

orphan train

orphan train was a unique and transformative social experiment in American history, impacting the lives of thousands of children and shaping the development of communities across the United States. This article explores the origins, historical context, and legacy of the orphan train movement, delving into the reasons behind its inception, the organizations involved, the journeys undertaken by orphaned and abandoned children, and the lasting effects on American society. Readers will gain insight into the daily experiences of these children, the challenges and controversies surrounding the program, and how the orphan train phenomenon continues to be remembered today. By examining historical facts, key figures, and modern perspectives, this comprehensive guide provides an engaging and informative look at one of the most significant child welfare initiatives in U.S. history.

- Understanding the Orphan Train Movement
- Historical Background and Causes
- Key Organizations and Influential Figures
- The Journey: Life on the Orphan Train
- Placement and Adoption Experiences
- Challenges, Controversies, and Criticisms
- Lasting Legacy and Modern Perspectives

Understanding the Orphan Train Movement

The orphan train movement was a large-scale child relocation program that took place in the United States between 1854 and 1929. During this period, an estimated 200,000 orphaned, abandoned, or homeless children were transported from crowded Eastern cities to foster homes in rural areas throughout the Midwest and beyond. The objective was to provide these vulnerable children with better living conditions, family support, and opportunities for a brighter future. The orphan train program is widely regarded as the precursor to modern foster care and child welfare systems in the United States.

Historical Background and Causes

Urbanization and Social Conditions of the 19th Century

The orphan train movement emerged in response to the rapidly changing social and economic landscape of the 19th century. Major cities like New York were experiencing dramatic population growth due to immigration, industrialization, and rural migration. Overcrowding, poverty, disease, and inadequate housing led to a surge in the number of homeless and destitute children living on city streets or in orphanages. Epidemics, such as cholera and influenza, further increased the number of children left without parental care.

Child Welfare Concerns and Reform Movements

As the plight of these children became more visible, reformers and social activists campaigned for solutions. The prevailing belief was that institutional care was insufficient for the healthy development of children. Reformers advocated for placing children in family environments where they could receive moral guidance, education, and stability. This philosophy laid the groundwork for the orphan train initiative, which sought to address both child welfare concerns and the labor needs of rural families.

Key Organizations and Influential Figures

Children's Aid Society

The Children's Aid Society, founded in 1853 by Charles Loring Brace, was the primary organization behind the orphan train movement. Brace believed that relocating children from urban environments to rural families would offer them a better chance at productive lives. The Society organized the logistics, screened potential foster families, and advocated for the children's well-being throughout the process.

New York Foundling Hospital

Another significant contributor was the New York Foundling Hospital, established by the Sisters of Charity in 1869. This Catholic institution focused on placing abandoned infants and young children with foster families, particularly in Catholic communities throughout the Midwest and West. Their efforts complemented those of the Children's Aid Society and expanded the reach of the orphan train program.

Other Notable Reformers

Several other individuals and organizations were involved in the orphan train movement, including the New York Juvenile Asylum and various church-based charities. These groups shared the goal of rescuing children from poverty and neglect while promoting their integration into stable, hardworking American families.

The Journey: Life on the Orphan Train

Preparing for the Journey

Children selected for relocation were often gathered at orphanages or shelters in major cities. Prior to departure, they received basic clothing and sometimes identification tags. Social workers and guardians accompanied groups of children to ensure their safety during the journey.

Travel Experience and Conditions

The children traveled in groups by train, sometimes for days or even weeks, across vast distances. The conditions onboard varied but were generally modest, with limited comfort and amenities. Stops were planned in predetermined towns along the train route, where local families had been notified of the children's arrival.

Arrival and Selection Process

Upon arrival in each town, the children were often assembled in public places such as train stations, churches, or meeting halls. Prospective foster or adoptive families would gather to view the children and select those they wished to take into their homes. The selection process was sometimes referred to as a "placing out" event and could be stressful and intimidating for the children.

- Children were encouraged to present themselves well to appeal to families.
- Selection was based on perceived health, age, and ability to help with farm or household work.
- Older children and siblings were sometimes separated due to family preferences.

Placement and Adoption Experiences

Life in New Homes

Once placed with families, children's experiences varied widely. Some found loving, supportive homes where they received education, care, and the chance to become part of the community. Others were treated primarily as sources of labor and faced difficult conditions, inadequate care, or even abuse. The lack of consistent oversight made outcomes highly dependent on the character and intentions of the receiving families.

Legal Status and Adoption

Initially, many orphan train children were placed as indentured servants or foster children rather than being formally adopted. Over time, legal adoption processes became more common, providing children with greater security and rights. However, records were often incomplete, and many children lost contact with their biological families or siblings.

