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Grandfather's Dance (Sarah, Plain And Tall)



Synopsis

The fifth book in the series that began with the Newbery Medal-winning *Sarah, Plain and Tall* by Patricia MacLachlan. Jack leans back on Grandfather's shoulder. Aunt Mattie's knitting needles click in the dark. The moon rises. The candle flickers in the gentle prairie wind. I close my eyes to keep everything there. Could anything be more perfect than a prairie wedding? Cassie Witting doesn't think so, for her sister Anna's wedding brings two lovebirds together, aunts from faraway Maine, a long white dress with a wedding veil, dancing under a clear blue sky, and a world that smells of roses. As the Witting family comes together for this most special day, Cassie sees that life brings the change of seasons, brother Jack on Grandfather's lap, joy, sorrow, and a special dance only Grandfather does.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 550 (What's this?)

Series: *Sarah, Plain and Tall* (Book 5)

Paperback: 96 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (December 26, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0061340030

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.2 x 7.6 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.9 out of 5 stars 37 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #166,801 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Stepfamilies](#) #211 in [Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Where We Live > Farm Life](#) #460 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Multigenerational](#)

Age Range: 6 - 10 years

Grade Level: 2 - 5

Customer Reviews

Grade 3-6 This conclusion of the *Sarah, Plain and Tall* stories gathers the whole cast of characters for a prairie wedding. Changes in the family are reflected in the changing times; Papa goes to town to buy a car to transport his guests. Fourth-grade Cassie narrates the tale of welcoming the relatives and preparing the celebration for her sister, Anna. But her focus isn't on the

bride and groom. Partly, she ponders why people would want to get married; her dream companion would be one of her dogs. She closely observes Grandfather and Jack, the oldest and youngest members of the family. Their special bond shows up in the way Jack talks, walks, and behaves like Grandfather. Cassie observes how Grandfather is preparing for death. Even the sad ending highlights the story's overall theme of family ties as they weave through generations. MacLachlan maneuvers the reminders of previous plots fairly gracefully, allowing the book to stand on its own. As before, her beautifully straightforward language reflects the manner of the hardworking people of the Great Plains. Although at a reading level for early chapter-book readers, this story's themes make it appropriate as well for upper elementary readers. —Pat Leach, Lincoln City Libraries, NE Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

Gr. 4-6. A prairie wedding and then a funeral bring together extended family and friends in the fifth and final volume in the historical fiction series that started with the exquisite Newbery Medal Book *Sarah Plain and Tall* (1985). Once again, heartwarming is the word for the story, which is always true to a child's viewpoint. The narrator here is Sarah's daughter, Cassie, a fourth-grader in the prairie school of six pupils, and the core drama is the close, teasing bond between Cassie's little brother, Jack, and their stubborn, cranky grandfather, whose health is failing. For newcomers to the series, the large cast that gathers for the wedding may be hard to keep straight, but the plainspoken dialogue, especially between Grandfather and Jack, is elemental, and the warm, quiet story of love and grief will send readers back to the other books in the touching saga. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I have loved the Sarah, Plain and Tall stories for a very long time! This summer I used them while tutoring a young girl entering 6th grade. She loved the first 3 books, and the movies I have in my collection. She's reading #4 now for pleasure. She's fallen in love with all the characters, and would like for the stories to go on and on and on. I was thrilled when I discovered just the other day there is this 5th book! Watching the characters and the family grow and grow up through the series has been so fun! This young girl wasn't much of a reader before, and seeing her get so excited about the Sarah stories warms the cockles of my heart!! She told me the characters are like good friends! How cute is that? I devoured *Grandfather's Dance* in just a little over an hour because I was so excited to find out what happens next! Thank you, Patricia MacLachlan for this wonderful series!

Be prepared to cry. A beautiful and touching story. I read this out loud to my young daughter and we were both sobbing at the end. Now that I have read the book it isn't surprising why they didn't make a movie out of this one.

Again, the author charms with her few words that carry so much meaning. An inter-generational story of love and loss.

Grandfather's Dance brings back all the familiar characters from the other books in the series for Anna's wedding day, and introduces us to the new baby Jack - who is old enough now to follow his "Boppa" (Grandfather) everywhere he goes. A good storyline and a nice wrap-up to the series, though the writing here is not as strong as in previous books in the series. Fans will eat it up, though, and emotionally, this book packs a powerful punch. Recommended.

I bought this book for a struggling reader in 5th grade. She really enjoyed it and it gave her good incentive to read more.

We loved this book! Simple reading for a mom and son. It was our nightly read for a week. It kept our interest and had us wanting to read more.

good ending to the series but i wish their was more

I really loved this book. As an adult, I was reminded of what it was like growing up on a farm. I loved the unique characters who were very well developed. The story was mostly obvious but could still weave the feelings of loss and love in a way that made you come out feeling filled with good feelings.

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