

LoveReading Reader reviews of Carrying Albert Home by Homer Hickam

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

Angie Rhodes

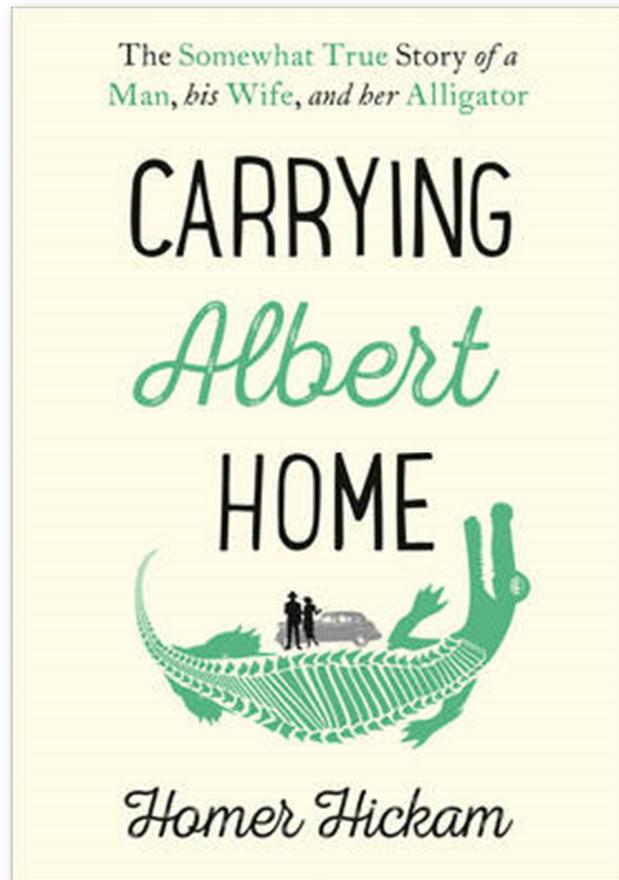
What an odd title, is the first thing that came to my mind," quickly followed by "A book about an Alligator called Albert?"

Oh how I love Albert!!

Elsie and Homer have a pet Alligator named Albert, and The Great Depression is leaving its mark, when Elsie tells Homer, that they need to take Albert home, to Florida. So begins the epic journey of over a thousand miles, one that is full of adventure, danger and John Stienbeck.

Homer will do anything for Elsie as he loves her deeply, Elsie loves Albert who follows her like a small dog, coming to the rescue when she and Homer get into trouble.

I loved reading 'Carrying Albert Home', for apart from a great book, it reminded me of all the adventure stories I devoured as a child, This is one for any age, adults, teens, heck even children will love this book!!!



Suzanne Marsh

I loved reading 'Carrying Albert Home'. The story is a blend of fact and fiction about a man and his wife and her alligator. This book has already got publishers around the world talking. Around the globe UK and the US, Spain, France, Japan, Nordic, Germany, Holland, Hungary and Italy have all loved the style and the sense of humour this quirky romantic journey that takes place.

Homer loves Elsie and Elsie loves Albert. It is a classic love triangle. Except that Albert is an alligator. Albert the cute little alligator five inches long was bought for Elsie by a friend as a wedding present. Albert mostly lives in their bathtub.

Homer tells his wife Elsie it is me or the alligator as Homer explains to his wife, while he was sitting on the toilet doing his business Albert the alligator climbed out of the bathtub and grabbed his pants. If Homer hadn't run the alligator surely would have killed him.

*Elsie is the most important person in Homer's life, but is Homer the most important person in Elsie's life? Elsie decides that she wants to take her alligator to Orlando. Homer and Elsie start a journey of thousands of miles with an alligator on the back seat. I recommend 'Carrying Albert Home' as **the story is a journey is like no other.***

www.ireadnovels.wordpress.com

Catherine Bryce

A truly brilliant and funny book that has the reader laughing throughout.

This is a really funny, cheer-you-up book which is serious as far as Homer Hickam is concerned, but his wife Elsie and her antics and desires leaves the reader laughing through sheer enjoyment.

