

Orphan Train Rider One Boys True Story

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Orphan Train Girl Christina Baker Kline 2017-05-02 This young readers' edition of Christina Baker Kline's #1 New York Times bestselling novel Orphan Train follows a twelve-year-old foster girl who forms an unlikely bond with a ninety-one-year-old woman. Adapted and condensed for a young audience, Orphan Train Girl includes an author's note and archival photos from the orphan train era. This book is especially perfect for

mother/daughter reading groups. Molly Ayer has been in foster care since she was eight years old. Most of the time, Molly knows it's her attitude that's the problem, but after being shipped from one family to another, she's had her fair share of adults treating her like an inconvenience. So when Molly's forced to help an a wealthy elderly woman clean out her attic for community service, Molly is wary. But from the moment they meet, Molly realizes that Vivian isn't like

any of the adults she's encountered before. Vivian asks Molly questions about her life and actually listens to the answers. Soon Molly sees they have more in common than she thought. Vivian was once an orphan, too—an Irish immigrant to New York City who was put on a so-called "orphan train" to the Midwest with hundreds of other children—and she can understand, better than anyone else, the emotional binds that have been making Molly's life so hard. Together, they not only clear boxes of past mementos from Vivian's attic, but forge a path of friendship, forgiveness, and new beginnings.

Emily's Story Clark Kidder
2016-02-28 It seems incomprehensible that there was a time in America's not-so-distant past that nearly 200,000 children could be loaded on trains in large cities on our East Coast, sent to the rural Midwest, and presented for the picking to anyone who expressed an interest in them. That's exactly what happened

between the years 1854 and 1930. The primitive social experiment became known as placing out, and had its origins in a New York City organization founded by Charles Loring Brace called the Children's Aid Society. The Society gathered up orphans, half-orphans, and abandoned children from streets and orphanages, and placed them on what are now referred to as Orphan Trains. It was Brace's belief that there was always room for one more at a farmer's table. The stories of the individual children involved in this great migration of little emigrants have nearly all been lost in the attic of American history. In this book, the author tells the true story of his paternal grandmother, the late Emily (Reese) Kidder, who, at the tender age of fourteen, became one of the aforementioned children who rode an Orphan Train. In 1906, Emily was plucked from the Elizabeth Home for Girls, operated by the Children's Aid Society, and placed on a train, along with eight other children,

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bound for Hopkinton, Iowa. Emily's journey, as it turned out, was only just beginning. Life had many lessons in store for her lessons that would involve overcoming adversity, of perseverance, love, and great loss. Emily's story is told through the use of primary material, oral history, interviews, and historical photographs. It is a tribute to the human spirit of an extraordinary young girl who became a woman a woman to whom the heartfelt phrase there's no place like home, had a very profound meaning.

From Cradle to Grave

Louisiana Orphan Train Society, Inc 2014 What do three nuns, two mayors, a Baptist preacher, and the founder of a car dealership all have in common? They all rode an orphan train from New York City to Louisiana as small children! What is an orphan train? Who determined its passenger list and their ultimate destination? What criteria were used to decide who would get the adventure of a lifetime? Who were these

young passengers in this little-known chapter of American and Louisiana history? These orphans arrived in early twentieth century Louisiana - a foreign world and culture unlike anything these children had ever seen. It was a world in which some of these New York City street kids would adapt and even conquer their terrifying fear of chickens. Others became important public figures that were to influence their communities and region. How would the shameful stigma of being an orphan affect their lives? Would they overcome the rejection of their past and the obstacles that were set before them? This is a collection of true life stories shared by those who knew them well. Read and find out how their lives turned out.

Samuel Morse, That's Who!

Tracy Nelson Maurer

2019-06-25 Writer Tracy

Nelson Maurer and illustrator

El Primo Ramón present a

lively picture book biography of

Samuel Morse that highlights

how he revolutionized modern

technology. Back in the 1800s, information traveled slowly. Who would dream of instant messages? Samuel Morse, that's who! Who traveled to France, where the famous telegraph towers relayed 10,000 possible codes for messages depending on the signal arm positions—only if the weather was clear? Who imagined a system that would use electric pulses to instantly carry coded messages between two machines, rain or shine? Long before the first telephone, who changed communication forever? Samuel Morse, that's who! This dynamic and substantive biography celebrates an early technology pioneer.

