



# The Color of Freedom

*Michelle Isenhoff*

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## **The Color of Freedom** Michelle Isenhoff

Fourteen-year-old Meadow Wynn McKenzie hates the British. Turned off her Irish farm and forced to book passage to America as an indentured servant, Meadow understands why the rebels wish to throw off the yoke of King George's rule. But is freedom worth the cost?

Then, forced to flee her master, Meadow disguises herself as a boy and takes up with a traveling tinker. While winding toward Boston to reunite with her father, she's moved by the courage, pride and determination of the American patriots, but their Puritan roots run deep.

Before she can embrace the cause of her new homeland, Meadow must carefully consider a future amongst Puritan hatred for her Catholic beliefs. Would liberty apply to Irish, to Negroes, to Quakers, to Jews, to Catholics? Or would that slogan be cast aside when majority rule served the majority? Perhaps the colonists had simply invented a new kind of tyranny.

But war will not wait for Meadow's decision.

## **The Color of Freedom Details**

Date : Published April 2011 by Candle Star Press (first published February 17th 2011)

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Author : Michelle Isenhoff

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# **From Reader Review The Color of Freedom for online ebook**

## **R.G. Phelps says**

I was stationed at Quonset Point RI in 1952-53 while serving in the Navy and spent a couple of Christmases in the shadow of the Bunker Hill Monument at the home of a Navy buddy. John J. (Punky) Wallace who grew up in Charlestown, in the shadow of the Bunker Hill Monument. Michelle Isenhoff's book "The Color of Freedom" was a refreshing, realistic look of the early struggles between the British Troops and the new Patriots in and around the Boston area. What a great way to bring history alive and to bring a valuable history lesson for young and old alike. Thank you Michelle, a job well done! I enjoyed your treatment of history and having the opportunity of actually being in the same area brought it more alive for me.

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## **Dan Rogers says**

Quite often, at least in the United States, we are likely to find books that show a character's support for the American Revolution. This book was quite different in that this is not the point of view of the narrator/author. Here we find an individual, although disliking the British due to the way her family was treated in Ireland before emigrating, is not in favor of the revolutionary spirit which seems to pervade the colony. In this, it was a refreshing read and quite enjoyable as well.

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## **Susan says**

Young Meadow McKenzie, a red haired girl from Ireland who is taken into indentured servitude in America, finds herself running for her life when she denies the advances of the master of her household. She sets off on foot, disguised as a boy called Wynn (her middle name), to make it to Boston where her father lives. Set in the midst of the brewing war between Colonists and England, the colorful cast of characters she meets along the way are taking sides. Meadow herself is on the side of the colonies, as she hates the British for what they did to her family. The story is fast paced with lots of twists and turns that will keep readers engaged to the end.

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## **Lars says**

This is an engaging and well-told story that draws you into the world of a young Irish girl, who has been brought to the American Colonies as an indentured servant.

While the world around her erupts into the violence of the nascent rebellion, what order there is in her own life dissolves, and she's forced to make a harrowing journey through a countryside wracked by conflict.

Isenhoff knows the period well, and it shows clearly in her writing. She effortlessly places her characters in a position to witness key events of the rebellion, and shows us both the political and personal costs of that conflict as it unfolds.

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## Abigail says

The main character in *The Color of Freedom* is young Meadow McKenzie, a red haired girl from Ireland who is taken into indentured servitude in America. When she denies the advances of the master of her household, she has to get away to save her life. She sets off on foot, disguised as a boy called Wynn (her middle name), to make it to Boston where her father lives.

In the meantime, due to the Boston Tea Party and other conflicts between the British and the Colonies, war is starting to brew around her. Everyone she meets is taking sides. Meadow herself is on the side of the colonies, as she hates the British for what they did to her family.

*The Color of Freedom* is an excellent historical fiction novel. The writing contains really beautiful combinations of words, vivid settings and descriptions, and some of the cleverest physical descriptions of characters I've read ("lips that sagged like old lettuce" is fantastic). I literally do not have one bad word to say about this book, it was an extremely enjoyable read.

Along Meadow Wynn's journey, she meets up with a cast of colorful characters that are diverse and enjoyable. For a time she travels with Salizar, a trader with no ties to either side, and later on in Boston meets up with Daniel, a horse groom who she worked beside at the Master's house, and has now joined the side of the colonies against the British.

Meadow soon realizes that both sides are more complicated than just "bad" being the British and "good" being the colonists. Meadow herself is resourceful, clever, and a very strong main character who has to grow up fast but doesn't do any complaining about it, a real breath of fresh air from common young adult characters. Reading about her trek through much of her journey by herself was very enjoyable.

