



A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures)

By Joan Lowery Nixon

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

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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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. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

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 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
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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:

Dick McAlister:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have a lot more or little spare time? Yeah,

you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their spare time to take a move, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open or read a book allowed A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures)? Maybe it is for being best activity for you. You realize beside you can spend your time with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with the opinion or you have some other opinion?

Karon Hall:

Hey guys, do you desires to finds a new book to read? May be the book with the name A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) suitable to you? The actual book was written by well-known writer in this era. The particular book untitled A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures)is the main one of several books this everyone read now. This book was inspired lots of people in the world. When you read this guide you will enter the new shape that you ever know prior to. The author explained their idea in the simple way, so all of people can easily to comprehend the core of this e-book. This book will give you a lots of information about this world now. To help you see the represented of the world with this book.

Juan Higgins:

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Nancy Sobel:

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