



A Stitch in Time

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Shortly after the War of Independence, Hannah sees her family being torn apart by old secrets and new developments, as the three sisters embark on separate journeys.

A Stitch in Time Details

Date : Published August 1st 1995 by Scholastic Paperbacks (first published April 1st 1994)

ISBN : 9780590460569

Author : Ann Rinaldi

Format : Paperback 307 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Fiction

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From Reader Review A Stitch in Time for online ebook

Olivia says

How are all of Ann Rinaldi's books so good?! I don't love all of them; not all of them are the same level of Ultra-Amazing as *In My Father's House*; but I don't think I've read a single one that wasn't solid.

Sarah says

I really enjoyed this exciting and engaging story about a family seemingly becoming ripped apart. Heather tries really hard to keep them altogether even when challenged with so many different things and issues of trust. I love the idea of a trust quilt that she makes with only fabric from loved ones the family trusts.

This is my series selection.

Andrea says

What a boring book! I read it on the recommendation of the school librarian. She heard I took an interest in reading historical fiction and suggested Ann Rinaldi. I found it to be light on the historical side and even worse on plot. I was so sick of hearing about the mother that fed the British and Hannah's woes as her family rifts further apart.

The rest has spoilers, but I refuse to censor my whole review because I think people need to know what kind of snooze-fest their in for. If you even have a mild interest in this book, don't read on. You have been warned.

The ending epilogue pisses me off to no end. Thankful being worshiped and refuses to go home because of her own selfishness. She doesn't even consider the fact that her brother and Louis can never go home to their families because she's being such a brat. And what's with this quilt?! Threadbare meaning at the most. "Oh, you can only contribute to the quilt if the family trusts you. Will you give me a piece of cloth for the quilt?" Lame.

Becca says

I liked the book and the connection that Rinaldi brought to the family that is falling apart. When a family does fall apart there is often one person, in this case Hannah, who tries to be the connecting force. Hannah tries to connect everything in her life together by creating a quilt. It is a quilt of trust as she tries to bring those she trusts together in a post revolutionary Salem, Massachusetts.

Amanda says

This was better than I was expecting. I have also read Girl in Blue by Rinaldi and loved it, so I decided to try this series. A Stitch in Time was a very fast read and I want to know more about Hannah and her life. However, I think the other two books in the series are about totally different people. It was kind of weird to read about the new country of America while learning about it in summer school history. It's so weird - once you learn about something, you seem to notice it more and more. Just in the first few pages I read about Shay's Rebellion, the closing of Boston Harbor, troubles with the rebellions, and ships utilizing the slave trade. And I understood the implications and background behind all of them. It's amazing how much history affects our daily lives. This book perfectly expressed people's reactions to things such as Indians and slaves. It gave a voice to the people I had been learning about. Rinaldi really knows her stuff. I love historical fiction and am going to read the next two in the trilogy soon.

Flor says

Real good but the book ending without making much sense. She was supposed to marry Richard then the marriage is being delayed. Then Thankful was to stay in some Indian camp. What is this? Besides that it was good.

Jill says

Pretty good. Does anyone remember John Jakes and his big series of books about a family moving out west and all their heartaches, etc? This is kind of like that on a much smaller scale. Hard to get into b/c not much in-depth about any one character, but a LOT of events happening that swirl around one person, and a lot of characters in her life. A good review of life at that time, I suppose. Not my fav by this author.

Hannah Kendrick says

I absolutely loved this book! I wish it ended a little differently. I would love to know how Richard and Hannah's life turned out. I love Ann's writing style and cannot wait to read more of her books!

Breda says

I don't think I'd love this quite as much reading it for the first time as an adult, but in middle school, I found it SO romantic. I was fascinated by the setting, which Rinaldi always shines when writing, and this book definitely contributed to my lifelong love of tall ships. The maritime culture suffused through this book is wonderful. I didn't like the sequels quite as much, but this one captured my imagination, and it does hold up to later rereadings.

Gale says

“Repairing and Blending the Fabric of their Lives”

In this first novel of the Quilt trilogy Rinaldi introduces readers to a gentle, compassionate 6-year-old protagonist, Hannah Chelmsford of Salem, Ma. The Revolutionary War has ended; the former colonists are moving West—to the wild frontier of Kentucky where the relations between the Shawnee and Americans are becoming strained, resulting in hostilities on both sides. Back in civilized New England the Chelmsford household, ruled by a domineering patriarch, is in turmoil as a result of secret grudges gradually coming to the fore.

