



Gib Rides Home

Zilpha Keatley Snyder

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Gib Whittaker's life at Lovell House Orphanage in the early 1900s is pretty bleak. But along with hours of chores, bad food, and paddlings, the boys do get some schooling, and reading and writing are better than scrubbing floors. Still, Gib's fondest dream is to have a real family. So when Georgie Olson is adopted, Gib can't help being jealous, even when he finds out that the "adoption" really means being farmed out to work as unpaid labor until the age of 18.

Then one freezing January morning Gib finds Georgie hiding in the barn, his hands heavily bandaged. Constantly whipped by his master, then sent to work outside without mittens, Georgie ran away when they threatened to cut off his frostbitten hands. Is this the only kind of adoption there is? When Gib himself is farmed out, he arrives at the home he has always dreamed of. But he's soon aware of barely concealed tensions and secrets kept hidden from him. Will Gib end up like poor Georgie?

Gib Rides Home Details

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Author : Zilpha Keatley Snyder

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WSL Library says

x2

Beka P says

I will probably buy this book soon!!!

Leah Good says

No one had heard from Gibson Wittaker since he went away, but the rumor was that he had been adopted by a family who lived near Longford, a small cattle town in the next county. There was nothing especially uncommon about that. Half, or even full, orphans left Lovell House fairly often, going back with a remaining parent or out to an adoption, but what was so shocking was his reappearance. How could Gib Wittaker be strolling into the senior boys' dormitory when the law said, at least the law according to Miss Offenbacher, that Lovell House adoptions were not reversible?

The fact is Gib Wittaker was not adopted—more like farmed out—and he didn't really want to return to Lovell House. More than a year earlier a gray-bearded man had come and taken Gib from the orphanage he's lived in for the past five years. As he works at his new home, Gib finds a sense of accomplishment from working hard and discovers a talent for handling horses. But the Rocking M Ranch is also full of mysteries, some of them related to Gib. He hopes to find out more about his past, but some secrets are better off left alone.

Partridge Public says

Snyder, Zilpha

Ruth Woodman York says

Nice, quick young adult book. No big surprises in the plot, but still a "feel good" story.

Taylor Geare says

To be completely honest, Gib's Ride Home bored me. It's a story about an orphaned boy who is adopted out yet comes back to his orphanage for reasons I will not say as not to spoil it. I just didn't exactly enjoy the story line or the way it seemed to drag on. I am a lover of horse books but this one was not for me.

Gerardo says

This was good book to read because of all the adventures he had threw the story like getting into trouble with the head mistress this was a good story to read I recomend it.

Bonnie says

I picked it for Children's Book Week 2010 out as something Regan (from the Trixie Belden series) might like. It's about an orphan in the early 1900's who gets "farmed out" and finds out how much he likes working with horses. It was okay but seemed to miss the boat on several potentially good plotlines.

Tabetha says

I like adventure, mystery, and horse books, and I got it all raped up in one with this book. I read it awile ago but I remember I really liked it.

Libby says

This lacked the beauty and heart and glorious acceptance of children as they are, compared with books like The Changeling and The Egypt Game. It does benefit from Snyder's excellent writing style, and the characters are real and interesting to see. Young people on a farm, and independent children aren't really my catnip, but the story is strong and doesn't take the easy way out most of the time, so if you like those things you'll like it.

Kathryn McCary says

The two Gib books seem to have been written near the beginning of Snyder's slide into paint-by-numbers; the plots are shrilly overdramatized, and the god's machine is all too visible, but it is still possible to enjoy the stories.

Rebecca Douglass says

Gib Whittaker has been an orphan since he was small, living at an orphanage where the boys are given a minimal education and lots of hard work. No wonder Gib thinks being adopted would be better, even after he learns that many boys are taken to be farm hands, not really adopted. And all he really wants is to know who he is and where he came from. When Gib is finally adopted, he finds it's both more and less than he'd hoped, and when things go very bad, it looks like it's all over.

The book was a quick and easy read, but I can't say there was a lot of substance. I felt that the situation, though sadly not outside the realm of how orphans were treated in the early 1900s, was a bit cartoonish, as were many of the characters. That we know Gib will find a family isn't a bad thing (since the genre pretty much demands it, I don't consider this a spoiler), and the route to get there is convoluted enough to be interesting, but the book doesn't measure up to some I've read on similar themes. In many ways, I think the book ended just when the story might have gotten really interesting. It's an okay read, and has the added bonus of being a horse book for those of us who like that.

Recommendation:

For fans of the author and die-hard horse-story fans. Kids will probably have no problem with the issues that bugged me, especially the ones who just want to love horses.

Lauren Braley says

Bof!

WSL Library says

X2

♥lil' bit :) (i put u in my popcorn tehe!!) says

if ur a horse lover u will adore this about a bound between an orphan boy and a mustain named black silk or silky.
