



Amelia's War

Ann Rinaldi

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As the Civil War rages, Amelia's Maryland town is beset by divisions. Even she and her best friend Josh disagree. Amelia vows not to take sides, until the Confederate troops march into town...led by Josh's uncle.

Amelia's War Details

Date :

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Author : Ann Rinaldi

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From Reader Review Amelia's War for online ebook

Rich Durkee says

A pleasant little book that tells a story about a young teenage girl and her family and friends as they struggle to understand and survive the civil war. Probably more of a book for young people than adults.

Genevieve Jorski says

This story focuses on a family that lives in Hagerstown, MD, and the events of the Civil War, such as the battle of Antietam, that effected them.

nimrodiel says

Another book set in the American Civil War. I'm loving the fact that my "to be read soon" basket had a second book from the same time-frame as the Halifax Connection (which I finished reading a week ago) from another viewpoint of the war, in a totally different setting. I was wanting to read more historical fiction from this era of history after finishing The Halifax Connection

Amelia Grafton's life is changing in ways she didn't expect. She and her family live in the Pro-Union state of Maryland. Her family supports the Union. But as the Civil War progresses and comes closer to her hometown it seems like everyone is slowly choosing sides with the Union or the Confederates. Everyone, it seems except her good friend Josh. Who is determined to keep a neutral outlook on the war in order to write well informed and truthful stories about the battles being fought around them for his father's paper the Hagerstown Mail.

The War moves closer, with Lee's forces invading Hagerstown three times. The final time there is even fighting in the town square! Amelia and her family struggle to keep their lives going as they had before the war. Her older brother Wes runs off to join the Union forces and Amelia is faced with the fact that he may not survive the battles being fought. Through it all, Amelia must decide how she can stay true to her own beliefs and figure out what she can do to help the war effort when the right time comes.

Amelia's War is written by Ann Rinaldi, who has written many historical fiction stories. She based her story on the ransom of Hagerstown, Maryland, which happened the first week of July in 1864. She writes an informative story that sets a fictitious family into a well documented part of the American Civil War. This is the second book written by Ann Rinaldi that I have read, and I enjoyed it a lot. She has a way of writing that puts the reader right into the lives of her characters. I enjoyed seeing the war through the eyes of a young girl. It gave me a different insight to what was happening during that time frame. This is a fantastic look into how the Civil War affected the everyday life of the people who lived in the areas being fought on. I would recommend this book for any older child who is wanting to learn about the American Civil War.

Jessica says

I was surprised that I liked this book. I didn't think I would so I kept putting of reading it until my mom made me. I am glad she did. It was very interesting, but I did get a little confused at times about why some things did or didn't happen. I think it's a good book for 6th graders.

Alana Gustafson says

Amelia's War by Ann Rinaldi

The book is about a girl who want to do her part in the Civil War.

She doesn't live in the 21 century but back in the 1800's so they live differently.

This book is good for teenagers because you can see what a girl about your age has to do back then during a War. The main characters are Amelia, Wes, Amelia's younger brother, mother, father, Wes' girlfriend, and Amelia's friend. The conflict is about living in the south but wanting the north to win. I loved this book and would definitely recommend to everyone. It was cringy at some parts but otherwise it was great. It makes you laugh, cry, and it gives a perfect picture in your mind.

Sarah says

It was a great book. I haven't really read any Civil War books before, but this one was really intriguing. I was hooked from the very beginning.

Kim Hampton says

This book was based on true events, although the main character and her family are fictitious. A great read for someone wanting to learn more about the Civil War.

Mikayla Lynn says

In the beginning I wasn't sure about reading this book. I was considering checking out a different book but I thought I should learn to like it because Ann Rinaldi has written alot of great historical fiction books in our library. It was a challenging book in the beginning. I actually had to read it with a dictionary beside me. It turned out to be a great book. Amelia (main character)is a 13 year-old girl growing up during the Civil War. Her older brother, Wes snuck off to join the war, so they hired a maid to help them with extra chores. Her name is Jinny and she really wants to join the war. The problem is she is a young woman. These days that wouldn't be a problem. Back then though people had different ideas about what women could and couldn't do. I am guessing that is why songs and books back then say "men" when they are referring to people in general. So anyway Jinny decided to join the war undercover as a man. That was not uncommon during the Civil War.

She chopped off her hair and some other choice things and joined the war. That was one of my favorite parts in the book. I know I wouldn't do something like that but I would definatly want to sew flags for the hospital

like Amelia's mom did. She even helped as a nurse. I described in the book the body parts that lay lifeless on the battle field. I hope I never have to experience that. I love historical fiction and sometimes I wish I could try living back then, but I would never want to live back then forever. Amelia's friend's uncle was a general for the Confederates. He ordered 200,000 dollars and supplies or else he would burn Amelia's town down. Amelia changed the 200,000 on the order slip to 20,000 and got all the supplies needed to save the town. Amelia had won. She saved her town. She won Amelia's War.

Patsy Bishop says

Ok for 4th - 7th grade - not as good as her other books; I usually love Rinaldi's historical fiction.

