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Jump The Cracks



Synopsis

What would you do? As far as I'm concerned, there's no excuse not to be decent...Especially when you're responsible for a kid. It just figures that fifteen-year old Victoria's dad fails once again to be at the train station like he's promised. Fuming, Victoria watches as a teen mom stashes her bruised little boy in the train's bathroom. When the mom gets off the train alone, Victoria decides she has had it with all the poor excuses who call them selves parents. Making a split-second decision, Victoria boards the next train out of town-taking the little boy with her. No, really, what would you do? Victoria's staying on the run until everyone responsible starts keeping their promises. This kid's not falling through the cracks. Not on her watch.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 610L (What's this?)

Paperback: 207 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (13 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,163,103 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #144 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #171 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #213 inÂ Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Runaways

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 - 12

Customer Reviews

A wonderful YA novel, totally appropriate for mid-graders, too. Fifteen-year-old Victoria heads into NY alone on the train to meet her dad, who hasn't "been there" for her much since her parents' divorce. She gets side-tracked by a toddler in an at-risk situation and when her dad fails to meet the train, she makes a heartfelt snap decision to rescue little Wills. The reader is along for a great ride in the ensuing railway chase involving threatening characters, concerned relatives, and the police. Jump the Cracks is a page-turner until the end, as Victoria struggles to care for Wills while trying to

figure out the meaning of family and home and how to get both of them there safely.

I couldn't put this book down! It's an exciting read. It reminds me a bit of the film *Thelma and Louise*, in that Victoria, the main character, never intends to do anything wrong. In fact, it all begins because she is trying to help an at-risk little boy, but each "right" decision to help the boy sends her further down the path to being a fugitive and kidnapper. What starts as a well intended action spirals out of control and leads to a crazy chain of events. It's a great ride, with a very satisfying ending. While marketed as a young adult novel, the content is also appropriate for younger readers.

Not only is Stacy DeKeyser's *Jump the Cracks* a page-turner, but it is a tender and beautiful story about the ability to keep promises to those you love. As a reader, I was completely invested in Victoria, the main character, and wondering what I would do in her same situation. She makes all the right choices, but in doing so gets herself deeper in trouble. I had to read it all in one sitting because I didn't want to leave Victoria alone out there with the boy she "rescues" wondering who was going to rescue her. I highly recommend it!

It is easy to connect to the characters in this book making it hard to put down! Middle school and teen readers will relate to Victoria's dilemma and I can hear them in heated discussion about what she should do. For a 15 year old girl facing the adult world where life demands compromise, Victoria is facing a very difficult decision. What will she choose?

A thought-provoking book about a girl who faces danger to protect an abandoned baby. It will keep you up late to see what happens to Victoria and "Wills."

What a fantastic, heartfelt novel from Stacy DeKeyser that offers a wonderful commentary on human morality in a fast-paced and ever changing world. The heroine goes on a page-turning adventure that keeps you on the edge of your seat from page one to the end. The novel is an excellent all-around read for any young adult or grown-up alike. The journey of Victoria and Wills will make you laugh out loud while at the same time tugging at your heart strings. The book expresses beautifully, poetically and humorously what true love and promises are all about. The special love and bond that is created between the young protagonists is one that will make you want to pick up this book and read it over and over again! And your friends will want to read it too!

What would you do if you saw a child with someone you deemed as an unreliable and uncaring mother? Victoria is faced with this problem, as while she is at the train station she witnesses a mother verbally abusing her son, and later getting into an argument with a man. Usually, most people would see such a situation and shake their heads. With Victoria, not only does she notice the trouble that the boy's life could possibly be in, but she takes action by taking the boy, Willis, from his mother. Together they go on an adventure, not toward New York where she had originally planned to go to be with her father, but to Georgia. As their journey continues, Victoria and Willis faces numerous obstacles, from threats to calls from those wondering about her actions, to the fact that she just kidnapped a child, even though she had good intentions. The longer they are on the road together, the larger the impact they have on each others lives and the more dangerous their adventure grows. The right actions just turn out to be wrong in other people's eyes. Stacy DeKeyser takes us on a journey of someone who sees themselves as weak but whose actions are powerful. Just from the fact that Victoria's family life isn't perfect we understand that she does not want the same fate for Willis. And yet we still must question whether it was the best idea. Two unlikely characters come together and create a bond that is heartwarming and incredible. JUMP THE CRACKS is an amazing novel and readers need to jump on the bandwagon and experience an adventure that will make us wonder: "What would we do in this situation?" Reviewed by: Randstostipher "tallnlankyrn" Nguyen

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