Beyond The Burning Time (Point Signature)

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Synopsis

When young Betty Parris contracts a mysterious ailment that spreads to other girls in her Puritan village of Salem, Betty and her family must confront the deadly superstitions that will change their lives. Reprint. AB. K. VY. C.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Beyond the Burning Time
By: Lasky, Kathryn
Reviewed By: R. Gandhi
Period: P. 1

It starts out in the village of Salem. Mary Chase and her widowed mother, Virginia Chase, tend a farm with the help of a friend named Gilly. Gilly is soon chased away because he was caught spying on Virginia Chase. Caleb is Mary’s brother and works as an apprentice nearby at a shipyard. Soon rumor spreads around that witchcraft is going on in Salem. Innocent people are wrongly accused, taken away for a dehumanization exam, given a trial, and later hung. Mary Chases’ family isn’t affected until Virginia was accused. Caleb is frightened and takes Mary to Boston where Mary works in a tavern. However, Boston is where Gallows Hill is located. Also, the new governor wants to continue the witch trials. Therefore, Caleb and a new character, Captain Coatsworth chart a plan and save Virginia Chase before her hanging. Virginia gets her foot amputated and later marries a Captain in Jamaica. This book was very intoxicating! Since I am deeply interested in the supernatural world, I
thought the book was great! The author was also descriptive. I could see a movie of the book in my head as I was reading. One great example is, "The girl's tongue lolled out, long as an eel. Her eyes widened. She began making the most piteous cries." Another great example is, "...dusk had settled thickly on the land. They moved quietly through the deepening shadows to the lilac bush. Inside the house they could see the glow of several candles and kerosene lamps." This book was not very dislikable. At times it got somewhat boring. However, you could read on without falling asleep. Also, directly after the tedious part came something that was quite interesting.

Beyond the Burning Time is an example of life during the Salem witch trials. It follows the story of Mary Chase and her family who live in Salem Village during the time of the witch trials. These girls are being afflicted and there is gossip going around that some people might be the witches. Mary knows the girls who are being afflicted by the "witches" supposedly haunting Salem. Mary doesn't think much of it until her mother is accused of witchcraft. Mary gets her brother, Caleb from the shipyards where he works and they conceive a plan to save their mother. Soon the madness spreads and Mary was forced to move out of Salem Village with Caleb. Caleb knew his surroundings in Salem because he would walk around sometimes after his daily shift was over at the shipyard. That was where Caleb and Mary began their journey. Their goal was to speak to the Governor about their mother and all the other people accused of being witches. They had made it to the Governor's office, and Caleb said that his boss had sent him from his shipyard to get in to see him. So they talked, and Caleb couldn't get to the part that innocent people were being accused of witchcraft. So they left, and Mary started to have her doubts on how she was to get her mother out of jail. They had put her in chains. That night Mary started to think of a plan, but she needed someone else to help her. While they stayed, Mary found a job at a restaurant and Caleb worked at the shipyard. At the restaurant, the captain for one of the ships in the shipyard, Captain Coatsworth, came in and heard Mary's story of her mother from another waitress and offered to help Mary.

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