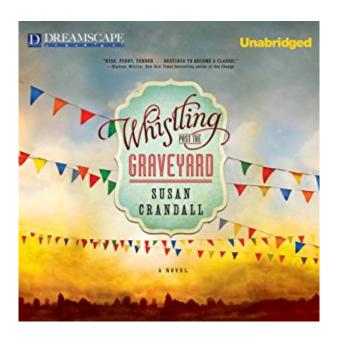
The book was found

Whistling Past The Graveyard





Synopsis

In the summer of 1963, nine-year-old spitfire Starla Claudelle runs away from her strict grandmother's Mississippi home. Starla hasn't seen her momma since she was three - that's when Lulu left for Nashville to become a famous singer. Starla's daddy works on an oil rig in the Gulf, so Mamie, with her tsk-tsk sounds and her bitter refrain of "Lord, give me strength," is the nearest thing to family Starla has. After being put on restriction yet again for her sassy mouth, Starla is caught sneaking out for the Fourth of July parade. She fears Mamie will make good on her threat to send Starla to reform school, so Starla walks to the outskirts of town, and just keeps walking.... If she can get to Nashville and find her momma, then all that she promised will come true: Lulu will be a star. Daddy will come to live in Nashville, too. And her family will be whole and perfect. Walking a lonely country road, Starla accepts a ride from Eula, a black woman traveling alone with a white baby. The trio embarks on a road trip that will change Starla's life forever. She sees for the first time life as it really is - as she reaches for a dream of how it could one day be.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 11 hours and 20 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Dreamscape Media, LLC

Audible.com Release Date: July 9, 2013

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B00DUHSMK0

Best Sellers Rank: #165 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Historical Fiction

#491 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Coming of Age #1856 in Books >

Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical

Customer Reviews

"My daddy says that when you do somethin' to distract you from your worstest fears, it's like whistlin' past the graveyard. You know, making a racket to keep the scaredness and the ghosts away. He says that's how we get by sometimes.""I thought about how me and Eula finding out each other's secrets had made us both better, and how we both had our own way of whistling past the graveyard."These two quotes pretty much sum up this wonderful story of a little white girl growing up

in South Mississippi in the sixties when racism in the deep south was rearing it's ugly head. I had many thoughts as I was reading this book and the two that came to surface most often was how people often treat children as if they are invisible. And, the dangers of keeping secrets and the damage they can cause. That was Starla... she didn't know it but she was surrounded by secrets and these secrets sent her on a wild goose chase to Nashville to fulfill a dream. Starla felt invisible to everyone around her and had come to believe that she was un-loved, un-wanted and not special... just nothing but trouble. She lived on the dreams that most children have when important things are missing from their lives... like loving parents, siblings and the feeling of being special, needed and important. So, when things hit bottom (at least her idea of bottom)she did what any un-wanted kid had to do... she ran away. On her way to Nashville she meets a colored woman named Eula. As they travel Eula teaches Starla that she has gifts, that she is special and most of all she is loved. Starla and Eula begin to need each other, lean on each other and love each other as family. Starla learns some valuable and often frightening life lessons on this journey that will inevitably change her forever.

Let's get that I absolutely LOVE this book out of the way. Whistling Past The Graveyard is a heartwarming, endearing coming of age story about a fiesty 9 year old girl who decides it's high time she flew the coop in an effort not to be sent to boarding school. It's the summer of 1963 in Cayuga Springs, the Fourth of July, and a pocket full of penny candy that puts the wheels in motion for a life-changing experience for two unsuspecting lives that intersect on an abandoned road. Whistling Past The Graveyard is narrated by Starla who's often described by her grandmother Mamie as a girl who can't stay out of trouble. Starla's personality is as red as her hair and Mamie does not for a second allow Starla to forget that she's a stone's throw from being just like her mother. Mamie is probably one of the characters I like the least but it's probably also because I only have Starla's point of view in her assessment. Not long into Starla's jailbreak she meets Eula, a colored woman with a set of her own problems. Susan Crandall does an excellent job at so many things in this novel such as character development, being true to the era, and all the things we love and hate about the south. Starla and Eula are an unlikely pair being their race differences as well as age differences. Starla is not afraid of anything and even when she is she doesn't back down. Eula on the other hand has been treated poorly her whole life. They both compliment and complete each other and give the other what they both need most. I love their relationship and readers will appreciate it as well. Crandall really captures what it friendship and family mean. A lot of blurbs are comparing this novel to the bestseller The Help and I don't think that's a fair assessment.

Download to continue reading...

Whistling Past the Graveyard Whistling Vivaldi: How Stereotypes Affect Us and What We Can Do (Issues of Our Time) New Jersey Shipwrecks: 350 Years in the Graveyard of the Atlantic The Graveyard Book: Full-Cast Production The Graveyard Book The Graveyard Book CD: Full Cast Production The Graveyard Book CD The Graveyard Book: A Teaching Guide (Discovering Literature Series: Challengi) Batman Vol. 6: Graveyard Shift (The New 52) Getting Past Your Past: Take Control of Your Life with Self-Help Techniques from EMDR Therapy Past Time, Past Place: GIS for History Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts: Charting the Future of Teaching the Past (Critical Perspectives On The Past) Secret Window, Secret Garden: Two Past Midnight (Four Past Midnight) Begin with the Past: Building the National Museum of African American History and Culture New England Quaker Meetinghouses, Past and Present Liang and Lin: Partners in Exploring China's Architectural Past The Future of the Past: A Conservation Ethic for Architecture, Urbanism, and Historic Preservation Water 4.0: The Past, Present, and Future of the World's Most Vital Resource The Victorian Home: The Grandeur and Comforts of the Victorian Era, in Households Past and Present Kiss the Past Hello: 100 Years of the Coca-Cola Contour Bottle

Dmca