Train to Somewhere Eve Bunting 2000-04-17 A young girl hopes to find her mother as she rides an Orphan Train to find a new life out west in "this finely crafted, heart-wrenching story" (Publishers Weekly, starred review). Marianne, heading west with fourteen other children on an Orphan Train, is sure her mother will show up at one of the stations

along the way. When her mother left Marianne at the orphanage, hadn't she promised she'd come for her after making a new life in the West? Stop after stop goes by, and there's no sign of her mother in the crowds that come to look over the children. No one shows any interest in adopting shy, plain Marianne, either. But that's all right: She has to be free for her mother to claim her. Then the train pulls into its final stop, a town called Somewhere . . . An American Library Association, Notable Children's Book ALA Booklist Editor's Choice Jefferson Cup Award Honor Book

Mail-Order Kid Marilyn Coffey 2010 Describes the orphan train movement through the eyes of one small child who yearns to know her "real" mother, survives a tortured childhood, when she encountered whippings and sexual abuse, and ultimately, as an adult, comes to terms with her past, her faith, and herself.

Orphan Train Rider Andrea Warren 1997 Discusses the

placement of over 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children in homes throughout the Midwest from 1854 to 1929 by recounting the story of one boy and his brothers.

The Author's Guide to Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story and We Rode the Orphan Trains Andrea Warren 2013-09

Andrea Warren views her two award-winning nonfiction books about the orphan trains through the lens of the Common Core Standards, offering her insight into how the books fulfill standards related to critical thinking, reading, speaking, and writing. She includes background history not in the books, and shares how she conducted research, interviewed the featured orphan train riders, found photos to illustrate her text, and then wrote the books. The guide includes many suggested exercises and reflective questions.

The Little Sparrows Al Lacy 2008-12-24 Kearney, Cheyenne, Rawlins. Reno, Sacramento, San Francisco. At each train station, a few lucky

orphans from the crowded streets of New York City receive the fulfillment of their dreams: a home and family. This "orphan train" is the vision of Charles Loring Brace, founder of the Children's Aid Society, who cannot bear to see innocent children abandoned in the overpopulated cities of the mid-nineteenth-century. Yet it is not just the orphans whose lives need mending -- follow the train along and watch God's hand restore love and laughter to the right family at the right time!

A Family Apart Joan Lowery Nixon 2013-11-27 FOR LOVERS OF HISTORICAL ADVENTURE, A FAMILY APART IS THE MIDDLE-GRADE ANSWER TO CHRISTINA BAKER KLINE'S NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING ORPHAN TRAIN. Imagine being taken from your home. Imagine your mother is the one who lets it happen. This is the fate that befalls the Kelly children. It's 1856, and their widowed mother has sent them west

from New York City because she's convinced that she can't give them the life they deserve. The Kellys board an "orphan train" and are taken to St. Joseph, Missouri, where their problems only grow worse. It was bad enough that they had to say goodbye to their mother, but now they're forced to part ways with their fellow siblings as well. Thirteen-year-old Frances won't stand for it. She's going to protect her brothers and sisters, even if it means dressing up like a boy and putting herself in danger. Will Frances be able to save her siblings? And what about her mom—was splitting up their family really her greatest act of love? Ride the rails with Frances and her siblings to find out! "This is as close to a perfect book as you'll buy this year." -VOYA

Surviving Hitler Andrea Warren 2013-06-11 The life-changing story of a young boy's struggle for survival in a Nazi-run concentration camp, narrated in the voice of Holocaust survivor Jack Mandelbaum. When twelve-

year-old Jack Mandelbaum is separated from his family and shipped off to the Blechhammer concentration camp, his life becomes a never-ending nightmare. With minimal food to eat and harsh living conditions threatening his health, Jack manages to survive by thinking of his family. In this Robert F. Silbert Honor book, readers will glimpse the dark reality of life during the Holocaust, and how one boy made it out alive. William Allen White Award Winner Robert F. Silbert Honor ALA Notable Children's Book VOYA Nonfiction Honor Book **Escape from Saigon** Andrea Warren 2008-09-02 An unforgettable true story of an orphan caught in the midst of war Over a million South Vietnamese children were orphaned by the Vietnam War. This affecting true account tells the story of Long, who, like more than 40,000 other orphans, is Amerasian -- a mixed-race child -- with little future in Vietnam. Escape from Saigon allows readers to experience Long's struggle to

survive in war-torn Vietnam, his dramatic escape to America as part of "Operation Babylift" during the last chaotic days before the fall of Saigon, and his life in the United States as "Matt," part of a loving Ohio family. Finally, as a young doctor, he journeys back to Vietnam, ready to reconcile his Vietnamese past with his American present. As the thirtieth anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War approaches, this compelling account provides a fascinating introduction to the war and the plight of children caught in the middle of it.

