



A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir

By Beverly Cleary

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Told in her own words, *A Girl from Yamhill* is Newbery Medal–winning author Beverly Cleary’s heartfelt and relatable memoir—now with a beautifully redesigned cover!

Generations of children have read Beverly Cleary’s books. From Ramona Quimby to Henry Huggins, Ralph S. Mouse to Ellen Tebbits, she has created an evergreen body of work based on the humorous tales and heartfelt anxieties of middle graders. But in *A Girl from Yamhill*, Beverly Cleary tells a more personal story—her story—of what adolescence was like. In warm but honest detail, Beverly describes life in Oregon during the Great Depression, including her difficulties in learning to read, and offers a slew of anecdotes that were, perhaps, the inspiration for some of her beloved stories.

For everyone who has enjoyed the pranks and schemes, embarrassing moments, and all of the other poignant and colorful images of childhood brought to life in Beverly Cleary’s books, here is the fascinating true story of the remarkable woman who created them.

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A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir By Beverly Cleary Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

It's surprising to learn in this intimate book that Cleary, creator of Henry Huggins, Ramona and other irrepressible characters, was an unhappy child, always longing for affection and approval from her mother. Born in 1916 on an Oregon farm, she spent most of her youth in Portland, which she remembers in astonishing detail. She struggled with reading, rules for good behavior and many kinds of disillusionment. Cleary's humor is dry and effective, but underneath, the sadness persists. She often worried about her parents, whose prospects were tragically undermined by the Depression. But such longings and worries weren't discussed in those days. Partly to escape, she took pleasure in rebelsher classmate Ralph, who "modeled his gum into a small rhinoceros horn," and her Camp Fire Girls leader, Mrs. Grove, "a woman of courage who did not fuss about details." This is a slow, sometimes oblique story at the outset, but deeply moving by the end. A real gift to Cleary's many fans, young and old. Ages 12-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6 Up The author's name rather than the title of her partial autobiography will catch the eyes of her army of loyal readers who grew up with Cleary's great books for children. Then, there are always those special few readers who dream of becoming writers themselves, and Cleary has some information on how this was for her and more about the hunger for reading that often starts writers on their way. It's bootless to compare and contrast autobiographical books, since each memorists' experiences and those they select to share are unique. Cleary's selection is acute, especially for some growing up pains and problems often scanted in books intended for younger readers, i.e., an uncle who was a potential danger to young girls and the fear and confusion his attentions caused; the possessive, devoted mother whose fierce love was never affectionate; the first, nearly unshakable boyfriend; and much more about each stage of growing up as an only child in Portland, Oregon, when the Great Depression moved in as the unseen, all-powerful villain in every working-class household. It ends with Cleary off to college in California without anything but determination and the ability to work hard and find her own way. As with her fiction, readers are likely to want her memoir to go on when they read her last page. Lillian N. Gerhardt, "School Library Journal" Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc.

Review

"As with her fiction, readers are likely to want her memoir to go on when they read the last page." -- -- *School Library Journal*

"Revealing, sensitive, compelling ... speaks directly to the heart with no grandiose style, no pretentious imagery. A wonderful book!" -- -- *The Horn Book*

"The author sees her child self with the same clarity and objectivity as she has seen her fictional characters." -- -- *Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jerry Petrus:

The ability that you get from A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir could be the more deep you rooting the information that hide in the words the more you get enthusiastic about reading it. It doesn't mean that this book is hard to comprehend but A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir giving you excitement feeling of reading. The article writer conveys their point in specific way that can be understood by anyone who read this because the author of this guide is well-known enough. That book also makes your own vocabulary increase well. That makes it easy to understand then can go along, both in printed or e-book style are available. We recommend you for having this specific A Girl from Yamhill: A Memoir instantly.

Carmen Flood:

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Christopher Barry:

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Kevin Hamby:

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