

Booklist

Advanced Review – Uncorrected Proof

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★ **Man in the Blue Moon.**

Morris, Michael (Author)

Sep 2012. 400 p. Tyndale, hardcover, \$19.99. (9781414373300). Tyndale, paperback, \$13.99. (9781414368429).

It's 1918, and in the small town of Dead Lakes, Florida, Ella Wallace runs the general store and struggles to raise her three boys and hold on to the family farm, a valuable property that contains a spring said to have curative powers. Town banker Clive Gillespie has his eye on the property and, together with a local evangelist, plans to build a lucrative resort. With the farm foreclosure looming comes the sudden and unconventional arrival of drifter Lanier Stillis, a man with his own mysterious healing powers. Lanier convinces Ella that together they can save the farm by harvesting the local trees. But when Lanier's troubled past catches up with him, the farm and the Wallace family are put in unexpected, life-threatening jeopardy. Drawing on a story from his grandfather's childhood, Morris has created a magical portrait of a rural southern town on the brink of personal and global change. Richly detailed and highly visual, *Man in the Blue Moon* carries readers quickly and completely into the heart of this tight-knit rural community. It is a beautifully written and deeply memorable story of abandonment and loss and of the redemptive powers of hard work, faith, and forgiveness.

— Carol Gladstein