



## Sarah Whitcher's Story

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Little Sarah wanders away from her family's cabin into the New Hampshire forest, and settlers come from all across the countryside to help find her. As the long days pass, the searchers grow desperate, but Sarah's father's trust in God holds firm.

## **Sarah Whitcher's Story Details**

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Author : Elizabeth Yates , Nora S. Unwin (Illustrator)

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## **From Reader Review Sarah Whitcher's Story for online ebook**

### **Stacy M. Patton says**

Elizabeth Yates is a wonderful story teller and this book is a wonderful example of that! I read this to my son Camden, who is 8. We are studying early American history and the early pioneers.

Sarah is a 4 year old girl who wonders off to the woods to play after her parents go off to visit an aunt and uncle. She was left in the care of her older siblings who didn't realize she had wondered off. Sarah soon becomes lost and does not make it home that night. This story is a story of hope, unending love, the power of God, the caring sacrifice of pioneer neighbors who come out to help search and one of miracles! A beautiful story and one every child should hear!

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### **Jessica says**

Again, this really deserves 4.5 stars. Based on a real incident that makes you remember that truth sometimes is stranger than fiction and that the Lord really does work in mysterious ways. Young Sarah is living in the mountain of New Hampshire with her family (mid to late 1800's) and while her parents leave on a typical Sabbath day walk (which my Grandparents also did) the older kids are left in charge. In a bit of miscommunication little Sarah wanders off but her siblings think she has gone with her parents. A storm comes and that is when Sarah is now known to be missing. What ensues is a great search for a little girl and the view of both sides of the story are fascinating. Faith, obedience, trust, hard work are all found in this short tale.

It is recommended for 7-9 year olds. I read it one evening and then gave it to my seven year old the next morning. She gobbled it up and loved the story!

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### **Kendra Rupard says**

I thought this book was a very good book and an easy reads. This fiction book was wrote by Elizabeth Yates and the name of the book is Sarah Whitcher's Story. This book is about a big family that lives out in the woods and they do things like in the old times and they are a Christian family. One day Pa and Ma went to walk to the summit, so the older children was left in charge until Pa and Ma got back. So therefore every child had a chore for the day, but a little girl named Sarah didn't have any thing to do. So she decided to wonder off in to the woods for a little while and then she would just be back home soon and with out tell anyone she headed off on her journey. She was haing a lot of fun acting like she was Ma and Pa, trying to cut down trees and pick strawberries. Soon it got dark, she had wondered so far that she could not find her way back home. So she decided to just find her a place to sleep and then in the morning she would find her way back home. She had found her a shelter under a big rock that looked like a cabin. She knew Pa would come for her soon, She then saw a dark shape moving among the trees and she thought it was Ollie, her dog from home. She was so happy to see him, but it didn't really look like Ollie, it was a lot bigger. The animal she meet now was sleeping beside her and was Being like a mother to her. While Pa and a lot more other men from near and far away places had heard that there was a little girl missing all helped to come find her. They had searched for many days and hope was getting little and by then Sarah was getting very hungry. The animal turned out not

to be Ollie, it was a female bear. When a young man had a dream about Sarah, he walked for miles to tell the family about his dream and that he knew where Sarah was. But at first the women did not believe the young man. But the young man was not from this place and didn't know the mountains very well, so he had to get one of the searching men to lead him to the place Sarah was. When they got there they could not believe there eyes Sarah was laying there asleep. So they carried her back home and her family was very happy to see her. Pa keep on praying that Sarah would be found and he never gave up faith and Sarah was found. I believe the author achieved his purpose very well in the book. I didn't find any weaknesses, but I found a lot of strengths. My favorite quote is when papa says "Trust in The Lord he will help us find Sarah". I would recommend this book to a lot of people.

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### **Sarah Brazytis says**

Based on the true story, passed down over time, of a young girl who is lost and mistakes a mothering bear for the family dog. The rest of the family searches long for her, relying on their steadfast faith in God to keep their hearts up until they find her.

I loved the message of faith. The father, especially, has a heartwarming trust in God and sense of His presence.

Little Sarah's time with the bear was, for a person with strong motherly instincts, almost a little hard to read! Obviously when a bear treats a human child as it would treat a hardy cub...well, I hated to think of her in such hands!

My main con with the story was the way the parents have very young children(5 years old!) caring for babies only months old and tiny toddlers so that the father and mother can go for a casual Sunday afternoon visit to a neighbor, staying away until dark. Coming from a big family, I can attest that to leave a 5 year old with an infant is unthinkable! Even in those times, I can't imagine any mother doing such a thing. For me, this made the story seem unreal and unbelievable. In colonial times, a 5 year old boy would still be in long clothes; and a 5 year old girl would hardly be expected to care for a tiny baby.

