BEFORE WE WERE YOURS A NOVEL

BEFORE WE WERE YOURS A NOVEL BEFORE WE WERE YOURS A NOVEL THAT UNRAVELS THE HEARTBREAK AND HOPE OF A FORGOTTEN HISTORY BEFORE WE WERE YOURS LISA WINGATE HISTORICAL FICTION ORPHAN TRAINS ADOPTION FAMILY SECRETS CHILD WELFARE HISTORICAL novel book review emotional story mustread books Lisa Wingates Before We Were Yours isnt just a novel its a visceral EXPERIENCE ITS A METICULOUSLY RESEARCHED AND BEAUTIFULLY WRITTEN EXPLORATION OF A DARK CHAPTER IN AMERICAN HISTORY THE ORPHAN TRAIN ERA A PERIOD WHERE THOUSANDS OF CHILDREN WERE SHIPPED FROM OVERCROWDED CITIES TO NEW HOMES OFTEN WITH DEVASTATING consequences. This isn't simply a story of adoption its a story of stolen identities broken families and the enduring power of hope AMIDST UNIMAGINABLE LOSS THE NARRATIVE UNFOLDS THROUGH TWO INTERTWINED TIMELINES IN THE PRESENT WE MEET AVERY STAFFORD A SUCCESSFUL LAWYER GRAPPLING WITH A SUDDEN INHERITANCE AND A PAST SHE BARELY UNDERSTANDS HER LIFE SEEMINGLY PERFECT ON THE SURFACE IS SHATTERED BY THE DISCOVERY OF A HIDDEN FAMILY SECRET A SECRET BURIED DEEP BENEATH LAYERS OF CAREFULLY CONSTRUCTED NORMALCY This discovery thrusts her into a whirlwind of emotion forcing her to confront a legacy of pain and unanswered questions Wingate paints Avery with incredible nuance We see her struggle her confusion her relentless pursuit of truth all woven TOGETHER WITH AN AUTHENTICITY THAT RESONATES DEEPLY AVERYS JOURNEY MIRRORS THAT OF MANY INDIVIDUALS CONFRONTED WITH UNEXPECTED TRUTHS ABOUT THEIR FAMILY HISTORY THE UNSETTLING FEELING OF DISORIENTATION THE DESIRE TO UNDERSTAND THE PAST IN ORDER TO COMPREHEND THE PRESENT AND THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF UNCOVERING LONGBURIED SECRETS THE PAST UNFOLDS THROUGH THE POIGNANT STORY OF RILL FOSS A SPIRITED YOUNG GIRL SNATCHED FROM HER LOVING FAMILY IN MEMPHIS TENNESSEE DURING THE GREAT DEPRESSION HER LIFE IDYLLIC IN