Albert is brilliant from stopping bank robbers to liking a tummy rub and the rooster who comes and goes throughout the book just adds the icing to the top of the cake. An easily light read that can be read, left and picked up again and is one of the books that should be read this year. It fair cheers you up as it written in such a light hearted manner.

There are parts of the book which are totally made up but they follow the journey that all four are taking and truly adds a happy feel-good factor to the story.

Definitely a book not to be ignored.

Jennifer Merville

Homer is a miner, his wife Elsie has a pet - an alligator called Albert.

Homer is a gentle soul but when it reaches the point that Elsie obviously thinks more of the alligator than him then things have to change. Homer makes a decision - Elsie has to chooseHomer or Albert.

Elsie decides to take Albert back to Florida where he came from - he was originally sent to her as a baby by a friend)

And so the road trip begins. Homer buys an old bath to transport Albert and off they set.....complete with a rooster who decides to hop into the car with them and takes a liking to Homer by perching on his shoulder. Wherever they go the rooster is determined not to be left behind and becomes a constant companion

On the road trip the strange car full meet and greet lots of friendly faces but also encounter some rather hazardous situations. Homer is caught in the middle of a bank robbery, Elsie is kidnapped and Homer is caught up with a gang who find out he is a miner and want him to teach them how to use the dynamite they have acquired.

*All in all a good book - parts of it really funny, parts of it that seem to wander and get sidetracked - but overall **a book with a difference**. It was fun to find out what happened to Albert in the end and I loved the photographs at the back of the book which gave faces to names I had grown to love*

Phyllippa Smithson

A little disappointed in this story. Not because I didn't enjoy it but not sure it offered anything different to such books as the brilliant 'The 100 Year Old Man Who Climbed out the Window and Disappeared.'

Elsie wants more out of her life than being married to Homer, a coal miner committed to his work and the simple life they live in West Virginia. She yearns for the life she led when she stayed with her Uncle in Florida where the sun shone, the air was clear, and where she first fell in love with Buddy Ebsen (who went onto become a famous actor and dancer).

Trouble is Homer, loves the simplicity of their routine and wants nothing more than to expect Elsie to conform as all women in the town conform – housekeeper and child bearer. And when Elsie fights back, so Homer is vulnerable to being the butt of all jokes by his male coal miners.

Then things change when Homer agrees to drive Elsie and her Alligator, a present from Brian, back to Florida and unite the 'pet' with the comforts of the swamp land. He secures two weeks to do the round trip and so the three of them depart for a journey that introduces them to nine separate incidents (including a meeting with John Steinbeck!) that slowly but surely help them to grow to love each other in a way never imagined.

What is unique about the story is the fact it is written in the style of a biography with Homer the son writing of the journey of a life time of his parents. Otherwise, it was good but just not different enough from other (better?) similar plots.

Doreen McKeown

This is an unusual story, a combination of fact and fiction, written by the son of Homer and Elsie Hickman, and recounts the trip they made to return an alligator to his birth place. Elsie Hickman had been given a baby alligator as a wedding present, but when it became too big for them to keep in their home in Coalwood, West Virginia where Homer worked as a coal miner, he reluctantly agreed to make the long trip across the USA to Orlando, Florida to return the alligator (named Albert) to his birth place.

During this trip they had some very bizarre experiences, not all of them pleasurable, but on the way they reaffirmed their relationship, which had been in doubt, and laid the foundation for a new future.

*There are strong similarities to Forrest Gump in this story, in the way the Hickams go from one odd situation to another, meeting some very interesting people along the way - John Steinbeck and Ernest Hemingway, to name just two. **I found it highly entertaining, very amusing in parts and quite moving and poignant in others - I enjoyed it very much.***

Cathy Small

A story of Homer as he travels to return Albert his alligator to his true home whilst we see his marriage trials and the adventures of the journey.

The story takes us on the journey of Homer and Elsie taking Albert, their alligator, back home to Florida. We see them struggle with their marriage which has the hold of an ex love sitting as a ghost between them. Their journey takes them through the states to see how the depression had affected others but

this also impacts their journey many times over. They face bank robbers, poets, actors, theft, kidnapping and hurricanes to complete their journey to carry Albert home. Whilst the book starts in a strange manner it does draw you in this story of a young couple and their trials & tribulations both physically and emotionally.

