

The background features a complex network of white nodes connected by thin white lines, set against a gradient background that transitions from a deep purple at the top to a bright pink at the bottom. The nodes are scattered across the frame, with some forming distinct geometric shapes like triangles and polygons. The overall aesthetic is modern and digital.

Before We Were Yours

Written by Lisa Wingate

Published by griefconvention

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Before We Were Yours

Before We Were Yours

By Lisa Wingate

Before We Were Yours

THE BLOCKBUSTER HIT--A New York Times, USA Today, Wall Street Journal, and Publishers Weekly Bestseller

Before We Were Yours

Before We Were Yours Movie

For readers of Orphan Train and The Nightingale comes a "thought-provoking [and] complex tale about two families, two generations apart . . . based on a notorious true-life scandal."*

Before We Were Yours Summary

Memphis, 1939. Twelve-year-old Rill Foss and her four younger siblings live a magical life aboard their family's Mississippi River shantyboat. But when their father must rush their mother to the hospital one stormy night, Rill is left in charge--until strangers arrive in force. Wrenched from all that is familiar and thrown into a Tennessee Children's Home Society orphanage, the Foss children are assured that they will soon be returned to their parents--but they quickly realize the dark truth. At the mercy of the facility's cruel director, Rill fights to keep her sisters and brother together in a world of danger and uncertainty.

Before We Were Free

Aiken, South Carolina, present day. Born into wealth and privilege, Avery Stafford seems to have it all: a successful career as a federal prosecutor, a handsome fiancé, and a lavish wedding on the horizon. But when Avery returns home to help her father weather a health crisis, a chance encounter leaves her with uncomfortable questions and compels her to take a journey through her family's long-hidden history, on a path that will ultimately lead either to devastation or to redemption.

Before We Were Strangers

Based on one of America's most notorious real-life scandals--in which Georgia Tann, director of a Memphis-based adoption organization, kidnapped and sold poor children to wealthy families all over the country--Lisa Wingate's riveting, wrenching, and ultimately uplifting tale reminds us how, even though the paths we take can lead to many places, the heart never forgets where we belong.

Before We Were Yours

Before We Were Yours By Lisa Wingate

*Library Journal

Before We Were Yours

Before We Were Yours Characters

Publishers Weekly's #3 Longest-Running Bestseller of 2017 - Winner of the Southern Book Prize - If All Arkansas Read the Same Book Selection

Before We Were Yours

Before We Were Yours Reviews

"A [story] of a family lost and found . . . a poignant, engrossing tale about sibling love and the toll of secrets."--People

Before We Were Free Chapter 9 Summary

"Sure to be one of the most compelling books you pick up this year. . . . Wingate is a master-storyteller, and you'll find yourself pulled along as she reveals the wake of terror and heartache that is Georgia Tann's legacy."-- Parade

But the love of sisters needs no words. It does not depend on memories, or mementos, or proof. It runs as deep as a heartbeat. It is as ever present as a pulse.

I still maintain that *The Heart's Invisible Furies* and *Pachinko* were more deserving of the Goodreads Choice Award for Historical Fiction, but I can definitely see why *Before We Were Yours* has had such an emotional impact on readers.

Comparisons to *Orphan Train* make a lot of sense. The pacing and structure of both stories are similar, and But the love of sisters needs no words. It does not depend on memories, or mementos, or proof. It runs as deep as a heartbeat. It is as ever present as a pulse.

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Comparisons to *Orphan Train* make a lot of sense. The pacing and structure of both stories are similar, and they both use the alternating older/younger narrator format to link the present day with the past (a favoured technique by many historical fiction writers, which is also used in *The Thirteenth Tale*, *The Alice Network*, *The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo*, and *The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane*).

But, most of all, *Before We Were Yours* stands out for doing one of my absolute favourite things in historical fiction: exposing a largely unknown and horrific pocket of history.

Alternating between the perspectives of privileged and successful Avery Stafford in the present, and twelve-year-old Rill Floss in depression-era Memphis, a story emerges linking Avery's grandmother to Rill and her four siblings, who were stolen from their riverboat home and their two loving parents. Through the dual narrative and Avery's digging into the past, a tale of unimaginable horrors is uncovered.

Obviously, some people will have heard of Georgia Tann and the mass kidnapping and trafficking of Tennessee children, but I hadn't and I would bet a lot of others haven't either. In this book, we see how Tann led a team in capturing children from poor families and selling them to the wealthy. The children were first taken to a kind of halfway house where they were starved, beaten and even molested. Fictional details have been added but, in the end, it is so especially horrific because most of it is true.

If I was to complain about anything, it would be the way the characters frequently have whole conversations without specific names, just to keep the reader guessing who is who, even when it

Before We Were Yours

doesn't make sense for them to withhold the person's name. This is a minor quibble, though, and I do understand the necessity for it.

Overall, I really "enjoyed" the book. Rill and her sisters feel real. Their fear feels real. Their love for one another feels real. It is a history lesson wrapped up in a powerful and emotive story. A fictional tale that reveals a hidden truth.

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Before We Were Free Chapter 5 Summary

I absolutely loved this heartbreakingly beautiful piece of writing! I'd give this book 10 stars if I could! "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate grabbed me from the very beginning, tossed my emotions around like a salad, and never let go! I didn't want it to end.

I listened to the audio version! Both narrators deserve huge props for their performances! I actually think this novel was enhanced by the superb narration!

There are two storylines going on in this novel, one in 1939 and one is present day. I absolutely loved this heartbreakingly beautiful piece of writing! I'd give this book 10 stars if I could! "Before We Were Yours" by Lisa Wingate grabbed me from the very beginning, tossed my emotions around like a salad, and never let go! I didn't want it to end.

I listened to the audio version! Both narrators deserve huge props for their performances! I actually think this novel was enhanced by the superb narration!

There are two storylines going on in this novel, one in 1939 and one is present day. They slowly unravel and come together. I thought the writing was wonderful and so were the characters in both storylines. As gut wrenching as this novel is I feel it is an important story that must be read!

There is a bit of chick lit to the part of this story taking place in modern day. I actually enjoyed the bit of romance in it, but I know some diehard historical fiction fans might not.

People are comparing this to "The Orphan Train". In my humble opinion it's a much better book.

Highly recommended!!! ...more

My book won the GR 2017 award. Yay!

Wow! This book was really sad and had a happy ending at least. I had no idea this was a place and it breaks my heart ðŸ˜ˆ

This is written in the front of the book:

For the hundreds who vanished
and for the thousands who didn't.
May your stories
not be forgotten.

Before We Were Yours

For those who help today's orphans
find forever homes.
May you always know the value
of your work
and your love.

This book is about the Foss children. They are fictional in the book but taken from real life. My book won the GR 2017 award. Yay!

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This book is about the Foss children. They are fictional in the book but taken from real life stories. The stories of this horrible woman, Georgia Tann, who had children stolen from poor families and sold to rich families. Those that actually survived living at the Tennessee Children's Home Society. These kids were malnourished, raped. Jesus, I can't go on with all of the travesties.

You can google and find out tons of information

Here is a photo of the evil woman.

Here is a picture of a memorial to the hundreds of children who died. There are a lot of photos if you google.

Before We Were Yours

That's all I have people. I just can't. I'm crying too much to write anything else.

Recommend to everyone.

Mel ...more