The Baby Thief Barbara Bisantz Raymond 2009-04-29 For almost three decades, renowned baby-seller Georgia Tann ran a children's home in Memphis, Tennessee — selling her charges to wealthy clients nationwide, Joan Crawford among them. Part social history, part detective story, part expose, *The Baby Thief* is a riveting investigative narrative that explores themes that continue to reverberate today.

Orphan Train Rider Andrea Warren 2009-06-01 Taking place between 1854 and 1930, when more than 200,000 orphaned children were sent west on orphan trains to find new homes, this true-life story describes one boy's journey through foster homes, adoption agencies, and homeless shelters. Reprint.

Nettie and Nellie Crook: Orphan Train Sisters E. F. Abbott 2016-02-16 Can you imagine being placed in an orphanage while your parents are still alive? That's what happens to Nettie and Nellie Crook, who are only five years old in 1910 when they are removed from their home in New York. No one tells Nettie and Nellie why their parents can no longer care for them, and later, no one explains why the orphans are put on a train headed west. The girls soon find themselves put on display in various small towns, where prospective parents examine and select children for adoption. Nettie and Nellie are taken by Mr. and Mrs. Chapin—will this be a happy

ending for the twins? Based on a True Story books are exciting historical fiction about real children who lived through extraordinary times in American History. This title has Common Core connections. *Orphan Trains* Marilyn Irvin Holt 1994-02-01 "From 1850 to 1930 America witnessed a unique emigration and resettlement of at least 200,000 children and several thousand adults, primarily from the East Coast to the West. This 'placing out,' an attempt to find homes for the urban poor, was best known by the 'orphan trains' that carried the children. Holt carefully analyzes the system, initially instituted by the New York Children's Aid Society in 1853, tracking its imitators as well as the reasons for its creation and demise. She captures the children's perspective with the judicious use of oral histories, institutional records, and newspaper accounts. This well-written volume sheds new light on the multifaceted experience of children's immigration, changing concepts of welfare,

and Western expansion. It is good, scholarly social history."—Library Journal [We Rode the Orphan Trains](#) Andrea Warren 2004-03 Describes the journey many orphan children took looking for families and homes to call their own.

In The Face of Danger Joan Lowery Nixon 2013-11-27 Shy Megan Kelly cannot forget the day a gypsy read her palm announcing to all that she would bring trouble to those around her. Afterward, trouble does follow her, until she takes the necessary steps to free herself from the burdens of fear, loneliness, and superstition

[Pioneer Girl](#) 2009-09-01 Describes the early childhood and life of Grace Snyder, whose family owned a Nebraska homestead in the late nineteenth century and endured the hardships and dangers of the prairie.

[Orphan Train Rider](#) Andrea Warren 1996 Discusses the placement of over 200,000 orphaned or abandoned children in homes throughout

the Midwest from 1854 to 1929 by recounting the story of one boy and his brothers.

The Orphan Train Aurdand Harris 1998

Fly Little Bird, Fly! Donna Nordmark Aviles 2004 Holding tight to one another, vowing never to be separated, Oliver and Edward board the Orphan Train headed west to find a new home.

Searching for Home Martha Nelson Vogt 1979-09-01

Train to Red Cloud Barbara Heise Grooman 1999-06-01 Young Sophie comes home from school to find that her brother and sister are gone without a trace. She begs her aunt Anna to tell her where they have gone but she refuses. Their mother had died just a few months earlier, their sickly baby sister had been sent away, their father had mysteriously disappeared and now this. Thus begins the story of a courageous little boy and two strong-willed sisters, determined to find one another. A Victorian novel? No. This is the true story of an Orphan Train Rider torn from

those who loved him, and of the sisters he left behind. Travel with Christian as the train carries him to Nebraska and a new life. Join Sophie as she searches for her sisters, brother and father, praying that she will find them and that they will be a family again.

