimately succumbs to duty, sacrificing everything, including love. Luckily for Diana, fate intervenes. Her union with Copperton is brief and gives her a son she adores. But when her handsome, charming Ashton, now grown, returns to Saratoga with his college roommate, the real scandal and tragedy begins. Reveling in the secrets, mores, and society of twentieth-century genteel Southern life, *The Dying of the Light* is a romance, a melodrama, and a cautionary tale told with the grandeur and sweep of an epic Hollywood classic.

a reliable wife robert goolrick: *Above All Things* Tanis Rideout, 2014-02-04 A New York Times Editor's Choice 1924. George Mallory is arguably the last great British explorer, having twice tried—and failed—to conquer Mount Everest. The mountain has haunted him, but his attempts have captivated the hearts of a nation desperate to restore its former glory after World War I. Yet George has sworn to his wife, Ruth, that he will not mount a third attempt. He will remain with her and their three children instead of again challenging the unreachable peak. Then, one afternoon, Ruth reads a telegram addressed to George: "Glad to have you aboard again." And with this one sentence, the lives of the Mallorys, and the face of the nation, are irrevocably changed. A beautifully rendered story about the need for redemption and the quest for glory, *Above All Things* is a captivating blend of historical fact and imaginative fiction. It is a heartbreaking tale of obsession, sacrifice, and what we do for love and honor.

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