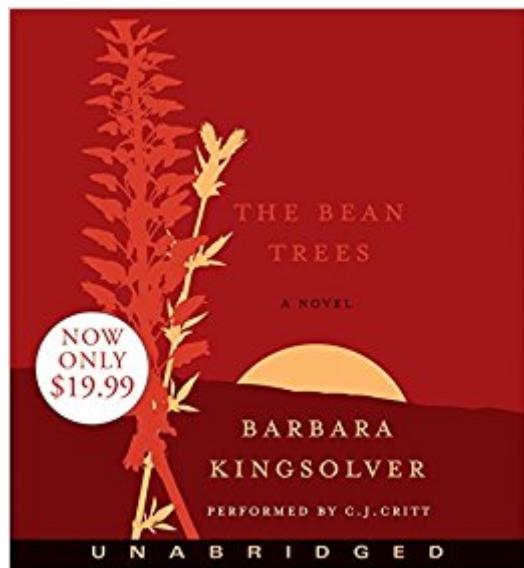


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The Bean Trees Low Price CD



Synopsis

Barbara Kingsolver's 1988 debut novel is a classic work of American fiction. Now a standard in college literature classes across the nation, and a book that appears in translation across the globe, *The Bean Trees* is not only a literary masterpiece but a popular triumph. "A narrative that readers worldwide have taken into their hearts. The Los Angeles Times calls *The Bean Trees* 'the work of a visionary.' It leaves you open-mouthed and smiling. •

Book Information

Audio CD: 8 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 1,362 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

Feisty Marietta Greer changes her name to "Taylor" when her car runs out of gas in Taylorville, Ill. By the time she reaches Oklahoma, this strong-willed young Kentucky native with a quick tongue and an open mind is catapulted into a surprising new life. Taylor leaves home in a beat-up '55 Volkswagen bug, on her way to nowhere in particular, savoring her freedom. But when a forlorn Cherokee woman drops a baby in Taylor's passenger seat and asks her to take it, she does. A first novel, *The Bean Trees* is an overwhelming delight, as random and unexpected as real life. The unmistakable voice of its irresistible heroine is whimsical, yet deeply insightful. Taylor playfully names her little foundling "Turtle," because she clings with an unrelenting, reptilian grip; at the same time, Taylor aches at the thought of the silent, staring child's past suffering. With Turtle in tow, Taylor lands in Tucson, Ariz., with two flat tires and decides to stay. The desert climate, landscape and vegetation are completely foreign to Taylor, and in learning to love Arizona, she also comes face to face with its rattlesnakes and tarantulas. Similarly, Taylor finds that motherhood, responsibility and independence are thorny, if welcome, gifts. This funny, inspiring book is a

marvelous affirmation of risk-taking, commitment and everyday miracles. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

This debut novel follows the gritty, outspoken Taylor Greer, who leaves her native Kentucky to head west. She becomes mother to an abandoned baby and, when her jalopy dies in Tucson, is forced to work in a tire garage and to room with a young, battered divorcee who also has a little girl. With sisterly counsel and personal honesty, the two face their painful lot (told in ponderous detail). The blue-collar setting, described vibrantly, often turns violent, with baby beatings, street brawls, and drug busts. Despite the hurt and rage, themes of love and nurturing emerge. A refreshingly upbeat, presentable first effort by an author whose subsequent novels will probably generate more interest than this one. Edward C. Lynskey, Documentation, Atlantic Research Corp., Alexandria, Va. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Barbara Kingsolver is an amazing writer. I have loved some of her books and been unable to read some, so I never can approach her knowing what is coming. This book along with "Pigs in Heaven" is one of my favorites. She loves and respects the characters and even the landscape becomes a living part of the story. There is a great tenderness among these people. There is a villain in the background but we are never introduced to him, only to the pain he has caused, and one damaged ex. Everyone else is just a decent human trying to make his or her way. BTW, there is an audio version of this which reminded me just how much I loved it, which is why I bought a new copy of the book.

