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The Day They Gave Babies Away



Synopsis

Based on a true story, this book tells the tale of a 12-year-old boy who, after the death of his parents, gives his five younger brothers and sisters away to carefully chosen families on Christmas Day.

Book Information

Age Range: 9 and up

Hardcover: 93 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (15 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This story brings to life the history of the US; poor immigrants struggling and succeeding, raising families, towns pulling together to take care of their own, sons fulfilling the last wishes of their parents. I found this by looking for the source of one of my favorite old movies, *All Mine To Give*. The movie ends with the children's finding homes and the eldest going off to work in the lumber camps. The book gives more information about their lives after that Christmas. This is a wonderful combination to use in the classroom to bring history to life for students and to help them see that history is not dates, but people like themselves.

I first heard this book read on the "Chapter a Day" program from the University of Wisconsin radio station at Madison Wisconsin 48 years ago. I was so moved by it that I HAD to get the book! Since then, it became a family tradition to read it together with the family every Christmas afternoon. As our four children grew and left home, they, too, made it a part of their Christmas tradition. Our oldest son was a pilot in the Air Force. Wherever he was stationed at Christmas he introduced the book to

families with whom he shared his Christmases (in the States and overseas). Invariably I would get an S.O.S letter to PLEASE send copies of the book because others were impressed with the story, too. Our daughter taught in grade schools and made the reading of this book to her students a part of "before Christmas" tradition. She, too, requested more copies as students bought the book as presents and wanted to start the traditional reading of the book in their families. The brave children capture your heart. You cannot forget them. And... it is a true story!

This is the story of a young boy's decision to honor his mother's deathbed wish. With strong family values instilled in him by both parents, thirteen year old Robbie must decide the fate of his siblings before the town does it for him. With a heavy heart and a commitment to his mother, he sets off on Christmas day to place each brother and sister in a home. This well written true story is excellent reading material for young and old.

You will laugh, You will feel anger, You will be filled with compassion. And you will cry. A very tender account of one family's struggle to cope under devastating and heart wrenching circumstances. This true story is very well written and deserves to be read by everyone.

Based on a true story, a teacher friend of mine told me that this story was not recommended for today's youth. What a shame. It is a heartbreakin story of survival and making tough decisions on what is best for your family. When our ancestors settled this country they had to make sacrifices that we can't imagine today. Perhaps if the kids today knew how hard it was they would have a greater appreciation of the struggles the folks went through and how we became what we are today.

An absolute classic story of family strength and pain. Might be painful for young children, but everyone from children to adults will get something out of this family's strength and courage. I was reminded of this book recently when I saw the movie on TV with Glynnis Johns and CAmeron Mitchell. I recommend both.

'The Day They Gave Babies Away' is one of the sweetest, yet toughest books you may ever read. Moments of grit, determination and promise. Faced with one of the worst decisions a young man must make when his father and mother pass away, he turns to his faith, his neighbors and finds the promise of love unfold within his own community. A deeply uplifting story. - Prof Michael Haller

I liked the movie and wanted to see if there was more information on what happened to the kids. There was. It's pitched at older elementary school kids, but has themes (e.g. your parents could die) that overprotective parents will want to avoid.

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