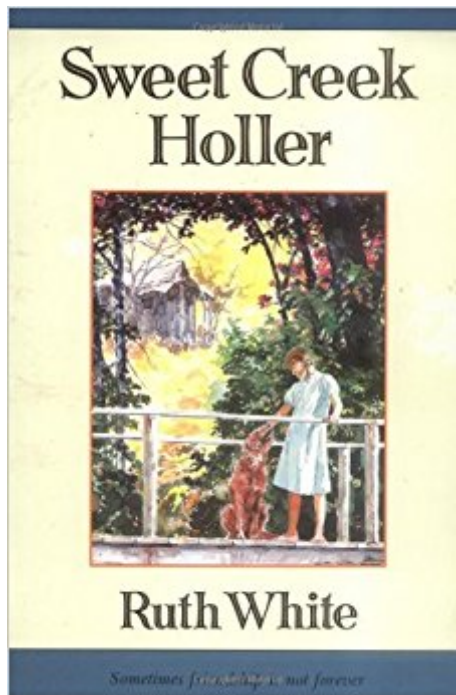




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Sweet Creek Holler (A Sunburst Book)



Synopsis

Spanning six years in Ginny Shortt's life, this is a remarkable novel about growing up in a small mining town in Appalachia. A "novel of aspiring proportions...This is a haunting story, well written."
--Bulletin of the Center for Children's BooksA "triumph." --The New York Times Book Review

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

West Virginia's Appalachians in 1948 form the setting for this affecting tale of a girl's growing up under arduous conditions. PW said, "White . . . evokes the place with both broad strokes and subtle details." Ages 10-up. Copyright 1992 Cahners Business Information, Inc.

Gr 6-9 When Jed Shortt was murdered, his young widow and two daughters had to leave their Coal Company house and move into a shack on Sweet Creek Holler. Ginny Shortt recalls the next six years with a sensitive blend of childish viewpoint (she was only six at the time) and mature perception. Life in the mining country of southwest Virginia after World War II is clearly evoked; even more so is the community's hurt, caused by a meanness of poverty and gossip. The easily - read narrative catches readers in both the quaintness and universality of events. Ginny's inseparable companion and solace is her puppy, Buddy. She and her big sister Junie both admire Lou Jean Purvis who, although five years older, is always friendly and kind. They learn, however, to fear malicious Mrs. Moore, whose evil slanderings ricochet throughout the holler. Ginny's mother is a special target of Mrs. Moore's vicious tongue. So is Lou Jean's perpetually drunk father and,

finally, Lou Jean herself, who is desolated when she gets ``in trouble." Her suicide, and the accidental death of Buddy, shake Ginny profoundly. But life promises to be better when the company owner, Josh Clancy, befriends the Shortt family and falls in love with Mama. Ginny leaves the high hills, a maturing young lady and wiser for her suffering, but mournful at losing the ``magic wings of childhood." Another revealing probe of Appalachian life and culture, for younger readers, is Smith's *Return to Bitter Creek* (Viking, 1986). Katharine Bruner, Brown Middle School, Harrison, Tenn. Copyright 1988 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I have been acquainted with author Ruth White and her fabulous story of Belle Prater, her boy Woodrow, and her niece Gypsy for a long time! I have used the novel *Belle Prater's Boy* in my classes every year for the last ten or more years. So of course I just HAD to read *Sweet Creek Holler*. I always worry when I love books as much as I have loved the two Belle Prater novels that any subsequent works by the author will disappoint. Not the case! This story is an amazing tale of family and community dynamics, of love, of life. Not JUST for young adults, this story will hold its reader spellbound!

Divorced parents putting a young woman over the usual hurdles. Her friends make interesting sidelines. Horses, dogs catching fish - what's not to like?

I gave this book 5 stars because I couldn't put this book down. I laughed and cried with the people of this book. I have known younguns like these in this book. And I have known old busybodies like the ones in this book. As with all of Ms.White's books I feel like she has somehow slipped into my childhood or vica-versa

I actually picked this book up at my local library's annual book sale. I purchased it for my 5th grade daughter. The title is what caught my attention. I am originally from Appalachian West Virginia, and come from a long line of miners. I notice that many people who are not from the mountains often use correct language usage when referring to a "Holler" (Hollow) Although, I purchased this book for my daughter I found myself reading the entire book in a single afternoon. The dialect that the author uses is beautiful, and very accurate. the story brought back many happy memories for me. I do not know if Ms. White is from the South or not. If she isn't, she should be commended for accurately and beautifully, capturing one of the worlds most beautiful cultures, that often goes unnoticed, or is

stereotyped in a negative manner. If Ms. White is in fact from the mountains, she should be commended for writing this book that shares a forgotten heritage. The only thing is, if you are not from the south you may have a difficult time reading and understanding the dialect in this book. You will also not recognize many terms and words that are commonly used in the mountains. And since this the setting takes place around the time my Grandmother was growing up, you will find some notions that may seem strange to the average "northerner" For example; "Feed sack dresses" (which were very pretty, and if you had one you were lucky!) I gave the book to my daughter to read. She came to me later that day and said "Mom, this book is written the way you talk!!!" I had to laugh at that one! She had a little bit of a hard time reading the dialect. So I read the book aloud for both her, and my youngest. It has since become one of our favorite books. I plan on picking up other books by this author!

I was very happy when my daughter started reading this book because it offered a different setting than she usually read about. There are not many books for girls set in the Appalachian mountains. At first I enjoyed reading and discussing the book with my daughter but then I became disturbed by the subject matter. I do not believe that pedophilia, teen pregnancy, incest and suicide are appropriate material for a pre-teen. While the book is an enjoyable read I highly recommend a parent read it first to make sure it is appropriate for their child.

This is an incredible book. It's about a girl and her friends and how her whole world seems to be changing. I think Ruth White did an incredible job. I read it in two days then I read it again in one day! Everybody should read this book. It's one of the best books I've ever read!

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