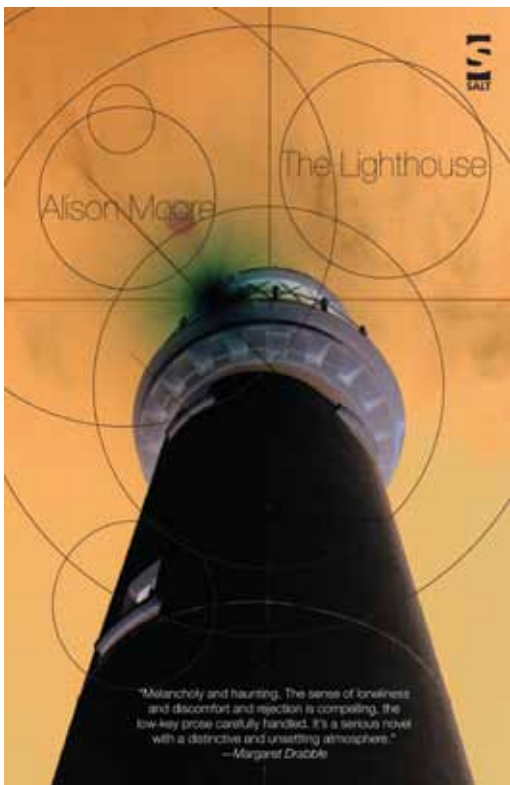




# Reader's Guide



*The Lighthouse*  
is Alison Moore's first novel

## The Lighthouse Alison Moore

Salt  
Paperback £8.99  
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## About the author

Alison Moore was born in Manchester in 1971. Her stories have been published in various magazines and anthologies including *Best British Short Stories 2011*. She has been shortlisted for the Bridport Prize and the Manchester Fiction Prize, and for the Scott Prize for her first collection. She won first prize in the novella category of The New Writer Prose and Poetry Prizes. She lives near Nottingham with her husband Dan and son Arthur.

## The Lighthouse

Futh, a middle-aged, recently separated man, stands on the outer deck of a North Sea ferry. He is heading to Germany for a restorative walking holiday, yet he cannot forget his mother's abandonment of him as a boy and his first trip to Germany with his newly single father. It was on this first trip that he neglected to do something, and this omission threatens to have devastating repercussions the second time around.

## Discussion points

The author set the novel in Germany having been there on a walking holiday. What do you think the setting brings to the story?

Would you describe Futh and Ester as 'sympathetic characters'? Is it important that a novel have sympathetic characters, or do they just need to be believable?

To what extent do you think Futh's obsession with his absent mother affects the choices he makes in his life?

Do you see Futh as being responsible for what happens to him? Is there a sense of fatalism in the novel?

## Themed reading

Günter Grass *Cat and Mouse*  
Thomas Mann *Death in Venice*  
Ian McEwan *The Comfort of Strangers*  
Muriel Spark *The Driver's Seat*

## Useful links

### Author's website

<http://www.alison-moore.com>

### Publisher's website

<http://www.saltpublishing.com>