



After the Dancing Days

By Margaret Rostkowski

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After the Dancing Days By Margaret Rostkowski

Is War A Thing To Be Forgotten?

That's what Annie's mother would like to do. She wants to forget the pain and heartache--and to keep it away from Annie, too. But Annie cannot forget the death of her favorite uncle, who was killed in France. She cannot forget Andrew, the angry young veteran she meets at the hospital where her father works. Can Annie find the courage to help Andrew? And will she ever be able to make sense of a war that took so much from so many?

Drawn to the Kansas hospital where her father cares for wounded World War One veterans, Annie meets Andrew, a disfigured young soldier. As Annie helps Andrew slowly adjust to his wounds, she also faces devastating truths about war and the complex world of adulthood. 'A girl on the brink of womanhood comes to terms with the brutal aftereffects of war in an absorbing novel.' —BL.

Notable Children's Books of 1986 (ALA)

1986 Best Books for Young Adults (ALA)

The USA Through Children's Books (ALSC)

1986 Children's Editors' Choices (BL)

1987 Children's Book Award (IRA)

Young Adult Choices for 1988 (IRA)

100 Favorite Paperbacks 1989 (IRA/CBC)

Notable 1986 Children's Trade Books in Social Studies (NCSS/CBC)

1987 Teachers' Choices (NCTE)

1986 Golden Kite Award for Fiction (SCBW)

Judy Lopez Memorial Award Certificate of Merit

1986 Jefferson Cup Award Winner (Virginia Library Association)

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Annie learns to stand up to her mother in the days following the end of The Great War, through her friendship with a veteran and in the discovery of the truth about her uncle's heroism; this is a gracefully written story with a clear-sighted view of the ironies of war. Ages 10-14.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 6-9 Annie is both fascinated and repelled by the wounded soldiers whom she sees being wheeled off of a train in her small Kansas town at the end of World War I. When her father, a doctor, begins to work in the veterans hospital, and her grandfather reads to a blind vet there, Annie has the opportunity to visit and make friends with two soldiers. This provokes a series of questions about the war, the wounded's recovery, and her dead uncle that precipitates her coming of age. This is a skillfully constructed story, with plot and character development mutually dependent and smoothly woven to present a believable and satisfying tale. Annie's mother's opposition to her hospital visits acts as a catalyst to Annie's loss of innocence. Annie's growth is revealed naturally through situations and her reaction to the sudden boredom with last summer's games, a visit to the opera, learning the circumstances of her uncle's death, and especially her trips to the hospital. The setting is subtly and distinctly fixed in time and place; the theme is timeless and universal. The mood is somber, tranquil, reflective of a time when life, even in wartime, was lived at a slower pace consistent throughout. The book's only significant flaw is a pace that is occasionally too slow; in these places, subtleties become affectations and sensitivity becomes maudlin. However, this is an excellent first novel, and Rostkowski an author to watch. Allen Meyer, Vernon Area Public Library, Prairie View, Ill.
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Review

"A thoughtful story whose messages are advanced with quiet strength". -- ALA Booklist

"Compelling and impressive."--"The Horn Book"
"A thoughtful story whose messages are advanced with quiet strength."--ALA "Booklist"

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Harold Martinez:

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