Long-Term Impact on Children

The long-term effects of the orphan train experience were complex. While some former riders achieved success and stability, others struggled with identity issues, loss of family connections, and feelings of displacement. Despite the challenges, many orphan train alumni expressed gratitude for the opportunities afforded to them through the program.

Challenges, Controversies, and Criticisms

Separation from Families and Siblings

One of the most significant criticisms of the orphan train movement was the frequent separation of siblings and the lack of efforts to keep biological families intact. In some cases, children with living parents were placed on the trains without adequate consent or due to extreme poverty.

Quality of Placements and Oversight

The quality of placements varied greatly, and there were instances of neglect, exploitation, and abuse. The limited resources for follow-up visits and oversight made it difficult to ensure the well-being of every child. Some critics argued that the program prioritized the needs of rural labor markets over the best interests of the children.

Cultural and Religious Concerns

Cultural and religious differences between sending and receiving communities sometimes led to tensions. For example, Catholic and Protestant organizations often placed children with families that matched their own faith, but mismatches did occur, resulting in conflicts over religious upbringing and identity.

Lasting Legacy and Modern Perspectives

Influence on Child Welfare Systems

The orphan train movement laid the foundation for modern child welfare and foster care practices in the United States. It highlighted the need for family-based care, legal protections, and greater oversight of child placements. Lessons learned from the orphan train era influenced subsequent reforms and the development of comprehensive child welfare policies.

Commemoration and Research

Interest in the orphan train movement has grown in recent years, with museums, memorials, books, and documentaries dedicated to preserving its history. Descendants of orphan train riders have formed organizations to share stories and support genealogical research. The movement remains a subject of ongoing study and discussion among historians, sociologists, and child welfare professionals.

Relevance to Contemporary Issues

The themes of child welfare, family separation, and the search for belonging resonate today, as societies continue to grapple with the challenges of supporting vulnerable children. The orphan train

story offers valuable insights into the complexities of social reform and the importance of safeguarding the rights and well-being of all children.

Questions and Answers about Orphan Train

Q: What was the orphan train movement?

A: The orphan train movement was a child relocation program in the United States from 1854 to 1929, in which thousands of orphaned or abandoned children from Eastern cities were transported by train to be placed with families in rural communities across the country.

Q: Why did the orphan train movement start?

A: The movement began as a response to rising numbers of homeless children in urban areas due to poverty, immigration, disease, and inadequate housing. Reformers sought to provide these children with better lives by relocating them to rural families who could offer care and stability.

Q: Who organized the orphan trains?

A: The Children's Aid Society, led by Charles Loring Brace, and the New York Foundling Hospital were the primary organizations behind the orphan trains, with support from other charities and religious groups.

Q: How were children selected for the orphan trains?

A: Children were typically chosen from orphanages, shelters, or city streets. Selection was based on factors like age, health, and availability, with some children placed with families as foster children, laborers, or adoptees.

Q: What was the journey like for children on the orphan trains?

A: The journey could be long and challenging, often lasting several days. Children traveled in groups with adult guardians, stopping at towns along the route where they would be presented for placement with waiting families.

Q: Were all orphan train placements successful?

A: Experiences varied widely. Some children found loving homes, while others faced exploitation or neglect. The quality of placements depended on the families and the limited oversight available at the time.

Q: What impact did the orphan train movement have on American society?

A: The movement influenced the development of modern foster care and child welfare systems, raised awareness of child welfare issues, and contributed to the growth and diversity of communities in the Midwest and West.

Q: Are there still orphan train descendants today?

A: Yes, many descendants of orphan train riders are active in preserving the history and legacy of the movement through organizations, reunions, and research.

Q: How is the orphan train movement remembered today?

A: The movement is commemorated through museums, historical societies, books, documentaries, and public awareness initiatives, ensuring its place as a significant chapter in American history.

Q: What lessons can be learned from the orphan train era?

A: The orphan train movement highlights the importance of child protection, family integrity, careful oversight, and the ongoing need for compassionate solutions to child welfare challenges.

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The Orphan Train: A Journey Through History and Humanity

The clatter of the train wheels, the hushed whispers of frightened children, the uncertain future stretching before them – this is the haunting image conjured by the term "Orphan Train." This blog post delves deep into the history of the Orphan Train movement, exploring its motivations, its impact on countless lives, and its lasting legacy. We'll uncover the often-brutal realities faced by these children, examine the societal forces that led to their plight, and consider the complex ethical considerations surrounding this controversial chapter in American history. Prepare to be moved by the stories of resilience, heartbreak, and the enduring search for belonging.

