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| ***Member*** | ***Rating*** | ***Liked*** | ***Didn’t Like*** |
| Catherine | 2 | Good writing and the story of Masada. Strong female characters. | Too ponderous. The magic crap turned a real (fictionalized) story into a fairy tale. I made it half way through the book but just didn’t want to continue. I think the passive voice that Ginney discussed played a part as well as the flashback issue. I never did get engaged in what could have been a great read. |
| Ginney | 2 | The amount of research Hoffman did is impressive. She gave voice to historical events with her characters. The impact of the setting made the desert a character in itself. | ~~I can’t give a rating~~ because I didn’t finish it*. Maureen says I should anyway.* It was too long, and when the narrative went into passive voice the pace bogged down. |
| Jackie | 2 | The historical setting | The trip into the surreal. |
| Linda | 5 | I loved the feminist voice throughout this book and the impact of the end of matriarchy and the reign of patriarchy on women. I loved the resilience of the women and their sense of looking out for each other. Finally, I loved the that the witch of Moab lived on! It evoked the magical witchiness in me! | I found the book started very slowly, but grew on me over time. The flashbacks sometimes caught me off guard and I had to reread to get that we were in another space and time. |
| Mary | 3 |  |  |
| Maureen | 4 | I enjoyed this historical fiction focusing on 4 women in the Masada story. I liked the construction, getting the story from each of the characters. I celebrated the final triumph of the 2 surviving women who saved themselves and 5 children. | It was difficult to become fully engaged in the beginning of the book because of the suffering and brutality of the time and situation, but I also think this was necessary to build up to the ending. Sometimes the time transitions were hard to follow; I had to check whether the passage I was reading was “current” or a “flashback”. |
| Peggi |  |  |  |
| Consensus | 3 | (avg. of 6 ratings) |  |

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| Date | March 25, 2013 |
| Book | The Dovekeepers |
| Author | Alice Hoffman |
| Host | Linda |