This cleverly written, engrossing tale of Marietta/Taylor Greer's escape from her birthplace in Kentucky, and what eventually happens to her in Arizona. The story (and it's a good story) is about family, friendship and our responsibilities as people. To give an example of Kingsolver's style (of which I have long been a fan) her description of Taylor's first stop, a bar in Oklahoma: "...and the black grease on the back of the stove looked like it had been there since the Dawn of Man. The air in there was so hot and stale it felt like I had to breathe it twice to get any oxygen out of it." - p. 21 At this point Taylor is 'given' an Indian baby girl - whom she calls Turtle. And this, a description of the house she ends up sharing with Lou Ann and her baby Dwayne Rae: "The house was old and roomy, there was plenty of space for Turtle's bed in my room. It was the type of house they called a "rambling bungalow" (the term reminded me somehow of Elvis Presley movies) with wainscoting and steam radiators and about fifty coats of paint on the door frames..." - p. 191 SPOILER

ALERT! Taylor has a job, and gets to know two Guatemalan refugees who are being helped by Mattie, Taylor's boss. Now Taylor is starting to understand the sort of problems other people face, and so when she decides to try to sort out her own legal standing with Turtle, she volunteers to take Estevan and Esperanza with her. This scene where the Guatemalans are posing as Turtle's natural parents, giving Taylor permission to adopt her, was heart-wrenching: "Esperanza...held her against her chest, rocking back and forth for a very long time with her eyes squeezed shut...the rest of us watched... Here was a mother and her daughter, nothing less. A mother and child - in a world that could barely be bothered with mothers and children - who were going to be taken apart. Everybody believed it." - p. 291 How appropriate for this time!

I read this for high school and remembered this for its language and its protagonist leaving one life for another. Now, I decided to read this again, just for the sake of reading. The characters were what set me up to be interested in this story again. Taylor, sarcastic and deadpan, is the star of the book. Her narration reminds me of a high school girl and her trials and tribulations of raising a Native American girl (named Turtle) is the prime reason to read this book. The supporting characters do their job well. Lou Ann Ruiz is a divorce reconstructing her life when she meets Taylor, Mattie is the boss of a mechanics that specializes in tires that Taylor works at, and a couple later joins the cast as well (forgive me for not knowing their names, I have not gotten there yet.) The story isn't perfect, though. As much as I should know about their pasts, I felt that men got the short end of the stick, but I haven't fully read the book yet, so I might not know. Another is in later in the book. I won't spoil it, but it left me with a small taste that made me shudder. If you like books that have a spunky female lead that takes place in the past, give it a read.

This is a novel whose time has come, again. In this period of xenophobia and injustice, Taylor, and Turtle and Esteban and Mattie call us back to what it means to be human, and humane. If you've already read this book -- read it again. If you've not read it, drop what you're doing and pick it up. You won't be sorry!

As much as I read, it's hard to believe I only recently read my first Barbara Kingsolver Book. This is my second and I'll be acquiring all of her books. I'd seen her books, but somehow got the idea that she is a romance author. This book is set at an undisclosed time but could take place from the later part of the 20th century to the present. The issues are today's issues. It's also a book about courage and finding family among strangers in a land that could not be more different than the home left

behind. It's 4:13 am and I've just finished reading it for the first time.

This was my first book from Barbara Kingsolver, and I really like her style. It is always fun to read about the places I've been to, because it keeps my attention. The main character is a young woman, traveling out in the world to make it on her own, when she receives the gift of a little girl. The people, who had the girl were not good to her, so a Good Samaritan got her out of that world. This leads to an adventure, gaining more new friends, as they get to AZ. I thought I knew what was going to happen, and then she surprised me. A very good book.

While looking back at some of the kindle books I had purchased years ago, I found this book that I had read in 2014. I read it again which is unusual for me. Such a sweet story with great characters. A few typos in the reading but not enough to bother your reading. I intend to look for more books written by this author. Loved the story.

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