



Far from the East End

Iris Jones Simantel

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From the rundown streets of the East End to the Welsh countryside, will little evacuee Iris ever find somewhere to belong?

Born in 1938 under the threat of looming war, Iris spent her early years in Dagenham, playing in the rubble of bombed buildings by day and cowering in a dusty shelter at night. But the hardships of poverty and the dreaded Blitz could not match the pain she felt from her parents' indifference. She prayed that just once her mother would hold her when the bombs rained down. But her loneliness only intensified when she was evacuated.

Funny, moving and heart-warming, little Iris 's tale is the story of a lonely girl's long journey in search of a place to call home.

Far from the East End Details

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Author : Iris Jones Simantel

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From Reader Review Far from the East End for online ebook

Vanessa says

An easy to read story about a girl growing up in the east end of London during the war. There were some memorable moments, such as her evacuation to Wales and the lovely family she stayed with. However I felt it was lacking emotion and explanation when dealing with the relationship with her parents, which although wasn't unpleasant, there appeared to be a number of underlying things which had happened and not explained to the reader.

It's not a bad book but I've definitely read better about this era.

Sarah says

I didn't love her writing style. Lots of mention of things and then "but I'll tell you about that later," or "we didn't know "this" would happen, but it will in the future." I'm still considering reading her next book though because I want to find out how her marriage was once she got to America.

Lynn says

A disclosure: I know Iris Simantel and find her to be a delightful, charming woman.

This memoir covers her childhood during and after WWII in England and gives a picture of the difficulty endured by the British in general, and her family in particular.

Pick this up if you are curious about that time and place.

Emily Novelle says

This book was very emotional as it was a true life story of a girl born just as world war 2 was starting. She grew up as a cockney Londoner and this book takes you from her as a young child to young lady. I found it so interesting telling her view on being evacuated and how that made her and her brother feel. We have all heard how it was the best thing to do that if you lived in dangerous areas but do we really think how those poor children felt being taken away from their family's, most on there own even separated from siblings.. We find out also how she felt being returned to her family and how life was after the war at at time still of low incomes. I'm glad I read this but in someways I wish it was longer.

Kim says

This was an interesting account of a young girls life through the war years and evacuation to Wales for a couple of years. She met an American soldier and married at 16. I can't wait to read her follow up book to

see how her life in America turned out.

Chagword says

This poignant, well-written account of an East End childhood and WW2 evacuation jumped into the Summer 2012 best-seller lists.

If you are anywhere near **Chagford**, Devon on 13 December 2013 you can hear the author speak about this book at a **ChagWord** literary festival run-up event.

See <http://www.chagword.com> and follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

Laura says

Wow. How gutted was I when I finished this book?. I read it cover to cover in less than a day. Iris Jones is a five year old evacuee from Londlm, and stayed in Wales for 2 years with her foster family. This is her story from when she was a little girl up until she was married. and the strange thing is..Iris actually chanhes so much in her writing its fantastic. when she is 5, its written how a 5 year old would speak and as she gets older her vocabulary progessees as it would. Absoloutely fanstastic. No wonder it won SAGA Imagazine life story competetion. A++++++

Claire Carter says

very quick and easy to read but thought provoking mainly because it was a biography so very believable and could relate to it frustrating nest one isnt out yet though

Adele says

I wasn't expecting to enjoy this true story of young Iris, first in war torn London, then as an evacuee, then returning back to her family in London as I don't like biographies but Iris' life story was like a history lesson. It was such a raw, honest and quite funny account of her life. I was fascinated and intrigued with the lifestyle back then. There were some dark moments in her life that must have been difficult to write about. Her humour and that of others living at the time during World War Two was inspiring, their lives were turned upside down but their spirits weren't. I'm going to read the follow up to this book, G.I. Bride, so I can continue with Iris' journey.

Maria says

A pleasant read. My husband grew up in Watford which features heavily in this book and knew of all the places mentioned which added to the enjoyment of this book. Nicely written

Eileen says

It was nice to read about things that I already have some knowledge of- having been born just after the war. The spoken expressions were familiar but the descriptions of such poor backgrounds were a confirmation of facts expressed by older relatives.

Janet says

Loved this book! I am not from the East End but the Englishness (and Welshness) of this book was just beautiful. Little Iris Jones is the second born to a poor dysfunctional family in London before the war. Air raids and bombed out houses formed her early childhood and she is evacuated as a five year old to a family in Wales. It is a real story beautifully told.

Louise says

I really enjoyed reading this book and loved the way it started off with the author as a little girl and then followed all the way up to when she was a young woman and got married. I'm a East London girl myself so it was interesting to hear about all the things I'm familiar with and also learning new things about what London was like during war and what life was like for a evacuee. I also like how she often referred back to lots of cockney phrases her mum said and she was very descriptive about how she felt during each moment of her life. I can honestly say I really enjoyed reading this book and did not want it to end! I will definitely be getting a copy of her follow up novel 'GI Bride!'

Sheena says

This book was an interesting inside look at the life of a young girl in England during the 1940s and 50s. It gives the reader a glimpse into the way those living in the poorest parts of England survived during that time. I liked the author's honesty in the way she writes and how she didn't sugar coat some of the more harsh and/or scary parts of growing up during this time. If you like Call the Midwife this would be a good choice for another perspective.

Sheila Robinson says

Great read very interesting and informative to realise how much has changed in such a short time

