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Review: Three Times Lucky

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Three Times Lucky

By Sheila Turnage

Scholastic Inc., 2012

DESCRIPTION:

Eleven years past, during a hurricane, newborn Moses LoBeau washed downstream on a signboard and became the foster child of Miss Lana and the Colonel. Both child and the foster father's pasts are shrouded in mystery and it seems that another hurricane, in which Miss Lana is being held hostage by some murdering shysters, will unravel or undo the family. Mo and her best friend, Dale Earnhardt Johnson III scheme, hide, and take extreme chances to try to bring everyone safely together again. Readers will want to have volume 2, *The Ghosts of Tupelo Landing* close at hand when the last page is turned.

CRITIQUE:

At the writing of this title, Turnage was new to the children's book scene. That did not hinder her from becoming a Newbery Honor winner with this first Mo and Dale Mystery. Her sense of humor, turn of a phrase, and creation of Southern characters are all memorable. Even adults want to read her titles a second time. Showered throughout are unique metaphors and similes that are sure to bring smiles for those who enjoy the beauty of the language, yet she keeps the dialogue as down-home as one would expect from a Southern town with a population of 148. Readers meet most of the characters living in Tupelo Landing, North Carolina, and will, no doubt want to read the next in the series.

RELATED SUBJECTS:

Abuse, Adventures, Boy-girl friendships, Chores, Community, Diaries, Escapes, Father-daughter relationships, Fear, Food, Lawyers, Mystery stories, North Carolina, Peer relationships, Racing, Rescues, Restaurants

CHARACTER THEMES:

Caring, Confidence, Coping, Courage, Determination, Devotion, Diligence, Duty, Family love, Family loyalty, Greed, Hope, Humor, Kindness, Love, Manners, Neighborliness, Spunk, Trust, Trustworthiness, Work ethic

AWARDS:

100 Best Children's and YA Mysteries of the Past Decade, Alaska Battle of the Books, Beehive Book Award (UT), Blue Hen Book Award (DE), *Booklist* Editors' Choice: Books for Youth, *Booklist* Top 10 Crime Fiction for Youth, Charlie May Simon Children's Book Award, Colorado Children's Book Award, Dorothy Canfield Fisher Children's Book Award, E.B. White Read Aloud Middle Reader Award, Edgar Allan Poe Awards, Golden Sower Award (NE), Grand Canyon Reader Award (AZ), Kentucky Bluegrass Award, Keystone to Reading Book Award(PA), *Kirkus* Best Children's Book, Nene Award (HI), Newbery Medal Honor, North Carolina Children's Book Award, Notable Children's Books, NYPL 100 Titles for Reading and Sharing, Oregon Readers' Choice Award, Pennsylvania Young Readers' Choice Award, *Publishers Weekly* Best Children's Books, Quahog Book Award (ME), Read Alouds Too-Good-To-Miss, Rebecca Caudill Young Readers' Book Award, Rhode Island Children's Book Award, Sasquatch Reading Award (WA), South Carolina Children's Book Award, West Virginia Children's Book Award, Young Reader's Choice Award (Pacific

Northwest Library Association), *VOYA* Top Shelf Fiction for Middle School Readers