Annie Day

An unconventional tale of a road trip filled with love, adventure ... and an alligator!

'Carrying Albert Home' is a heartwarming, unusual story. The main human characters, Homer and Elsie are a mismatched couple whose relationship troubles come to a head when Elsie is given the ultimatum of choosing between Albert (her alligator) and Homer (her husband). A lengthy road trip ensues as they attempt to move Albert back to his home state of Florida. Along the way they encounter bank robbers, pirates, and all manner of shady characters. Homer, Elsie and Albert also get involved in a number of adventures including shipwrecks, professional baseball games, starring in a movie and running a guest house.

This is a fun-loving and amusing tale with an emotional angle, as over the course of the journey we see a fresh start in the relationship between Homer and Elsie who develop a newfound love and respect for each other.

This is an enjoyable book which I would recommend to anyone.

Emma Smith

A journey across America with plenty of quirky characters and humorous adventures along the way.

Homer and Elsie are a quirky couple. Homer is happy with his life as a coal worker but Elsie dreams of other places. She has an alligator called Albert who she loves with all her heart, but isn't Homer's favourite at all. One day, after an unfortunate incident with Albert, Homer provides his wife with an ultimatum; it's him or Albert. And so they begin their journey across America to take Albert home to Florida.

The journey is packed full of new experiences for the couple. They meet some interesting characters along the way, from bank robbers to film stars and famous authors. The Great Depression as a backdrop is offset by plenty of

humour to make this a light hearted read.

I was quite attached to the characters by the end and admired them in their own ways. Elsie is a strong woman for the time; she's adventurous and determined. She knows exactly what she wants and isn't afraid to get stuck in. Homer is a gentle character who needs a good hug. He adores Elsie but isn't sure she cares much for him. He isn't one to take on an adventure but would do anything for his wife. A loyal and trusty character, Homer develops dramatically through the book.

<https://mrsredsreviews.wordpress.com/2015/10/08/carrying-albert-home-by-homer-hickman/#more-822>

Nicola Edwards

A charming and adorable tale of the journey of a husband, wife and alligator across America during the Great Depression.

Elsie and Homer Hickam are not the happiest of couples and live with Elsie's alligator Albert whom was a present from Elsie's past lover, Buddy. After Albert snaps at Homer's pants one day, Homer gives an ultimatum of "me or the alligator". Reluctantly, Elsie chooses Homer so they embark on a journey to Florida to take Albert home.

It is set in the time of the Great Depression, which is fascinating to learn about. Along the way they encounter many adventures which really highlights Elsie and Homer's different characters. A rooster joins them near the beginning of the journey and from the clever way it is written, it just becomes completely believable that an alligator and a rooster would be adequate travel companions.

*I dived into this book without any expectations or even reading the blurb and what a complete surprise - **I absolutely loved it!** It wouldn't have been something that I would have picked up myself, so thank you to Lovereading to introducing me to this book. I'm definitely going to seek out other novels from this author now!*

Edel Waugh

This is the story about a husband and wife called Elsie and Homer who take a trip with an Alligator to bring him home.

Elsie received Albert the Alligator from a former love of her life and they had a

great fondness for each other, which is why Albert is of such importance to Elsie. The setting of the story is in 1935 in Coalwood, a coal mining town in America. The story is made up of fiction and non-fiction and a whole host of adventures sometimes with some very well-known people. While on their journey of bringing an alligator home and it also brings a wife and husband back to each other. **The book also contains wonderful photographs of the people mentioned in the book.**

<http://www.edelwaugh.blogspot.co.uk/2015/10/carrying-albert-home-by-homer-hickam.html>

Sarah Harper

Funny and heart-warming, this memorable and wonderfully madcap adventure will bring a little bit of joy into your life.

