



The Gentleman Outlaw and Me--Eli

By Mary Downing Hahn

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The Gentleman Outlaw and Me--Eli By Mary Downing Hahn Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 4-7?Eliza Yates is 12 years old in 1887 when she runs away from her cruel aunt and uncle and sets off for Tinville, Colorado, in search of her missing father. After being accosted by a tramp, she disguises herself as a boy, and it is "Elijah Bates" who meets up with Calvin Featherbone, an 18-year-old who calls himself the "Gentleman Outlaw." He is also headed for Tinville, in search of that town's Sheriff Yates, a man he believes shot his father in the back. The two join forces, though it is soon obvious both to Eliza and readers that Calvin is a greenhorn who will do nothing but get them into scrapes with his fool ideas. Hahn has obviously done her research, and succeeds in bringing the ambiance of the Old West to her novel. The result is a fast, funny, and entertaining adventure that's just the thing for fans of "Dr. Quinn, Medicine Woman."?Elizabeth Mellett, Brookline Public Library, MA
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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 5[^]-8. The plot isn't new: orphan girl Eliza Yates cuts her hair, wears boys' clothes, changes her name to make people think she's a boy, and travels West to find her missing father. Along the way, she saves Calvin Featherbone, a young man who fancies himself a con artist. Together, they make their way to Tinville, Colorado, where, coincidentally, Calvin's father was killed by a certain Sheriff Yates. Calvin plans to avenge the murder, but he gets himself and Eliza in so much trouble with his amateurish schemes that the pair arrives in town ready to be hanged as horse thieves. Hahn's writing crackles like gunshot in the Ol' West, and Eliza and Calvin make a lovable team. The plotting is completely predictable, but it's tight and fast paced, and Hahn does a fine job of recreating the atmosphere of the days of cowboys and miners. *Susan Dove Lempke*

From Kirkus Reviews

Colorful characterizations and high-spirited language carry this ripsnorting western. After the death of her mother, Eliza, 12, runs away from her cruel and unscrupulous Kansas relatives. She sets out with her faithful dog, Caesar, to find her father in the silver mines of Colorado; early on, in a stolen pair of overalls, she transforms herself into ``Eli." Soon after she meets Calvin Featherbone, known as the Gentleman Outlaw, who has been shot and left for dead by a pack of scoundrels. A healed Calvin--who talks ``like he swallowed a dictionary"--sets off with Eli for Tinville, Colorado, to shoot his sworn enemy, Sheriff Alfred Yates. The sheriff happens to be Eliza's father. Hahn (Look For Me By Moonlight, 1995, etc.) has written an amusing comedy of errors that derives much of its humor from Calvin's speech and manners and Eliza's wry asides alluding to her true identity as a girl. With plenty of twists and turns--and a cameo appearance by Doc Holliday--it's a real cowgirl triumph. (Fiction. 10-14) -- Copyright ©1996, Kirkus Associates, LP. All rights reserved.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alberta Smith:

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