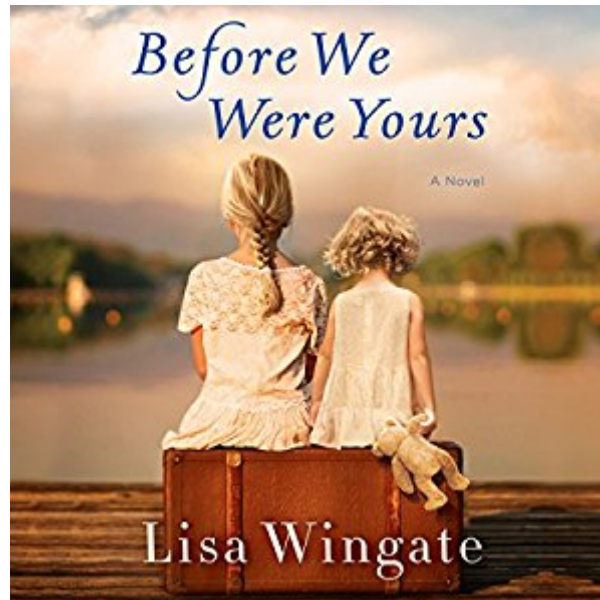




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Before We Were Yours: A Novel



Synopsis

Two families, generations apart, are forever changed by a heartbreaking injustice in this poignant novel, inspired by a true story, for fans of *Orphan Train* and *The Nightingale*. 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 fiancé, 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.

Book Information

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#2 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Family Saga #5 in Books > Literature & Fiction > Genre Fiction > Historical

Customer Reviews

I wasn't familiar with Lisa Wingate's books before I read "Before We Were Yours" but I'll be looking for others now that I've read it. I was drawn fully into the story, set in both the 1930s and present day. It follows the story of the Foss children in the '30s and Avery Stafford in present day, and brings to light a horrifying and shameful real-life scandal. From the '30s to 1950, a woman named Georgia Tann, who ran the (Memphis) Tennessee Children's Home Society, stole poor children from their families and newborn babies from single mothers and sold them to celebrities, politicians and others who could afford them. It was all done under the guise of helping orphaned and abandoned children find good homes, but it was actually human trafficking. Avery Stafford finds a puzzling photograph that leads her into an ever more confusing story of secrets and lies inside her upright, respected family. Along the way, she starts to question the man her family has picked for her to marry and her expected role within the family. What follows is a heartwarming story of love, betrayal, memories and staying true to your heart. In addition to the well developed characters and background love story, I liked the realistic view into the 1930s. I really enjoyed this book and learned a lot about a dark time in our history, when being poor was enough to have a family ripped apart forever.

This is the first book I've ever read by Lisa Wingate, but having read it I will search through her other titles. It was an excellent book! The subject matter was hard, and sad at times, as I knew it would be before starting. I could not put it down because I had to find out how the story ended. It was a glorious book, I'm happy that I read it!

This was a beautiful book. And there is history in it that I must explore. Families sometimes don't understand things from their past. How I wish I had known more about my great grandparents and even my grandparents. My biological father left when I was seven so I don't know much about that side. Oh but if only someone had kept stories written so that those of us in the future could understand our past. God bless all the orphans from that era and those today who seek their past. I almost read the book twice. It was lovely.

I have known that there have been "baby markets

This was a very interesting novel. Most of us are not aware of the abuse and suffering all of the children experienced in many of the facility's holding children to be adopted out! So many Children

lived such a horrible existence!

One of the BEST books I've read in years. It was a double whammy...it was a page turner and I didn't want to put it down, but there were chapters that were emotionally disturbing and I had to walk away. Superb author to be able to deliver that punch. Can't wait to read another of her novels.

I finally purchased a book on my kindle that was highly rated and wasn't a bust for me! This was heartbreaking and so disturbing. I was unaware of Georgia Tann and her heinous acts. Kept me involved the whole time...this is one I won't forget.

Well written and great tale. Best I've read in long time. I plan on purchasing more of her books. Exposing farming of children and the brutal treatment at orphanage was a real eye opener.

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When Bugs Were Big, Plants Were Strange, and Tetrapods Stalked the Earth: A Cartoon Prehistory of Life before Dinosaurs
Get What's Yours - Revised & Updated: The Secrets to Maxing Out Your Social Security (The Get What's Yours Series)
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