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Redemption



Synopsis

The wet earth smells of mushroom and loam. I race through the trees. Branches reach for my eyes and tangle my hair. My kirtle rips, but I still run, faster through the woodland, escaping the murderous men who chase behind me with vicious, barking dogs. The men are my enemies and the woodland is my friend. I climb a tree to its tip, to where the branches thin, and I see the dead bird there. Only its mouth is open and it is singing with the voice of my father. I touch the bird, and it flies away."I saw a bird dead once. I picture my father this way."Twelve-year-old Lily has not seen her father for more than eight months. He was taken from her and her mother one night by the baron's men, forced against his will to leave England and to be part of a colony in the New World. And now Lily and her mother are in danger -- for the baron's men say they no longer have any right to their land. They also face persecution for being followers of Frere Lanther, a man who has been excommunicated by the church for wanting to purge it of its corrupt practices. Their one chance for safety and freedom is to take passage on the next ship out to the New World. Afraid her father is dead, hopeful that he might yet live, Lily and Frere Lanther persuade her mother to flee. The harrowing voyage reveals painful secrets that strip Lily of her innocence. But Lily also makes a friend -- a boy named Ethan, son to none other than the baron himself, who is also onboard. Together Ethan and Lily navigate their way through betrayals and treachery in a strange new land. Separated from the group, lost in the wilderness, and captured by an Indian tribe, Lily must reach deep inside herself and tap into strength she never knew she had if she is to survive. Richly imagined and beautifully written, *Redemption* is an epic adventure of family, growth, and love from a major new talent.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

This book was fairly written and I enjoyed it quite a bit. It reminded me of the importance of family and faith which everyone should never lose sight of. Journey along side of Lily as she journeys towards the New World in search of her father. It will keep you interested until the very ends.

In 1524 England, twelve-year-old Lily hasn't felt warm since the baron's men dragged her father away eight months ago. She pictures him dead. However, Frere Lanther, who has come from the Rhineland to lead his own secret and forbidden church, suggests Lily's father may well be alive in the New World. The baron is forcing Lily and her mother to leave their home, which he owns. When Lily begs her mother to accompany her to the New World to find her father, her mother reluctantly agrees. The voyage is miserably cramped and filthy. A live pig lives in the room where the poor passengers eat their meals of watery soup and insect-ridden black bread. Lily meets the baron's son, Ethan, onboard and inadvertently blurts that Frere Lanther lives with them. When Lily's mother is raped, Lily is heartsick. She knows her mother's punishment was a direct result of Lily's exposing her family's secret. A shipwreck upon the shores of the New World ends the voyage. The castaways stumble upon a gruesome discovery, which increases Lily's fear that her father is dead. When her mother is kidnapped, Lily must set off alone through the forest, starving and terrified. What she finds in the forest is astonishing. Multilayered REDEMPTION is truly unique. Lily's story is a harrowing physical and spiritual quest laden with mystery, filled with unexpected plot twists. The tale is harsh, violent and gruesome --- not for anyone wanting to view history through a rosy haze. Yet the book is also vibrant, riveting and beautifully written. Lily herself is a believable, sympathetic character surviving devastation after devastation. If you love history, you'll enjoy this powerful piece of historical fiction. If you snoozed through history class (as I did), you'll love REDEMPTION for a fascinating read that may even turn you --- yes, YOU! --- into a history buff. --- (...)

I've read dozens of coming of age stories geared to young adult readers and this is among the best, the voice clear, strong, and authentic. A riveting tale beautifully told.

Reading Redemption offers up a view of colonial life that you can't find in history books. By looking at the passage of early colonailists through the eyes of a young peasant girl, Julie Chibbaro is able to focus on common language and every fair and foul sense that would been a part of real life of real people, not just the gentry and the history makers. Though fictionalized, the story has a ripped-from-the-day's-headlines feel that is accomplished through knowledge of the period by reseach into both European and native American experiences of the period.

Rarely am I brought into a book, as I am with Redemption. Normally I'm an observer in the books I read, but with Julie's writing style, I was there living Lily's life. There was enough detail so that I could visualize everything, but not so much that I couldn't put my own sense of life into it. I didn't want it to end. This is a sign that I loved it and wanted to read more.

This book is beautifully written and appropriate for every age--from young adult to old adult. A compelling story with lyrical prose and wonderful characters...this is a great summer read for those who like to go outside with a book you can't put down.

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