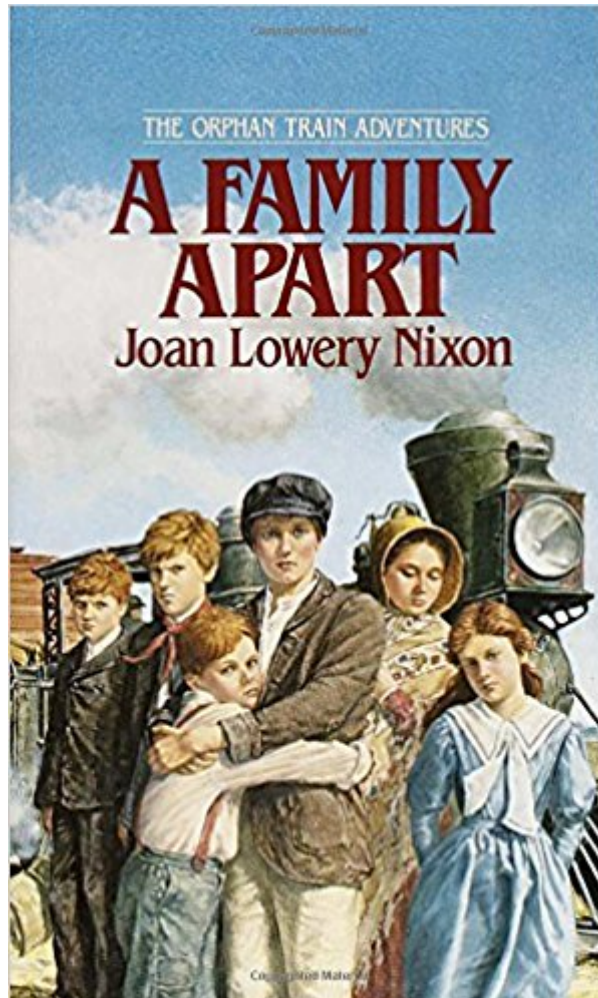




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A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures)



Synopsis

FOR LOVERS OF HISTORICAL ADVENTURE, A FAMILY APART IS THE MIDDLE-GRADE ANSWER TO CHRISTINA BAKER KLINE'S NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING ORPHAN TRAIN. Imagine being taken from your home. Imagine your mother is the one who lets it happen. This is the fate that befalls the Kelly children. It's 1856, and their widowed mother has sent them west from New York City because she's convinced that she can't give them the life they deserve. The Kellys board an orphan train and are taken to St. Joseph, Missouri, where their problems only grow worse. It was bad enough that they had to say goodbye to their mother, but now they're forced to part ways with their fellow siblings as well. Thirteen-year-old Frances won't stand for it. She's going to protect her brothers and sisters, even if it means dressing up like a boy and putting herself in danger. Will Frances be able to save her siblings? And what about her mom? Was splitting up their family really her greatest act of love? Ride the rails with Frances and her siblings to find out! "This is as close to a perfect book as you'll buy this year." —VOYA

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 820L (What's this?)

Series: Orphan Train Adventures (Book 1)

Paperback: 176 pages

Publisher: Laurel Leaf; Reprint edition (December 18, 1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440226767

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Shipping Weight: 4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars 59 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #200,567 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #96 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 19th Century #108 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes #231 in Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

This first book of the Orphan Train Quartet tells the story of Frances Mary, 13, eldest of the six Kelly children. Life in New York's grim 19th century slums consists of hardship for the poor but honest Kelly clan. When widowed Mrs. Kelly feels that she is no longer capable of providing for her children, she sends them west on the Orphan Train, to be adopted by farm families. Frances masquerades as a boy in order to be adopted with Petey, the brother she promised her mother she would protect. The practical difficulties Frances faces in maintaining this disguise are handled in an amusing and thoughtful manner. Since Frances and Petey are adopted by a couple with strong abolitionist sympathies, it should come as no surprise that Frances, just days after her arrival on the farm, finds herself helping two runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. Though the plot is predictable and sometimes overly sentimental, and the Kelly family lapses into stilted Irish syntax, the rapid succession of high-spirited adventures make for lively reading. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Grade 5-8 First of a projected quartet of orphan stories, each about a member of the same family of children transported by orphan train from New York to St. Joseph, Missouri, and surrounding areas. A kind of period piece, circa 1860, *A Family Apart* has a distinct Horatio Alger tone. Well constructed incidents, including the widowed mother giving up her children so they can be sent west to find a better life, a grass fire set by sparks from the train, and a holdup of the train contribute to fast action and considerable suspense particularly about the oldest girl, Frances, who disguises herself as a boy so she can better help her brothers and sisters. *An Orphan for Nebraska* (Atheneum, 1979) by Charlene Joy Talbot is a similar orphan train story, but about one boy. Patricia Beatty's *That's One Ornerly Orphan* (Morrow, 1980) is more humorous but less of a saga. What happened to orphans and street children of the last century may well appeal to many of today's children who hear so much about street children and abducted and deserted kids. George Gleason, Department of English, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

Purchased as a gift.

We read this book when I was in 5th grade. I never forgot it. I had looked for it all over and was most pleased when I got it back. It is a tale of great adventure, happiness, love and sorrow. I think every young adult should read it. (And possibly re-read it a few more times as an adult. ;))

The Orphan Train series by Joan Lowery Nixon is perfect for middle school children.

I AM STARTING TO READ THE JOAN LOWERY NIXON BOOKS. WANT TO READ THE WHOLE SERIES AS IT IS SOMETHING THAT MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW ANY THING ABOUT. HAVE GOTTEN ALL MY FRIENDS INTERESTED IN THIS SUBJECT.

This book kept my 11 year old sons attention. He had to read it for historical fiction in his literature class and couldn't wait to read the next book in the series.

Very good beginner of a good series. I enjoyed reading it and getting to know the characters involved.E. Pentecost

My granddaughter was reading this book for a school project. I read it so that I could talk to her about it. It was interesting and well written. I enjoyed the book.

Great read aloud book. Had great discussions with my daughter.Highly recommend reading.

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