



The Dionne Years: A Thirties Melodrama

Pierre Berton

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Author : Pierre Berton

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Martha says

Why use 1 word, when you can use many? Interesting story, just don't enjoy his style.

Felicia (Little Prairie Library) says

Eh, it was okay. It was pretty interesting to read about an important situation in Canadian history. The author did really well setting the stage, giving information about the time period, economic situation, what was popular, etc., so I wasn't too lost, even though the book was written almost 40 years ago. It amazes me that back then the obsession with celebrity was exactly the same as it is now.

Sheri S. says

The Dionne quintuplets were born in rural Ontario, Canada to a couple who already had five children. The arrival of the five identical girls was a surprise to all and they quickly became famous throughout Canada, and ultimately, the world. In what seemed to be much more about money than the safety of the girls, they were removed from their home, placed under guardianship and allowed limited contact with their parents and other siblings. The book focuses more on their doctor, Allan Roy Dafoe, and his care of and financial profiting because of the twins than it does the twins themselves. The author discusses how various companies vied for endorsements by the individuals representing the Dionne quintuplets. The end of the book provides some insight into what life was actually like for the girls. For a more in depth account of the Dionne girls' lives and reflections, the book references the quintuplets' own book, "We Were Five."

Arrika Arrachne says

Sensationalist storytelling in the years before reality television...

Jodie says

I was quite excited to read this book as I find the story of the Dionne quintuplets interesting. I wanted to know all about their lives in the "hospital" and the difficult transition they had moving into their parents' home. I was expecting an introspective into the quintuplets' lives but instead it focused mainly on Dr. Dafoe. The title of the book really should have been "The Dafoe Years". Dr. Dafoe is really the only person we learn anything about. Overall pretty disappointed.

Ron says

Pierre Berton again popularizes Canadian history and culture. The Dionne Years shines a light on this family and the quintuplets who were a worldwide sensation. The human cost was another story. Berton takes us back to the 1930's in Canada, and the historic births in Corbeil, Ontario.

Riley says

Imagine a reality TV show before TV and a Cohen brothers movie before the Cohen brothers about 5 identical children that all takes place in a place billed as "Quintland".

Once seeing the illustration of the campus with buildings like Public Observation Playground and Midwives Souvenir Pavilion you know that this is going to be an interesting story. Amazingly, it is a true story, that happened once upon a time, in the 1930's

Erika Nerdypants says

Interesting book on the Dionne quintuplets. I particularly enjoyed the historical background, but was somewhat disappointed as to how little information was provided on them as adults. Might look for more on that at some point.

The Chicks says

Teresa's pick