What Was the Orphan Train Movement?

The Orphan Train movement, active primarily from 1854 to 1929, was a system by which orphaned, abandoned, and neglected children from the eastern United States were transported by train to families in the Midwest and the West. Driven by a burgeoning population of children without parents or proper care in overcrowded urban areas, the movement aimed to provide these children with homes and opportunities they lacked in their original circumstances. Two primary organizations, the New York Children's Aid Society (NYCAS) and the Catholic Charities, were largely responsible for organizing and executing these mass migrations.

The Children's Journeys: A Hardship Few Can Imagine

The journey itself was a harrowing experience. Packed onto trains, often for days at a time, these children faced uncertain futures. Many were extremely young, often with little memory of their families or past lives. Upon arrival at their destination, they were presented to potential adoptive families during informal "showings." The selection process was far from perfect, often based on the whim of the adopting families, leading to placements in various environments ranging from loving and supportive homes to exploitative and abusive ones. The lack of oversight and proper record-keeping only exacerbated the vulnerability of these children.

The Harsh Realities of Placement

The placement of these children wasn't a simple process of finding a suitable home. Many children faced exploitation, neglect, or even abuse in their new homes. The lack of regulations and follow-up meant that the organizations involved often had little knowledge of the children's well-being after placement. This resulted in countless stories of heartbreak and hardship, forever altering the lives of those transported on the Orphan Trains.

The Social Context of the Orphan Train Movement

Several factors contributed to the rise of the Orphan Train movement. Rapid industrialization and urbanization led to overcrowded cities with inadequate social services. Poverty, disease, and family breakdown resulted in a large population of children without parental care. The perceived need to "solve" this problem led to a belief that placing these children in rural families across the country would offer a better chance at a productive life. However, this belief often overlooked the complex realities of child welfare and the potential for exploitation.

The Ethical Dilemmas

The Orphan Train movement, while intending to provide a better life, presented significant ethical dilemmas. The separation of children from their birth families, often without their consent or even their knowledge, raises serious questions about parental rights and the best interests of the child.

The lack of proper screening processes for adoptive families led to many instances of mistreatment and abuse. Furthermore, the cultural and societal differences between the children's urban backgrounds and the rural communities they were placed in presented additional challenges to their adjustment.

The Lasting Legacy of the Orphan Trains

The legacy of the Orphan Train movement continues to resonate today. The stories of these children, their resilience in the face of adversity, and their unwavering spirit of survival continue to inspire. However, the movement also serves as a cautionary tale, highlighting the importance of careful consideration of child welfare practices, the need for thorough screening and oversight in adoption processes, and the lasting impact of societal injustices on vulnerable populations. Understanding the Orphan Train's history provides crucial context for contemporary discussions surrounding child welfare, adoption, and the ethical responsibilities of society towards its most vulnerable members.

Conclusion

The Orphan Train movement stands as a complex and compelling chapter in American history. It reminds us of the challenges faced by vulnerable children throughout history and underscores the ongoing need for effective child welfare systems that prioritize the well-being and rights of every child. While the intentions behind the Orphan Train may have been noble, the reality was often far more complicated and heartbreaking. The stories of these children serve as a powerful testament to human resilience and a poignant reminder of the importance of safeguarding the welfare of children.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

1. Were all children on the Orphan Trains orphans? No, many children were placed on the Orphan Trains due to poverty, neglect, or family breakdown, not necessarily complete orphanhood.
2. How many children were transported on the Orphan Trains? Precise numbers are difficult to determine, but estimates range from tens of thousands to over 200,000 children.
3. What happened to the children after they were placed? Outcomes varied greatly, with some finding loving homes and thriving, while others faced hardship, exploitation, or abuse.
4. Are there any resources available to learn more about the Orphan Train? Yes, there are many books, documentaries, and online resources dedicated to the history of the Orphan Train movement.
5. How did the Orphan Train movement affect the development of child welfare systems? The experiences of the Orphan Train children contributed to the development of more regulated and ethical child welfare practices in the 20th century.

orphan train: Orphan Train Girl Christina Baker Kline, 2017-05-02 This young readers' edition of Christina Baker Kline's #1 New York Times bestselling novel *Orphan Train* follows a twelve-year-old foster girl who forms an unlikely bond with a ninety-one-year-old woman. Adapted and condensed for a young audience, *Orphan Train Girl* includes an author's note and archival photos from the orphan train era. This book is especially perfect for mother/daughter reading groups. Molly Ayer has been in foster care since she was eight years old. Most of the time, Molly knows it's her attitude that's the problem, but after being shipped from one family to another, she's had her fair share of adults treating her like an inconvenience. So when Molly's forced to help an wealthy elderly woman clean out her attic for community service, Molly is wary. But from the moment they meet, Molly realizes that Vivian isn't like any of the adults she's encountered before. Vivian asks Molly questions about her life and actually listens to the answers. Soon Molly sees they have more in common than she thought. Vivian was once an orphan, too—an Irish immigrant to New York City who was put on a so-called orphan train to the Midwest with hundreds of other children—and she can understand, better than anyone else, the emotional binds that have been making Molly's life so hard. Together, they not only clear boxes of past mementos from Vivian's attic, but forge a path of friendship, forgiveness, and new beginnings.

