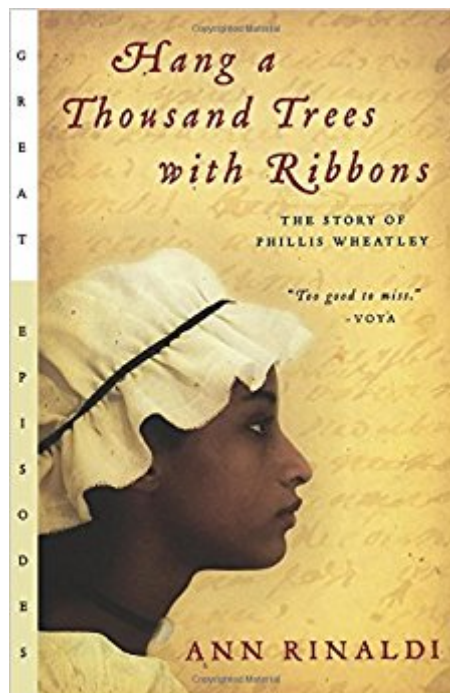




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Hang A Thousand Trees With Ribbons: The Story Of Phillis Wheatley (Great Episodes)



Synopsis

Kidnapped from her home in Senegal and sold as a slave in 1761, a young girl is purchased by the wealthy Wheatley family in Boston. Phillis Wheatley—*as she comes to be known*—has an eager mind and it leads her on an unusual path for a slave—*she becomes America's first published black poet.* “Strong characterization and perceptive realism mark this thoughtful portrayal.”—*Booklist*

Book Information

Series: Great Episodes

Paperback: 352 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 75 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #87,395 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #12 in *Books > Teens >*

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Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Grade 7 Up-Rinaldi's latest contribution to historical fiction tells the story of the first important African-American poet. Since Phillis Wheatley lived in Boston just before the Revolutionary War, readers get a dose of U.S. history as well. Rinaldi freely admits in her author's note that she has altered many facts to create "my own Phillis." In her biggest change from reality, she makes Nathaniel Wheatley, the handsome, bright, bored son of Phillis's owners, the girl's tutor. This teacher-pupil relationship, which develops into a full-scale crush on Phillis's part, dominates the book. Readers will be drawn in just as Phillis is, and will enjoy their conversations, quarrels, and activities. Unfortunately, Nathaniel is absent during the last few chapters and they consequently limp along, suffering from wordiness and an overabundance of historical data. Phillis's interview with

George Washington, which concludes the novel, is sentimental and didactic—a disappointment rather than a celebration. Rinaldi writes well, gives an engrossing look at pre-Revolutionary War life with numerous interesting details, and brings her characters vividly to life. It's too bad she couldn't sustain the novel's initial excitement and appeal. Those who follow it through should also read Merle Richmond's *Phillis Wheatley* (Chelsea, 1988; o.p.), which sticks strictly to the facts and provides a fascinating contrast to Rinaldi's treatment. Ann W. Moore, Guilderland Public Library, NYC
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Gr. 7[^]-12. Phillis Wheatley, America's first black poet, was a child when purchased by John Wheatley in 1761, and her entrance into his Boston household marked the beginning of her unique position. She was educated, nurtured, and encouraged to write by the prominent Wheatleys, but was never considered an equal because of her color. It is Phillis' dilemma of belonging to neither the white nor the slave society that Rinaldi so well delineates. Obviously deeply researched, the novel abounds with details of colonial life--encounters the Wheatleys had with America's early historical figures as well as the effects of the day's politics on Mrs. Wheatley's campaign to get Phillis' poetry published. The poet's circumstances deteriorated after the deaths of the Wheatleys, and she died at age 30 in abject poverty, her husband in debtor's prison. In contemplating this quick decline, Rinaldi questions the motives of Phillis' mentors and friends--did they consider her a serious poet or a plaything, a parlor conversation piece? And did they properly prepare her for the attention she received for her poetry? It is difficult to know, and the author, fortunately, does not make judgments but leaves it up to readers to decide for themselves. Strong characterization and perceptive realism mark this thoughtful portrayal. Laura Tillotson --This text refers to the Library Binding edition.

I am always looking for books about Legacy and this one tells a story about a slave, her accomplishments as a poet, and her struggles & challenges. As a young girl then, woman she overcame a lot, had a brilliant creative mind, and was able to record a history in poetry. Yet, in the end her story is tragic. As stated in the book, "We build walls around ourselves. We imprison ourselves with longings."

I really enjoyed this version of storytelling of one of the country's first Afro-American female poet. The twist of mixing history facts with fiction was very good. And to have a love story in the fold of this tale was very great. I think young adult readers will love this book. The ending of such a surprise it makes me want to research more about this young lady. I want to thank the author for

sharing her version of Phillis Wheatley's life. This was a really good read.

Loved this true story of a slave girl! Well written , and gives historical events in a very interesting story!

i love it

love it

Hard to imagine these experiences took place in the 1700's. It was good to read about good things happening to slaves along with the bad. I highly recommend reading.

Nice book, fast shipping, Thank you.

Really enjoyed this book. Easy read and educational. Phillis was brilliant and lived a life that was not the norm for a girl sold into slavery.

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