

Whistling Past the Graveyard

By Susan Crandall

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From an award-winning author comes a wise and tender coming-of-age story about a nine-year-old girl who runs away from her Mississippi home in 1963, befriends a lonely woman suffering loss and abuse, and embarks on a life-changing roadtrip.

***Whistling past the graveyard*. That's what Daddy called it when you did something to keep your mind off your most worstest fear. . . .**

In the summer of 1963, nine-year-old Starla Claudelle runs away from her strict grandmother's Mississippi home. Starla's destination is Nashville, where her mother went to become a famous singer, abandoning Starla when she was three. Walking a lonely country road, Starla accepts a ride from Eula, a black woman traveling alone with a white baby. Now, on the road trip that will change her life forever, Starla sees for the first time life as it really is—as she reaches for a dream of how it could one day be.

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Editorial Review

From Booklist
The South on the eve of the civil rights movement, as seen through the eyes of this novel's plucky nine-year-old narrator. Starla Claudelle lives in Mississippi with her stern grandma. Her daddy is away working on an oil rig. Her mama has gone to Nashville to be a star, so Starla decides to head there when she gets herself in trouble one too many times. She's offered a ride by a black woman named Eula, who has with her a white baby found abandoned on the steps of a church. Eula takes Starla and the baby home, but violence forces them back on the road with no money and a truck about to break down. During their long and sometimes perilous trip, Starla sees firsthand what it's like to be the wrong color in a segregated society, and her keen sense of injustice and need for love help her create a bond with Eula that transcends any barriers. It's not easy to keep such a young narrator convincing for more than 300 pages, and for the most part, author Crandall manages it well. Readers will take to Starla and be caught up in her story. --Mary Ellen Quinn

Review
"A coming-of-age story as well as a luminous portrait of courage and the bonds of friendship. . . Susan Crandall tells young Starla's story with pitch-perfect tone, evoking 1963 Mississippi and its struggles with a deft hand. I laughed and cried at Starla's keen observances of life and family and the sometimes blurred edges of justice. Like Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* and Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*, *Whistling Past the Graveyard* is destined to become a classic." (New York Times bestselling author Karen White)

It's not easy to keep such a young narrator convincing for more than 300 pages... Readers will take to Starla and be caught up in her story. (Mary Ellen Quinn *Booklist*)

"Crandall delivers big with a coming-of-age story set in Mississippi in 1963 and narrated by a precocious 9-year-old…Young Starla is an endearing character whose spirited observations propel this nicely crafted story." (Kirkus)

"Starla's fiery independence makes her a likable narrator." (*Publishers Weekly*)

About the Author
Susan Crandall is a critically acclaimed author of women's fiction, romance, and suspense. She has written several award-winning novels including her first book, *Back Roads*, which won the RITA award for best first book, as well as *Whistling Past the Graveyard*, which won the SIBA 2014 Book Award for Fiction. Susan lives in Noblesville, Indiana, with her family.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Charles Lemaster:

The book Whistling Past the Graveyard can give more knowledge and information about everything you want. Why must we leave the best thing like a book Whistling Past the Graveyard? Several of you have a different opinion about publication. But one aim that will book can give many facts for us. It is absolutely correct. Right now, try to closer with your book. Knowledge or details that you take for that, you could give for each other; you can share all of these. Book Whistling Past the Graveyard has simple shape but you

know: it has great and big function for you. You can appear the enormous world by available and read a book. So it is very wonderful.

Esta Banks:

This book untitled Whistling Past the Graveyard to be one of several books this best seller in this year, this is because when you read this guide you can get a lot of benefit onto it. You will easily to buy this book in the book retailer or you can order it by using online. The publisher with this book sells the e-book too. It makes you quicker to read this book, because you can read this book in your Smart phone. So there is no reason to you personally to past this book from your list.

Richard Osteen:

Exactly why? Because this Whistling Past the Graveyard is an unordinary book that the inside of the e-book waiting for you to snap the item but latter it will zap you with the secret this inside. Reading this book next to it was fantastic author who all write the book in such wonderful way makes the content within easier to understand, entertaining method but still convey the meaning entirely. So , it is good for you for not hesitating having this nowadays or you going to regret it. This amazing book will give you a lot of advantages than the other book include such as help improving your proficiency and your critical thinking approach. So , still want to hold off having that book? If I were you I will go to the reserve store hurriedly.

Eva Lynch:

Playing with family in a very park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with close friends is thing that usually you have done when you have spare time, after that why you don't try issue that really opposite from that. Just one activity that make you not experience tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you have been ride on and with addition details. Even you love Whistling Past the Graveyard, you may enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still would like to miss it? What kind of hangout type is it? Oh come on its mind hangout people. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its known as reading friends.

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