orphan train: Orphan Train Christina Baker Kline, 2019-01-08 From Christina Baker Kline comes a novel about two women: one about to age out of the foster care system, the other 90 years old and carrying both a tremendous secret and a story of a life formed by a part of American history almost entirely forgotten: the Orphan Trains Molly Ayer has one last chance, and she knows it. Close to being kicked out of her foster home -- just months from turning 18 and "aging out" of the system -- Molly should be grateful that her boyfriend found her a community service project: helping an old lady clean out her home. Molly can't help but think that the 50 hours will be tedious, but at least they'll keep her out of juvie, and right now that's all she cares about. Ninety-one-year-old Vivian Daly has lived a quiet life on the coast of Maine for decades. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are keys to a turbulent past. Molly is about to discover -- as she and Vivian unpack her possessions, and memories -- that Vivian's story is a piece of America's tumultuous history now largely forgotten: the tale of a young Irish immigrant, orphaned in New York City and put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other orphaned children whose destiny would be determined by luck and chance. As Molly digs deeper, she finds surprising parallels in her own experience as a Penobscot Indian and Vivian's story -- and Molly realizes that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *THE TRAIN RIDER* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, of unexpected friendships, and of the secrets we carry with us that keep us from finding out who we are.

orphan train: Orphan Train Christina Baker Kline, 2013-04-02 The #1 New York Times Bestseller Now featuring a sneak peek at Christina's forthcoming novel *The Exiles*, coming August 2020. "A lovely novel about the search for family that also happens to illuminate a fascinating and forgotten chapter of America's history. Beautiful."—Ann Packer Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned children whose fates would be determined by pure luck. Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or would they face a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude? As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was one such child, sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine, the memories of her upbringing rendered a hazy blur. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past. Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer knows that a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past. Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, *Orphan Train* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience,

of second chances, and unexpected friendship.

orphan train: *Orphan Trains* Marilyn Irvin Holt, 1994-02-01 From 1850 to 1930 America witnessed a unique emigration and resettlement of at least 200,000 children and several thousand adults, primarily from the East Coast to the West. This 'placing out,' an attempt to find homes for the urban poor, was best known by the 'orphan trains' that carried the children. Holt carefully analyzes the system, initially instituted by the New York Children's Aid Society in 1853, tracking its imitators as well as the reasons for its creation and demise. She captures the children's perspective with the judicious use of oral histories, institutional records, and newspaper accounts. This well-written volume sheds new light on the multifaceted experience of children's immigration, changing concepts of welfare, and Western expansion. It is good, scholarly social history.—Library Journal

orphan train: *Orphan Train Rider* Andrea Warren, 1996 Discusses the placement of over 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children in homes throughout the Midwest from 1854 to 1929 by recounting the story of one boy and his brothers.

orphan train: *Orphan Trains* Stephen O'Connor, 2014-11-04 The true story behind Christina Baker Kline's bestselling novel is revealed in this "engaging and thoughtful history" of the Children's Aid Society (Los Angeles Times). A powerful blend of history, biography, and adventure, *Orphan Trains* fills a grievous gap in the American story. Tracing the evolution of the Children's Aid Society, this dramatic narrative tells the fascinating tale of one of the most famous—and sometimes infamous—child welfare programs: the orphan trains, which spirited away some two hundred fifty thousand abandoned children into the homes of rural families in the Midwest. In mid-nineteenth-century New York, vagrant children, whether orphans or runaways, filled the streets. The city's solution for years had been to sweep these children into prisons or almshouses. But a young minister named Charles Loring Brace took a different tack. With the creation of the Children's Aid Society in 1853, he provided homeless youngsters with shelter, education, and, for many, a new family out west. The family matching process was haphazard, to say the least: at town meetings, farming families took their pick of the orphan train riders. Some children, such as James Brady, who became governor of Alaska, found loving homes, while others, such as Charley Miller, who shot two boys on a train in Wyoming, saw no end to their misery. Complete with extraordinary photographs and deeply moving stories, *Orphan Trains* gives invaluable insights into a creative genius whose pioneering, if controversial, efforts inform child rescue work today.

