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I'll Be Watching



Synopsis

From the author of *The Crazy Man* In a small prairie town like Argue, Saskatchewan, everyone knows everybody else's business. It's common knowledge that the Loney family has been barely hanging on, but when the Loney children's father George dies in a drunken stupor and their stepmother takes off with a traveling Bible salesman, it looks as though the children are done for. Who's to save them when everyone is coping with their own problems — the lingering Depression and the loss of the town's young men to the Second World War? Under the watchful eye of their ghostly parents and through the small kindnesses of a few neighbors, but mostly by dint of their own determination and ingenuity, the Loney children survive. *I'll Be Watching* is an extremely powerful story of children at risk because of adult hypocrisy, indifference, self-interest, and outright immorality, all cloaked in a self-righteous exterior.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First they had lost their mother, and not much later their father. The four Loney children - Ran, almost old enough to legally serve in the military; fourteen-year old Nora, who had taken over in the caregiver role; twelve-year old Jim, a rebel on the outside and sensitive on the inside; and little Addie, who had not uttered a word since Mama died - had little choice but to rely on their own wits for survival. They lived in a small Canadian prairie town in which the locals had very particular and unyielding ideas about the proper way to behave. The Loney children certainly did not fit the mold, and some members of the community did what they could to show their disapproval and make life

difficult for them. The bitter cold winter could have proved fatal for the children were it not for their own resourcefulness, the kindness of other members of the community who also did not fit the mold and found it in their hearts to help, and the watchful spirits of their departed parents. This combination helped them to stay warm, find food, and safeguard their health. But would these sources of strength and support be enough to stave off the insidious reach of the second world war? This novel, written in verse from multiple points of view, offers a compelling tale of faith and courage in the face of suffering and evil. Thoroughly entwined throughout the text are a number of economics-related themes, including poverty, scarcity, and incentives. Note that several plot strands deal with death and sexual assault, making the book more appropriate for readers mature enough to handle such themes. The writing is excellent, with characters and lessons that are likely to stay with the reader long after the last page has been turned.

I don't really have adequate words to express my appreciation for this book (but I'll try!) Highlights for me: Pamela's sensitive poetic writing; the obvious depth of her research for details about that historic era; her living characters who felt completely genuine; the hovering departed parents who lent a feeling of hope; the story line which kept me reading 'til the wee hours to make sure all would be well. What a wonderful book! Betsy Clark

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