ITS SIMPLICITY IS BRUTALLY RIPPED APART AS SHES THRUST ONTO AN ORPHAN TRAIN LEAVING BEHIND HER BROTHERS AND SISTERS HER PARENTS AND HER CHERISHED MEMORIES THE TRAIN JOURNEY DESCRIBED WITH CHILLING ACCURACY BECOMES A STARK METAPHOR FOR THE LOSS OF INNOCENCE AND THE HARSH REALITIES OF A SYSTEM THAT PRIORITIZED EFFICIENCY OVER HUMAN COMPASSION THINK OF IT AS A RIVER THE SLOW MEANDERING CURRENT OF RILLS CHILDHOOD SUDDENLY PLUNGED INTO THE RAGING RAPIDS OF FORCED SEPARATION THE READER IS SWEPT ALONG WITH HER FEELING THE CHILL OF 2 FEAR THE STING OF BETRAYAL AND THE CRUSHING WEIGHT OF UNCERTAINTY THE AUTHOR MASTERFULLY PORTRAYS THE CHAOTIC AND OFTEN CRUEL ENVIRONMENT OF THE TENNESSEE CHILDRENS HOME SOCIETY PAINTING A PICTURE OF INSTITUTIONAL NEGLIGENCE AND THE DEVASTATING IMPACT OF SYSTEMIC FAILURE WINGATE DOESNT SHY AWAY FROM THE GRIM REALITIES OF THE ERA SHE DEPICTS THE ABUSE BOTH PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL ENDURED BY THESE CHILDREN WITH UNFLINCHING HONESTY YET AMIDST THE DARKNESS GLIMMERS OF HOPE SHINE THROUGH The resilience of the human spirit the capacity for love even in the face of unimaginable hardship is a recurring theme that underscores the novels power. The narrative beautifully interweaves. Averys presentday struggle with Rills past experiences. The CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THESE TWO LIVES UNFOLD GRADUALLY REVEALING A COMPLEX TAPESTRY OF FAMILIAL CONNECTIONS AND ENDURING CONSEQUENCES ITS A SLOW BURN GRADUALLY REVEALING THE SECRETS AND UNCOVERING THE TRUTH LEAVING THE READER BREATHLESSLY ANTICIPATING THE INEVITABLE REVELATION THE DESCRIPTIONS ARE VIVIDLY EVOCATIVE WINGATES PROSE IS RICH WITH SENSORY DETAIL ALLOWING THE READER TO TRULY INHABIT THE WORLD OF BOTH AVERY AND RILL WE FEEL THE MEMPHIS HEAT SMELL THE DUST OF THE ORPHANAGE AND HEAR THE WHISPERS OF SECRETS EXCHANGED IN HUSHED TONES THE LANGUAGE IS BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND ACCESSIBLE MAKING THE STORY ENGAGING FOR A BROAD AUDIENCE ACTIONABLE TAKEAWAYS EXPLORE YOUR FAMILY HISTORY BEFORE WE WERE YOURS SERVES AS A POWERFUL REMINDER OF THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING OUR ROOTS AND THE STORIES OF THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US START RESEARCHING YOUR FAMILY TREE YOU MIGHT BE SURPRISED BY WHAT YOU UNCOVER EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF CHILD WELFARE THE NOVEL HIGHLIGHTS THE CRITICAL NEED FOR safe and supportive environments for vulnerable children Support organizations working to protect childrens rights and improve THE FOSTER CARE SYSTEM EMBRACE EMPATHY AND COMPASSION THE STORIES OF RILL AND AVERY REMIND US OF THE IMPORTANCE OF EMPATHY AND UNDERSTANDING TRY TO SEE THE WORLD FROM DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES AND OFFER COMPASSION TO THOSE WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED HARDSHIP Seek truth and reconciliation Uncovering difficult truths about the past can be challenging but it is essential for healing and moving forward Be courageous in your pursuit of truth and seek reconciliation where possible Celebrate resilience The human SPIRITS CAPACITY TO ENDURE AND OVERCOME ADVERSITY IS POWERFULLY DEMONSTRATED IN THIS NOVEL REMEMBER THAT EVEN IN THE DARKEST OF TIMES HOPE PERSISTS 5 FAQS 3 1 IS BEFORE WE WERE YOURS A TRUE STORY WHILE BASED ON THE HISTORICAL REALITY OF THE ORPHAN Trains the characters of Avery and Rill are fictional However Wingate meticulously researched the era and the novel ACCURATELY REFLECTS THE EXPERIENCES OF MANY CHILDREN WHO WERE SEPARATED FROM THEIR FAMILIES 2 WHAT AGE GROUP IS THIS BOOK APPROPRIATE FOR DUE TO ITS MATURE THEMES OF ABANDONMENT ABUSE AND LOSS ITS BEST SUITED FOR ADULT READERS WHILE THE WRITING IS accessible the content may be disturbing for younger audiences 3 What is the main message of the novel. The novel explores THEMES OF FAMILY IDENTITY FORGIVENESS AND THE ENDURING POWER OF HOPE IT HIGHLIGHTS THE IMPORTANCE OF UNDERSTANDING THE PAST TO SHAPE A BETTER FUTURE ESPECIALLY REGARDING CHILD WELFARE AND THE IMPACT OF HISTORICAL INJUSTICES 4 HOW DOES THE BOOK END THE ENDING PROVIDES A SENSE OF CLOSURE WHILE LEAVING ROOM FOR REFLECTION ON THE LASTING IMPACT OF THE PAST ITS BOTH HOPEFUL AND POIGNANT LEAVING A LASTING IMPRESSION ON THE READER 5 WHERE CAN I BUY BEFORE WE WERE YOURS THE BOOK IS WIDELY AVAILABLE ONLINE AND IN BOOKSTORES YOU CAN FIND IT ON AMAZON BARNES NOBLE AND OTHER MAIOR RETAILERS BEFORE WE WERE YOURS IS A POWERFUL AND UNFORGETTABLE READ ITS A STORY THAT WILL STAY WITH YOU LONG AFTER YOU TURN THE FINAL PAGE PROMPTING REFLECTION ON THE COMPLEXITIES OF FAMILY IDENTITY AND THE ENDURING LEGACY OF THE PAST THIS ISNT JUST A HISTORICAL FICTION NOVEL ITS A CALL TO ACTION A REMINDER OF OUR SHARED HUMANITY AND A TESTAMENT TO THE STRENGTH OF THE HUMAN SPIRIT

