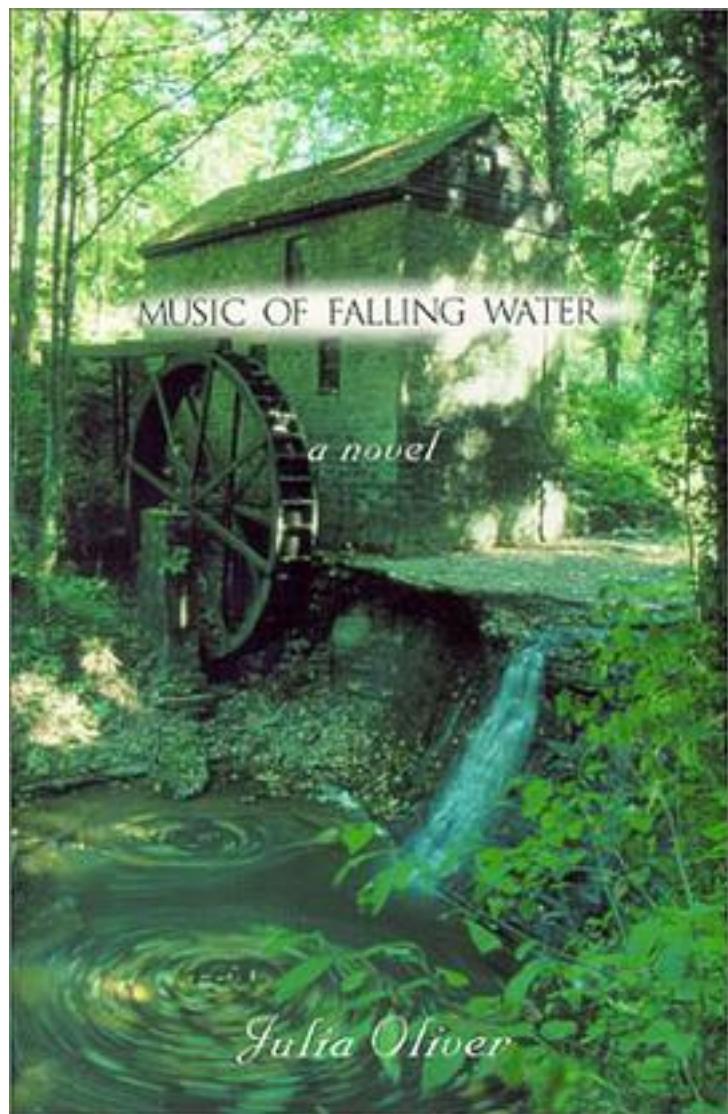


# Music of Falling Water



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The year is 1918 and the setting rural Alabama. About a decade after teenage Rhoda Holloway runs off from the family farm to seek her fortune, a young woman's remains are uncovered at the old gristmill. Just as her sisters Gertrude, Kathleen, and Lola dread, the bones turn out to be Rhoda's. In the days surrounding this discovery and Rhoda's burial, one by one, the sisters stir their memories to reveal clues to her mysterious death. Prim Gertrude, the eldest, remembers Rhoda as the red-headed dollbaby her father brought home for Christmas long ago. Kathleen, the middle sister, recalls Rhoda's flirtatious relationship with the family's farm hand, to whom Kathleen is now married. Lola, the youngest, mourns her beloved companion and babysister. All recall their mother's harshness toward Rhoda, surpassed only by their father's adoration of her. What unfolds is the story of a fiercely independent heroine who understands she doesn't belong and so plots a way out. Realizing her childless neighbors are desperate for a baby, she agrees to provide them with one -- for a price. Rhoda seduces her brother-in-law-to-be, becomes pregnant, then seeks asylum at the neighbors' servants' home until the baby is born. The bargain fulfilled and her freedom in sight, Rhoda makes one last visit home before embarking on her journey.

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