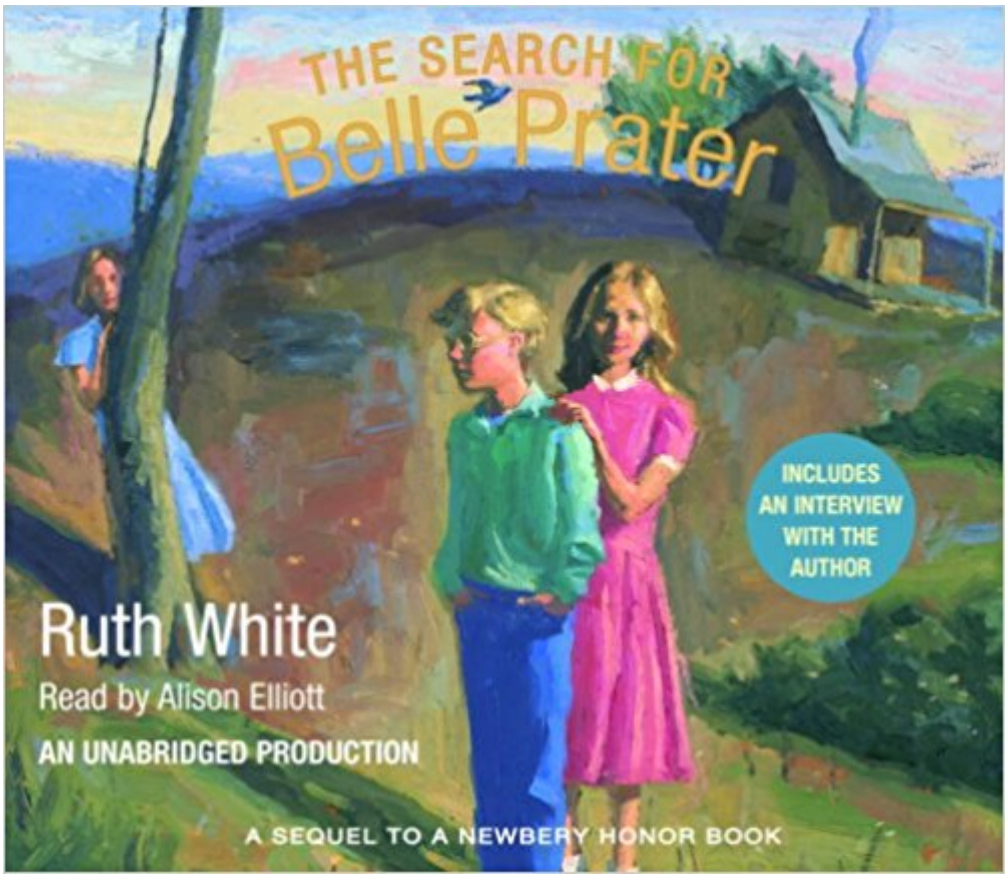
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The Search For Belle Prater



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Synopsis

Belle Prater is missing. Since she inexplicably disappeared about a year ago, her son, Woodrow, has been living with his grandparents, next door to his cousin Gypsy. The two are best friends, joined by their adventurous sprits and shared love of stories and magic. One night they receive a puzzling phone call, which provides a clue that sends Gypsy and Woodrow on a mission to find Belle. Joining them is Cassie Caulborne, the new girl in school, who, like Woodrow and Gypsy, has experienced the loss of a parent. She is also endowed with a valuable gift--she knows things, things that happened in the past and reveal themselves to her in dreams. Their quest leads them out of their sheltered life in Coal Station, Virginia, and eventually back to Woodrow's home in Crooked Ridge. On the road they meet new people with their own stories to tell. One is Joseph, who has to sit at the back of the buss because he is black. The young people join him in the rear and learn that he, too, is on a search--for his father. They help one another to find what they're looking for and gain friendship along the way.

Book Information

Audio CD

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

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Age Range: 10 and up

Grade Level: 5 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 5-8Ã¢â ¬â œA worthy sequel to Belle Prater's Boy (Farrar, 1996). On his 13th birthday, Woodrow Prater receives a phone call, traced to the nearby town of Bluefield, WV, that sends him and his cousin Gypsy on a search for his mother, who disappeared almost a year before. They are

joined by a new classmate, Cassie, who is gifted with second sight, and by Joseph, a runaway black teen looking for his father. While their search yields no Belle, Joseph is reunited with his long-lost aunt, whose memory is slightly jogged by Belle's photo. Returning home, Woodrow learns that his alcoholic father has decided to give up their cabin. Grandpa takes Woodrow, Gypsy, and Cassie on an overnight trip to the cabin where, guided by Cassie's dream, they find a letter that Belle had left for Woodrow, and he is reassured by the knowledge of her love for him. The many readers awaiting this sequel will be happy for Woodrow and they will likely be intrigued by the role Cassie's second sight plays in the story. The coincidental involvement of Joseph's aunt adds to the satisfying conclusion. Narrated once again by Gypsy, with many references to the '50s Southern setting when racial segregation was in full force, this book relies on a reading of Belle Prater's Boy for character development and background details, but the warmth, love, and humor of that book are here as well and it can be enjoyed on its own.Ã¢â ¬â œMarie Orlando, Suffolk Cooperative Library System, Bellport, NY Copyright Ã Â© Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Starred Review Gr. 4-7. Readers who have longed for a follow-up to White's Newbery Honor Book, Belle Prater's Boy (1996), will be delighted with this fine sequel, in which the search for Woodrow's missing mother continues. A mysterious New Year's Eve phone call on Woodrow's birthday leads him, Cousin Gypsy, and Cassie Caulborne, a classmate with second sight, to nearby Bluefield to follow Belle's trail. The journey away from their small Virginia town gives Woodrow his first glimpse of a "colored" person (a boy in the back of the bus, named Joseph), as well as what Gypsy terms the "hateful" segregation laws of the mid-1950s. The search widens as the trio agrees to help abandoned Joseph search for his father. Characterization, dialogue, and setting are among White's many literary strengths, and she doesn't disappoint here. The friendship between storytelling Woodrow and joke-cracking Gypsy just grows richer as Woodrow faces disappointment and finds hope. If the plot seems a bit tidy, White's young fans won't mind. Cindy DobrezCopyright Ã Â© American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

a beautifully written story only made better by the sequel. I love her writing style. Life doesn't have to be easy to be good. heck, it doesn't even have to be all-good to be good. A timeless story for everyone, and especially poignant for any that lived or grew up in the hardscrabble Appalachians.

Great book. The voice of the narrator really brings it to life. My students hated when reading time was over.

Its an amazing heart felt book!! Woodrow is so funny!! And I would highly recommend it to anyone who loves to read!

Our grandkids loved it. Their teacher had mentioned the title. They couldn't put it down and it kept their attention until the very last page.

The Search for Belle Prater is the sequel to the Newbery award winner Belle Prater's Boy. In this story Belle's son is a little older and finally decides he's going to try to find his mother. He's living with relatives and more of the story of what happened to Belle begins to unfold. A sweet story that is easy to read with charming, likeable characters.

very good story

Best book I ever read great job of telling story wish the book could go on foreverGreat job writing this book

Awesome book...you have to read Belle Praters boy first though...great book for people who loved belle praters boy also for people who like mystery

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