



BEFORE WE WERE YOURS BY LISA WINGATE

Historical fiction/mystery
Ages 14 to older
Reveals horrible history

Before We Were Yours is a historical fiction book with mystery elements woven in. It has half of it set in 1939 and the other half set present-day, with chapters alternating between each. The book is about the Tennessee Children’s Home (TCHS) scandal and Georgia Tann with point of views from Rill Foss, the daughter of river travelers on the Mississippi River (1939) and Avery Stafford, a political heiress from South Carolina. The book follows the storyline of how Rill and her siblings get taken by Georgia Tann and how Avery finds out exactly what happened with TCHS.

Overall this was a really good book. The premise of it was so wonderful because it was so new-I had never read anything like it before. The book delved into something horrifying that was covered up by history.

Onto the plot: the book had two points of view-one from Rill and one from Avery. I think this was great, because it allowed for two different story lines to exist, and the reader could picture the two plotlines tying together. At first I liked the perspective of Avery (present-day) better, but as the book went on, I became more invested in Rill’s storyline because that’s where all the new information came from.

Many of the characters were round characters who changed throughout the story; while they were good as parts of a book, I didn’t really like them as characters. I liked Rill as a person because she takes care of all of her siblings, but I did not like her as a character because she was a bit boring to read about. I think Avery was an okay character, but I did not like her as a person because I felt that she was a bit nosy and incessant.

That leads me to one of the bad parts of the book: the extremely unnecessary love triangle. Avery already has a fiancé, but she gets attracted to someone else throughout the course of the book. The writing around these parts of the book is a bit annoying and cliché, and the love triangle itself added nothing to the book. Besides, I liked Avery with her fiancé better than the other person.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes obscure history or extremely out-of-place love triangles (just kidding). Any fan of mysteries would like this book as well. 6/10.

