

[PDF] Slow Way Home

M. Morris - pdf download free book

Books Details:

Title: Slow Way Home

Author: M. Morris

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Description:

From Publishers Weekly A Southern boy becomes a pawn in a dicey custody battle in Morris's uneven second novel, which begins when eight-year-old Brandon Willard's drug addict mother, Sophie, runs off to Canada with the latest man in her life and leaves Brandon with his grandparents in North Carolina. Things unravel with the boyfriend in a hurry, but Sophie's parents refuse to return Brandon, intending to provide him with a stable home. After a court battle, Sophie is awarded custody, but Brandon's grandparents take off with the boy and head for southern Florida, changing their last name to Davidson. Trouble follows the trio after they settle down in a remote fishing village. The African-American church they join is burned down by the Klan after their ill-advised attempt at integration, and Brandon is interviewed by a local TV news crew about the incident. The publicity results in the arrest of his grandparents, and Brandon is returned to Sophie, who has yet another erratic, dangerous boyfriend in tow. In a far-fetched plot twist, the boy is rescued from her clutches by a North Carolina state senator, who remembers Brandon from a school class visit and

decides to take him in. Morris's storytelling is solid in the early going, and he makes a credible effort to capture a child's viewpoint, but many of the sets pieces are insistently maudlin. Questionable plot twists-would Brandon's grandparents really leave everything behind?-and treacly writing make this a lackluster follow-up to Morris's well-regarded debut, *A Place Called Wiregrass*.

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From School Library Journal Adult/High School--Will eight-year-old Brandon ever have a permanent, happy home? When his mother runs off with her boyfriend, she sends him to her parents on the bus and disappears, but later, when he has been doing well with them, she threatens to take him back. To keep him safe, the grandparents run from the courts and move further south, where they make friends with both black people and rednecks. Realistic dialogue, including the "n" word, accurately portrays both the integration problems and the role of the church in the South of the early 1970s. The use of the first person enables readers to feel the boy's pain, determination, and desire not to be pitied. He must find strength within himself. Readers find out what happens to these involving characters in an epilogue. A touching, tender story for fans of Nicholas Sparks.--Claudia Moore, W. T. Woodson High School, Fairfax, VA

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