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A Time Apart



Synopsis

The last thing Ginny wants is to be sent away....But when her mother is diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, she's packed off to England to stay with Hugh, the father she hardly knows. Hugh is part of a living history research project, which means he lives on an Iron Age farm without any modern conveniences. A summer without regular showers, TV, or the Internet could be a horror show, but Ginny manages to cope and even makes friends, including the handsome but mysterious Corey. Soon she's become a valued member of her Iron Age family. But is she strong enough to survive not knowing what is happening to her mother? And can Corey help her escape this prison of the past? 2000 Best Books for Young Adults (ALA) and Teacher's Choices for 2000 (IRA) --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Book Information

Turtleback

Publisher: Demco Media (February 2002)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0606214909

ISBN-13: 978-0606214902

Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars Â See all reviews Â (6 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #15,951,204 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #56 in Â Books > Teens >

Historical Fiction > Prehistory #2928 in Â Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Family > Parents

Customer Reviews

A Time Apart is a captivating story about 13 year old Ginny Dorris. When school lets out, Ginny is looking forward to a summer of relaxation and drama camp. Then, when Ginny finds out her mother has cancer, she is packed off to live with a father she barely knows who is conducting an Iron Age project in England. Ginny finds herself living with a group of strangers in a replicated Iron Age farm, cut off from modern life. As Ginny struggles to keep her mind off her mother and get along with her father (not to mention the rest of the Iron Age community), she discovers that living in the Iron Age isn't as bad as she expected it to be, and even finds herself reluctant to leave. A Time Apart is a beautifully written book. The author describes Iron Age life vividly, so that you have a clear picture of the community in your head throughout the entire book. Unlike many other books, this one never

has a dull moment; I often had trouble putting it down. The bottom line is, this book's a winner. Try as I might, I can't find any flaws with it.

I just finished *A Time Apart* and I loved it. It's about a girl named Ginny who is sent to live with her father in England while her mother recovers from cancer treatment. When she gets there, she finds out that she and her father will be living on a farm modeled after Iron Age villiages with no electricity, modern tools, or contact with the outside world. The book shows how she is slowly adapting to her new life and finding a different side to her father from the one she knew. I really enjoyed this book. I would recommend it kids/teens ages 11-14.

Considering the popular "reality TV" shows, and the experiments of living in earlier times in programs like "Victorian House," this book should be flying off the shelves. It is the story of Ginny, a thirteen-year-old girl from Houston, whose parents are divorced. When her mother has to undergo chemotherapy, Ginny is sent to England, where her father is working at a university. Expecting to spend a comfortable summer in London as a visiting professor's daughter, Ginny is shocked to discover that she will join him at his "project" of living in a Celtic Iron Age village. If Ginny finds it hard to be enthusiastic about living with 14 strangers in one wattle and daub roundhouse, she is even less pleased with the primitive foods and her "job" as the baby sitter for 5-year-old Daisy. The book is well researched and historically accurate, and the backdrop of Celtic culture is fascinating. Additionally, the skills Ginny acquires in living the Celtic life, and the need to reflect on the stark differences between Iron Age and modern life help her to find her own balance. This book is a refreshing change of pace from most young adult literature, which suffers from a current rash of brutally accurate coming-of-age books and escapist magic-drenched fiction. I highly recommend this book, whether for enjoyment, school, or youth reading circles; it poses a variety of issues for consideration.

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