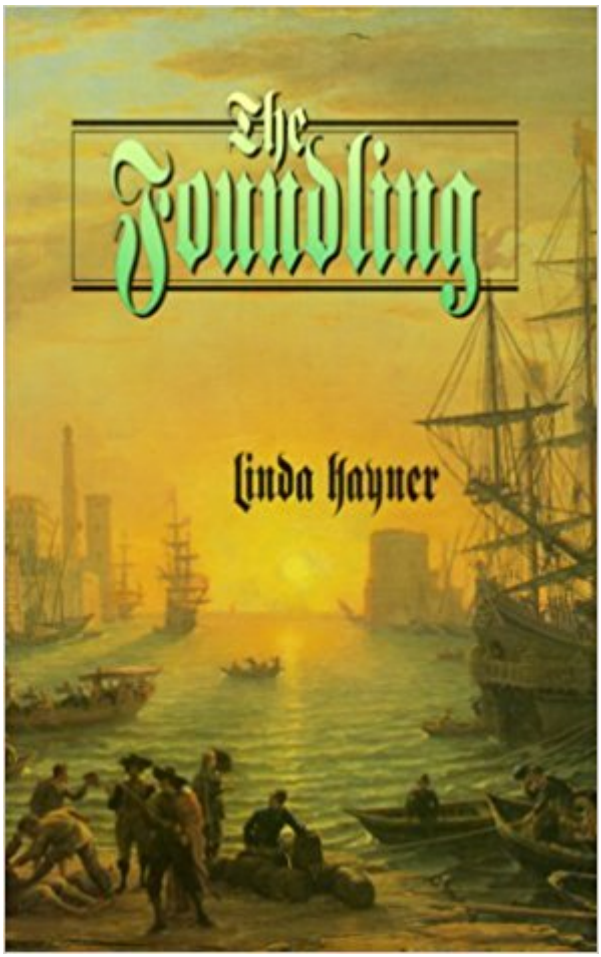
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The Foundling



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Synopsis

One cold morning in January, 1644, Willy--four years old--is abandoned on the porch of a parish church in London. The parish constable finds him, and Willy begins a journey that requires him to rely on his natural ingenuity and his early training in order to survive.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 570L (What's this?)

Paperback: 341 pages

Publisher: JourneyForth (June 1, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0890849412

ISBN-13: 978-0890849415

Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.8 x 8.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 9 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #249,470 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #101 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Multigenerational #122 inÃ Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Orphans & Foster Homes #183 inÃ Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Europe

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up. This historical novel traces the fortunes of a child abandoned by his destitute mother in London during the winter of 1644. After a constable finds him near a church door, Willy is lodged temporarily with benevolent Master Perry. Immediately fond of the boy, the merchant leads the local parish in providing for Willy properly, placing him with a motherly nurse for fostering. The plot follows Willy into adolescence, from his mistreatment by a vicar charged with his education to his adventures as an apprentice ironmonger. This material has potential; unfortunately, it is not realized. Earnest in asserting its worthy themes of good works and the golden rule, the narrative is also unremittingly bland. Characterizations are shallow, with speech patterns virtually indistinguishable among individuals, and moments of tension are undercut by plodding pacing and stilted language. Further, the period is not well integrated into the plot. The years 1644-1656 were turbulent times for England, including civil war, the execution of Charles I, and Cromwell's Protectorate, yet the

characters seem at most mildly troubled by events outside their immediate concerns. This book cannot compare with the work of top-notch writers of juvenile historical fiction, such as Katherine Paterson and Elizabeth George Speare.?Starr E. Smith, Marymount University Library, Arlington, VACopyright 1997 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Dr. Linda Hayner, a student of seventeenth-century London history, became interested in the plight of foundlings while researching church records in the Guildhall Library, London, England. Dr. Hayner holds a Ph.D. in British History from Vanderbilt University, Tennessee.

The beginning of this story was used as an excerpt in our English Writing & Grammar book. It struck our interest enough to order it onto our Kindle. It is an excellent source to understanding how life was in London during in those days, the way different classes of people lived & were treated in that area. Following the life of the young boy was interesting up to a certain point. It then became boring & we lost interest. We got as far as 72% read when we stopped reading.

My daughter had to read this for school, so we ordered it. It was a great book for her to be able to do a book report on. She is not a reader, but liked this one!

Great read for my 11 year old!!

My daughter and I loved this book!! It was so good. We couldn’t wait to read it every night. I totally recommend this book!

My son liked this book because of the time period setting and the characters were interesting. He thought it was not as engaging as other books he has read for his age group (12 years old).

Great book.

What happens to a little child found on the porch of a church in 1644 London? Follow Willy’s life from when the parish constable discovers him on a very rainy night to when Willy achieves manhood. The authentic historical details and the likable characters draw the reader in. It avoids the saccharine sentimentality of many orphan stories so it is enjoyable rather than cloying.The novel is over 300 pages long, but it kept my interest and I wanted more when it ended. Treat yourself to the

most painless method found for absorbing history--a well researched novel with a plausible, interesting plot and accurate period details. For another story around the same era, but about a very different social strata, try Ellanor's Exchange by the same author.

Don't listen to the Editorial Review! Listen to the people who read it with their kids and loved it. It helps to be familiar with English dialects, as there is a lot of common folk regional dialect in the beginning, and somewhat throughout. If your kids like books such as the Secret Garden, they will enjoy this. The ending is fantastic!

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