



# Molly Takes Flight

*Valerie Tripp*

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## **Molly Takes Flight** Valerie Tripp

World War Two is changing everything in Molly's life. First Dad left for England, and now Aunt Eleanor plans to join the WASPs--the Women's Airforce Service Pilots. In *Molly Takes Flight*, Molly longs for something that won't change, like the North Star shining at the end of the Little Dipper.

After you read Molly's story, learn how to make your own stargazer, just like Molly might have made.

## **Molly Takes Flight Details**

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Author : Valerie Tripp

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## **From Reader Review Molly Takes Flight for online ebook**

### **Meghan says**

It was hard to guess at Aunt Eleanor's age. She seemed like a teenager or early twenties. Obviously being a WASP she had to be a certain age. I think that the WASPs were an interesting group and was surprised that they were only around for a couple of years.

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### **MJ says**

2 copies

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### **Marya says**

Meh. An opportunity to talk about women in the war effort wasted. Aunt Eleanor may not get approval for becoming a WASP, but the larger question of women's role in the war could have been addressed here. Instead, it becomes yet another "Molly's life is changing because of the war" cop-out.

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### **Bree says**

This review is from the perspective of a mother -- Molly continues to struggle with the changes that wartime has brought to her life, but although she starts off pretty whiny and temper-tantrummy, by the end of the book she begins to learn empathy, so more character development in this short story than we get in several books in her core series!

The Looking Back section gives interesting details on women's roles during the war, making for a well-rounded story that I look forward to sharing with my daughter.

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### **Miri says**

In this Molly short story, Molly is visiting her grandparent's farm, but this year everything is different, her brothers and sisters aren't there with her and even Aunt Eleanor is hardly there. Aunt Eleanor is joining the WASPS and Molly doesn't like this.

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### **Karol says**

This was a great short story that provides just enough of a history lesson along with Molly's feelings about

everything changing around her. I liked that it touched on her Aunt Eleanor's plans to join the Women's Airforce Service Pilots.

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### **Emily says**

Molly and her aunt both learn the same lesson. And we learn an important and little known fact about women during WW2!

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### **Sarah Crawford says**

Molly's Aunt Eleanor is planning on joining the WASPS- the Women's Airforce Service Pilots, a group of women who flew test planes and transported things to aid the soldiers. (No women were allowed to be fighter pilots at the time.)

This doesn't sit well with Molly's grandmother, though. Her Aunt Eleanor ends up taking Molly for a flight (which she loves) and that helps with her grandmother.

The historical section is about the women pilots and what they did, and it's information you don't find very often.

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### **Jacqueline says**

Molly made a stargazer.

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### **storystereo says**

I really liked this book. It was simple enough for a kid to understand, but I feel it's also complex (for lack of a better term) for a teen or adult to read. I also think that it could possibly be read without reading the main, 6-book series. And if a few more details were added (which honestly, I think that could've been, unless the writer didn't feel she could), when it could be, for sure.

It's funny, this story, as I'm surprised that I like it. I usually find main character, Molly annoying, most of the time. Now, I understand where she's coming from, what's happening in her life that would make her upset, and that she probably doesn't have another way to vent her frustrations. Not to mention, at that age (9 or 10, I'm assuming) she may not even know how to deal with all these big changes and stressors properly yet.

But still, the type of character that she is, that's not a person I usually enjoy reading about. *Especially* if there's a lack of character growth or development. However, this was not one of those stories. I felt like by the end, Molly actually grew as a character, and got wiser (for lack of better term, again). Actually, I think all the characters grew in the end, and it was clearly shown, despite not getting to know a lot about the characters.

(view spoiler)

Now, when it came to how it was written, I thought a few paragraphs were too short, and a few were too blunt, with not enough description in them. Also, some of the scenes feel a little rushed, or fast paced. But then again, it's a short story, what should I expect? (Not to mention, it was later at night, and I was getting ready to go to bed.) But honestly, despite that, I thought it was tell a well-told story, and there was enough to get the point of it.

Of all the AG short stories I've read, I have to say, this may be my favorite so far. And also, it's giving me fanfiction ideas concerning Eleanor. I know it's a good story when that happens! :D

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### **Kelly says**

Molly is a little unsure about all the changes taking place during the war. Her father is away, and now her Aunt Eleanor is trying to join the WASPs, which means she'll be going away too. As Molly struggles with the changes, she learns the value of home and having a 'north star'.

*Molly Takes Flight* offers a look at a young girl's perspective as her family deals with the effects of war. The story presents just enough information about the war to be informative, but also provides enough of a story that the reader can relate. Molly's feelings about her Aunt going away are very accurate and real, as are her grandparents feelings about their daughter (Molly's aunt) joining the WASPs (Women's Airforce Service Pilots).

