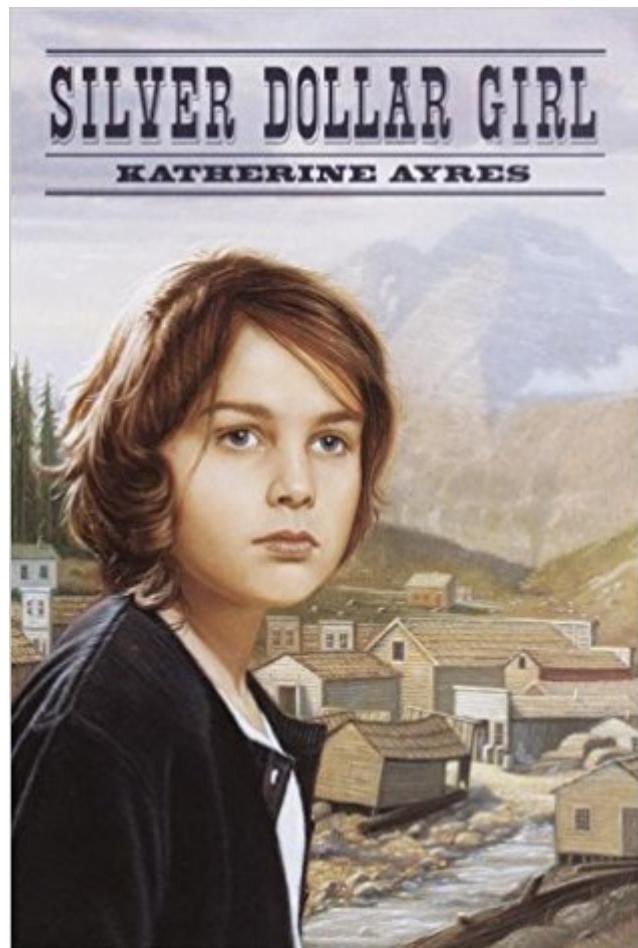


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Silver Dollar Girl



Synopsis

Valentine Harper's father has been in Colorado for more than a year seeking his fortune in the Silver Rush. But she's tired of waiting for his overdue return. Aunt Margaret is nice, but Uncle Franklin seems unhappy to have an extra person in the house, and Cousin Harold's pranks have been getting meaner. Unfortunately, a girl can't get far on her own in America in 1885. But with a haircut, the right clothes, and a big dose of courage, Vallie Harper just might make it on a journey across the country to look for her father and pull off an adventure that will change her life.

Book Information

Hardcover: 195 pages

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Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6-It has been over a year since 12-year-old Valentine Harper's father went to Colorado in 1885 hoping to strike silver, and she has grown tired of waiting for him to send for her. Though her aunt treats her nicely, her uncle is resentful of having an extra person in the house, and her nasty cousin plays increasingly mean pranks on her. After finding five gold coins hidden in a doll her father sent her, she decides to venture out West and find him. Disguised as a boy, she begins a journey that will test her courage and open her eyes to a whole new world. Vallie maintains her disguise upon arriving in Aspen, takes a job at a local caf?, and begins the arduous task of finding her father. The protagonist is a likable heroine who leaves the confines of a comfortable Victorian lifestyle and discovers the ruggedness and rough lifestyle of a Western boomtown. The carefully orchestrated chapters and the fast pace will hold children's attention throughout. Vallie's courageous journey of self-awareness and self-reliance is one readers will enjoy sharing.Janet Gillen, Great Neck Public

Gr. 4-8. Valentine Harper has lived with her aunt and uncle in Pittsburgh since her mother's death and her father's leaving to search for silver in Colorado. Tired of Cousin Harold's routine sabotage of her belongings, Valentine decides to run away and find her father. Disguised as a boy, she travels west by train and on foot, finally arriving in Aspen. Unfortunately, no one has heard of Daniel Harper, so she takes a job in a local cafe serving meals to the miners. Eventually, father and daughter are happily reunited, but not before Valentine experiences life on the run from a Pinkerton detective during the silver rush days of the 1880s. Ayres' strength is her attention to background details, especially those of the Colorado mining boomtowns. She also accurately depicts expectations of women and girls of the time, contrasting those of women living in the settled towns "back East" with those of their less-corseted, Wild West sisters. Valentine is a spunky heroine whose saga will appeal to history buffs and adventure fans. Kay Weisman

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i had read this book when i was still in middle school. this book is what started my passion for reading. it's about a girl who just wants to be with her father so she sets out to find him.its set back in the odd west and women could not travil alone so she comes up with a plan to become a boy.its an adventure that you would not want to miss.

Ever since her father headed west to mine for silver in Colorado, motherless twelve-year-old Valentine "Vallie" Harper has lived with her relatives in Pennsylvania. Her aunt is sympathetic, but her uncle resents her and her cousin plays mean pranks on her. Disguising herself as a boy and taking the money her father left for her, Vallie sets out for Colorado with the intention of finding her father. But many obstacles stand in her way, and it will take all her courage and determination to complete the journey and begin the long search for her father. I highly reccomend this novel to fans of historical fiction.

This is just a great adventure, especially for girls who are not "girly girls," as my daughter says. My daughter is 9 and loved this book. We both learned more about the time period and the Silver Rush, but the information was blended seamlessly with the story.

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