orphan train: *Orphan Trains* Elizabeth Raum, 2010-12 Describes the people and events involved in the orphan trains. The reader's choices reveal the historical details from the perspectives of a New York City newsboy, a child trying to keep his siblings together, and a child sent west on the baby trains--Provided by publisher.

orphan train: *Orphan Train* Verla Kay, 2003 Illustrations and rhyming text tell the story of a sister and two brothers who become orphans, are taken in, and make a journey aboard an orphan train to separate new homes.

orphan train: *Orphan Train Escape* Rachel Wesson, 2018-08-06 Bridget Collins is in dire straits - she needs to get out of New York, fast. With two young siblings under her wing, her options are limited. Her priest sends her as an outplacement agent on the orphan trains that run from New York to out west. With almost forty orphans under her care, she's relieved fellow and more experienced outplacement agent Carl Watson, is there to guide her. But Carl is dealing with his own trauma and finds it difficult to handle the pain the orphans are dealing with. Through tears and laughter, everyone on the orphan train has a lesson to teach about love, life and loyalty. And Bridget finds a new, unexpected calling. Every child deserves a happy home and Bridget is determined to do whatever it takes to ensure that happens. No matter what the cost...

orphan train: *Vivian's Choice: An Expanded Scene from Orphan Train* Christina Baker Kline, 2016-12-13 Since the publication of her smash international bestseller *Orphan Train*, Christina Baker Kline has met with countless readers and book clubs and is often asked the same question about a key decision one of her protagonists makes in *Orphan Train*. Christina has longed to write a scene in which she clarifies Vivian's motivations. Now, in this newly released scene and within the

book itself, she gives her readers new insights into Vivian's thoughts and feelings behind that fateful decision.

orphan train: We Rode the Orphan Trains Andrea Warren, 2001 They were throwaway kids, living on the streets or in orphanages and foster homes. Then Charles Loring Brace, a young minister in New York City, started the Children's Aid Society and devised a plan to give these homeless waifs a chance at finding families they could call their own. Thus began an extraordinary migration of American children. Between 1854 and 1929, an estimated 200,000 children ventured forth on a journey of hope. Here, in the sequel to *Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story*, Andrea Warren introduces nine men and women who rode the trains and helped make history so many years ago.

orphan train: *With You Always (Orphan Train Book #1)* Jody Hedlund, 2017-06-06 A Riveting Look at the Orphan Train from Historical Novelist Jody Hedlund When a financial crisis in 1850s New York leaves three orphaned sisters nearly destitute, the oldest, Elise Neumann, knows she must take action. She's had experience as a seamstress, and the New York Children's Aid Society has established a special service: placing out seamstresses and trade girls. Even though Elise doesn't want to leave her sisters for a job in Illinois, she realizes this may be their last chance. The son of one of New York City's wealthiest entrepreneurs, Thornton Quincy faces a dilemma. His father is dying, and in order to decide which of his sons will inherit everything, he is requiring them to do two things in six months: build a sustainable town along the Illinois Central Railroad, and get married. Thornton is tired of standing in his twin brother's shadow and is determined to win his father's challenge. He doesn't plan on meeting a feisty young woman on his way west, though.

orphan train: *Searching for You (Orphan Train Book #3)* Jody Hedlund, 2018-12-04 Despite years on the run, Sophie Neumann is determined to care for two young children. She won't abandon them the way she thinks her older sisters abandoned her. But times are growing desperate, and when she falls in with the wrong crowd and witnesses a crime, she realizes fleeing 1850s New York is her only option. Disappearing with her two young charges into a group of orphans heading west by train, Sophie hopes to find safety and a happy life. When the train stops in Illinois for the first placement of orphans, Sophie faces the most difficult choice of her life. Reinhold Weiss has finally purchased his own small farm. With mounting debts, a harvest to bring in, and past scars that haunt him, he's in no position to give his heart away . . . but can he say no when his long-lost friend shows up on a nearby train pleading for his help?

orphan train: *Trouble on the Orphan Train* Marianne Hering, 2016-10-01 Over 1 million sold in series! When they step into the Imagination Station, kids experience an unforgettable journey filled with action-packed adventure. With each book, they're whisked away with cousins Patrick and Beth to embark on a new journey around the world and back in time. This easy-to-read adventure is number 18 in the successful series that has now sold over 450,000 books in the series. Patrick and Beth arrive on an orphan train, heading west. They befriend an orphan who is falsely accused of being part of a train robbery. No one will adopt the child. Patrick and Beth stay with their new friend until the end of the line. All the while, they search for Eugene, who is missing somewhere in time.

