



A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures)

By Joan Lowery Nixon

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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

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A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) By Joan Lowery Nixon Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

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.

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From School Library Journal

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 Ornery 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

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About the Author

Joan Lowery Nixon was the author of more than 130 books for young readers and was the only four-time winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Best Young Adult Mystery Award. She received the award for *The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore*, *The Séance*, *The Name of the Game Was Murder*, and *The Other Side of the Dark*, which also won the California Young Reader Medal. Her historical fiction included the award-winning series *The Orphan Train Adventures*, *Orphan Train Children*, and *Colonial Williamsburg: Young Americans*.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Anthony Russell:

Reading a guide can be one of a lot of activity that everyone in the world adores. Do you like reading book

and so. There are a lot of reasons why people fantastic. First reading a e-book will give you a lot of new info. When you read a publication you will get new information due to the fact book is one of many ways to share the information or maybe their idea. Second, studying a book will make you more imaginative. When you examining a book especially fiction book the author will bring someone to imagine the story how the character types do it anything. Third, you are able to share your knowledge to other folks. When you read this A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures), you can tell your family, friends as well as soon about yours guide. Your knowledge can inspire others, make them reading a e-book.

Stacy Knarr:

The reason why? Because this A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) is an unordinary book that the inside of the book waiting for you to snap the idea but latter it will jolt you with the secret it inside. Reading this book close to it was fantastic author who also write the book in such amazing way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning fully. So , it is good for you because of not hesitating having this any longer or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of gains than the other book have such as help improving your talent and your critical thinking method. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I had been you I will go to the book store hurriedly.

Leroy Barker:

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Ian Sharpless:

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