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The Way Lies North



Synopsis

This young adult historical novel focuses on Charlotte and her family, Loyalists who are forced to flee their home in the Mohawk Valley as a result of the violence of the "Sons of Liberty" during the American Revolution. At the beginning, fifteen-year-old Charlotte Hooper and her parents begin the long trek north to the safety of Fort Haldimand (near present-day Kingston). The novel portrays Charlotte's struggle on the difficult journey north, and the even more difficult task of making a new home in British Canada. In the flight north, the Mohawk nation plays an important role, and Charlotte learns much about their customs and way of life, to the point where she is renamed "Woman of Two Worlds." Later in the novel she is able to repay her aboriginal friends when she plays an important part in helping the Oneidas to become once again members of the Iroquois confederacy under British protection. Strong and capable, Charlotte breaks the stereotype of the eighteenth-century woman, while revealing a positive relationship between the Loyalists and aboriginal peoples.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Jean Rae Baxter taught secondary school for many years in Eastern Ontario, a region populated by the descendants of United Empire Loyalists. Research into their history resulted in her young adult story, "Farewell the Mohawk Valley" (Beginnings, Ronsdale, 978-0-921870-87-6).

Baxter's adult fiction appears regularly in Canadian literary journals and anthologies. In 2005, Seraphim Editions published *A Twist of Malice* (0-9734588-4-4), her short-story collection. The mother of three grown children, she currently lives in Hamilton, Ontario, with her husband and a canny Scottish terrier named Robbie.

This is an excellent read for the Revolutionary War buff. The fact that it tells the story of the Loyalists is not what makes it stand out. What makes it stand out is that the heroes and heroines stay loyal to their beliefs throughout the book. In most novels of this genre' the Loyalist man or woman inevitably meets someone on the Patriot side, falls in love, sees the error of their way, and promptly becomes a good Patriot. That doesn't happen in this book. And it's about time. It probably didn't happen much in the real world either. As far as I know, there are only a few books that fall into this category and all but two are written by Canadian writers. Anyone who likes this book should also read: *The Hollow Tree*, *The King's Rangers*, *Escape: The Adventures of a Loyalist Family*, *A Lesser Form of Patriotism*, or *Honor Bound*. Although several of these are classified as Young Adult novels, readers won't be disappointed. *A Lesser Form of Patriotism* *The King's Rangers* *The Hollow Tree* *Escape: Adventures of a Loyalist Family*

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