Since the death of their mother two sons and three daughters have struggled with self-esteem issues, emotional survival and guilt about the past. Yet it remains Hannah's cherished dream to create a family quilt—thereby reconnecting the broken threads of her parents' and sibling's lives. Her request for fabric scraps from some of her friends sparks resentment from her irascible father. This tyrannical man seems to hate his youngest, 12-year-old Cabot, yet he favors his willful, odd-eyed daughter, Thankful over her sisters. In fact Chelmsford blames Hannah, mistress of this dysfunctional family at a tender age, for conniving with Abby's elopement to her Southern beau, and later for urging that he bring Thankful with him on his journey West.

Uneasy whispers about her maligned mother's past creep gradually into the open, as Hannah faces serious challenges: to stitch her own portion of the Quilt, to effect reforms at her father's new textile mill, and to monitor her confused young heart's yearnings between Louis, a lost love now on the frontier, and for Richard, a childhood friend and protector, now a sea captain. This loyal and devoted daughter yearns for peace within her tortured family, secretly dreaming to somehow repair cruel damage done in the painful past. Will she ever achieve freedom from her father's insidious control, whose financial manipulation controls even her fiancé? The carefully-crafted plot is cleverly layered onto an historical setting which includes details about Yankee shipping, the textile industry, and how the near West was won. Makes readers want to continue with the next book in the series.

(March 27, 2013. I welcome dialogue with teachers.)

Kailia says

I'm going to try and make this a short review because I can't really say much without giving everything away!

First and foremost, I've heard a good deal about Ann Rinaldi's writing. She is a historical fiction writer and I love, love, love this genre. So this became the first book I read by her and I loved it. It gave a good insight to what life in 1788 was like. Further more, this story took place in Salem, Massachusetts where the Salem Witch Trials were held. Until this book, I didn't read much about this sea post town and how the war had affected it.

Even more than that, I loved Hannah's character from the beginning. She was a strong willed, courageous girl who went to all odds to keep her family together. As the reader, you have to give Hannah a lot of credit because so much is going on in her life! Not only does her sister elope, her father, brother and another sister go out west, and soon Hannah's once betrothal comes to Salem with a half-Indian baby.

As the story progressed, Hannah became more and more independent and she grew up into a woman. There were ups and downs, times when she wanted to scream or cry, but she held in. Ann Rinaldi wrote a book that caught my attention and kept it. Maybe it's the history geek in my saying that this was an engaging read.

But one thing in this book that was interesting to me was Abigail's (she's one of Hannah's younger sisters) elopement. Her beau, Nathaniel, was 24 while she, Abigail, was 15. I think I'm still getting used to the fact that back then, such marriages weren't that...weird? But I thought it was interesting how well Rinaldi wrote about Abby and Nate's relationship. Though they weren't mentioned a lot, I could see how two people of such different ages could be together.

Erin O'Connor says

This book, is really good. I recommend

Alicia Ruggieri says

I rarely finish books to which I'd give 3/5 stars... There are just too many good books in this world to read the so-so ones, for me. :-) This one, though, would have been a 4/5 star book, were it not for a pervasive theme that doesn't set well with me as a Christian and which I think would not be the best for teens to be inundated with.

So, the good:

* Excellent descriptions of the setting (colonial Salem, MA) and the seafaring culture -- I come originally from around the area she is describing and recognized the authenticity of Rinaldi's descriptions. I could nearly taste the salty spray of the sea at times. The author excelled at accurately describing the time period and the setting.

- * Interesting storyline, especially with each of the children's storylines.
- * Included the little details that make me as a reader want to read more about the real-life people included in this story.
- * There is a really excellent emphasis on earned trust being essential to any lasting and good relationship.

The not-great:

- * Due to an evil trait in the father, the children and their significant others feel at liberty to deceive, disobey, and at times embarrass him, sometimes for a "good" reason, but other times to satisfy their own desires to be avenged of his destructive work in their lives. This is the pervasive element I talked about above and which really ruined the book for me and makes me unable to recommend it.

Sarah Crawford says

This is the first part of the quilt trilogy by Ann Rinaldi. It starts off in 1798 and centers around a girl named Hannah and her family. Her father is ultra-nasty; her mother is dead; she has a younger sister who is basically a total brat, and a younger brother who is fascinated with ships.

The book is basically a story of the family and how it goes through a variety of changes. There's a good bit of romance, but also a good bit of nastiness from her father, from another man, and a bad situation for women workers in a textile mill.

There's nothing of any major historical importance about the book, other than it gives one a view of events going on at that time in the nation's history including the increasing number of wars with Native Americans as settlers were pushing further and further west.

The other two books will continue the story of further generations in the family.

Katie Pierson says

Writing a little wooden but research is fantastic.