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TALE OF ENDURING POWER PAULA MCLAIN MEMPHIS 1939 TWELVE YEAR OLD RILL FOSS AND HER FOUR YOUNGER SIBLINGS LIVE A MAGICAL LIFE ABOARD THEIR FAMILY S MISSISSIPPI RIVER SHANTYBOAT BUT WHEN THEIR FATHER MUST RUSH THEIR MOTHER TO THE HOSPITAL ONE STORMY NIGHT RILL IS LEFT IN CHARGE UNTIL STRANGERS ARRIVE IN FORCE WRENCHED FROM ALL THAT IS FAMILIAR AND THROWN INTO A TENNESSEE CHILDREN S HOME SOCIETY ORPHANAGE THE FOSS CHILDREN ARE ASSURED THAT THEY WILL SOON BE RETURNED TO THEIR PARENTS BUT THEY QUICKLY REALIZE THE DARK TRUTH AT THE MERCY OF THE FACILITY S CRUEL DIRECTOR RILL FIGHTS TO KEEP HER SISTERS AND BROTHER TOGETHER IN A WORLD OF DANGER AND UNCERTAINTY AIKEN SOUTH CAROLINA PRESENT DAY BORN INTO WEALTH AND PRIVILEGE AVERY STAFFORD SEEMS TO HAVE IT ALL A SUCCESSFUL CAREER AS A FEDERAL PROSECUTOR A HANDSOME FIANC AND A LAVISH WEDDING ON THE HORIZON BUT WHEN AVERY RETURNS HOME TO HELP HER FATHER WEATHER A HEALTH CRISIS A CHANCE ENCOUNTER LEAVES HER WITH UNCOMFORTABLE QUESTIONS AND COMPELS HER TO TAKE A JOURNEY THROUGH HER FAMILY S LONG HIDDEN HISTORY ON A PATH THAT WILL ULTIMATELY LEAD EITHER TO DEVASTATION OR TO REDEMPTION BASED ON ONE OF AMERICA S MOST NOTORIOUS REAL LIFE SCANDALS IN WHICH GEORGIA TANN DIRECTOR OF A MEMPHIS BASED ADOPTION ORGANIZATION KIDNAPPED AND SOLD POOR CHILDREN TO WEALTHY FAMILIES ALL OVER THE COUNTRY LISA WINGATE S RIVETING WRENCHING AND ULTIMATELY UPLIFTING TALE REMINDS US HOW EVEN THOUGH THE PATHS WE TAKE CAN LEAD TO MANY PLACES THE HEART NEVER FORGETS WHERE We belong publishers weekly s 3 longest running bestseller of 2017 winner of the southern book prize if all arkansas read the SAME BOOK SELECTION THIS EDITION INCLUDES A NEW ESSAY BY THE AUTHOR ABOUT SHANTYBOAT LIFE

ONE BOY WITH THE POWER TO SAVE THE WORLD ONE MAN WITH THE WILL TO DESTROY IT THE CHILLING UNPUTDOWNABLE NEW STANDALONE THRILLER FROM DEAN KOONTZ THE MASTER OF SUSPENSE THE MASTER OF OUR DARKEST DREAMS THE TIMES

THE INSPIRING STORY OF ONE MAN S FIGHT AGAINST HIS WRONGFUL INCARCERATION AND HIS EVENTUAL TRIUMPH BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BOXING RING IN THE LATE 1970S DEWEY BOZELLA WAS WRONGFULLY CONVICTED OF MURDERING EMMA CRAPSER A NINETY TWO YEAR OLD

