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Thursday's Child



Synopsis

FOR USE IN SCHOOLS AND LIBRARIES ONLY. A girl comes of age during the Great Depression in a world both harsh and touchingly human. A loving and unsentimental portrait of family loyalty in the face of poverty and heartbreak. --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 6 hours 4 minutes

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Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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#5649 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family #10448

in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Children's Books > Fiction

Customer Reviews

My child was born on a Thursday and I wanted to give her a gift that reflected this

Fun read--especially if you are able to exercise your willful suspension of disbelief.

The story was well written and well read, but it was very dark and depressing. Won't be listening to it a second time.

A wonderful book

First of all, where on Earth does this novel take place? Thursday's Child is set during the Great Depression and so, being an egocentric American, I naturally assumed it was in the American Great Depression. But then I was confused because the characters all had Irish or Scottish accents. I read what someone else wrote about Thursday's Child and they said that it takes place in Australia based on some subtle clues in the text like local flora and place-names. That makes sense since

Sonya Hartnett is a native of Australia, but do a lot of people in Australia have Irish accents? Well, at any rate, Thursday's Child isn't about the place, and it isn't even about the times so much; it is definitely about the people. Regardless of where they live, or how they speak, these are human beings just like you and me and it is easy to sympathize with them as times go from bad to worse. Our main character is Harper, youngest of the family at the beginning of the story. Little Harper doesn't know anything about depressions but she knows that times are tough and she can see how it is affecting the various members of her family. Through Harper's eyes we witness first-hand how one setback after another wears away at the resolve of her parents until they begin to withdraw, leaving the children mostly to fend for themselves. It is the final, climactic tragedy that strikes the family that finally wakes the parents up. Sonya Hartnett had her first novel published when she was just 15 years old and it's been full speed ahead ever since. It's easy to see why so many people like her books. Sometimes I read a book and only get fuzzy, gray images of what the author is trying to describe, but Hartnett's pictures come in sharp and clear and in full color. She creates characters that you can really sympathize with and care for. Thursday's Child, like many of Hartnett's novels, was written for young adults, but I think most anyone would enjoy it. Melissa Eccleston was a good fit for Thursday's Child. She's British so the accents came naturally to her I'm sure. I thought Eccleston did a good job handling the various characters and making them distinct, and I also thought she read with some feeling. Not all narrators do that and it's always nice to hear one that does.

Winner of a Guardian Children's Book Award, I picked this up on a bargain book stand. The story is about a family in Australia (it is never stated as Australia I think, but references to red back spiders and the general geography and later the geology made me think it must be so). The narrator is a girl, Harper - but the story is really about Tin, her younger brother, who is always digging and makes a decision to live underground. Frankly I found it all a little unrealistic. It was not a funny book, so the living underground had to be taken seriously - but the scale of excavation in this story was not really plausible. Neither were the reactions of family and friends to the events of the story. But the story was also about the father of the family, and his own struggle with action, inaction, bravery and cowardice and some other mixed up feelings about his family. Interesting enough, but not the best book I have read recently. I will not be too worried about reading other "Guardian Awards" books.

James Augustin Barnabas Flute, otherwise known as "Tin," was born on a Thursday. Which, according to his older sister Harper who narrates this dark coming-of-age novel, fated him to his

wanderings. An older Harper looks back on her not quite seven-year-old self and remembers the day when her youngest brother Caffy was born - the day when Tin stopped being the impoverished family's baby, which is also the day when Tin learned how to dig. The family's story from then on diverges from Tin's, as the small boy slowly transforms into a wild creature whose home is a self-created network of tunnels beneath their shanty. Most of the time Tin is invisible to the others, a person lost - less and less human, as time passes - yet still loved. Still one of their own. This literary novel's premise borders on speculative fiction, with wonderfully creepy effect. Tin's life intersects with those of his family at crisis points throughout the story, as their already difficult existence becomes ever more so. What will this wild and often frightening child bring his loved ones in the end? Will he be their doom - their salvation - or both? Despite its darkness, which at times feels extreme, "Thursday's Child" is a book beautifully written and a story expertly told. I recommend it highly, although not to young readers prone to nightmares! - Reviewed by Nina M. Osier, author of "Love, Jimmy: A Maine Veteran's Longest Battle"

(I don't think there is any way I can explain this amazing story. I will try, but I will fail.) Harper Flute and her family struggle during Depression times in rural Australia. Her little brother Tin takes to tunneling as life for the family gets more and more desperate. As Tin spends more and more of his time tunneling, the family begins to let Tim go. How would you classify this story? Historical fiction? Maybe. Science fiction? Maybe a little of that, too. In any case, it's truly a story like no other that I have read.

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