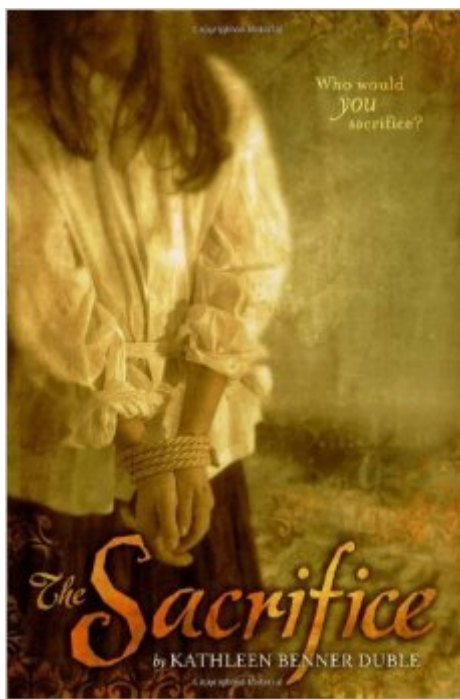


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The Sacrifice



Synopsis

In the year 1692, life changes forever for ten-year-old Abigail Faulkner and her family. In Salem, Massachusetts, witches have been found, and widespread fear and panic reign mere miles from Abigail's home of Andover. When two girls are brought from Salem to identify witches in Andover, suspicion sweeps the town as well-respected members of the community are accused of witchcraft. It isn't long before chaos consumes Andover, and the Faulknors find themselves in the center of it all when friend turns themselves in the center of it all when friend turns against friend, neighbor against neighbor, in a desperate fight for the truth. At the heart of this gripping story are Abigail and her sister, Dorothy, who together must find a way to persevere during a period marked by terror, adversity, and ignorance. Told from Abigail's point of view and based on actual events in the author's own family history, *The Sacrifice* offers a unique perspective of the Salem witch trials by delving into the devastating effects the trials had not just in Salem but throughout Massachusetts.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 720 (What's this?)

Paperback: 211 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.6 x 7.6 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.4 out of 5 stars Â Â See all reviews Â (23 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #122,528 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #88 in Â Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #4110 in Â Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

Customer Reviews

The Sacrifice brings the period of hysteria surrounding the Salem Witch Trials to life as we are introduced to Abigail, aged ten, and her family, members of the village of Andover. Abigail is a bit of a rebel in her Puritan village; she sometimes speaks when she shouldn't and runs with her legs exposed when it's not seemly to do so. Nevertheless, she and her family could never fathom being

accused of witchcraft until her minister grandfather speaks out against the girls making the accusations; suddenly Abigail's Aunt Elizabeth, her sister Dorothy, and even Abigail herself find themselves jailed and at the mercy of the townspeople. It is at this time that the sacrifice comes into play; Abigail's mother cannot bear to see her young daughters imprisoned and thus makes a bargain that seals all of their fates. The idea that this particular retelling of the hysteria has some basis in fact helped me to embrace the story. The author discovered that she was a descendent of Abigail Faulkner, and built her story around her research. While I found some of Abigail's actions a bit questionable for a young lady in such a strict Puritan society, I did enjoy her character and felt the author did a good job weaving fiction into the tale. I do believe that this novel is marketed older than its intended audience; the reading style and level clearly work more for pre-teen than for the young adult market. I also at times found the dialogue a bit stilted, though I suspect the author was attempting to capture the atmosphere of the times. Overall this is an excellent introduction into a time in our nation's history that leaves many of us bewildered at how easily a group of young girls managed to send so many innocents to their deaths. Enjoyable and fast reading.

Very good read. I had a personal reason for wanting to read this as I am a direct descendant of Joseph Marble 1650-1728, who was born in Andover, MA, and was involved in the Salem Witch Trials. Joseph Marble married Marry Faulkner who is the sister of Francis Faulkner. Francis Faulkner is the Father and husband of the main characters in this book that were accused of witchcraft and imprisoned. My Great Grandfather by 8 generations, Joseph Marble, signed a petition for the release of Abigail Dane Faulkner (Joseph's Sister In Law) and her two young daughters. He also helped pay for their release when they were acquitted of their charges. If you want to do the research you can find the original documents with his name on them. It is a very sad yet fascinating part of history, and I am proud that I come from a line of level headed people that were against the witch trials.

It's 1692, and ten-year-old Abigail and her family are threatened by witchcraft fear in Salem. When the focus reaches Andover and her family, they find neighbor turns against neighbor and must choose their path during a reign of terror. Events in the author's own family history come to life through the eyes of Abigail in this realistic account.

Abigail Faulkner is a brave, free-spirited girl who lives in Andover and soon finds herself caught up in the hysteria of the Salem witch trials. As the accusations of witchcraft spread, Abigail, her sister,

and her aunt are all accused. I have always been fascinated by this time in history and wondered how people could have been so easily swept into this madness. The author, a descendant of the real Abigail Faulkner, based the story on some of her ancestors who were accused of witchcraft. Excellent read, especially for middle schoolers.

An amazing and wonderful book! It had me on the edge of my seat the whole time! Filled with suspense! The Author made it as you see the whole thing happening in a 3rd person view. Loved the book so much! -James HelpfulReviews

As an example of young adult historical fiction, *THE SACRIFICE* works well enough -- the essence of time and place are strongly conveyed. Situationally, the conflict can teach readers about the Salem witch trials, and the protagonist finds herself right in the middle of it (naturally), having been accused of being a witch herself. Author Kathleen Benner Duple draws inspiration from her own ancestors' story, and her research seems pretty accurate (bibliography included). My one big problem with the book is that it puts at its heart a ten-year-old girl who seems to have the wisdom of Solomon and enough fortitude to deliver a speech at her trial that inspires the governor to put an end to this hysteria. Really? After this girl has spent three months in horrendous conditions in jail, with barely enough to survive, she energetically transcends her age to vehemently ask those present to come to their senses, and all listen attentively? It took a ten-year-old to make the governor of Massachusetts resolve a change in the system? I find this just a bit too far-fetched. If Abigail had been older, I might believe the story a little more, and it might make the book work better for an older audience. As it is, *THE SACRIFICE* works well as a piece of historical fiction (*THE CRUCIBLE*-Lite, perhaps) for fifth- and sixth-graders, but it doesn't quite have the polish that makes it one of those books that adults without kids should be reading.

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