RESIDENT OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK SENTENCED TO TWENTY YEARS TO LIFE IN PRISON BOZELLA FIERCELY MAINTAINED HIS INNOCENCE THROUGHOUT HIS ORDEAL AT SING SING CORRECTIONAL FACILITY AND EVEN REFUSED THE PROSECUTOR S OFFER OF FREEDOM IN EXCHANGE FOR AN ADMISSION OF guilt but in 2009 more than a quarter century later dewey bozella would reclaim his identity and his humanity when his CONVICTION WAS VACATED IN THIS RAW AND UPLIFTING MEMOIR BOZELLA TAKES US THROUGH THE TRIALS TRIBULATIONS AND IOYS OF HIS LIFE INSIDE PRISON AND EVENTUALLY AS A FREE MAN WHILE AT SING SING HE TOOK UP BOXING TO CHANNEL HIS ANGER AND EVENTUALLY BECAME THE PRISON S LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION BOZELLA ALSO MET AND MARRIED THE LOVE OF HIS LIFE FROM BEHIND BARS LOST COUNTLESS PAROLE HEARINGS AND SPENT AGONIZING TIME ON A CELL BLOCK WITH BOTH HIS BROTHER S MURDERER AND IT TURNED OUT THE TRUE CRIM INAL IN WHOSE PLACE BOZELLA SERVED SO MUCH TIME BUT BOZELLA NEVER GAVE UP AFTER HE WAS REFUSED PAROLE AND HAD HIS SENTENCE EXTENDED THE INNOCENCE PROJECT CAUGHT WORD OF HIS CASE THANKS TO HIS UNDYING FAITH STALWART PERSISTENCE AND THE AID OF A YOUNG PRO BONO ATTORNEY AT THE INNOCENCE PROJECT WHO DOGGEDLY WORKED TOWARD BOZELLA S RELEASE WHEN ALL HOPE SEEMED LOST HE WAS RELEASED from prison in 2009 shortly thereafter he won his professional boxing debut against larry hopkins started an afterschool ATHLETICS PROGRAM FOR AT RISK YOUTH AND WAS AWARDED THE ARTHUR ASHE AWARD FOR COURAGE AN INCREDIBLY UPLIFTING UNDERDOG STORY STAND TALL RECOUNTS ONE MAN S PERSEVERANCE IN THE FACE OF INJUSTICE AND HIS DIFFICULT ROAD TO FREEDOM

THE GREEK S MARRIAGE BARGAIN SHARON KENDRICK XENON KANELLIS IS NOT A MAN WHO FAILS AND CERTAINLY NOT A MAN WHO GETS DIVORCED NOW WITH THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO GET HIS WIFE BACK WHERE SHE BELONGS ON HIS ARM AND IN HIS BED HIS RECORD WILL BE RESTORED LEXI KANELLIS NEEDS HER ESTRANGED HUSBAND S HELP EVEN IF THAT MEANS PLAYING THE GOOD GREEK WIFE FOR A FEW MORE WEEKS THE ISLAND SUN IS NO MATCH FOR THE REIGNITED HEAT BETWEEN THEM BUT NO AMOUNT OF PASSION CAN ERASE THE MEMORY OF WHAT TORE THEM APART A ROYAL WORLD APART MAISEY YATES WITH HER LIFE MAPPED OUT SINCE BIRTH PRINCESS EVANGELINA DRAKOS KNOWN FOR HER DRAMATIC FLAIR HOPES THE MINOR SCANDAL SHE PLANS TO CREATE WILL DETER POTENTIAL SUITORS HIRED FOR EVA S SECURITY UNEMOTIONAL BODYGUARD MAKHAIL

NABATOV NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE BUT THE IMPULSIVE PRINCESS PUSHES HIS RESOLVE SOON THE BEAUTIFUL AND IMPRISONED EVA ENTICES HIM TO LEAVE DUTY AND HONOUR BEHIND THOUGH THEIR CHEMISTRY IS UNDENIABLE MAKHAIL MUST DENY HIS DESIRE FOR EVA IS PROMISED TO ANOTHER MAN THE THEOTOKIS INHERITANCE SUSANNE JAMES IMAGINE BEING BOUND BY THE TERMS OF A WILL TO AN INFURIATINGLY ARROGANT GREEK TYCOON WHO ALSO HAPPENS TO BE THE MAN WHO SHATTERED YOUR HEART YEARS AFTER HE DISAPPEARED FROM HER LIFE OSCAR THEOTOKIS IS BACK AND HIS FLASHING DARK EYES AND HEART STOPPING SMILE CHALLENGE HELENA KINGSTON S DETERMINATION NEVER TO FALL FOR HIS CHARMS AGAIN OSCAR HASN T BEEN ABLE TO ERASE HELENA S INNOCENT ENGLISH BEAUTY FROM HIS MIND HE HAS VOWED THAT WHEN HE MARRIES IT WILL NOT BE FOR DUTY BUT FOR PURE UNADULTERATED DESIRE

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