The pacing is excellent as well, and there is always another interesting turn. The historical backdrop fits in seamlessly, and it's obvious that the author did a lot of research to make the book so accurate.

Altogether I would definitely recommend this book to anyone looking for a good read.

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## Ashley says

This was a great book. Set in the Civil War era, we get a glimpse of what teenage life was like back then.

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## Vera Godley says

About the author: Michelle says.... "I write for kids. In my books, you can expect adventure and substance, but I'll always respect the innocence of our children."

My thoughts: It is 1775 and the American Colonies are a true tempest in a teapot of strife between the British King, the loyalists (British settlers in the Colonies), and the Patriots. Folks must truly watch their words and make certain their actions don't precipitate a loss of property, livelihood, or even death. Publisher:

CreateSpace (November 18, 2011)

The Color of Freedom takes you directly into this period of American history and into the life and circumstances of young Meadow McKenzie. This 14 year old young lady and her father lost their home in Ireland and were forced into indentured servanthood in America. In addition to being an indentured servant, she is sold and separated from her father - the only living relative she knows. But the young McKenzie begins to mature and this draws the unsavory and unwanted attentions of her "master." She manages to escape and flees to Boston where she knows her father is located.

Not only does she have the stigma of being a "bought" being - an indentured servant, she is a Catholic; and Catholics are not wanted in the area near Boston.

War is at hand and so is danger. Danger from discovery. Danger from her religious affiliation. Danger from the perils of war. But Meadow proves a strong, resourceful, and clever youngster who plays a viable and valuable role in the conflict between the British and Patriots.

This is an exceptionally well written book for young adults with accurate historical background. It is obvious that Michelle Isenhoff has garnered good facts to create a dependable historical novel of the period. I recommend this for school libraries, home libraries, and gifts for the young and young adult reader. It was a pleasure to read a book well researched and absent of any vulgarities, profanities, and obscenities.

Of interest - Indentured servanthood (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Indentur...> ) Workers, usually Europeans, including Irish, Scottish, English, or German immigrants, immigrated to Colonial America in substantial numbers as indentured servants, particularly to the British Thirteen Colonies. In the 17th century, nearly two-thirds of English settlers came as indentured servants, although indentured servitude was not a guaranteed route to economic autonomy. Given the high death rate, many servants did not live to the end of their terms. In the 18th and early 19th century, numerous Europeans traveled to the colonies as redemptioners, a form of indenture.

ISBN-13: 978-1466495807

I was provided a complimentary copy of The Color of Freedom by the author, Michelle Isenhoff, for review and to be placed in the Alamance Christian School library.

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## **Jon says**

This is the story of a young, Irish girl, Meadow McKenzie, who came to America as an indentured servant, during the Revolutionary War Era. When her master makes advances toward her, she hits him over the head with a skillet. Thinking she has killed her master, Meadow cuts her hair, disguises herself as a boy and flees to Boston to find her father, who is also working as an indentured servant. On her journey, Meadow (now known as Wynn) has a brief encounter with Paul Revere. The Boston Tea Party and the battle at Concord have already taken place, and Boston is about to be thrown into the midst of the Revolutionary War. While in Boston, Meadow encounters a few surprises, including the realization that her former master is alive and well, and he is seeking retribution for Meadow's departure.

Although this book is recommended for children 8 years of age, or older, it includes non-fictional accounts of the Revolutionary War, and is an excellent read for people of all ages. I would especially recommend this

book for teachers who enjoy making the learning process of historical information more enjoyable for students.

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### **kathleen says**

A nice quick read about the american revolution from a young girls point of view. I enjoyed the book and read it in a day.

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### **Jean Wilson says**

I enjoyed this young adult historical fiction account from the Revolutionary war. It was a free Amazon ebook and well worth it!

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### **Madiooch says**

The color of freedom is about an indentured servant from Ireland named Meadow Wynn McKenzie. After an unfortunate mishap with her master, she finds herself on a whirlwind journey to find her father in the troubled city of Boston. Along the way, she meets many interesting and colorful people, and she finds herself at the heart of the American Revolution.

Before I continue, I should mention that I won this book through a FirstReads giveaway.

I found it to be beautifully written, and chock full of descriptive language. It is also extremely fast paced, and kept the reader engaged throughout the entire story. This book offers a unique perspective to the Revolution that isn't seen in many other books: Meadow hates the British, but she doesn't necessarily support the Patriots. Although this fictional character isn't directly involved in any of the historical events, her position as a spectator helps to teach the reader about the historical events. Finally, all of the characters' unique story lines were deeply entwined in the plot. I won't reveal anything, but at the end, a major bombshell was dropped that leaves everyone, including the reader, shocked. The author does a fabulous job of setting up the story perfectly so that it surprises the reader, but doesn't confuse them.

