

THE FABLED EARTH

A Novel

KIMBERLY BROCK

The perspectives of three women intersect to illuminate the life-changing power of finding your voice and discovering truth in folktale.

BOOK CLUB KIT

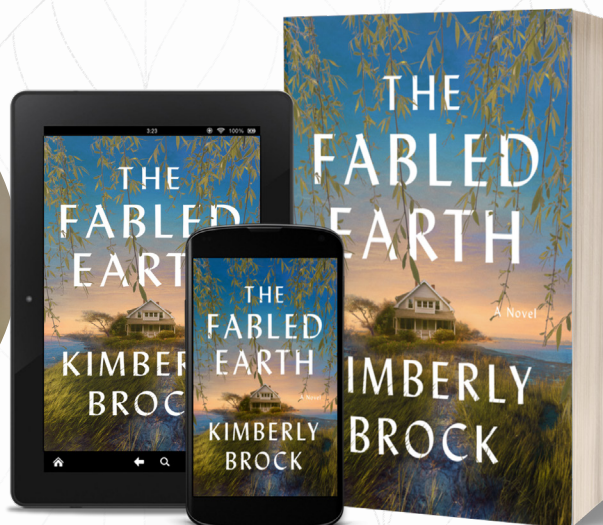
DEAR READER,

Thank you so much for choosing my third novel, *The Fabled Earth*, as your book club read. This book was inspired by a love of stories and gatherings just like this one, where sharing our love of history and place brings us together in community.

The characters in my books experience stories as a kind of magic that reminds us, we are all connected and never alone, even through the storms of life, and I hope that's what you'll experience while reading *The Fabled Earth*.

Take care of one another.

Kimberly Brock



PRAISE AND REVIEWS:



“*The Fabled Earth* is lush and vivid, with passages so beautiful they will break your heart and then turn around and mend it. The lines blur between magic and mystery, pulling you into a dreamy, immersive experience. It’s a tour de force of a novel. You can always tell a born storyteller when you read one. And Kimberly Brock is the real deal.”

—SARAH ADDISON ALLEN,
New York Times bestselling author of *Other Birds*

“Kimberly Brock’s *The Fabled Earth* is a brilliantly layered, unforgettable story of memory, myth, and found family. Off the coast of Georgia, on Cumberland Island, three separate women search for belonging in the wake of incomprehensible loss. Weaving a stunning Southern landscape, Gilded Age glamour, and the societal turmoil of the late 1950s, Brock takes readers on an epic journey that conjures the longing of forgotten youth while simultaneously reminding us of its dangers. I have never read a novel where the author’s love of storytelling shines more brightly than this one.”

—LYNDA COHEN LOIGMAN,
author of *The Matchmaker’s Gift*

“Brock delivers an evocative Southern yarn of long-held secrets. Brock’s insightful writing brings her characters to life, highlighting Cleo’s regret and Frances’s curiosity, and the pitch-perfect plotting will move readers quickly through the tale. It’s an adroit work of Southern fiction.”

— PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

PRAISE AND REVIEWS:



“*The Fabled Earth* follows three women in 1952 who are trying to escape the ghosts of their pasts. Set in dual historical timelines, the novel flashes back to 1932, where the wild beauty of Cumberland Island is juxtaposed against the encroaching opulent wealth of the families of the Gilded Age. Soon, these two worlds collide tragically with the burning of Thomas Carnegie’s Dungeness Mansion. A magical read full of secrets, the writing is lush and full of lore and mystery. *The Fabled Earth* is as gorgeous, twisty, and tangled as Cumberland Island itself. Kimberly Brock has established herself as one of the most exciting voices in Southern literature today.”

—CONSTANCE SAYERS, author of *The Ladies of the Secret Circus*

“Kimberly Brock’s *The Fabled Earth* is a compelling novel that will captivate readers who cherish richly woven tales of history, family secrets, and the mystical allure of the southern landscape. In this novel, Brock masterfully creates a narrative that is both enchanting and profoundly moving. Fans of the atmospheric storytelling found in Kristin Hannah’s *The Nightingale* will be enthralled by Brock’s ability to evoke a sense of place and time. *The Fabled Earth* is more than a historical novel; it is a deep dive into the power of legends and the strength of women who seek the truth, no matter how buried it may be. This is a must-read for anyone who enjoys the transformative power of storytelling.”

—ANGELA JACKSON BROWN, author of *Untethered*

“With lyrical prose, finely rendered characters, and a dreamlike setting, Kimberly Brock’s latest is a hauntingly beautiful tale. Brock is a master at crafting deeply moving stories combining Southern folklore, history, and legend. *The Fabled Earth* is a must-read for those of us who love to be transported to another place and time and find companionship and comfort between the pages of a book.”

—YVETTE MANESSIS CORPORON,
Senior Supervising Producer of *Extra* and internationally bestselling author

HURRICANE COCKTAIL PUNCH RECIPE



Make a pitcher of the most wonderful Hurricane Cocktail Punch to sip on during your book club meeting.

