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BOOK RELEASE

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**The Middle of Elsewhere**

Alison Moore

“Alison Moore has uncommon insights into the lives we lead as wives and husbands and lovers, as children and parents, and the moments of grace that make us believe we are not ordinary but senselessly lucky and blessed.”

—Barbara Kingsolver, author of *Animal Dreams* and *The Poisonwood Bible*

There is no map of *The Middle of Elsewhere*. It's a territory bordered by Far Left Field and Off the Beaten Track, both in exterior and interior ways. The collection begins with a middle-aged couple venturing forth to reclaim their lost youth in the ghost town of Terlingua, far west Texas. The book continues with a woman in the Ozarks building a doll-house shrine to Elvis as a hedge against time. A woman snakehandler in the trans-Pecos faces her demons the hard way. A visionary half-breed boy in Nussa Tenggara, Indonesia, commits a sin that brings the wrath of a whale upon his village. A young woman in San Francisco accidentally kills a bicyclist from El Salvador and goes on a journey to discover him. A musician buries his brother in the Mojave Desert along with his guitar. A young chambermaid leaves a letter to the people of the future in a time capsule in Arkansas. The book comes full circle back to Texas with two children riding an Orphan Train past the point of no return.

**Alison Moore** is the author of two previous books, a collection of short stories, *SMALL SPACES BETWEEN EMERGENCIES* (Mercury House; an ALA Notable Book), and a novel, *SYNONYM FOR LOVE* (Mercury House, Penguin/Plume, QPB.) She is the recipient of the Katherine Ann Porter Prize for Fiction for the story “Miniature Graceland” included in this collection. She lives in Fayetteville, Arkansas and Terlingua, Texas, and travels with her husband performing a multimedia program with original music about the Orphan Trains.

For more information about the tour schedule: [www.alisonmoorebooks.com](http://www.alisonmoorebooks.com)

## Selected Praise for Previous Titles

*Synonym for Love*, Mercury House (novel)

“Striking imagery, passages of dense, passionate writing, and scenes of gut-wrenching emotion... A beautifully written novel that will only enhance Moore’s reputation.”

*Publisher’s Weekly* (starred review)

“A complex and unsentimental portrait of a young woman confronting the searingly painful memories that constitute her identity. ...Poignant moments abound here... A first novelist’s sure-footed affecting examination of abandonment’s scars.”

*Kirkus Reviews*

*Small Spaces between Emergencies*, Mercury House (short stories)

“Extraordinary...compelling in their ability to remind readers that it is truly the little things that make a difference. Highly recommended.”

*Library Journal* (an ALA Notable Book for 1993)

“Beautifully written...this collection movingly celebrates the capacity of the human spirit to create the fragile but necessary connections we need to survive.”

*New York Times Book Review*

Author has extensive library connections from eight years of performing a multi-media program in libraries on the Orphan Trains accompanied by live music and video. The story at the heart of this presentation is in this current collection and is accompanied by live music and video.

## The Middle of Elsewhere

Alison Moore

Phoenix International, Inc.

208 pages

5.5 x 8.5

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**Publicist: Alice Acheson, 360-378-2815, PST**

## Marketing Plan

(Public Libraries, Colleges and Universities, Conferences (historical/genealogical)

Author will perform a multi-media presentation with her husband, musician Phil Lancaster, focused around the story "Riders on the Orphan Train." (Note: This program has toured since 1998 with funding from state Humanities Councils and an extensive audience has been developed for return visits).

<b>Date</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Venue</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Aug. 22	Fayetteville, AR	Ozarks Poets & Writers	Steve Holst 479 841-2332
Sept. 12	Blytheville, AR	That Bookstore In Blytheville	Mary Gay Shipley 870 763-3333 tbib@sbcglobal.net
Sept. 13	Fayetteville, AR	Nightbird Books	Lisa Sharp 479 443-2080 lisa@nightbirdbooks.com
Sept. 15	Kansas City, MO	The Writer's Place	Will Leatham 816 753-1090 twp@writersplace.org
Sept. 16	Kansas City, MO	Public Radio Show	Jeanne C. 816-898-8976 KCPegasus@aol.com
Sept 23-24	Abilene, TX	West Texas Book Festival	Rickie Brown 325 676-6328 ricki.brown@abilenetx.com
Sept. 29	Alpine, TX	Front St. Books	Jean Hardy 432 837-3360 jhardy@fsbooks.com
Oct. 10	Las Cruces, NM	New Mexico State Univ.	Kevin McIlvoy kmcilvoy@nmsu
Oct. 8	Marfa, TX	Women's Intl. Foundation	Mona Blocker-Garcia 432 729-4826 iwf@haciendadelarcon.org
Oct. 9?	Marfa, TX	Marfa Book Co.	Gina Leiss 432 729-3906 gina@marfatx.com
Oct. 14	Terlingua, TX	Terlingua Trading Co.	Betty Moore 432 371-2240 bettymoore@historicterlingua.com
Oct. 21	Tulsa, OK	Nimrod Writer's Conference University of Tulsa	Fran Ringold 918-631-3080 francine-ringold@utulsa.edu
Oct. 27-29	Austin, TX	Texas Book Fest	Clay Smith 512 477-4055 www.texasbookfestival.org
Feb. 8-10	Atlanta, GA	AWP Conference	University of Ark. Press 479 575-3246 Tom Levoie tlavoie@uark.edu