orphan train: The Chaperone Laura Moriarty, 2012-06-05 Soon to be a feature film from the creators of *Downton Abbey* starring Elizabeth McGovern, *The Chaperone* is a New York Times-bestselling novel about the woman who chaperoned an irreverent Louise Brooks to New York City in the 1920s and the summer that would change them both. Only a few years before becoming a famous silent-film star and an icon of her generation, a fifteen-year-old Louise Brooks leaves Wichita, Kansas, to study with the prestigious Denishawn School of Dancing in New York. Much to her annoyance, she is accompanied by a thirty-six-year-old chaperone, who is neither mother nor friend. Cora Carlisle, a complicated but traditional woman with her own reasons for making the trip, has no idea what she's in for. Young Louise, already stunningly beautiful and sporting her famous black bob with blunt bangs, is known for her arrogance and her lack of respect for convention. Ultimately, the five weeks they spend together will transform their lives forever. For Cora, the city holds the promise of discovery that might answer the question at the core of her being, and even as she does

her best to watch over Louise in this strange and bustling place she embarks on a mission of her own. And while what she finds isn't what she anticipated, she is liberated in a way she could not have imagined. Over the course of Cora's relationship with Louise, her eyes are opened to the promise of the twentieth century and a new understanding of the possibilities for being fully alive. Drawing on the rich history of the 1920s, '30s, and beyond—from the orphan trains to Prohibition, flappers, and the onset of the Great Depression to the burgeoning movement for equal rights and new opportunities for women—Laura Moriarty's *The Chaperone* illustrates how rapidly everything, from fashion and hemlines to values and attitudes, was changing at this time and what a vast difference it all made for Louise Brooks, Cora Carlisle, and others like them.

orphan train: *Together Forever (Orphan Train Book #2)* Jody Hedlund, 2018-05-01 Marianne Neumann has one goal in life: to find her lost younger sister, Sophie. When Marianne takes a job as a placing agent with the Children's Aid Society in 1858 New York, she not only hopes to give children a better life but seeks to discover whether Sophie ended up leaving the city on an orphan train. Andrew Brady, her fellow agent on her first placing trip, is a former schoolteacher who has an easy way with the children—firm but tender and funny. Underneath his handsome charm, though, seems to linger a grief that won't go away—and a secret from his past that he keeps hidden. As the two team up placing orphans amid small railroad towns in Illinois, they find themselves growing ever closer . . . until a shocking tragedy threatens to upend all their work and change one of their lives forever.

orphan train: *Looking for Home* Arleta Richardson, 2016-02-01 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.

orphan train: *The Orphan Train* John Furia, 1979

orphan train: *A Little Life* Hanya Yanagihara, 2016-01-26 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • A stunning “portrait of the enduring grace of friendship” (NPR) about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. A masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century. NATIONAL BOOK AWARD FINALIST • MAN BOOKER PRIZE FINALIST • WINNER OF THE KIRKUS PRIZE *A Little Life* follows four college classmates—broke, adrift, and buoyed only by their friendship and ambition—as they move to New York in search of fame and fortune. While their relationships, which are tinged by addiction, success, and pride, deepen over the decades, the men are held together by their devotion to the brilliant, enigmatic Jude, a man scarred by an unspeakable childhood trauma. A hymn to brotherly bonds and a masterful depiction of love in the twenty-first century, Hanya Yanagihara's stunning novel is about the families we are born into, and those that we make for ourselves. Look for Hanya Yanagihara's latest bestselling novel, *To Paradise*.

orphan train: *Across the Border* Arleta Richardson, 2001-02 God has just the right place for us all. The four Cooper children- Ethan, Alice, Simon, and Will - seem to have found the place the Lord had for them. They've lived with the Rushes for four years now and they are all settled into their new family and home in South Dakota. Then Chad Rush makes another sudden, unexpected announcement. The family is moving again - to Mexico! Why he wants to move them all to a foreign country that is in the midst of political turmoil, none of the family can quite understand, but Chad Rush is a determined man. They have many adventures while discovering their new home - some good, others not so good - but through it all, Ethan comes to realize that no matter where he goes, no matter what he does, no matter what troubles he finds, God is with him always. Be sure to read all the books in the Orphans' Journey series: Book One: *Looking for Home* Book Two: *Whistle-stop West* Book Three: *Prairie Homestead* Book Four: *Across the Border*

orphan train: The Orphan Trains Alice K. Flanagan, 2006 Learn about the homeless city children who were taken out West to have new homes in the early 1900s.

