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Prairie Homestead (Beyond The Orphan Train Book 3)



Synopsis

Since their mama died and their pa left, Ethan, Alice, Simon, and Will Cooper have not known much of a home. But now that the orphan train has taken them to Mr. and Mrs. Rush in Nebraska, their dreams of home may become a reality. The kids discover that life on a farm is full of challenges. Ethan learns how to drive a plow, watch for snakes, and deal with bullies at the country school. Alice learns to slop the hogs and live with a big sister who isn't exactly welcoming. Will seems to be the only one of the four that their new mother likes. And Simon disappears again. The third book in the Beyond the Orphan Train series, *Prairie Homestead* is an adventure in new beginnings and lasting faith.

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Customer Reviews

This third book in the Orphan Train series is just as good as the first two. I would write more about it, but I'm off to download the last book in this fascinating series! Highly recommend.

It is the story of my father-in-law. I needed additional copies for friends to whom this was directed.

Thank you.

I had hoped the Orphan Train series would appeal to my 9 year old daughter who is a voracious reader, but her interest just didn't go past the first few pages. So, I read the four books, and I could see why it was difficult to get past the beginning. Ethan's story starts out pretty sadly and seriously. And, for the most part, the book continues to keep the somber theme. The story felt like several small incidents that weren't tied in smoothly. I loved that Ethan was a real boy and I loved knowing that these events really happened: like painting the pig, the circus train, and Pancho Villa! But the overall flow of the story was a bit choppy. Because Ethan's new family wasn't really loving, in a nurturing and compassionate way, I only felt sorry for him and his siblings, wishing for them the same tender care that his friend Bert received. Eh, but that's life...and history. Like Mrs. Richardson, the orphan trains fascinate me...and I enjoyed hearing a true-to-life, less-than-glamorous tale. Still, the Orphan Train series is worth the read. Just be aware it's a bit more serious than most children's books. Perhaps my daughter or son will prefer these books when they hit the higher end of the recommended age bracket (8-12). *I received a free copy in exchange for an honest review. No other compensation was given, and all thoughts are 100% mine.*

Beyond the Orphan Train series by Arleta Richardson contains four books in one. Beyond the Orphan Train contains Looking for Home, Whistle-Stop West, West Prairie Homestead, and Across the Border. The books show the life of Ethan Cooper from May 1907 through May 1912. Ethan is eight years old at the beginning of the series and he promised to take care of his younger siblings. The family's mother passed away and their father took off. The older siblings all have jobs and cannot take care of the younger children. Ethan, Simon, William, and Alice are sent to an orphanage where they eventually get on an orphan train headed west. The orphanage hopes that each child will find a home. The Cooper children want to find a home for all of the together (which is next to impossible). Join Ethan and the other children on an adventure to find forever families. Beyond the Orphan Train is well-written and easy to read (has a good flow). The stories are for children, but I believe that readers of all ages will enjoy these heartwarming stories as well. They are Christian stories that include history (from the areas including Pancho Villa) and talking points at the end (that you can use with kids especially if reading the book in a class or for homeschooling). I enjoyed these sweet stories. The book emphasized that God is always with you if you believe (have faith). I give Beyond the Orphan Train 5 out of 5 stars. I received a complimentary copy of Beyond

the Orphan Train from NetGalley in exchange for an honest evaluation of the novel.

Book 3 tells how Ethan and his younger siblings become part of a new family, working hard on a farm in Nebraska, then moving up north to a new adventure in South Dakota. His struggles are real, but he overcomes a lot with the help of faith and friends. Written in a straight forward, uncomplicated style, the story of Ethan Cooper and his three young siblings was uplifting, endearing, and inspirational. This collection would be perfect for a family read aloud or homeschool reading list with the discussion questions and suggested activities included at the end of each book. The stories flow well from book to book with a little recap in subsequent books, enough to remind the reader where the story left off. Faith lessons woven into each story illustrate the power of prayer, trusting God in difficult circumstances, knowing each person matters to the Good Shepherd and that He cares about the details of each person's life. I enjoyed reading the history also at the end of each book, which told what really occurred in their lives. Recommend for all ages, especially families looking for good historically based stories with faith elements. Fans of the Grandma's Attic series will enjoy this one as well! 4.5 stars (Book series provided by NetGalley and David C Cook Publications in exchange for my honest review.)

Wow, this was a very good family story. In this third book of the series, 4 orphan train siblings have found their home. Pretty soon, they find out their new family is moving from Nebraska to build a home in South Dakota. But, will everything go as planned? Will a happy & content life resume after all? I just couldn't wait to finish the book. Now I have high expectations for the last book in the series, to see just how this journey ends.

Love Arleta Richardson!! I absolutely loved the Grandma's Attic series. I read it again & again to my little girl. We still have story time (she is 13 now) and this series is wonderful for a bit older child, boy or girl.

Good Book

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