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# Looking For Home (Beyond The Orphan Train Book 1)



## Synopsis

With his mother dead, his father gone, and his older brothers and sisters unable to help, eight-year-old Ethan Cooper knows it's his responsibility to keep him and his younger siblings together—even if that means going to an orphanage. Ethan, Alice, Simon, and Will settle into the Briarlane Christian Children's Home, where there's plenty to eat, plenty of work, and plenty of talk about a Father who never leaves. Even so, Ethan fears losing the only family he has. How can he trust God to keep him safe when almost everything he's known has disappeared? The first book in the Beyond the Orphan Train series, *Looking for Home* takes us back to 1907 Pennsylvania and into the real-life adventures of four children in search of a true home.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I am quite particular about the books I let my children read, but once again, Mrs. Richardson has done an astonishing job. She weaves a wonderful tale based on true events and captivates the

reader. I whole heartedly recommend this book to young and old alike.

I enjoyed this book because the Author held my interest. I enjoy books about our orphans and am always glad to see people care enough to give them a good home.

another good read for young and old alike.

Good book. Looking forward to reading more about the children's adventures on the train and after they get to their new home. I highly recommend reading.

Good clean thought provoking book for children. Nothing inappropriate. nothing offensive. We have already bought the next two books. Thank you

Actually, I read the story in the Sacramento Bee as a serialized story. It was in the paper every Mon thru Fri for a total of 21 days and I found it difficult to wait a day for the next chapter, weekends were even worse. I cried with sorrow during some of the reading and laughed with joy at other times.

Marvin Wilsey

When I was given the opportunity to review this book I was a bit confused. I had never heard of the orphan trains. Apparently (according to Wikipedia anyways) The Orphan Train Movement was a supervised welfare program that transported orphaned and homeless children from crowded Eastern cities of the United States to foster homes located largely in rural areas of the Midwest. The orphan trains operated between 1853 and 1929, relocating about 200,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children. In this series Richardson bases the main characters on the lives of 4 orphans and their experiences. While names have been changed the events are as close to accurate as the memories of those the characters have been modeled after. That being said, I think this would be a great way to introduce younger children to this time in history. The main character, Ethan, is 8 years old in 1907 when this story begins. He is the oldest of the children being sent to the orphanage with his 3 younger siblings and is tasked with looking out after them. His older siblings had obtained work and thus were able to support themselves, but unable to support their younger siblings. Ma has passed on and Pa is out "working on a boat" but we are led to believe that he has abandoned the family. As the first in the series this 12 chapter, 170 page book covers the children's trip to the local orphanage and their first year there. It is written in such a way that an elementary age child would

easily be able not only read the book but connect with the characters. I believe this would also be a wonderful read aloud for lower elementary students as well. And if you are a lover of living books, this would be right up your alley. (I did receive a galley of this title in exchange for an honest review. All thoughts and opinions are my own.)

Beyond the Orphan Train series by Arleta Richardson contains four books in one. Beyond the Orphan Train contains Looking for Home, Whistle-Stop West, West Prairie Homestead, and Across the Border. The books show the life of Ethan Cooper from May 1907 through May 1912. Ethan is eight years old at the beginning of the series and he promised to take care of his younger siblings. The family's mother passed away and their father took off. The older siblings all have jobs and cannot take care of the younger children. Ethan, Simon, William, and Alice are sent to an orphanage where they eventually get on an orphan train headed west. The orphanage hopes that each child will find a home. The Cooper children want to find a home for all of the together (which is next to impossible). Join Ethan and the other children on an adventure to find forever families. Beyond the Orphan Train is well-written and easy to read (has a good flow). The stories are for children, but I believe that readers of all ages will enjoy these heartwarming stories as well. They are Christian stories that include history (from the areas including Pancho Villa) and talking points at the end (that you can use with kids especially if reading the book in a class or for homeschooling). I enjoyed these sweet stories. The book emphasized that God is always with you if you believe (have faith). I give Beyond the Orphan Train 5 out of 5 stars. I received a complimentary copy of Beyond the Orphan Train from NetGalley in exchange for an honest evaluation of the novel.

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