A quirky love triangle involving an alligator, a road trip and a potentially unnecessary rooster, this is certainly a tale I was dying to discover and I was not at all disappointed. Elsie receives the wedding present of Albert the alligator from her former beau, Buddy Ebsen, but as Albert gets bigger he also grows between Elsie and her husband, Homer. A critical point is reached involving Albert's removal of Homer's trousers while he is on the toilet, and consequently Homer issues an ultimatum, 'me or that alligator'. After more deliberation than Homer is entirely comfortable with, Elsie chooses Homer and the trio set off on a journey to return Albert to his natural home 800 miles away in Orlando. What ensues is a cross-country adventure of epic proportions involving encounters with gangsters and famous authors, plane-piloting and kidnap, to name a few. The stories of their escapades were told to the author by his parents, Elsie and Homer, and although outlandish, they are hilariously funny. I'm sure that each contains a grain of truth but what proportion of them are tall tales we'll simply never know.

I loved this book so much, it far exceeded all of my expectations.

Funny and heart-warming, it provided a glimpse of the steadfast nature of true love and brought a little bit of joy into my life. A memorable and wonderfully madcap adventure which you'll certainly want to tell everyone about.

Bev Farningham

Homer loves Elsie.... Elsie loves Albert.... It's a classic love triangle except that albert is an alligator....

Elsie marries Albert and moves from Florida - and a boyfriend she pines over - to a coal mining town which she hates

Albert is given to her by said boyfriend and many years later she gives Homer an ultimatum - Albert or you.

What can he do? He loves her and agrees to drive Albert down to Florida to find him a natural home.

They encounter many adventures along the way - did them all, even when they didn't.

This will make you laugh and cry - truly original.

Lynne Morgan

This is a very unusual book and totally different from anything I've ever read before.

The story is about Elsie and Homer, and their incredible journey from the coalfields of America during the Great Depression to take Albert the alligator home to Florida. On the way they have plenty of amazing adventures and get into all sorts of trouble and scrapes. But the story is not simply about what happens during their journey, it's also about finding themselves and finding their love for each other – including the alligator!

Homer Hickam writes in such a convincing way that you instantly believe all he tells you, however impossible the tales might seem. He admits that it's a blend of fact and fiction - that his parents knew how to tell a good tale - but he never reveals which parts of the story are fact and which are fiction!

I found this book charming and compelling, both funny and sad and very cleverly written.

Suze

A fantastic book about two people who are travelling through America to carry home their alligator Albert.

Homer is a miner who's married to Elsie. She doesn't like his profession and wants a more exciting life. She used to have all that with a man called Buddy. He's the one who sent them an alligator as a wedding present. The alligator's name is Albert and Elsie's very fond of him, but Albert can't stay with them. He

needs to be taken back to Orlando as that will be a more suitable place for him to live. Carrying Albert home means going on a road trip. Homer and Elsie are travelling through America by car and they meet all sorts of interesting and unique people.

Homer and Elsie make an unusual couple. Homer is happy with his existence, but Elsie is not. They're both resourceful which is something they need as they find themselves in all kinds of situations on the road.

*It was so much fun to read about their meetings with famous and infamous people, the jobs they kept finding by accident and the chaotic messes they had to find a way out of. Of course they always had to take care of Albert and his companion, a rooster. I loved the irony of it all and read this whole book with a smile on my face. **For me this is one of the best books I've read this year.** I enjoyed this adventurous story so much that I didn't want it to end at all. I could have kept on reading and will definitely read it again.*

www.librarianlavender.com

Richard Coe

What a romp, a story about Elsie (mum) and Homer Hickam (dad), an alligator affectionately known as Albert and a stowaway rooster who does not have a name. The story is written by their son, also called Homer Hickam.

The book is all about an adventurous and dangerous car journey to take Albert home from Coalwood, West Virginia to Orlando, Florida in 1935, the 6th year of the Great Depression. It is so much more than a story about a journey, it is about love, freedom, discovery, dreams and the effect that quality time together has on Elsie and Homer.

The descriptions of Albert are just delightful; he had a thick skin of exquisite olive-coloured scales, his belly was soft and creamy, and amazingly he could smile. He was mostly definitely Elsie's "little boy" and was a wedding present from one Buddy Ebsen, a former love interest of Elsie's.

The journey is packed full of a series of escapades including a bank robbery, violent politics, the destruction of a sock mill, kidnapping, illegal liquor, baseball, flying, acting in a jungle movie and being blown away in the Florida Keys.

*You might think this all sounds a bit silly. **Give it a go, it really is a delightful and charming book that is very easy to read.***

