



When Chores Were Done

Jerold W. Apps, Jerry Apps, Steve Apps

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The Midwest in the 1930s, 1940s, and 1950s was a special place—a place where parents and children worked side by side to eke out a living from the land, and neighbors stuck by each other through good times and bad.

In this affectionate, insightful collection of stories, Jerry Apps takes us to that world. He relives the toughness of farm life—plowing the soil with horses, milking cows by hand, putting in long days with heavy, dangerous machinery. He shows us the lighter side too, as he peddles his father's massive rutabaga harvest and gets to know the neighbor boys—and their personal dictionary of cuss words. We meet Frank, Pinky, and Harry, three farmers whose love of music could transform an entire community; Morty, the odd loner whom only a few wild animals could understand; and Fanny, the extraordinary collie whose role on the farm was as important as that of any human being.

Withing each story we see just how warm, loving, and supremely educational growing up on a farm could be, for it is here that a young child learns not only how to take the head off a chicken and drive a tractor like a grown-up, but to deal with illness, disability, and death. Resonating with poignancy and humor, *When Chores Were Done* contains stories you'll want to read over and over again. Jerry Apps is a master storyteller who writes through the eyes of a child and with the wisdom of a man. Through the tales are personal, their lessons are universal.

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