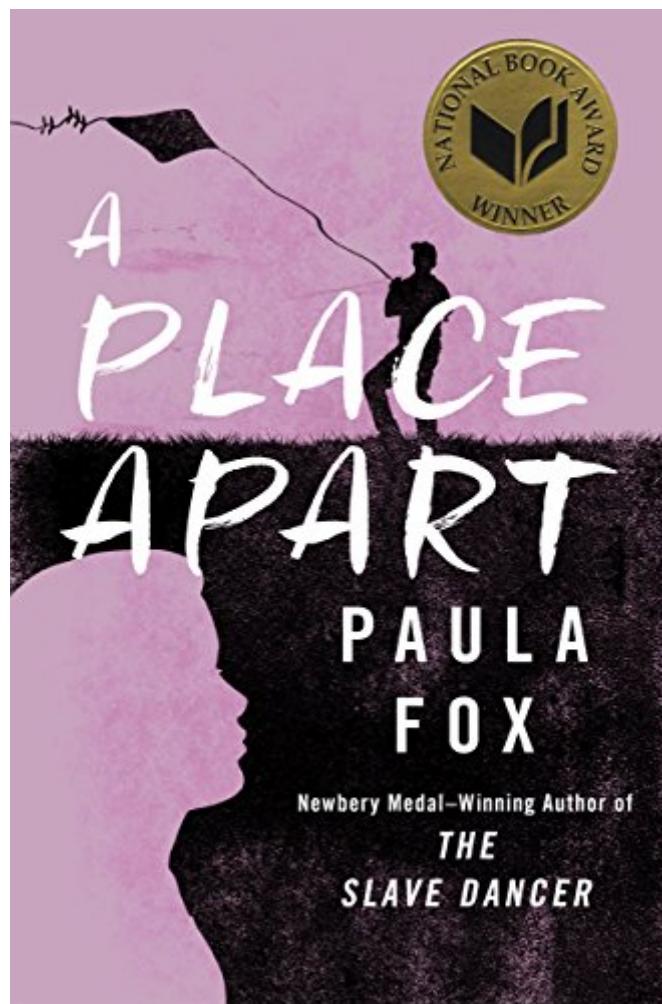


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# A Place Apart



## **Synopsis**

National Book Award Winner: A grieving teenager wonders if she'll ever understand anything—especially the big things—in life. A Time passed, and all the minutes hurt. After her father's death, Victoria Finch's life changes completely. To save money, she and her mother move from Boston to a small house in the town of New Oxford. There, Victoria attends school in a building that resembles a train station, where no one pays her much attention. Then she meets Hugh Todd, the rich kid who runs the school's theater club. He's charming, adventurous, and encouraging, and he takes particular interest in Victoria's writing. Hugh's presence reinvigorates Victoria's life. But he needs something as well, and as the months pass, Victoria realizes that his friendship comes at a high price. A New York Times Outstanding Book of the Year, *A Place Apart* is a lyrical novel of loss, friendship, and moving on.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

This is another excellent title by Paula Fox. Her books have such heart. I really enjoyed "A Place

Apart" and it really adds to our student unit.

Murphy is my very favorite travel writer! The most adventurous and intelligent on the planet for many decades. Her destinations vary from usual to exotic, and her insights span everyday to sociopolitical.

I read this book around 1984 as a college student studying "Children's Lit." I consider it one of the best books I've ever read. It touched my heart, it changed my life, it made me feel for once someone really understood the pain and grief of being a young girl whose father died and whose life subsequently fell apart. "Time passed and all the minutes hurt." I picked up the book and read it in one sitting. It's a beautiful and painful work of art. I cherish the book and consider finding it a precious gift. I am grateful to Paula Fox for writing this book.

Anyone who has ever been baffled by the seemingly mindless intransigence of politics in 'Norn Iron' (and, let's face it, who hasn't?) should beg, borrow or steal this superb book. Politicians are a product of their society and this is the most brilliantly insightful book I have ever read on Northern Irish society. What other writer would sit through the tedium of EIGHT Free Presbyterian services in various locations so as to ensure she had a proper understanding of that peculiarly Ulster phenomenon? Who else has attempted to get to know what South Armagh is really like behind the facile 'bandit country' cliches? Most of those who hold forth on the subject either lack a real understanding of the North or bring a Unionist/Nationalist agenda to bear on their writings. Murphy manages to be both harshly critical of some sectors of Northern society (Orangemen, Provos) whilst retaining sympathy for them as individuals and attempting to understand how they come to hold the beliefs they do. Only one figure becomes uglier the more closely she observes him - Ian Paisley. Her description of the near hypnotic power which his sermons exerted on his listeners was chilling. Dervla Murphy's combination of thoroughness and keen insight, together with her fluid writing style, make this an enthralling read. Now well over 20 years old, it is still the best portrait of Northern society yet written. Highly recommended.-----

A Place Apart written by Paula Fox is a book that I would recommend to all readers. It's a great story that captures the attention of any reader interested in learning about life. The plot not only illustrates the challenges we face in life, but it helps us realize that life is a challenge. This story deals with

many universal human concerns that young adult readers can fully indentify with. Like personal identity, family, friendship, love and betrayal. One example is loneliness, the main character Victoria, experiences the loss of her father therefore looses the desire to live. As the story goes on another male character comes to play an important role in her life. Hugh, teaches her the importance of life and that life is an advanture worth living. They develop a friendship because Hugh as well as Victoria has lost his father. Hugh then becomes Victoria's role model. Victoria sees him with such admiration that she becomes deeply in love with him. Since Hugh is aware of what Victoria feels for him, he takes advantage of what she offers him. This is a great book that I am sure young readers will enjoy. The language is easy to understand and the book never looses it's excitment. Once you start reading it you cannot put it down!

When her father dies, 13-year-old Victoria Finch and her mother move to New Oxford, Massachusetts, where she becomes friends with two classmates, Elizabeth Marx--who is troubled by her mental mother--and Hugh Todd--a snobby thespian who encourages her to write a school play, even though she doesn't particularly like to write. While "A Place Apart" does touch on the loss of Victoria's father--as well as the idea of her mother marrying again (which she isn't too thrilled about)--it's Victoria's friendship with Hugh that has the greater impact on her. She realizes he's not the person she thought he was, though most readers can guess this beforehand. At first, the small print and long chapters in "A Place Apart" gave me the false impression this was going to be a slow and tedious story, but I was thankfully proven wrong. This is a wonderful, charming book and worth reading if you like well written coming-of-age stories.

I gave "A Place Apart" by Paula Fox three stars, because it was a good book, but it did not wow me. I like books that are full of suspence or that have a unpredictable ending. This book was mostly about a girl and the troubles that she has to deal with in life. The book would be interesting to people who want to know about other kind of lifestyles in life. Some people are wealthy and life comes easy to them, but for Tori her life is rough and confusing. The book is about a girl and her life, having her father just died, her mother and her smoking problems, and her relationship with Hugh, a guy she knows. So in conclusion I think you should give this book a chance.

This books shares a wonderful thought for everybody, especially thoose who lost someone they have lost. Hopefully one day those will not have a tragic lost in there lives like victoria and her mother have been through. When they went through this, they learned more than they expected, for

instance they became closer in there relationship, and also, they learned to deal with there problems in mature ways.

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