orphan train: **A Family Apart** Joan Lowery Nixon, 2013-11-27 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

orphan train: **The Orphan Trains** Annette R. Fry, 1994 An examination of the placing out of orphaned, poor, and abandoned children from eastern cities such as New York and Boston to homes in the West, begin by the children's Aid Society.

orphan train: **The Orphan Train Trilogy** Jane Peart, 1990 In 1890, three 8-year old orphan girls head west on the Orphan Train--Laurel, Toddy and Kit go to live in Meadowridge.

orphan train: The Best Christmas Pageant Ever Barbara Robinson, 1983 The six mean Herdman kids lie, steal, smoke cigars (even the girls) and then become involved in the community Christmas pageant.

orphan train: *Orphan Train Riders* Kay B. Hall, 1992 From 1854 to 1929 about 150,000 orphans from New York City and the surrounding area were placed in homes in the Midwest and West. The children were sent out on Orphan Trains. This is the first volume in a series of stories written by orphan train riders and their descendants.

orphan train: **The Orphan Trains** Peggy Caravantes, 2013-08-01 This book relays the factual details of the orphan trains that sent East Coast orphans to be with families in the Midwest and West. The narrative provides multiple accounts of the event, and readers learn details from the point of view of an orphan child heading to the Midwest, a Midwestern family awaiting a child, and a New York City child welfare worker. This book offers opportunities to compare and contrast various perspectives in the text while gathering and analyzing information about an historical event.

orphan train: **Fair Play** Eve Rodsky, 2019-10-01 A REESE'S BOOK CLUB PICK A hands-on, real talk guide for navigating the hot-button issues that so many families struggle with.--Reese Witherspoon Tired, stressed, and in need of more help from your partner? Imagine running your household (and life!) in a new way... It started with the Sh*t I Do List. Tired of being the shefault parent responsible for all aspects of her busy household, Eve Rodsky counted up all the unpaid, invisible work she was doing for her family -- and then sent that list to her husband, asking for things to change. His response was... underwhelming. Rodsky realized that simply identifying the issue of unequal labor on the home front wasn't enough: She needed a solution to this universal problem. Her sanity, identity, career, and marriage depended on it. The result is Fair Play: a time- and anxiety-saving system that offers couples a completely new way to divvy up chores and responsibilities. Rodsky interviewed more than five hundred men and women from all walks of life to figure out what the invisible work in a family actually entails and how to get it all done efficiently. With four easy-to-follow rules, 100 household tasks, and a series of conversation starters for you and your partner, Fair Play helps you prioritize what's important to your family and who should take the lead on every chore from laundry to homework to dinner. Winning this game means rebalancing your home life, reigniting your relationship with your significant other, and reclaiming your Unicorn Space -- as in, the time to develop the skills and passions that keep you interested and interesting. Stop drowning in to-dos and lose some of that invisible workload that's pulling you down. Are you

ready to try Fair Play? Let's deal you in.

orphan train: An Awakened Heart (Orphan Train) Jody Hedlund, 2017-04-04 Trying to heal the ache she feels in her empty life, wealthy Christine Pendleton decides to volunteer at Centre Street Chapel. Ministering to one of the most deprived parts of New York City, the chapel aims at making a difference in the lives of the impoverished immigrants flooding the city. After seeing firsthand the hopelessness of the poor women and orphans, Christine is convinced more can be done to help them. Guy Bedell has been serving at the chapel and pouring his heart out for the people he's grown to care about. When Christine begins to challenge his methods and offers a new vision for reaching out to the community, can he trust that perhaps God has bigger plans in store for him--plans that may include this feisty socialite?

orphan train: The House in the Cerulean Sea TJ Klune, 2020-03-17 A NEW YORK TIMES, USA TODAY, and WASHINGTON POST BESTSELLER! A 2021 Alex Award winner! The 2021 RUSA Reading List: Fantasy Winner! An Indie Next Pick! One of Publishers Weekly's Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2020 One of Book Riot's "20 Must-Read Feel-Good Fantasies" Lambda Literary Award-winning author TJ Klune's bestselling, breakout contemporary fantasy that's 1984 meets The Umbrella Academy with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. (Gail Carriger) Linus Baker is a by-the-book case worker in the Department in Charge of Magical Youth. He's tasked with determining whether six dangerous magical children are likely to bring about the end of the world. Arthur Parnassus is the master of the orphanage. He would do anything to keep the children safe, even if it means the world will burn. And his secrets will come to light. The House in the Cerulean Sea is an enchanting love story, masterfully told, about the profound experience of discovering an unlikely family in an unexpected place—and realizing that family is yours. 1984 meets The Umbrella Academy with a pinch of Douglas Adams thrown in. —Gail Carriger, New York Times bestselling author of *Soulless* At the Publisher's request, this title is being sold without Digital Rights Management Software (DRM) applied.

