



Salem Falls

By Jodi Picoult

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Love can redeem a man...but secrets and lies can condemn him.

A handsome stranger comes to the sleepy New England town of Salem Falls in hopes of burying his past: Once a teacher at a girls' prep school, Jack St. Bride was destroyed when a student's crush sparked a powder keg of accusation. Now, washing dishes for Addie Peabody at the Do-Or-Diner, he slips quietly into his new routine, and Addie finds this unassuming man fitting easily inside her heart. But amid the rustic calm of Salem Falls, a quartet of teenage girls harbor dark secrets -- and they maliciously target Jack with a shattering allegation. Now, at the center of a modern-day witch hunt, Jack is forced once again to proclaim his innocence: to a town searching for answers, to a justice system where truth becomes a slippery concept written in shades of gray, and to the woman who has come to love him.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Picoult's new novel (following the acclaimed *Plain Truth*) is a story about rape and reputation, loosely based on *The Crucible*. Jack St. Bride comes to Salem Falls, N.H., after his release from prison. The former teacher and soccer coach wants to start a new life following a wrongful conviction for statutory rape. Unfortunately, Salem Falls turns out to be the wrong place to do it. He has no trouble landing a job at the local diner and winning the trust of the diner's eccentric owner, Addie, but the rest of the town is suspicious. Things get dangerous when manipulative 17-year-old Gillian Duncan, whose father owns half the town, gets interested in Jack and tries to seduce him with Wiccan love spells. Then Gillian is assaulted in the woods, and Jack is accused of the crime. As the courtroom battle unfolds, many secrets are revealed, and Picoult's characters are forced to confront the difference between who people are and who they say they are. The difference is considerable: despite the townspeople's aura of virtue, by the end of the book we're hard pressed to find any women who have never been raped or threatened, or any men who are really innocent of violence. While Picoult seems ambivalent about the power of Wiccan spells, she has no doubts about the power of sex and violence to change lives. Some of her characters, though, can be almost disturbingly forgiving. Genuinely suspenseful and at times remarkably original, this romance-mystery-morality play will gain Picoult new readers although her treatment of the aftermath of rape may also make her a few enemies. Agent, Laura Gross. 10-city author tour. (Apr. 10) Forecast: Picoult tastefully tackled touchy subject matter in *Plain Truth*, but she tips toward sensationalism here. That may gain her readers in the short run, but could undermine her reputation over time.

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From [Booklist](#)

When Jack St. Bride arrives in the small town of Salem Falls, all he wants is to escape his past. He's spent the last eight months in jail, after being falsely accused of having an affair with an underage student at the school where he taught. In Salem Falls, he gets a job as a dishwasher at a local diner and tentatively begins a romance with the diner's owner, Addie, who is still mourning the death of her young daughter, born after Addie was raped in high school by three drunk boys. As she and Jack fall in love, they both see hope for the future. But their newfound love is threatened when the residents of Salem Falls learn of Jack's conviction and begin harassing him. When, predictably, a teenage girl accuses Jack of raping her, he finds himself back in jail, fighting a serious charge and the town's prejudice. Addie wrestles with her doubts and memories of her own rape, but she believes in Jack and goes on a quest of her own to find out the truth about Jack's initial conviction, even as the Salem Falls trial opens. Unfortunately, the novel spirals down into cliché, toward an all-too-predictable ending. There are some interesting elements here (such as Addie's inability to accept the death of her daughter), but the novel doesn't rise above its formulaic plot. Still, Picoult's previous novels, including *Keeping Faith* (1999) and *The Pact* (1998), have garnered a large audience, especially in book-discussion groups. Expect her latest to generate some demand, but buy cautiously. *Kristine Huntley*

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Review

"A frothy brew of mystery, sex, and small-town secrets."

-- *People*

"Gripping.... You'll be riveted by this multilayered tale of small-town intrigue."

-- *Glamour*

"Picoult has carved her own niche with her novels -- one part romance, one part courtroom thriller, two parts social commentary.... She keep[s] the reader constantly guessing."

-- *The Dallas Morning News*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Mario Berry:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite book and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your condition; you can add your knowledge by the guide entitled Salem Falls. Try to stumble through book Salem Falls as your friend. It means that it can to become your friend when you truly feel alone and beside those of course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunated in your case. The book makes you more confidence because you can know everything by the book. So , let's make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

Brian Freeman:

What do you consider book? It is just for students since they are still students or this for all people in the world, what best subject for that? Simply you can be answered for that query above. Every person has different personality and hobby for every single other. Don't to be pressured someone or something that they don't would like do that. You must know how great along with important the book Salem Falls. All type of book can you see on many solutions. You can look for the internet resources or other social media.

Gerald Magee:

Playing with family inside a park, coming to see the coastal world or hanging out with good friends is thing that usually you might have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try point that really opposite from that. One particular activity that make you not sense tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you already been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Salem Falls, it is possible to enjoy both. It is fine combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hang-out type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout guys. What? Still don't have it, oh come on its named reading friends.

Mark Miller:

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