This book provides additional information about the WASPs in the back - a great resource for girls who are curious and want more information. There is also a craft that readers can complete.

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### **Laura says**

This book had a good message, and I thought the story did a nice job of portraying the war in a simple and yet understandable manner. I would probably recommend to people who were already a fan of the Molly series.

\*Taken from my book reviews blog: <http://reviewsatmse.blogspot.com/2009...>

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### **ColleenaMareena says**

Cute story, although a bit trite. My favorite part was the history in the second half. Happy to have my 8-year-old daughter read it, and will look for others in the series.

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## **Miss Clark says**

Read in year of publication - short story

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## **PWRL says**

SM

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## **Denaë Christine says**

I love learning history through stories, and the American Girl books really capture a nine/ten year old's mood/voice/ideas.

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## **Alex (not a dude) Baugh says**

Ever since the war began, Molly has been having a hard time dealing with all the changes it brought in her family. Her dad is still in Europe with the army, her mom is busy with her Red Cross work, Jill has been volunteering at the Veteran's Hospital, even Ricky has a job mowing lawns in the neighborhood and younger brother Brad is off to camp every day.

Now, it is August and Molly is visiting her grandparents farm by herself for the first time. Now, here with grandpa, grammy and the familiar smells of her grandmother's kitchen, it feels more like old times to Molly. Until she realizes that her favorite Aunt Eleanor isn't there and when she asked where she is, Molly is told she is away, "as usual" according to grandpa.

But when Molly and grandpa return to the house after picking a melon from the garden, Aunt Eleanor is home. Still, Molly's excitement that she will be able to do the same things with Aunt Eleanor this year that they have always done together on the farm quickly turns to disappointment when she is told that her aunt won't be home the next day.

Later that night, while stargazing, Aunt Eleanor tells Molly she has applied to join the WASPS, or Women Airforce Service Pilots, and that, if accepted, she will be testing and transporting planes for the Air Force, and even helping to train pilots. Molly is not quite as happy about this as Aunt Eleanor would have liked.

Aunt Eleanor leaves early every morning, returning home at suppertime. Molly spends the next few days alone, feeling lonely without her family at the farm, angry at the war and now angry at her aunt, and maybe even a little jealous that she wants to spend Molly visit flying instead of with her. Then, one night, Aunt Eleanor doesn't get home until Molly is already in bed. When she goes in to see if Molly is awake, Molly's anger gets the best of her and she snaps at her aunt, accusing her of not caring about anything anymore, except flying.

The next morning, Aunt Eleanor wakes Molly up very early and tells her to get dressed. In the car, when Molly asks where they are going, all she is told is that she'll see. Arriving at the airfield, Molly and Aunt

Eleanor walk over to the plane her aunt has been practicing with. To her surprise, Molly is handed a helmet, told to put it on and the next thing she knows, she and Aunt Eleanor are flying over grandpa's farm.

Can Molly and Aunt Eleanor be reconciled, now that Molly has had a taste of the exhilaration that flying gives her aunt?

Molly Takes Flight is actually a very small book (just 47 pages), one of five separate short stories that were originally published by the Pleasant Company in 1998 about Molly McIntire, an American girl growing up in WWII (the stories has since been combined into a single book, one for each historical doll).

Written by Valerie Tripp, and illustrated by Nick Backes, who have done a number of the original American Girl stories together, Molly Takes Flight is a well written, well researched short story. It follows the same format that all the stories about the American Girl historical dolls have - a story followed by several pages giving information about the main theme - in the case the WASP program begun in 1942 and organized by Jacqueline Cochran.

Stars also play an important part in this story. Molly looks at the North Star each night, just as her dad told her to, and thinks about him. And she and her aunt star gaze whenever Molly visits the farm. At the end of Molly Takes Flight, there is a simple, but fun craft project for making a star gazer out of a round oatmeal container.

This copy of Molly Takes Flight is my Kiddo's original one, and it doesn't feel like that long ago we were reading it together, but now I have it put away with her Molly doll and her other American Girl books for the next generation, whenever that happens. And even though Molly has been retired, her books are still available.

This book is recommended for readers age 8+

This book was purchased for my Kiddo's personal library

This review was originally published at The Children's War

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### **Jennifer says**

This is such a short and sweet book. I love early aviation flights and overall excitement of the exploration. Women rarely flew and to have an aunt that did just that must have been amazing.

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### **Kristine Hansen says**

I enjoyed this look at the WASPs, women pilots during WWII. The real value in this book is in the "Looking Back" section at the end of the book (and in the craft project, now I want to make a Stargazer!).

Molly is still enjoyable as always. And her common sense and compassion really shine through in this book. All in all, highly recommended!

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**Kelly says**

It's a sweet ending, but I just don't like the story that much. Molly is whiny and just kinda boring.

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