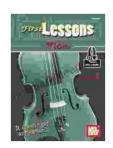
# First Lessons Viola Bishop: A Masterpiece of Literary Fiction



#### First Lessons Viola by D. V. Bishop

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5
Language : English
File size : 9168 KB
Lending : Enabled
Screen Reader : Supported
Print length : 34 pages



#### **Synopsis**

First Lessons Viola Bishop is a novel by Alice McDermott that was published in 2002. The novel tells the story of Viola Bishop, a young woman who is struggling to come to terms with the loss of her father. The novel is divided into three parts, each of which follows Viola at a different stage in her life. In the first part, Viola is a young girl who is trying to make sense of her father's death. In the second part, Viola is a young woman who is trying to find her place in the world. In the third part, Viola is a middle-aged woman who is trying to come to terms with her own mortality.

#### **Themes**

The novel explores a number of themes, including loss, grief, and the power of memory. Viola's father's death is a major turning point in her life, and she struggles to come to terms with his absence. She is also haunted by memories of her father, and these memories both comfort and torment her. The novel also explores the theme of family and relationships. Viola

has a close relationship with her mother, but she also struggles to connect with her siblings. The novel ultimately suggests that family is not always easy, but it is one of the most important things in life.

#### Characters

The characters in First Lessons Viola Bishop are complex and well-developed. Viola is a particularly well-drawn character, and readers will find themselves drawn to her as she struggles to come to terms with her grief. The other characters in the novel are also well-developed, and they each play an important role in Viola's life. The novel's supporting cast includes Viola's mother, her siblings, and her friends. Each of these characters is unique and memorable, and they all contribute to the novel's overall richness and complexity.

#### **Setting**

The novel is set in a small town in upstate New York. The town is a close-knit community, and Viola's family is well-known and respected. The novel's setting is a perfect backdrop for the story, and it helps to create a sense of place and atmosphere. The novel's vivid descriptions of the town and its people bring the setting to life, and readers will feel like they are part of the community.

#### **Style**

The novel is written in a lyrical and evocative style. McDermott's prose is beautiful and haunting, and it perfectly captures the novel's themes of loss and grief. The novel is also interspersed with poems, which add to its overall beauty and complexity. The novel's style is one of its most striking features, and it is sure to stay with readers long after they finish reading it.

#### **Critical Reception**

First Lessons Viola Bishop has received critical acclaim since its publication. The novel was shortlisted for the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 2003, and it was named one of the best books of the year by The New York Times, The Washington Post, and Time magazine. The novel has also been praised by fellow authors, including Jhumpa Lahiri and Jonathan Franzen. Lahiri has called the novel "a masterpiece of American literature," and Franzen has said that it is "one of the most beautiful and moving novels I have ever read."

First Lessons Viola Bishop is a powerful and moving novel that explores the themes of loss, grief, and the power of memory. The novel is beautifully written and features complex and well-developed characters. The novel's setting is perfectly realized, and its style is both lyrical and evocative. First Lessons Viola Bishop is a masterpiece of American literature, and it is sure to stay with readers long after they finish reading it.



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