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The Root Cellar



Synopsis

Bestseller and an ALA Notable Book! It looked like an ordinary root cellar—and if twelve-year-old Rose hadn't been so unhappy in her new home, where she'd been sent to live with unknown relatives, she probably would never have fled down the stairs to the root cellar in the first place. And if she hadn't, she never would have climbed up into another century, the world of the 1860s, and the chaos of the Civil War. “Melds past and present neatly . . . suspenseful.”—Publishers Weekly

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.1 out of 5 stars 56 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #411,561 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #29 in Books > Teens >

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Action & Adventure

Customer Reviews

Janet Lunn is one of Canada's most well-known authors. Her novels include the best-selling ALA Notable Book *The Root Cellar* (Puffin). She lives in Hillier, Ontario.

Read this to my daughter forever ago and could not read the last chapter for the tears. Excellent book!!

I am actually surprised at how much I really enjoyed this book. The main character is an American girl who has to move in with relatives in Canada. When she "crosses into" the 19th century world of the American Civil War, she is able to see both the Canadian perspective on the war and the perspective of the Americans who had family fighting in the war. In the process of helping the inhabitants of the past, the main character is able to figure out who she is and what bravery she is

capable of as she aids a young soldier in his return home from battle. Over all, this was a great book.

I fell in love with this book in 6th grade. I shared it with my sixth grader and she loves it too.

I'm an avid reader of a wide variety of genres and am always on the lookout for well-written books for younger readers. This was poorly written, boring and poorly conceptualized. Big disappointment!!

Love the story

I bought this for my son for a school project. He enjoyed it.

Excellent story. Very entertaining without the graff, corruption, violence and political mongoring that present day entertainment thrives on. Refreshingly enjoyable.

My Review: I read this book back when I was about 11 years old and I remember being utterly entranced by it as it transported me to different eras that, until then, I knew nothing about. Even after a few decades have passed I still vividly remember the images it invoked in me as I read it so I opted to read it again for my 2015 Reading Challenge. This book has a lot going on for such a short book. It's a historical fiction read for children with some fantasy (hence the time travel) plus action and adventure. There were a couple of times when I was on the edge of my seat (especially near the end - wow!). Overall, *The Root Cellar* is a sweet coming of age story of a plucky young orphaned girl and her deep friendship with two people from the past. The magic behind this book is Lunn's writing style which has a very easy going vibe to it. While the pace of the book is rather slow (with some action thrown in here and there) it's her characters and descriptions of the settings that make the book feel authentic. I think part of that has to do with her great use of the speech and vocabulary that was used during both eras that Rose lives in. Lunn's descriptions of Rose's time (1960's Canada) and the United States in the 1860's were vivid and a big part of why this book has stayed with me. It felt authentic and like you were there with Rose but her descriptions of post American Civil War didn't hold back any punches. They're not gory but there is quite a bit of emotion regarding the state of soldiers and how these boys and men find out the devastating truth about war and how they were treated post-war. The friendship that Rose has with Susan and Will was strong yet sweet but it was the ups and downs that Rose and Susan face on their adventure that felt the

most real to me. Friendship isn't all 'rainbows and unicorns' and Lunn provides a very accurate description of the different sides of friendship. This was once again a great read and a Canadian classic for tweens. While my 11 year old self would still give this book a 5 star rating, this *ahem* 40-something year old book reviewer thinks that it's more of a 4 star. Still a great read with simple dialogue that deals with the effects of war, friendship, family, loss and finding our own way to belong. Note: Some editions provide a rather lengthy and informative interview with the author which I quite enjoyed. My Rating: 4/5 stars** This book review can also be found on my blog, The Baking Bookworm (www.thebakingbookworm.blogspot.ca) where I also share my favourite 'tried and true' recipes. **

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