



Gentle Annie

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A fictionalized biography of Anna Blair Ethridge, a Union Army nurse.

Gentle Annie Details

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Author : Mary Francis Shura

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From Reader Review Gentle Annie for online ebook

Andrea says

I recently reread this book that I have read many times as a “tween.” It’s the story of an amazing, strong willed girl named Annie Ethridge and her work on the front lines during the civil war. Her true passion was nursing and being on the front lines with the men, however, she did whatever was asked of her including laundry, mending, cooking, and writing letters home for the soldiers. Very unheard of for a women in the later 1800s. She was a very inspiring young girl who gave her all to the men of the civil war. Many times she slept standing up in order to make more floor space for the wounded. She received awards during her service and befriended generals. Still loving this book after a lot of years!

Dan says

I found this book to take the reader on a voyage backstage of the Civil War, where it showed the life of women (or a certain woman) and what they went through during this ugly time in US history. Anna Blair Etheridge was 1 out of 18 to join as a battlefield nurse, however, when the going got tough, she was amazingly the only female to stay and perform what she knew best. The story walks through actual battles and how Anna (Annie) had to join the men (on both sides) and conquer her fears to stay involved helping the soldiers in the Civil War.

Something that stuck out in my eyes was how Annie would go into great depths to write letters to the families of dead and/or injured soldiers and provide news for them to be aware of their son’s health. Many have learned about the Civil War and the ugliness it entailed, however, this book opened my eyes in a new direction and I am sure would do so for most readers.

In today’s current world, we still find ourselves talking about women on the front lines and the where-a-bouts when we disect moral and rights. This book shows that women have been walking this front line for some time now.

I would definitely use this book in a middle school (7th grade) classroom. It was a very quick and easy read and gave the reader a strong picture to paint in their mind as they turned the pages.

Shannon Clark says

This historical novel about a Civil War nurse made me sob. Truly it did. It brought the solders' deaths to a personal level through the eyes of Annie, a nurse during the civil war who went into the battlefield with the soldiers. In fact, it brought the entire Civil War to a personal level for me.

I have never been a big fan of history-reading and memorizing dry facts that didn't mean anything to me. It's so different when reading a historical fiction book-I feel like I know these people and can feel their anguish and pain.

This is a must read for anyone interested in the Civil War-or for anyone not interested! :)

Michelle says

I was reading through one of my old journals and found an entry about this book. I apparently loved it and wanted everyone to read it. I do actually remember reading it are really liking it. It would be nice to re-read now that I am a bit older. But, from my younger self... you must read.

Allison Tebo says

RTC

Anyce Paul-Emile says

I thought that this was a touching story of this young women who wanted to help the sick and wounded after she lost so much. This story does have a theme of, do what is write, not what you want.

Kiersten says

I first read this book when I was probably around twelve years old. I still have the old worn copy of the book on my bookshelf. I really enjoyed the book. Even though I come from a family who had relatives fight in the Confederate army and the main character is a Union nurse, I still felt like she is a character who would stick with me. She helped so many soldiers no matter what side they were on. She was so caring and stayed when all the other nurses left. I love to pick up this book and read it from time to time.

Sand Josieph Haasmaton says

While lacking in some historical details I personally enjoyed reading this book when I was younger.

Jim says

A fictionalized biography of Annie Etheridge, known as "Michigan Annie" or "Gentle Annie", who was a volunteer nurse w/ the 2nd & 3rd Michigan Volunteer Infantry regiments in the Army of the Potomac from First Bull Run to the Siege of Petersburg. A quick read but worthwhile.

Keri says

Great for middle grade readers who want a quick, easy lesson in Civil War history and important figures like Annie Etheridge. However, for older readers the story lacked the detailed history and emotional depth and plot that other historical novels (especially those by an author like Ann Rinaldi) demonstrate so well.

Anna says

A quick read, sad but hopeful.

Alana Gustafson says

Gentle Annie by Mary Francis is a great book. It has a lot of action and I love how Annie travels around and see's things I never would have imagined. Annie seemed like a very interesting and lovely girl.

I think that Annie should have met a wonderful soldier that she met. I think that would have made it more romantic and interesting, but I still loved the book. This book made me happy and sad and a lot of other emotions. I love when books have emotions because that makes a great book.

Hannah says

Another of the Civil-War-craze books. I first read this when I was about ten, and despite being a careful reader, I think I nearly read the cover clear off of it. I used to play-act being Annie. This was, of course, in the days before I realized that I have a nasty habit of fainting at the sight of blood!

Hannah says

I read this several times when I was ten/eleven/twelve and found the story well told and interesting. I learned some history from it, and was impressed by Annie's heroism and selfless service, as well as those she worked with. I think I may have kept going back to it, though, because I found the ending unsatisfactory. I still felt lost and restless, like Annie could never have real peace and a place of her own again.

The characters are well portrayed, the battles and storyline are clear and easy to follow, and Annie's emotions and decisions are relateable. I appreciated the humanness of it all. The story inspired me to do more research on the Civil War and the people involved in it.

Christine says

This book made me cry. Perhaps I'll write a full review at some point, but for now...

