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Windows Letters to Ayla

By Jean Zipp

Pinyon Publishing. Paperback. Condition: New. 168 pages. Dimensions: 8.9in. x 6.0in. x 0.5in. These letters from great-grandmother Jean to great-granddaughter Ayla not only illuminate Jean Zipp's life but also supply a vivid documentation of twentieth-century American life. WINDOWS: LETTERS TO AYLA demonstrates how revisiting one's memories can spark and kindle a surge of previously forgotten details. Jean smells Grandmother's bread, recalls cookies locked in the fruit cellar, purrs with the cats in the sun room, and plays with cousins in the cement-and-grass strip driveway. She celebrates life's complexities, without denying us the true and sometimes dark details of the world. What were the Roaring Twenties like for a child in an Ohio steel mill town? Aunt Marcys flamboyant dresses and record collection; relieving summer heat by splashing in a laundry tub to the rhythm of Mother's piano music; running after ice flakes as the ice man chipped the block in his truck; an electrifying live Rachmaninoff recital; diphtheria, fatal peritonitis, and large red quarantine signs on neighborhood doors. What was the Great Depression like for an adolescent girl? Helping Father tally shoe store chits (notes akin to food stamps); Mother taking on extra piano lessons; helping young women with a place...

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