



## Racing the Moon

*Michelle Morgan*

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## **Racing the Moon** Michelle Morgan

Joe Riley has to be a little creative to make pocket money in his rough and tumble neighbourhood of Glebe. He's watched his dad keep ahead of the law and he's sure that he can too, gambling on billycart races and selling farm-fresh eggs from his uncle's chook farm.

But when his parents send him off to St Bartholomew's - a Catholic boarding school on the other side of the harbour - Joe's carefree existence is a thing of the past. Homesick and lonely, Joe meets the darker side of human nature and finds himself at odds with the school, especially Brother Felix.

Expelled from St Bart's, Joe is sent to a reform school on the south coast known as The Farm. Life is tough there for a boy from the city, but it's through working the land and tending the animals that Joe finds inner strength and peace, and rediscovers the thrill of true freedom.

## **Racing the Moon Details**

Date : Published February 1st 2014 by Allen and Unwin

ISBN : 9781743316351

Author : Michelle Morgan

Format : Paperback 227 pages

Genre : Historical, Realistic Fiction, Contemporary

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## From Reader Review Racing the Moon for online ebook

### **Loretta Kaval says**

difficult topic but well rounded and satisfying outcome

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### **Kishor Kumar says**

Inspired by his father's previous illegitimate profession, Joe Riley starts off earning his pocket money in a rough and tumble neighbourhood of Glebe. He gambles on Billycart races and sells farm fresh eggs from his uncle's chook farm.

His real struggle, however, starts when his family sends him off to St. Bartholomew's Catholic boarding school. He is faced with the challenge of putting through a hard time involving homesickness, loneliness and attempts at sexual abuse (yes, you heard it right).

Later, he is expelled from the boarding and sent off to a reform school on the south coast known as The Farm. Initially, the work involving working the land and tending the animals finds him in a tight spot. But as he spends more and more time there he discovers an inner strength and peace, setting him free and developed into a better person.

Overall the story is inspiring, and well-written considering the topic it targets is a difficult and sensitive one. For a first novel Michelle Morgan, the author, has done a tremendous job. I would definitely recommend the book, though, with the inclusion of the incidents about gambling, child assault and sexual abuse, it is difficult to decide what age-groups it is suitable for.

I'd be looking forward to reading the sequel of the book (which is already written according to Michelle's updates).

See the full review here: [http://bookswriters.org/book-reviews/...](http://bookswriters.org/book-reviews/)

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### **Adele Broadbent says**

Set in pre-war Sydney, Joe is sent to a farm reform school way out in the country. Being a city kid, he struggles but makes firm friendships. He works hard but can lark about with the other boys when he gets the chance. Racing the Moon is when they set off to race the rising moon up a hill one night when everyone else is asleep – then sneak back before anyone notices them missing.

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### **Susan says**

Have you ever had one of those books that, while you are reading it, you enjoy it, but when you have to put it down, you have a hard time picking it back up? This book was one of those and I can't pinpoint why. I liked it, and I wanted to know what happened, but it didn't grip me the way some stories do. I felt bad for the main character, and I was interested in his life, his experiences, etc. But I do think it's a pretty accurate depiction of what life would have been like in that time period, etc. It was a very simple story and easy to read.

Plot: The main character is sent to a boarding school where he gets in trouble for hitting a teacher. (he has a

good reason, though he never gives it) He is sent to a farm which is kind of a last chance for troubled boys and learns to love the work.

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### **Viktoriia Lastovets says**

Very nice book!!! Well written and really must-read! The story is about Australian boy grown up in Sidney during the 1930s - Depression.

My favorite quote is: "We've all got to learn to take the good with the bad." That's what Mum says, and I think she might be right."

Thank you, Michelle, for this amazing gift! I got this book as a winner of Goodreads giveaways. And I am so happy to have a chance to be a first reader.

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### **Angel says**

I won this book through a first reads contest. I thought this book was a good read and would recommend it to friends.

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### **Chantal says**

Set in the 1930s in Sydney, Australia, this is not the type of novel that I can relate to or enjoy.

Whilst there are no gratuitously graphic scenes, the main character does narrate instances of domestic violence, gambling, attempted sexual abuse and many of the types of occurrences common in boarding schools and schools for wayward boys in this era.

Difficult to set an age recommendation for this one...at least age 13+

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### **Katherine says**

Good picture of life in Depression era Sydney from the point of view of young Catholic boy with a larrikin streak. If you like The Runner you might like this.

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### **Nova says**

Joe lives in Sydney with his violent father and the rest of his family. The Depression has hit and his family is finding it tough making ends meet. Through illegal bookmaking, his parents make enough money to send him to a Catholic boarding school. This story is written from Joe's perspective and I did laugh at some of his antics and the way he views life. However there is mention of sexual abuse and though no explicit detail is given and it is dealt with sensitively, I think it's a shame it's not suitable for our library. After Joe's expulsion from the boarding school for breaking the priest's nose, (Go, Joe!) he goes to a reform school where hard

work, kindness and discipline put Joe's world (mostly) to rights.

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