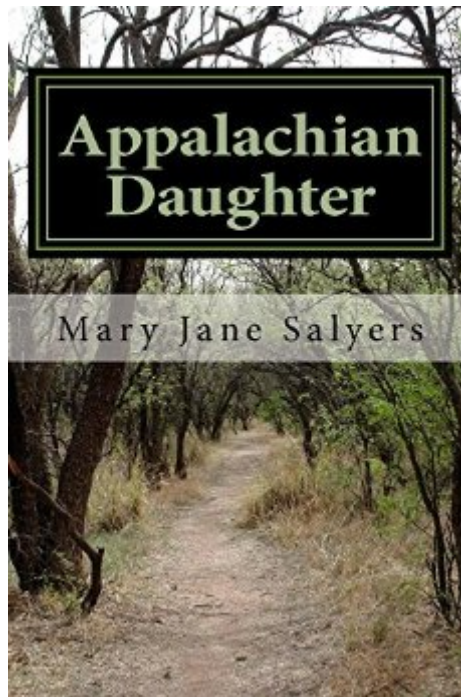


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Appalachian Daughter



Synopsis

Appalachian Daughter grabbed me Friday afternoon, and except for the time for sleeping and necessary duties, did not turn me loose until I finished it Saturday afternoon. • Early Reader

This coming-of-age novel depicts the trials, triumphs, and tragedies that befall Maggie Martin, the eldest of eight children whose family struggles to make ends meet on a hilly farm in Campbell Hollow, a narrow mountain valley in East Tennessee. On the last day of eighth grade, Maggie begins to dream of finding a way to escape the drudgery and confinement of life in the hollow and establish her independence. Her plan begins to fall in place when she enters high school and discovers she has a natural talent for excelling in shorthand, typing and other business classes. Meanwhile she spares no effort in helping her family continue to survive despite their poverty, a less than fertile few acres, and a family history of instability. She strives to fit in at high school in spite of the harsh limits placed on her by her hot-tempered, authoritarian mother, Corie Mae. She often turns for support to her easy-going father Ray, who sometimes intervenes to overrule Corie Mae's restrictions. As she goes about her life, doing her school work and helping out at home, she interacts with interesting, unforgettable, and sometimes dangerous characters, including a mentally challenged neighbor, an escaped convict, and a lecherous employer. She is forced to make decisions and take actions that would be difficult for a much older adult. Maggie meets each challenge with determination, imagination, and courage whether it's cutting a pitchfork from a mare's tail or helping to deliver her baby sister. The typical spoken language, folkways, and traditional beliefs and religious practices are skillfully woven into this portrait of Appalachian family life. The author's sympathetic insights into mountain culture combined with memorably etched characters and events create a realistic reflection of Tennessee mountain life during the decade following WWII. Maggie's life takes an unexpected turn when her cousin JD reveals a dark secret that could shatter the family. Maggie struggles to maintain her dreams of a better life amidst the many trials that will test the grit of this Appalachian Daughter. I absolutely loved the story! I really think that the thoughtful approach to the main character's life situations will be meaningful to girls and boys who read the book. • Early Reader

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Customer Reviews

I enjoyed this book. A story of Maggie a young girl growing up in the Appalachian mountains. She faced many challenges along the way. A strict mother, losses, and rejections. The glimpse of what it must have been like on those mountains in the 1950s was portrayed perfectly. I read it in one day. I had to find out what would happen next. A clean novel without sex or curse words. Imagine that! If you enjoy this era it will be a good read.

This book is so beautifully written even though the content is tough in places. Being from Appalachia, I found this story to be so true. I do believe that everyone will find this to be a good read. I couldn't put it down. Just kept reading until 2 a.m. I can hardly wait for the next book with the same characters. Surely the author has that in mind!

I just finished reading it this morning. I really enjoyed it! The characters really drew me in. I made the mistake of reading a few pages at 4:30 this morning and didn't get back to sleep until a little after 5 because I had to finish it. I hope there will be a sequel; I would love to know what happens next to Maggie and her family.

A well written novel allowing us to see how crucial the family unit is to all of us, regardless of our station in society, as children, young adults, on into adulthood. Mrs. Salyers, I commend you on this your first novel. Please continue writing--I am looking forward to a pre-sequel as well as a sequel. This is definitely a five-star book. I also commend the "3D Guy" for writing his thoughts then

acknowledging his relationship to you. It is my hope that one day I shall see such a comment from one of my nephews for I, too, am an aspiring writer.

I'm on the fence about this one. On one hand, it is fairly well written and the scenes portrayed throughout the novel of life in the Appalachian mountains were very true and indicative of that area during the late 40s/early 50s. I enjoyed the snippets of the great-grandmother's diary that headed each chapter but I'm a little bummed we had no flashback scenes to connect with her as a character and understand the origins of the family in that "holler". I'm a Southern girl and really enjoyed the descriptions of the farm work, the canning, and some of the food they cooked. Even the church services were written to be an accurate portrayal of deep south religious beliefs. Where it fell flat for me was that there really wasn't a plot. Like... none. Let's call this what it is: a sweet coming-of-age story of a young girl in a hardworking mountain family. Nothing truly shocking or momentous occurs. Even the love interest piece doesn't get fleshed out. It just plods along, slowly but surely, with family events that would have been quite normal in that time: they woke up, went to work, they lived, they died, they had teenage angst and rebellion, they had dinner, they went to school... it's all there, just simmering below the surface but never fully realized. The whole book was a sort of dreamy glimpse into someone's every day life there. I suppose that's the point, but there wasn't enough excitement in the story arc to really figure out what it's actually ABOUT. Even the moments of tragedy were just quietly portrayed, not really focused or detailed. The whole book felt like a secondary story to something else. In the end, I'd say it was OK. Maggie was likeable enough, as was her father. I just wasn't very emotionally invested like I am with my favorite books.

This was one of the best books I have ever read. I was hooked from the beginning and did not want it to ever end. I have read it 3 times all ready. you feel like you know every single character mentioned in the book. It is like reading about a real family you would love to meet and become friend with all of them. It made me laugh...it made me cry...it had me on the edge of my seat trying to turn the pages as fast as I could...Holding my breath at times to see hat would happen next! Love, love, loved it!

This book engaged me from the minute I started until the end. It is the delightful coming of age story of a girl who grows up in an East Tennessee valley during the 1940s and 1950s. Life was hard and the large family struggled economically. But, they still had good times. The oldest daughter met each challenge with grace and determination. Though not preachy, the author portrays a young woman with high moral values and a strong work ethic. The novel ends on a high note though

everything doesn't turn out rosy. I would commend this book to anyone who enjoys coming of age stories from an earlier time period. It is evident the author knows her subject matter.

This is a wonderful story of a child who grew up during the 50's in a mountain cove amid relatives that beloved girls did not need an education. As the oldest child Maggie shouldered responsibilities that were not a child's responsibility. Her mother has a baby about every year so care of the younger children, milking care of the cows, canning, cooking and anything else is assigned to her. The mother is a hostile mother who would most certainly be labeled as abusive in today's world. Religion is preemptive, restrictive and a burden as interpreted by uneducated ministers. Despite all of the hardship Maggie preserves growing up to achieve all of the goals she set for herself. Her mother refused to attend her graduation and hear her Valedictorian speech or tell her good by when she left home to work in in the city. It is a story about a hard mountainous group of people.

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