It is, however, clean fiction with a strong storyline if this inconsistency does not bother you.

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### **Shanna Gonzalez says**

Little Sarah Whitcher, left in the charge of her older siblings while her parents leave their New Hampshire cabin for the day, wanders away and is lost in the woods. By the time her disappearance is discovered, it is dark, but in the morning the community rallies around the family to search for the lost child. They search until sunset, but are disappointed to find no Sarah. The search continues for another day, and another, though everyone but Sarah's parents has lost hope of her survival. Meanwhile, Sarah has found the company of a large animal whom she takes to be Ollie, the family dog. "Ollie" takes care of her, though he smells and acts strangely. On the third day after her disappearance, a man appears at the cabin, claiming to have had a dream showing where Sarah is. He leads the searchers to where she is found -- smelling of bear.

Throughout the story this hardworking pioneer family holds together in their trust that God will take care of Sarah. The father, especially, sets an example of faith in the most discouraging of circumstances. The deep

love the parents express toward their children, and the joy with which Sarah is welcomed home, strike a sharp contrast between her vulnerable solitude and the secure place she holds within her family. The book ends with an author's note explaining that this story has some historical support, and descendants of Sarah Whitcher have repeatedly affirmed that she has told the story the way they heard it from their relatives.

Although the tale ends happily, it is a "scarer," and may not be suited to more sensitive listeners. But for those who are able to handle Sarah's real danger, it provides a wonderful, suspenseful adventure, gives a glimpse of early New Hampshire life, and portrays a tight-knit, loving family.

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### **Valerie Basham says**

What a story of faith and providential protection! Excellent! True story.

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### **Barbara says**

The story of Satah Whitcher, previously recorded in, "the History of Warren New Hampshire, " published in 1870, tells the story of a young pioneer girl who is lost in the woods for several days and kept safe by a bear, and the miraculous way in which she was eventually found. Any fan of the Little House on the Prairie series would absolutely love this book, though at 83 pages, it is a much quicker and easier read. I wish I knew about this book when my children were young.

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### **Jean Later says**

Fun story and read aloud. My boys loved that it's based loosely on a true story.

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### **Jessica Claxton says**

This was a read aloud with my boys, and was a sweet story.

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### **Kristen says**

Cute book, my kids enjoyed this. Whether it is true or not it is a good example of God's care for us in unexpected ways.

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### **Sartan says**

Excellent and uplifting book!

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### **John says**

This is an incredible story. A little girl gets lost in old New England, while wandering through the woods. She ends up being protected by a bear, and treated as a cub, all the while she is an hour walk from her house--with dozens of people scouring the woods looking for her. And the ending is even more remarkable. And to top that, it is a true story--with God getting all the glory.

This is a must read book with your kids. They'll love it, and you'll scarcely believe such a thing possible.

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### **Angela says**

I liked this book, but then I had a problem. I was reading another book about a girl also named Sarah. The courage of Sarah Noble. But I really think some parts I thought were funny. Such as her thinking the bear in the forest she was in was the family dog Ollie. I think that part was funny, but kind of Scary. I thought she could get hurt with that bear. And they have it wrong on the cover. It said she had red hair. But she has blond hair. Oh well.

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### **Sarah Sammis says**

Sarah Whitcher's Story by Elizabeth Yates is a short chapter book based on an actual incident where a 3 year old child wandered away from the family homestead and was cared for by a bear until she was found a number of days later.

The crux of the story is that young Sarah stays alive because she isn't frightened. It's not that she's an especially brave three-year-old. Rather, she mistakes the sow bear for the family dog.

I find that explanation had to swallow for a normal, healthy girl her age, especially one growing up in such close proximity to nature. I did a test with my own three year old who has seen both bears and dogs. I showed her a photograph of a bear and a photograph of a dog (the same breeds illustrated in the novel). I asked her to name the animals. She got them right instantly.

Sarah Whitcher isn't the first child reported to have been helped by a wild animal mother but she's much older than the ones who end up "feral" and her time with the bear is much shorter than the ones who do end up growing up in the care of the wild animal. It would have been much more interesting and dramatic if Sarah of the novel had been aware that she was with a bear and perhaps felt like she had to pretend the bear was no scarier than the family dog, rather than just blindly mistaking the bear for the dog!

My thoughts and complaints are with the book, not with the real child who spent a few days and nights with a bear. I don't know what she thought or experienced, obviously.

The book though does have lovely illustrations. Fans of the Little House series will probably enjoy Sarah Whitcher's Story.

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**Audrey says**

I have read this book many times in my life and each time it is a marvel to me. My understanding is that it truly happened. It is an incredible story of God's protection.

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