Tazar Oo says

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Anna says

Amelia's War packs a lot of information into less than 300 pages, but Rinaldi is great when it comes to pacing the plot, generating tension, and doling out information without overwhelming readers — which is helpful because the book is geared toward 10- to 14-year-olds, but even adults like me who don't know a lot about the war will be entertained and informed. Rinaldi covers everything from the ransom of Hagerstown in July 1864, the plight of former slaves, how young women fought as soldiers, the harsh conditions endured by the worn-down soldiers, and women's rights to the difficulty of staying neutral when war rages all around you and how important it is to stick by your friends even when you don't see eye to eye on certain things like war. An author's note at the end of the book helps readers separate the fact from the fiction.

The Civil War not only divided the country, but it also divided the people, pitting neighbor against neighbor, friend against friend. It affected both men and women, young and old. Amelia's War emphasizes that young people can make a big difference and that history is full of ordinary people who did extraordinary things. Rinaldi takes these lessons and transforms them into a thought-provoking story that exemplifies middle-grade historical fiction at its finest. Best of all, Rinaldi knows that younger readers want stories with some substance and that they can handle tough subjects like war, and she crafts them in a way that appeals to readers of all ages.

Full review on [Diary of an Eccentric](#).

Megan says

This book was really good. I always enjoy reading about the Civil War and Ann Rinaldi seems to do a fantastic job telling a story from lots of different viewpoints. This Civil War story was told from the perspective of a young lady from Hagerstown, Maryland. She and her family were Union sympathizers and the author says that the main focal point of this story was the ransom of Hagerstown in the spring of 1864 by Brigadier General McCausland C.S.A. The book is so titled because according to the story everyone during the Civil War had their own sort of war to battle within the one the States were battling and the main character, Amelia Grafton, started out not wanting to take sides in the war and wishing it would just go away, but in the end she chose a side and actually ended up helping save the town from being burned down by the Rebs. I have never really cared for the Union myself but this story was really well done. I felt bad for the people of Hagerstown and was appalled when the general came through demanding outrageous sums to not burn the town. I can't imagine what that must have been like. What is worse is that other towns McCausland visited did get burned to the ground. The whole war was completely unseemly and I can't believe people did these kinds of things to friends and family. The book was really engaging and when Amelia got that letter from Josh's commander I actually cried because I really liked his character and his relationship with Amelia. I did find Amelia's mother really irritating. I mean the entire town is giving all they have to keep the Rebs happy and she can't part with some clothes that her son won't even be able to fit in anymore. Pretty much throughout the whole story I found myself being pissed at Amelia's mother quite often. I guess I have a problem with the over emotional types.

Gloria says

This was interesting to see the view of the war from a young persons point of view and how it affected her and her family personally. It made me more interested in learning more about the civil war.

Charlotte says

This book is about a thirteen- year- old girl named Amelia. Amelia lived during the Civil War. She was kind of wealthy because her father was town treasurer. Her older brother goes to college and her younger brother will go as soon as he's old enough. Her mother works in a hospital and helps the sick and wounded. The Civil War makes a big impact on Amelia. Her friend Josh's father's presses get smashed. Her brother goes off to war. Her brother is just too taken in the war. Her neighbor, Jinny Pearl, went off to war as a female soldier.

At first, Amelia thought she could just avoid the war. That the war just wasn't for her. As the war went on, however, Amelia knew she could "find her war somewhere" because she felt left out and she was in a community where slavery was disliked. And eventually she did "find her war"! Even if she couldn't go off to war, she could do something for the war! The book was interesting because not only was the big bloody in effect but also the lives of the people were affected.

Sarah Crawford says

Amelia's War is a thoroughly excellent book about the Civil War. It is based on historical facts, with a few, but not many, fictional people thrown in.

Amelia and her family live a town in Maryland. What is important about this is that the town is very strongly divided between those who favor the Union (including Amelia and her family) and those who favor the South. There are a number of rather ugly incidents that take place showing just how strong feelings are that some of the people have against those who don't believe the same way.

The newspaper office is destroyed, but a young boy remains behind to try to get it going again. He leans towards supporting the Rebels. Amelia is trying to stay totally neutral, but finds it harder and harder.

Complicating matters tremendously is that, because of the location of the town, there are frequently army forces going through the town; sometimes it's Union forces, and sometimes it's Southern forces. Sometimes the encounters are peaceful, and sometimes the worst sides of the fighters is seen.

There's also another girl who has to kill a Rebel drifter when he tries to take advantage of her. She wants to get involved in the fighting. Amelia's older brother leaves to join the fighting. Her father has to make trips out of town to get supplies for his store, but sometimes he has to leave since he's a Union-sympathizer and, when the Rebels come through town, it's healthy for such people to be far away.

Although even with the Rebels around, things can happen.

It's a really good book to show just how divisive the Civil War could be on an entire town, and how that can affect a family. There is also a very ugly incident relating to a Southern general's threat to destroy the town if a ransom in money and goods is not paid, and that shows a very, very nasty part of the war.

Absolutely worth reading.
