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The Bell Bandit (The Lemonade War Series Book 3)



Synopsis

Everything about this trip to Grandma's house was different: First, because of the fire, Mrs. Treski, Evan, and Jessie had driven up to Grandma's two days after Christmas instead of the day before, missing Christmas with Grandma entirely. Second, the fire had left a hole in the back kitchen wall big enough to drive a car through! And with Grandma in the hospital and not in her house, everything felt off. Third, someone had climbed the long, slow slope of Lovell Hill to the top and had stolen the old iron bell hanging on its heavy wooden crossbeam. Who on earth would steal the New Year's Bell? And how could Grandma, Mrs. Treski, Evan, Jessie, and their neighbors ring in the New Year without it? Like a modern-day Beverly Cleary, Ms. Davies writes with heart, humor, and honesty about the inevitability of profound change and reveals just how well she understands the complex emotions of the children.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

There were many aspects of Jacqueline Davies' "The Bell Bandit" that I liked. Siblings Jessie and Evan Treski are caring, intelligent children. They are hard-working, helpful, and empathize with

others. Jessie is accepting of her grandmother's young neighbor, Maxwell, and his friendship with her grandmother. Davies does an outstanding job of capturing the children's personalities and their reactions to various situations. The references in "The Bell Bandit" to the vintage television series "Get Smart" are a fun tip of the hat to adults who may be reading this book to someone or may be having the book read to them. Davies does a good job of developing the story and of tying the various elements together for a satisfying conclusion. The story touches on several areas needing further development as each may be encountered by a child through contact with someone in their own life. It becomes evident fairly quickly that the elder Mrs. Teski is suffering from some type of Alzheimers-like problem. She has nearly burned down her home because she forgot about a tea kettle heating on her stove; she does not recognize her grandchildren; and she seems to become confused easily. A simple explanation to Evan and Jessie by their mother about the elder Mrs. Teski's memory loss would have been appropriate. Maxwell seems to be an "outcast;" later explanation by his mother to Jessie hints at his potentially having Aspergers. This would have been an excellent opportunity to foster greater understanding of both conditions. There is one scenario, however, that should have been omitted since "The Bell Bandit" is geared toward the 9 to 12 year age group.

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