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### A Cool Moonlight

Elizabeth Meyers

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Johnson, Angela. *A cool moonlight*. Dial Books, 2003. ISBN 0803728468. \$14.99. 133 pp.

Reviewer: Elizabeth Meyers;

Reading Level: Intermediate;

Rating: Outstanding;

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Skin--diseases--Juvenile fiction; Sisters--Juvenile fiction; Imaginary friends--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

It's not that Lila has never seen the sun—she just doesn't remember it. Soon after she was born her parents discovered she had a rare allergy to sunlight, and now she lives in a world of shadows and night. With the night, two girls about Lila's age come, Alyssa and Elizabeth, whom no one else seems able to see. They promise Lila that they'll find a way to help her feel the sun and give her a series of gifts that Lila calls her 'sun pieces.' Expecting a miracle, Lila keeps these gifts safe until the day she finally feels the sun's warmth...in a way.

Filled to the brim with tender affection, *A Cool Moonlight* manages nevertheless to avoid any saccharine sentimentality. Johnson effectively blends lyrical text with soft, evocative imagery to create a narrative that is at once sweet and subtle. The main character, Lila, is an engaging narrator, managing somehow to be both a normal child and one who is touched, faintly, by the magic of the moonlit world she inhabits. In the end, there's a kind of acceptance of her situation; she may never be able to live out in the sun, but, as Lila says, "there's nothing wrong with moon girls."