



2005

### Hattie on Her Way

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#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

Chapman, Mary (2005) "Hattie on Her Way," *Children's Book and Media Review*: Vol. 26 : Iss. 1 , Article 16.  
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol26/iss1/16>

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Clark, Clara Gillow. *Hattie on Her Way*. Candlewick Press, 2005. ISBN 0763622869. \$15.99.  
177 pp.

Reviewer: Mary Chapman

Reading Level: Intermediate

Rating: Dependable

Genre: Historical Fiction; Detective and Mystery Stories;

Subject: Family Relationships--Juvenile Fiction; Mental Illness--Juvenile Fiction; 19th Century--United States--Juvenile Fiction; Books--Reviews;

*Hattie on Her Way* is a sequel to *Hill Hawk Hattie*. Written in first person, we find eleven-year-old Hattie “plunked” down in Kingston by her widowed father at her grandmother’s house. Hattie is used to living in the woods in a cabin, dressed in overalls and rafting with her pa and best friend Jasper. Now she’s expected to live in the city, acclimate to polite society and get an education. It takes some strength to adjust to Grandmother and her “buzzard” cook, Rose, not to mention the prissy, well-to-do, nosy neighbors. But Hattie is no chicken and she’ll face the challenge. In the process she discovers there are some mysteries surrounding her mother’s family. What happened to her grandfather? Was he murdered? Why did her mother run away from home with her pa and never return?

*Hattie on Her Way* has a compelling plot. Surprises are in store for Hattie as she uncovers the mystery of her grandfather’s death. Revelations about Hattie’s dead mother’s past are touching as is the developing relationship between Hattie and her grandmother. Although Clark uses Hattie as the narrator, we don’t get the intimate look at Hattie’s personality and emotions that is expected from first person narration. Hattie wasn’t that interesting and engaging as the narrator and it became somewhat slow reading. Despite some shortcomings, the book offers an interesting mystery, a look at 19th century life in the United States, and thought provoking ideas about relationships, responsibility, and family loyalties that make the book worth reading.