Theirs is a story that may anger you, cause you to cry, but ultimately warm your heart

Orphan Train Christina Baker Kline 2013-04-02 The #1 New

York Times Bestseller Now featuring a sneak peek at

Christina's forthcoming novel *The Exiles*, coming August

2020. "A lovely novel about the search for family that also

happens to illuminate a fascinating and forgotten

chapter of America's history. Beautiful."—Ann Packer

Between 1854 and 1929, so-called orphan trains ran

regularly from the cities of the East Coast to the farmlands of

the Midwest, carrying thousands of abandoned

children whose fates would be determined by pure luck.

Would they be adopted by a kind and loving family, or

would they face a childhood and adolescence of hard labor and servitude? As a young Irish immigrant, Vivian Daly was one such child, sent by rail from New York City to an uncertain future a world away. Returning east later in life, Vivian leads a quiet, peaceful existence on the coast of Maine, the memories of her upbringing rendered a hazy blur. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are vestiges of a turbulent past. Seventeen-year-old Molly Ayer knows that a community service position helping an elderly woman clean out her home is the only thing keeping her out of juvenile hall. But as Molly helps Vivian sort through her keepsakes and possessions, she discovers that she and Vivian aren't as different as they appear. A Penobscot Indian who has spent her youth in and out of foster homes, Molly is also an outsider being raised by strangers, and she, too, has unanswered questions about the past. Moving between contemporary Maine and Depression-era Minnesota, *Orphan Train* is a powerful

novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, and unexpected friendship. *A Last Survivor of the Orphan Trains* Victoria Golden
2018-07-11 Homeless at age four, he found an extraordinary path through nine decades of U.S. history.

Rodzina Karen Cushman
2003-03-20 *Rodzina* Clara Jadwiga Anastazyja Brodski, a strong and stubborn Polish orphan, leaves Chicago on an orphan train, expecting to be adopted and turned into a slave—or worse, not to be adopted at all. As the train rattles westward, she begins to develop attachments to her fellow travelers, even the frosty orphan guardian, and to accept the idea that there might be good homes for orphans—maybe even for a big, combative Polish girl. But no placement seems right for the formidable *Rodzina*, and she cleverly finds a way out of one unfortunate situation after another until at last she finds the family that is right for her. Like Karen Cushman's other young girl protagonists,

Rodzina is trying to find her place in the world—and she does. The compelling narrative is laced with wry humor and keen observation, full of memorable characters, and a thoroughly researched Afterword.

Orphan Train Riders Kay B. Hall 1992 From 1854 to 1929 about 150,000 orphans from New York City and the surrounding area were placed in homes in the Midwest and West. The children were sent out on "Orphan Trains." This is the first volume in a series of stories written by orphan train riders and their descendants.

Orphan Trains Stephen O'Connor 2014-11-04 The true story behind Christina Baker Kline's bestselling novel is revealed in this "engaging and thoughtful history" of the Children's Aid Society (Los Angeles Times). A powerful blend of history, biography, and adventure, *Orphan Trains* fills a grievous gap in the American story. Tracing the evolution of the Children's Aid Society, this dramatic narrative tells the fascinating tale of one

of the most famous—and sometimes infamous—child welfare programs: the orphan trains, which spirited away some two hundred fifty thousand abandoned children into the homes of rural families in the Midwest. In mid-nineteenth-century New York, vagrant children, whether orphans or runaways, filled the streets. The city's solution for years had been to sweep these children into prisons or almshouses. But a young minister named Charles Loring Brace took a different tack. With the creation of the Children's Aid Society in 1853, he provided homeless youngsters with shelter, education, and, for many, a new family out west. The family matching process was haphazard, to say the least: at town meetings, farming families took their pick of the orphan train riders. Some children, such as James Brady, who became governor of Alaska, found loving homes, while others, such as Charley Miller, who shot two boys on a train in Wyoming, saw no end

to their misery. Complete with extraordinary photographs and deeply moving stories, Orphan Trains gives invaluable insights into a creative genius whose pioneering, if controversial, efforts inform child rescue work today.

