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## A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures)

By Joan Lowery Nixon



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A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) By Joan Lowery Nixon

**FOR LOVERS OF HISTORICAL ADVENTURE, *A FAMILY APART* IS THE MIDDLE-GRADE ANSWER TO CHRISTINA BAKER KLINE'S *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLING *ORPHAN TRAIN*.**

Imagine being taken from your home. Imagine your mother is the one who lets it happen.

This is the fate that befalls the Kelly children. It's 1856, and their widowed mother has sent them west from New York City because she's convinced that she can't give them the life they deserve.

The Kellys board an "orphan train" and are taken to St. Joseph, Missouri, where their problems only grow worse. It was bad enough that they had to say goodbye to their mother, but now they're forced to part ways with their fellow siblings as well. Thirteen-year-old Frances won't stand for it. She's going to protect her brothers and sisters, even if it means dressing up like a boy and putting herself in danger.

Will Frances be able to save her siblings? And what about her mom—was splitting up their family really her greatest act of love? Ride the rails with Frances and her siblings to find out!

"This is as close to a perfect book as you'll buy this year." –VOYA



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## **A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) By Joan Lowery Nixon Bibliography**

- Sales Rank: #31969 in Books
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## **Editorial Review**

From Publishers Weekly

This first book of the Orphan Train Quartet tells the story of Frances Mary, 13, eldest of the six Kelly children. Life in New York's grim 19th century slums consists of hardship for the poor but honest Kelly clan. When widowed Mrs. Kelly feels that she is no longer capable of providing for her children, she sends them west on the Orphan Train, to be adopted by farm families. Frances masquerades as a boy in order to be adopted with Petey, the brother she promised her mother she would protect. The practical difficulties Frances faces in maintaining this disguise are handled in an amusing and thoughtful manner. Since Frances and Petey are adopted by a couple with strong abolitionist sympathies, it should come as no surprise that Frances, just days after her arrival on the farm, finds herself helping two runaway slaves on the Underground Railroad. Though the plot is predictable and sometimes overly sentimental, and the Kelly family lapses into stilted Irish syntax, the rapid succession of high-spirited adventures make for lively reading. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1987 Reed Business Information, Inc.

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8 First of a projected quartet of orphan stories, each about a member of the same family of children transported by orphan train from New York to St. Joseph, Missouri, and surrounding areas. A kind of period piece, circa 1860, *A Family Apart* has a distinct Horatio Alger tone. Well constructed incidents, including the widowed mother giving up her children so they can be sent west to find a better life, a grass fire set by sparks from the train, and a holdup of the train contribute to fast action and considerable suspense particularly about the oldest girl, Frances, who disguises herself as a boy so she can better help her brothers and sisters. An Orphan for Nebraska (Atheneum, 1979) by Charlene Joy Talbot is a similar orphan train story, but about one boy. Patricia Beatty's *That's One Ornerly Orphan* (Morrow, 1980) is more humorous but less of a saga. What happened to orphans and street children of the last century may well appeal to many of today's children who hear so much about street children and abducted and deserted kids. George Gleason, Department of English, Southwest Missouri State University, Springfield  
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About the Author

Joan Lowery Nixon was the author of more than 130 books for young readers and was the only four-time winner of the Edgar Allan Poe Best Young Adult Mystery Award. She received the award for *The Kidnapping of Christina Lattimore*, *The Séance*, *The Name of the Game Was Murder*, and *The Other Side of the Dark*, which also won the California Young Reader Medal. Her historical fiction included the award-winning series *The Orphan Train Adventures*, *Orphan Train Children*, and *Colonial Williamsburg: Young Americans*.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Users Review**

**From reader reviews:**

**James Reed:**

The book *A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures)* make one feel enjoy for your spare time. You may use

to make your capable far more increase. Book can being your best friend when you getting tension or having big problem with your subject. If you can make reading through a book A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) to get your habit, you can get much more advantages, like add your current capable, increase your knowledge about a few or all subjects. You may know everything if you like start and read a publication A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures). Kinds of book are several. It means that, science e-book or encyclopedia or some others. So , how do you think about this guide?

#### **Marni Elliott:**

The book A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) will bring you to the new experience of reading some sort of book. The author style to explain the idea is very unique. When you try to find new book to study, this book very appropriate to you. The book A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) is much recommended to you to learn. You can also get the e-book through the official web site, so you can more readily to read the book.

#### **Anna Snyder:**

People live in this new time of lifestyle always aim to and must have the extra time or they will get large amount of stress from both day to day life and work. So , if we ask do people have extra time, we will say absolutely without a doubt. People is human not really a huge robot. Then we request again, what kind of activity have you got when the spare time coming to anyone of course your answer will unlimited right. Then do you try this one, reading books. It can be your alternative with spending your spare time, often the book you have read is A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures).

#### **Alexander Ray:**

A lot of people said that they feel weary when they reading a e-book. They are directly felt the item when they get a half portions of the book. You can choose typically the book A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) to make your current reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading expertise is developing when you including reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy you just read it and mingle the idea about book and reading through especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to available a book and examine it. Beside that the publication A Family Apart (Orphan Train Adventures) can to be your brand-new friend when you're sense alone and confuse in doing what must you're doing of their time.

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