



Raspberries on the Yangtze

By Karen Wallace

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The Yangtze in our story is not China's river, but rather a magical place in the Canadian countryside on the outskirts of a small town. There, in the 1950s, a group of children look forward to what promises to be a glorious summer. There are six of them—all different in age and character. Nancy is a down-to-earth girl, and her only challenge in life is Andrew, her elder brother. Then there are Clare, Amy, Sandra, and Tracy. The children have known each other and their families for most of their lives, but this is the year when everything they ever thought they knew will change.

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Raspberries on the Yangtze By Karen Wallace Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-8 In a deceptively quaint coming-of-age story set in the woods of Canada, Nancy's naive, tattletale opinions about neighbors, love, and sex falter when she discovers that family conflicts and romantic love are more complicated than they appear on the surface. The rustic simplicity of life-fishing in the Gatineau River, bouncing on a barbed wire fence, eating crisps in the back of an abandoned car-belie the emotional turmoil of the people around her. Amy and Clare Linklater, Nancy's best friends, join her berry picking, visiting amiable Mr. Chevrolet, or eavesdropping on the Wilkins family. Annoyed with the snobbery of Mrs. Wilkins and her daughter, Sandra, and humiliated by their ridicule of the imaginative descriptions in her "facts of life" publication, Nancy seeks revenge by spying on rebellious Tracy Wilkins. But when pregnant Tracy runs away from home to keep her boyfriend and her baby, and Mr. Chevrolet and Mrs. Linklater announce their wedding plans, Nancy begins to understand the complexity of the world around her. Dialogue is lively and characters are clearly drawn, but their actions come as more of a surprise to Nancy than to readers.

Anecdotes full of local color are entertaining but unclear in their thematic or plot significance. Nancy awkwardly straddles childhood and adolescence, wanting to impress others with her wisdom but needing to learn to see things from another point of view. Pivotal events happen around her, not to her. Most middle-grade readers are more savvy than Nancy, and they will find her childish behavior more peculiar than understandable. -Gerry Larson, Durham School of the Arts, NC

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Review

"Can a book be funny,,perceptive moving and utterly absorbing at one and the same time? This one can. Brilliant. A 'Swallows and Amazons' for the 21st century." (Michael Morpurgo, October 1999) preceptive

From the Inside Flap

The Yangtze in this story is not a river in China. It's a name Nancy gives to a special place near the edge of her town in the back- woods of Quebec, Canada. It's here, where the wild raspberries grow, that Nancy and her friends, the strange and wonderful sisters Clare and Amy, explore and let their imaginations soar.

The girls wonder about their neighbor, Sandra the troublemaker, and her older teenage sister, Tracy. Sandra's mother thinks Nancy is a bad influence. But Nancy has seen and heard strange things happening at Sandra's house. She's sure there are more secrets hidden behind their closed doors.

During this summer of change, as Nancy struggles to make sense of the world around her, she learns that things are seldom what they seem. Once something is revealed, Nancy can't go back to the way she was before.

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Joseph Felix:

The book Raspberries on the Yangtze can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Exactly why must we leave a very important thing like a book Raspberries on the Yangtze? Wide variety you

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