Orphan Train to Kansas Donna Nordmark Aviles 2018 Holding tight to one another, vowing never to be separated, Oliver and Edward board the Orphan Train, headed west to start a new life. Will their promise prove impossible to keep, or will they find a home together? From 1854-1929, America's Orphan Train Movement relocated over 250,000 homeless and neglected children from East Coast cities, to farming communities in the West. Known at the time as "placing out," it was believed that the children would have a better future in the morally upright home of a Christian farmer. With a success rate of over 80%, this ambitious experiment is now recognized as the beginning of Foster Care in America. Orphan Train To Kansas is the true story of

Oliver and Edward Nordmark. Together, the boys traveled from the Children's Village Orphanage in Dobbs Ferry, arriving in Bern, Kansas in search of a home. Their story is one of perseverance, resilience and brotherly love that will leave you with a deeper understanding of this nearly forgotten piece of American history. "It's very American - their journey to find their places in the world. I'm attracted to true stories and this one has a lot of heart - a wellspring of drama, humor and adventure. She's a young writer, new to the craft, and she's able to accomplish that. It's very difficult." --William Rotko, Screenwriter - *Breach* (Universal Pictures)

Trouble on the Orphan Train Marianne Hering 2016-10-01 When they step into the Imagination Station, kids experience an unforgettable journey filled with action-packed adventure. With each book, they're whisked away with cousins Patrick and Beth to embark on a new journey around the

world and back in time. This easy-to-read adventure is number 18 in the successful series that has now sold over 450,000 books in the series. Patrick and Beth arrive on an orphan train, heading west. They befriend an orphan who is falsely accused of being part of a train robbery. No one will adopt the child. Patrick and Beth stay with their new friend until the end of the line. All the while, they search for Eugene, who is missing somewhere in time.

Charles Dickens and the Street Children of London

Andrea Warren 2011 Warren takes you on a journey into the workhouses, slums, factories, and schools of Victorian England, and into the world of Dickens. She shows how he used his pen to do battle on behalf of the poor, becoming one of the great reformers of his or any age.

Forgetting Tabitha Julie Dewey 2015-12-29 Tabitha Salt, the daughter of Irish Immigrants is an orphan in New York City faced with the dilemma of boarding a orphan train or

surviving on the streets she knows.

The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction

Linda Gordon 2011-02-09 In 1904, New York nuns brought forty Irish orphans to a remote Arizona mining camp, to be placed with Catholic families. The Catholic families were Mexican, as was the majority of the population. Soon the town's Anglos, furious at this "interracial" transgression, formed a vigilante squad that kidnapped the children and nearly lynched the nuns and the local priest. The Catholic Church sued to get its wards back, but all the courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, ruled in favor of the vigilantes. The Great Arizona Orphan Abduction tells this disturbing and dramatic tale to illuminate the creation of racial boundaries along the Mexican border.

Clifton/Morenci, Arizona, was a "wild West" boomtown, where the mines and smelters pulled in thousands of Mexican immigrant workers. Racial walls hardened as the mines became big business and

whiteness became a marker of superiority. These already volatile race and class relations produced passions that erupted in the "orphan incident." To the Anglos of Clifton/Morenci, placing a white child with a Mexican family was tantamount to child abuse, and they saw their kidnapping as a rescue. Women initiated both sides of this confrontation. Mexican women agreed to take in these orphans, both serving their church and asserting a maternal prerogative; Anglo women believed they had to "save" the orphans, and they organized a vigilante squad to do it. In retelling this nearly forgotten piece of American history, Linda Gordon brilliantly recreates and dissects the tangled intersection of family and racial values, in a gripping story that resonates with today's conflicts over the "best interests of the child."

The Orphan Train

Movement Charles River

Editors 2016-03-27 *Includes pictures *Includes accounts of the Orphan Trains written by

kids in the program *Includes online resources and a bibliography for further reading "The Orphan Trains were needed at the time they happened. They were not the best answer, but they were the first attempts at finding a practical system. Many children that would have died, lived to have children and grandchildren. It has been calculated that over two million descendants have come from these children. The trains gave the children a fighting chance to grow up." - D. Bruce Ayler By the middle of the 19th century, New York City's population surpassed the unfathomable number of 1 million people, despite its obvious lack of space. This was mostly due to the fact that so many immigrants heading to America naturally landed in New York Harbor, well before the federal government set up an official immigration system on Ellis Island. At first, the city itself set up its own immigration registration center in Castle Garden near the site of the original Fort Amsterdam,

