IndieReader

Becoming Hazel: Inherited Treasures – Book 1

Dorrie-Lenore Parsons (2024)
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Indie Reader Rating: 4.2 out of 5

In her poignant debut novel, ***Becoming Hazel: Inherited Treasures Book 1***, **Dorrie-Lenore Parsons** masterfully weaves a rich and intricate narrative inspired by true events. The story invites readers to journey alongside Hazel Cunningham, a remarkably resilient woman born with physical challenges in the late 1800s. Set against the vivid backdrop of Kalamazoo, Michigan, and the healing landscapes of Mineral Wells, Texas, the novel delves deep into themes of independence, self-discovery, and the transformative power of friendship, ultimately creating a tapestry of life that is both relatable and inspiring.

Hazel is a complex character grappling with societal expectations and the harsh realities of her condition. Despite the cruelty of others who label her as a "midget" or "cripple," she possesses an indomitable spirit, yearning to embrace her true identity and aspirations. Parsons captures the essence of Hazel's struggles with profound empathy, allowing readers to witness her emotional turmoil as she navigates a world that often aims to confine her. Through her voyage to seek a cure, she encounters a vibrant cast of characters—each of whom plays a pivotal role in Hazel's development. There's the supportive Mildred Witherspoon, who becomes a steadfast friend and confidante; the mentoring JB Parker, a movie theater owner who introduces her to the world of performance; the passionate suffragist Maria de Jesus, who ignites her desire for social change and activism; and the charming yet awkward Charlie Roberts, a fireman who falls deeply in love with her, offering a glimpse into romantic possibilities that challenge her preconceived notions of love and acceptance.

Parsons's prose is both **lyrical** and **evocative**, inviting readers into Hazel's richly layered emotional world. The narrative ingeniously celebrates Hazel's bravery as she challenges societal norms and embraces her individuality. It is an empowering testament that showcases the resilience of the human spirit, as Hazel finds inspiration in the most unexpected friendships. Each page is imbued with a palpable sense of hope and determination, mirroring Hazel's own journey toward finding her voice and place in a world that often seeks to underestimate her worth.

What stands out most in ***Becoming Hazel*** is the author's remarkable ability to capture the nuances of faith, resilience, and personal growth. The spiritual undercurrents woven throughout the narrative manifest not in grand proclamations or heavy-handed doctrine but through the subtle, day-to-day interactions between Hazel and her companions. These moments of connection serve as profound reminders that true treasure lies not solely in overcoming her challenges but in embracing them fully and recognizing the invaluable bonds she forges along the way. Readers will find themselves reflecting on their own lives, discovering that the relationships we cultivate and the love we share can illuminate even the darkest of paths.

The pacing of the novel is **deliberate** and **thoughtful**, allowing readers to fully immerse themselves in Hazel's experiences and growth. As she navigates the complexities of love, friendship, and her quest for independence, audiences will likely find parallels in their own journeys of self-acceptance and the essence of community support. Parsons's careful construction of the narrative rhythm creates an inviting space for readers to ponder and internalize Hazel's struggles and triumphs, making her story resonate more profoundly.

As the novel unfolds and reaches its conclusion, readers will witness Hazel's transformation—not merely as a woman marked by her physical challenges but as a beacon of resilience and grace. In her journey, **Hazel** emerges as a figure of hope, embodying the idea that adversity can lead to self-discovery and growth. ***Becoming Hazel: Inherited Treasures Book 1*** is not just a story of overcoming hurdles; it is a celebration of the human spirit and the profound connections that uplift and sustain us in times of adversity.

"A beautifully crafted and empowering tale,* Becoming Hazel *is an uplifting exploration of self-discovery, community, and the enduring strength of the heart. Dorrie-Lenore Parsons's compassionate storytelling resonates deeply, making this an essential read for anyone seeking inspiration in their own life's journey, reminding us that, through love and friendship, we can overcome even the greatest obstacles."

— ***Indie Reader Review***

Reviewed by Leah Webster
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