orphan train: My Heart Remembers (My Heart Remembers Book #1) Kim Vogel Sawyer, 2008-03-01 Three orphaned immigrant children are separated, but long to find each other again. A prairie story in the tradition of Janette Oke.

orphan train: Train to Somewhere Eve Bunting, 2000-04-17 A young girl hopes to find her mother as she rides an Orphan Train to find a new life out west in "this finely crafted, heart-wrenching story" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Marianne, heading west with fourteen other children on an Orphan Train, is sure her mother will show up at one of the stations along the way. When her mother left Marianne at the orphanage, hadn't she promised she'd come for her after making a new life in the West? Stop after stop goes by, and there's no sign of her mother in the crowds that come to look over the children. No one shows any interest in adopting shy, plain Marianne, either. But that's all right: She has to be free for her mother to claim her. Then the train pulls into its final stop, a town called Somewhere . . . An American Library Association, Notable Children's Book ALA Booklist Editor's Choice Jefferson Cup Award Honor Book

orphan train: The Orphan Train Adventures Joan Lowery Nixon, 1999-12

orphan train: A Faraway Home Janie Lynn Panagopoulos, 2006-01-01 Jack, Sarah, and little George are part of the Orphan Train traveling from New York City to the Midwest to find homes and better lives.

orphan train: Grandma's Attic Treasury Arleta Richardson, 2012-02-01 Presents stories about life in the late nineteenth century, including tales of pride in a new dress, a special apron for Grandpa, and a little girl lost while asleep in her own bed.

orphan train: House of Earth and Blood Sarah J. Maas, 2020-03-03 A #1 New York Times bestseller! Sarah J. Maas's brand-new CRESCENT CITY series begins with House of Earth and Blood: the story of half-Fae and half-human Bryce Quinlan as she seeks revenge in a contemporary fantasy world of magic, danger, and searing romance. Bryce Quinlan had the perfect life-working hard all day and partying all night-until a demon murdered her closest friends, leaving her bereft, wounded, and alone. When the accused is behind bars but the crimes start up again, Bryce finds

herself at the heart of the investigation. She'll do whatever it takes to avenge their deaths. Hunt Athalar is a notorious Fallen angel, now enslaved to the Archangels he once attempted to overthrow. His brutal skills and incredible strength have been set to one purpose-to assassinate his boss's enemies, no questions asked. But with a demon wreaking havoc in the city, he's offered an irresistible deal: help Bryce find the murderer, and his freedom will be within reach. As Bryce and Hunt dig deep into Crescent City's underbelly, they discover a dark power that threatens everything and everyone they hold dear, and they find, in each other, a blazing passion-one that could set them both free, if they'd only let it. With unforgettable characters, sizzling romance, and page-turning suspense, this richly inventive new fantasy series by #1 New York Times bestselling author Sarah J. Maas delves into the heartache of loss, the price of freedom-and the power of love.

orphan train: *A Last Survivor of the Orphan Trains* Victoria Golden, William Walters, 2018-07-11 Homeless at age four, he found an extraordinary path through nine decades of U.S. history.

orphan train: *Toddy* Jane Peart, 2000 After her mother leaves six-year-old Toddy at the county children's home, she is chosen by a minister's wife to go West on the Orphan Train and is taken in by a wealthy widow as a companion for her sickly granddaughter.

orphan train: Tears of Betrayal Sherry A. Burton, 2012-07-20 Amber s world is shattered when her husband Jeff dies suddenly in an accident. On the day of his funeral, in the midst of her grief, she is blind-sided with divorce papers, served only hours before the service. When the ruggedly handsome Kentucky horse breeder Dalton loses his beloved wife shortly after the birth of their child, he thinks he will never find love again.

orphan train: Far to Go Alison Pick, 2011-05-12 For readers of THE TATTOOIST OF AUSCHWITZ and SCHINDLER'S LIST, FAR TO GO is a powerful, mesmerising novel centring on one family's heartbreaking decision to save their son - by saying goodbye to him for ever. Longlisted for the 2011 MAN BOOKER PRIZE for Fiction 'Extraordinary' Daily Mail 'A potential classic in the making' Financial Times Pepik is only six when the German forces invade Czechoslovakia. Desperate to find freedom, his affluent Jewish parents try to escape with him to Paris, but are betrayed by Marta, the family's beloved nanny. Yet it is Marta who then secures a place for the Pepik on a Kindertransport, an act of determination that saves his life. But the child is never to see his parents or Marta again. 'Somewhere between a book and a miracle' Catherine Ryan Hyde

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