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and naturally, many of these immigrants, who were arriving with little more than the clothes on their back, didn't travel far and thus remained in New York. Of course, the addition of so many immigrants and others with less money put strains on the quality of life. Between 1862 and 1872, the number of tenements had risen from 12,000 to 20,000; the number of tenement residents grew from 380,000 to 600,000. One notorious tenement on the East River, Gotham Court, housed 700 people on a 20-by-200-foot lot. Another on the West Side was home, incredibly, to 3,000 residents, who made use of hundreds of privies dug into a fifteen-foot-wide inner court. Squalid, dark, crowded, and dangerous, tenement living created dreadful health and social conditions. It would take the efforts of reformers such as Jacob Riis, who documented the hellishness of tenements with shocking photographs in *How the Other Half Lives*, to change the way such buildings were constructed. While the

Melting Pot nature of America is one of its most unique and celebrated aspects, the conditions also created a humanitarian crisis of sorts. In the 19th century, child labor was still the norm, especially for poor families, and no social welfare systems were in place to provide security for people. As a result, if a child was abandoned or orphaned, they were at the mercy of an ad hoc system of barely tolerable orphanages with little to no centralization. Minorities and immigrants were also discriminated against on the basis of ethnicity and religion. Into this issue stepped the Children's Aid Society, led by Charles Loring Brace, who determined he could improve abandoned kids' futures by helping relocate them further to the West, which would also help Americans settle the frontier. By coordinating with train companies, Brace was able to transport dozens of children at a time to places in the heartland of America or further out west, where they would end up in new homes,

decades before the existence of foster care. Genealogist Roberta Lowrey, a descendant of one of these orphans, noted that the situations for many of those on the Orphan Trains were vastly different, but in all, the system worked: "Many were used as strictly slave farm labor, but there are stories, wonderful stories of children ending up in fine families that loved them, cherished them, [and] educated them. They were so much better off than if they had been left on the streets of New York. ... They were just not going to survive, or if they had, their fate would surely have been awful." In time, the success of the system led to coordination between dozens of agencies across multiple cities, including Boston and Chicago, helping move thousands of endangered children from the East Coast to other parts of the nation. Nearly 1,000 children were being transported a year at the height of the program, which lasted into the 1920s.

Orphan Train Rider - One Boy's True Story

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Developmental Studies Center
Staff 1995-12-01

Orphan Train Rider: One Boy's True Story Andrea Warren 2013

Orphan-Train Rider One Boy's True Story Ana Warren 1996-01

Together Forever (Orphan Train Book #2) Jody Hedlund 2018-05-01 Marianne

Neumann has one goal in life: to find her lost younger sister, Sophie. When Marianne takes a job as a placing agent with the Children's Aid Society in 1858 New York, she not only hopes to give children a better life but seeks to discover whether Sophie ended up leaving the city on an orphan train.

Andrew Brady, her fellow agent on her first placing trip, is a former schoolteacher who has an easy way with the children--firm but tender and funny. Underneath his handsome charm, though, seems to linger a grief that won't go away--and a secret from his past that he keeps hidden. As the two team up placing orphans amid small railroad towns in Illinois, they find themselves growing ever

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closer . . . until a shocking tragedy threatens to upend all their work and change one of their lives forever.

Orphan Train Christina Baker Kline 2019-01-08 From Christina Baker Kline comes a novel about two women: one about to age out of the foster care system, the other 90 years old and carrying both a tremendous secret and a story of a life formed by a part of American history almost entirely forgotten: the Orphan Trains Molly Ayer has one last chance, and she knows it. Close to being kicked out of her foster home -- just months from turning 18 and "aging out" of the system -- Molly should be grateful that her boyfriend found her a community service project: helping an old lady clean out her home. Molly can't help but think that the 50 hours will be tedious, but at least they'll keep her out of juvie, and right now that's all she cares about. Ninety-one-year-old Vivian Daly has lived a quiet life on the

coast of Maine for decades. But in her attic, hidden in trunks, are keys to a turbulent past. Molly is about to discover -- as she and Vivian unpack her possessions, and memories -- that Vivian's story is a piece of America's tumultuous history now largely forgotten: the tale of a young Irish immigrant, orphaned in New York City and put on a train to the Midwest with hundreds of other orphaned children whose destiny would be determined by luck and chance. As Molly digs deeper, she finds surprising parallels in her own experience as a Penobscot Indian and Vivian's story -- and Molly realizes that she has the power to help Vivian find answers to mysteries that have haunted her for her entire life. Rich in detail and epic in scope, *THE TRAIN RIDER* is a powerful novel of upheaval and resilience, of second chances, of unexpected friendships, and of the secrets we carry with us that keep us from finding out who we are.