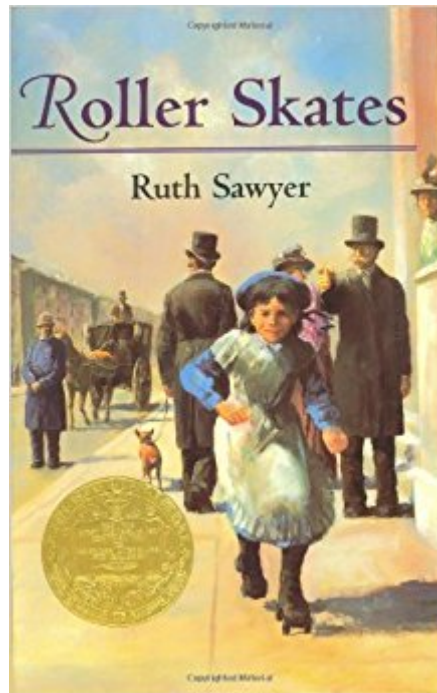




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Roller Skates



Synopsis

A republication of the original 1937 Newbery Medal-winning classic follows the adventures of a free-spirited tomboy in 1890s New York as she traverses the city on a pair of roller skates.

Book Information

Hardcover: 184 pages

Publisher: Viking Press; Reprint edition (1995)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0670603104

ISBN-13: 978-0670603107

Product Dimensions: 6.3 x 0.8 x 9.4 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 32 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,807,543 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Individual Sports > Rollerskating & Rollerblading #6685 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States #9825 in Books > Children's Books > Classics

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

Grades 4-7--This recording of the 1937 Newbery Award-winning book by Ruth Sawyer (Penguin Putnam, pap. 1986) is read by television and stage actress Kate Forbes. The story takes place in New York City in the 1890s, during the year of 10-year-old Lucinda's "orphanage." That's Lucinda's term for her situation when her parents go to Italy and leave her in the care of Miss Peters and Miss Nettie. Lucinda, enjoying her freedom, explores the city on roller skates and makes friends wherever she goes. She reads Shakespeare with her uncle, puts on her own production of *The Tempest*, creates a magical Christmas for a little girl from an impoverished family, helps a family protect their fruit stand from attacks by rowdy boys, and has picnics in a vacant lot, among other adventures. Forbes does a good job with the reading, conveying Lucinda's enthusiasm but not becoming overly dramatic. However, the story suffers from age. Certain expressions and references are likely to elude most children (and even many adults). The obligatory tragedies (the death of Trinket, the unexplained murder of a woman Lucinda befriends) seem a little maudlin. There is also some ethnic stereotyping, typical of the time, that is unacceptable today. However, in libraries where Newbery

books are always in demand, this audio-book will help make an older book a little more accessible to young readers. Sarah Flowers, Santa Clara County Library, Morgan Hill, CA Copyright 2002
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• A refreshingly lively and genuine story. • " The New York Times --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

A childhood favorite. Wonderful historical detail in a story about a free spirit whose faithful roller skates lead her to friendships all over New York City. Unlike the high status seeking aunts and cousins she visits once a week, Lucinda makes friends with ragpickers, violinists, exotic foreign ladies, fruit sellers, policemen and more. The story made me feel such joy, and sometimes sadness, as a child. I purchased this copy to replace the well-loved paperback that was falling apart. Well worth its literary awards!

I read this book as a child. It's a classic tale of one year in a young girl's life around the turn of the century. She is curious, creative, and she embodies all the truly sweet characteristics of young girlhood we long for = those good old days. It's a delightful story that children from 6-12 will love. If your children spend all their time entertained by TV and video games, they may not be able to appreciate the life this girl has which is full of relationships with all kinds of people in her neighborhood. It somewhat depends on the child reading it to have a life of relating to real people, not texts and Facebook.

I received this book from a beloved aunt for my birthday 60 years ago. I loved the story then, and I have enjoyed sharing it with young women since then. They all tell me they love the book, but perhaps they are being polite. I hope they are being sincere and that the story really does have the timeless charm that I remember.

This is a tricky one. There's no continuous "story" in the literature sense (exposition, rising action, climax, denouement), but the characters, writing, and events are satisfying and evoke a feeling of not-quite-nostalgic simplicity (it's set in 1890's New York). The puzzling part is why certain things are included in a children's book: the suicide (discovered by the 10-year-old protagonist) of one of the secondary characters and the death of a four-year-old. There's no particular story line to

advance by including these events, and they might frighten the children who would otherwise be the perfect audience for the book.

I was thinking about this book for months before I decided to find it again. I read and re-read this when I was growing up. I loved it then and I love it now. Lucinda Wyman is a tomboy who doesn't fit into the box that her time and place would like to put her in. Her parents' trip to Italy buys her a year of freedom in which to explore 1890's New York on roller skates. The story of Lucinda, the wonderful people she befriends in the amazing city she loves was mesmerizing to me as a kid. I loved Lucinda and could relate to her because I didn't quite fit in, either, and I loved to read and talk to all kinds of people, and I made puppets and put on plays with them and adored *The Tempest*. I still love just about all of those things (although I don't do puppet shows anymore) and I still love this book with its simple pleasures and enduring tragedies and joy of being alive and free out in the great big wonderful world.

This is an absorbing story for young people....with much for a grownup to find important. Not a new book, but fresh. Lucinda learns some hard truths, grows a great deal in her special year.

This book is a charming book about a charming child and her adventures over a year. There is a serious and sad side to the book as well, as there is to any life, but overall the story is wonderful.

Set in 189X New York City this (mostly) lighthearted novel relates a busy year of delicious adventures as the title protagonist puts it. The parents of ten-year-old Lucinda are traveling to Europe to spend an entire year, there so they plan to place their difficult youngest, a daughter (homely as two toads) with her stiff, strict Aunt Emily. Contemplating outright mutiny rather than suffocate with her disapproving aunt and the four gazelles (her docile cousins) Lucinda receives a last minute reprieve by being sent by hansom cab to the relaxed home of the Misses Peters, who never had any children of their own. Suddenly she is the star and welcomed with gentle arms. With her prized possessions, her roller skates, slung over her shoulder, Lucinda plans to live it up during her year of Freedom. Her skates are a passport to adventure--an escape from the dreary prospect of behaving like a Lady. They offer a faster means of locomotion and the sense of being at one with the air and light. Her critical family has no idea how their daughter, whom they deem rebellious, stiff, and unaffectionate, will bloom during the period when she is freed from much Victorian restriction; that she will prove warm, compassionate and clever to

the benefit of the many new friends (of various ethnicities) she easily makes. Both children and adults blossom under her outgoing charm—which no one had hitherto suspected. During that year of the most wonderful Christmas she grows in several ways. Of course she experiences all kinds of juvenile scrapes but fortunately she can rely on two steadfast adults for advice and emergency help: her beloved Uncle Earle and the kind family doctor. There are two very serious incidents which are unusual to find in a child's book—events which launch her headlong into the realities of adult life. As her parents' return looms large she wishes she could cling to being ten for ever; she foresees no joy in being restored to an unappreciative household. But Lucinda will always cherish the memory of little Trinket—especially when she observes a lone seagull, soaring skyward with joy. Childhood in a bygone era—quaintly charming. (February 21, 2014)

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