This book is clearly geared for children, but it can be enjoyed by all age groups. I would recommend this book to anyone who is interested in books about this time period, or to anyone looking for a quick, easy read.

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### **Barbara Ann says**

I was greatly impressed with this work of historical fiction intended for children and adults age ten and up. While I had not previously read any of this author's works, I found the language to be crisp and refreshing and the pace just right. The physical descriptions allow the reader to visualize these colorful characters living in Massachusetts, 1774, poised on the brink of rebellion. "A dray rumbled by. The shoes of the heavy workhorses clomped on the cobbles. Somewhere very close, church bells pealed out the hour. In a moment, the sound was echoed from churches in every quarter. There could be no mistaking the hour in Boston."

But do not think this is a novel about the war events themselves, the stress in the book is on how these events affected the minds of the characters who were manipulated by them. Here is a brief summary. At the outset,

the reader meets fourteen year old Meadow Wynn, an indentured servant in Lord Dennison's home. Meadow hates the British because she and her Irish tenant farmer father were thrown off their lands and forced to indenture themselves to gain passage to America. Once they arrived, Meadow and her father Amos were separated. All she knows is that he is somewhere in Boston. Her miserable life becomes worse when her master tries to assault her. She knocks him out with an iron griddle and hides in the barn. Her friend, Daniel disguises her as a boy and devises an escape plan. So begins a journey of adventures! As Meadow frantically searches for her father, she finds the British redcoats everywhere and the Patriots scrambling to uncover their plans. Many surprises await her. The knowledge of horses provided to her by Daniel allows her to link up with a traveling merchant named Salizar and later accrue a job in the British army's stable. Meadow does eventually locate her father. To her dismay he is working for a member of the Sons of Liberty. The reader is drawn into all the intrigues and subterfuges of battle on both sides and the psychological and physical torment it leaves on the women and children of their families.

As the battle unfolds, everything in Meadow's life seems to fall apart; she is in danger of being captured as a traitor by both sides, her friends' lives are in shambles, and she learns that each side has its faults-nothing is black and white. Much like the life of tweens and teens today, Meadow is questioning who she is and how can she fit in to the crazy events happening around her. She has no other choice but to work hard and make difficult choices; otherwise she will die. There are many twists and turns to the plot, and some real surprises as well.

I read the kindle version which also included a free link to download the author's first book in a Civil War trilogy, Divided Decade Trilogy, by the name of The Candle Star. Looking forward to reading that one as well. The trailer for the book (also linked) presented the story superbly. Some readers may be aware of the fact that Michelle Isenhoff has also written young adult fantasy novels with colorful characters and settings as well. They are available online. If you enjoy fantasy and adventure, check them out.

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### **Richard Ross says**

Although written with children and young adults in mind, I enjoyed the quick, well-written, and well-researched historic fictional account of a young girl living in the midst of the developing revolution. She and her father were serving as indentured servants in the colonies after being evicted from their home in Ireland by the British. The descriptions and experiences within 16th century colonial life, coupled with the revolutionary flavor of the day, make for an exciting read.

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### **Kathie says**

A young Irish girl, Meadow, escapes her indentured service to a master who makes inappropriate advances to her. She travels north to Boston, dressed as a boy in search of her father who is also an indentured servant. The closer she gets to Boston where tea has just been dumped in the harbor by the colonists, the more involved she becomes in the Revolutionary War. Fact based fiction suitable for young readers as well as adults.

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## **Gabs {My Full Bookshelf Reviews} says**

It's kind of weird how much historical fiction I've been reading lately. I went from avoiding it at all possible costs to seeking out recommendations for this genre. So when I saw a book blog call this a 'clean indie read', *and* I saw that it was Historical Fiction, well, I was pretty excited!

Anyway, *The Color Of Freedom* offers a unique look at the Revolutionary War. It focuses more on the prejudice during that era than the actual war itself, though this isn't left out completely; it just isn't all the book's about. Maybe some people who are looking for a bit more 'war' will be disappointed, but I personally thought that it was very interesting to read about.

The one downside to this book is that I did not connect with Meadow as much as I wanted to. However, that is just me. I do think that she was a very dynamic character.

All in all this was a very good book! I will be checking out some other books by Michelle Isenhoff soon.

This review (and others) can be found on <http://myfullbookshelfreviews.blogspot...>

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