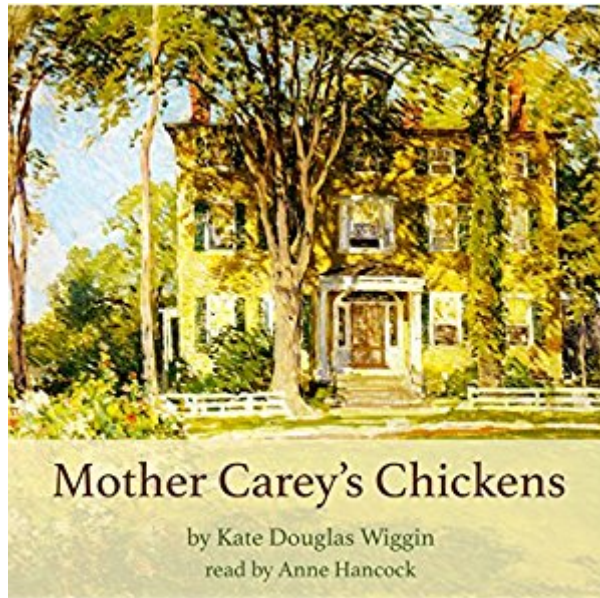




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Mother Carey's Chickens



Synopsis

From the pen of Kate Douglas Wiggin (Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm) comes this heartwarming story of Margaret Carey and her four children - or "chickens" as the author often refers to them. The sudden death of the father of the family results in the drastic reduction of the Careys' income and they must leave their comfortable home in Boston. Nancy Carey, the eldest, recalls a vacation in Maine when they all picnicked in the garden of a big, vacant house that her father loved. She discovers that the house is available, the rent is cheap, and persuades her mother that life in The Yellow House in Beulah, Maine is the perfect place to begin their new life. Mother Carey is a model of strength and wisdom (think Marmee from Little Women) but her children exhibit all the growing pains: Nancy is brimming with enthusiastic and not always practical plans; Gilbert resents moving to a small town and having his dream of college disappear; Kitty is overly sensitive; and coddled young Peter has to learn to do things for himself. Add to that, prim and snotty cousin Julia and visits from acerbic, critical cousin Ann, and Mother Carey has her hands full! Soon The Yellow House becomes a welcoming oasis for Beulah's quirky inhabitants. A window into the joys and travails of country life of a century ago, Mother Carey's Chickens delighted everyone including Walt Disney, who adapted it for his 1963 movie Summer Magic starring Hayley Mills as Nancy.

Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

Listening Length: 7 hours and 22 minutes

Program Type: Audiobook

Version: Unabridged

Publisher: Listen2aBook.com

Audible.com Release Date: November 24, 2016

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

Language: English

ASIN: B01MXPJIXD

Best Sellers Rank: #253 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Drama #430 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Fiction & Literature > Literary Collections #1330 in Books > Literature & Fiction > United States > Anthologies

Customer Reviews

I love this story, but my issues are with the published version I purchased. The contents of letters, poetry quotes, songs etc have been left out of this print copy. Thankfully I was already familiar with

the book, and noticed they were gone, and could pull them up on my Kindle, but someone who did not know would find portions of the book confusing. The print is small, and the spacing tight, but those would not be a big deal if the portions were not missing.

The book behind Disney's "Summer Magic", is a late 19th Century moral tale by the same author that wrote Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm. In it, innocence and simplistic virtue win out over all obstacles to produce felicity and general happiness for the fatherless family and their circle of acquaintances. Disney borrowed several of the characters and reworked them into a slightly different and somewhat simplified storyline, but one which is of similar character. If you enjoyed the movie, you'll probably enjoy the book, as long as you don't expect it to be the exact same story.

This is a good old story. You get a peek into the past, how they lived and some of their attitudes. It's very uplifting, through hardships they keep a good attitude and end up all right in the end. This is a wonderful book, that I will be reading to my family for family read aloud time. It makes you yearn for a simpler life. :) (with modern day plumbing I am not ready to give that up yet) I do suggest when you come to new words or phrases, look them up online. Some phrases we say today have changed meanings in the last century. (at one point it says a little girl french kisses a friend of the family's - I am pretty sure that means a peck on one cheek and then a peck on the other cheek) And they talk about poems and books we might not have heard of. Stop and learn about them. It's great fun getting lost in the past.

Loved the beauty of the book, the story, the descriptive writing and included poem snippets. It was a pleasant read from beginning to end. The characters all came to life for me. It was like I was part of the story

What a lovely vision of motherhood and family! Such an encouraging vision of love, sacrifice, and perseverance. May Mother Carey enlarge your vision of motherhood and family.

Sweet

good

I really enjoyed reading this book. I had recently seen the movie "Summer Magic" with Haley Mills

but was puzzled about the strange ending. I felt something was missing. When I found out it was based on this book I read it and the book cleared up my confusion. I enjoy books written in this time frame and loved these characters. I really didn't think I would like the book that much but I did. So glad I read it.

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