



# Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of A Man, His Wife, and Her Alligator

By Homer Hickam

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*Big Fish* meets *The Notebook* in this emotionally evocative story about a man, a woman, and an alligator that is a moving tribute to love, from the *New York Times* bestselling author of the award-winning memoir *Rocket Boys*—the basis of the movie *October Sky*.

Elsie Lavender and Homer Hickam (the father of the author) were high school classmates in the West Virginia coalfields, graduating just as the Great Depression began. When Homer asked for her hand, Elsie instead headed to Orlando where she sparked with a dancing actor named Buddy Ebsen (yes, that Buddy Ebsen). But when Buddy headed for New York, Elsie's dreams of a life with him were crushed and eventually she found herself back in the coalfields, married to Homer.

Unfulfilled as a miner's wife, Elsie was reminded of her carefree days with Buddy every day because of his unusual wedding gift: an alligator named Albert she raised in the only bathroom in the house. When Albert scared Homer by grabbing his pants, he gave Elsie an ultimatum: "*Me or that alligator!*" After giving it some thought, Elsie concluded there was only one thing to do: Carry Albert home.

*Carrying Albert Home* is the funny, sweet, and sometimes tragic tale of a young couple and a special alligator on a crazy 1,000-mile adventure. Told with the warmth and down-home charm that made *Rocket Boys* a beloved bestseller, Homer Hickam's rollicking tale is ultimately a testament to that strange and marvelous emotion we inadequately call love.

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

“An intentionally improbable, bizarre trip through Southern Americana that is ...an amalgam of fact and an almost Walter Mitty-esque degree of fancy, evoking (because of the deadly yet indispensable animal) *Life of Pi* and (because of the trope of life as journey) *Huckleberry Finn*.” (BookPage)

“An entertaining memoir-like fantasy adventure/family tribute/love story.” (Florida Times-Union)

“Must-read... A funny yet tragic tale of a husband and wife’s car journey across the US with Albert the alligator in tow. Yes, really.” (Marie Claire (UK))

“A lifetime of adventures – meeting John Steinbeck, witnessing industrial rebellions, joining the coast guard and experiencing a hurricane – are condensed into one epic journey. It’s utterly charming, exploring the ups and downs of love and marriage, and celebrating eccentricity.” (The Scotsman)

“Great memoirs must balance the universal and the particular...In his debut, Hickam...walks the line beautifully...No matter how jaded readers have become by the onslaught of memoirs, none will want to miss the fantastic voyage of BCMA, Auk and Coalwood.” (Publishers Weekly on *Rocket Boys*)

“Recalling a lost era, the transition between small-town life and the dawning of the new technological age, he brings his American hometown to life with vivid images, appealing characters and considerable literary magic.” (Publishers Weekly on *The Coalwood Way*)

“Homer Hickam weaves together family lore, historical accuracies, comedy and a touch of sadness... It is those blurred lines between truth, the unreliability of memories and the way stories become stretched and exaggerated over time that give this novel its charm.” (Associated Press)

“In all of its romance, humor, swashbuckling action, heartwarming affection, and tear-jerking sadness, *CARRYING ALBERT HOME*, in a word, is fantastic.” (Florida Book Review)

#### From the Back Cover

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#### About the Author

Homer Hickam (also known as Homer H. Hickam, Jr.) is the bestselling and award-winning author of many books, including the #1 *New York Times* memoir *Rocket Boys*, which was adapted into the popular film *October Sky*. A writer since grade school, he is also a Vietnam veteran, a former coal miner, a scuba instructor, an avid amateur paleontologist, and a retired engineer. He lives in Alabama and the Virgin Islands.

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Lucille Daulton:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to ready your time to do the important take action, like looking for your favorite book and reading a reserve. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of A Man, His Wife, and Her Alligator*. Try to face the book *Carrying Albert Home: The Somewhat True Story of A Man, His Wife, and Her Alligator* as your close friend. It means that it can being your friend when you experience alone and beside regarding course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunated for yourself. The book makes you much more confidence because you can know anything by the book. So , let me make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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##### Linda McGrane:

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