Servings: 10 cups

Ingredients:

3 cups passion fruit juice

2 cups pineapple juice

1 cup orange juice

$\frac{3}{4}$ cup grenadine

$\frac{1}{4}$ cup freshly squeezed lime juice

1½ cups light rum

1 cup dark rum

Ice, for serving

Orange slices and maraschino cherries, for garnish

Instructions:

In a large pitcher or punch bowl, stir together all ingredients except the ice. Refrigerate until ready to serve. Serve the punch chilled over ice, garnished with orange slices and maraschino cherries.

Notes:

You can cover the pitcher and store this in the fridge for up to 2 weeks. Don't add the ice until you want to serve it so it doesn't get watered down.

LEMON POUND CAKE



Adapted by Mary Martha Greene, 2021 from The Cheese Biscuit Queen Tells All.

Courtesy of University of South Carolina Press

Ingredients:

2 sticks butter
1/4 cup Crisco
3 cups sugar
1 tsp. lemon extract
6 eggs
3 1/2 cups plain flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1 cup milk



Instructions:

Cream butter, Crisco and sugar. Add eggs one at a time. Add lemon flavoring. In separate bowl, combine remaining dry ingredients. Add flour mixture to wet mixture, alternately with milk, until all is added. Bake at 300 degrees for 1 hour 30 minutes in tube pan, or 1 hour 10 minutes in 2 regular loaf pans. (Well-greased and floured or sprayed with baking spray with flour.)

Glaze:

Juice of 1 lemon
1 stick of butter – melted
Dash of salt
1/3 cup powdered sugar
Mix well and pour over cake while cake is hot.

Why not enjoy tasty
treats during your
book club meeting?

Here's the perfect
recipe to try.

THE FABLED EARTH PLAYLIST



Set the tone by playing this music playlist during your gathering.

SALTY SOUTH
ACOUSTIC VERSION
Indigo Girls

GOD MOVES ON
THE WATER
Larkin Poe

WILLIAM
FITZWILLIAM
The Decemberists

ALL I HAVE TO
DO IS DREAM
The Everly Brothers

GHOST
Indigo Girls

THE SEA OF
IRISH DREAM
Beltaine

DOOLEY'S FARM
(feat. BILLY STRINGS)
Molly Tuttle

WALKIN' AFTER
MIDNIGHT
Patsy Cline

LORELEI
The Pogues

A STRING OF PEARLS
Glenn Miller

MISS GHOST
Don Henley

THE BATTLE OF
NEW ORLEANS
Johnny Horton

WE DIDN'T START
THE FIRE
Billy Joel

I AM A PILGRIM
Roseanne Cash

SIXTEEN TONS
Tennessee Earnie Ford

GOD MOVES ON
THE WATER
Larkin Poe

LETTER TO THE
PAST
Brandi Carlile

THAT'S ALL RIGHT
Elvis Presley

SOMETHING
TELLS ME
Bailen

ON THE WATER
Steve Martin,
Steep Canyon Rangers

STORMY WEATHER
Etta James

THE CHAIN
2004 Remaster
Fleetwood Mac

SAFE & SOUND
Taylor Swift, Civil Wars

I REMEMBER
EVERYTHING
Brandi Carlile

PUFF, THE MAGIC
DRAGON
Peter Paul and Mary

SILVER SPRINGS
2004 Remaster
Fleetwood Mac

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:



These discussion questions can also be found on pages 385 – 386 of the book:

1. Great emphasis is placed on stories, myths, and legends. What is your favorite myth or legend? Is it one you read or one that was passed down to you by family? Why do you like it?
2. What did you think of Cleo using the morning glory concoction on Ellis and Joanna? Do you think she deserved her exile to Woodbine Cottage? Why or why not?
3. How would you have handled living alone for decades in Woodbine Cottage like Cleo did?
4. The book touches on many of the issues facing the United States, and particularly the South, in the first half of the twentieth century—racism, gender inequality, classism. Did any particular narrative on one of these issues affect you more than the others? Did you notice any parallels between the events in the book and events in the world today?
5. What did you think of Dr. Johnston, who did not have much dialogue in the story, yet whose presence and authority weighed heavily throughout the book?
6. Who was your favorite character, or which character had the most affecting story arc and growth, in your opinion? Why?
7. Frances believed that “stories could change people.” Do you agree or disagree with her? Why?
8. Do you think Will Tremmons will ever come back to Revery and to Audrey? Why or why not?
9. What do you envision for the future of the characters in this book?



Cumberland Island shore

This novel features a character who takes film photos of the island with a Brownie camera. Let these photos help you set the scene for the island while you discuss the book.



Dungeness Mansion Ruins



The Grand Avenue



The Greyfield Inn



The Greyfield Inn



KIMBERLY BROCK

is the bestselling author of *The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare*, which was shortlisted for the prestigious Townsend Prize for Fiction, and *The River Witch*, recipient of the Georgia Author of the Year Award.

She is the founder of Tinderbox Writers Workshop and has served as a guest lecturer for many regional and national writing workshops including at the Pat Conroy Literary Center.

Follow Kimberly, to receive updates and learn more about her books:

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and captivating hearts
through story.*

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