



The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1777

Kristiana Gregory

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1777

Kristiana Gregory

The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1777 Kristiana Gregory

Eleven-year-old Abigail Jane Stewart records the despair and hope of the difficult winter between 1777-1778--when she witnessed George Washington readying his young soldiers on the frozen fields of Valley Forge.

The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1777 Details

Date : Published September 1st 1996 by Scholastic Inc.

ISBN : 9780590226530

Author : Kristiana Gregory

Format : Hardcover 173 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Childrens, Fiction

 [Download The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary o ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1777 Kristiana Gregory

From Reader Review The Winter of Red Snow: The Revolutionary War Diary of Abigail Jane Stewart, Valley Forge, Pennsylvania, 1777 for online ebook

Anabella says

i love this whole series

Madeline says

This book was amazing! It was very touching and had lots of joyful moments.

Amanda says

I admit that I bought this book in large part because I wanted to see whether the Dear America books were ever actually good, or whether I imagined that they were good, or whether they only seemed good because I was so young when I read them.

I generally enjoyed this book. I like the diary format and snapshot of every day life. Also, I enjoyed the imagined interactions between the Stewart family and the Washingtons.

Things I didn't like as much: the lack of depth that comes with a child's diary as a format; interactions with historical figures that seemed a bit like a stretch; and the crazy scandal of Lucy's hair. It's just hair! AND women usually wore bonnets! I didn't see the big deal, really.

Anyway, I think it's still pretty solid as a children's historical fiction, but as an adult who's read a lot of really thorough, well-written historical fiction, it doesn't quite match up to that level. I'd still recommend it to kids to help develop an interest in both history and reading.

Andrea Cox says

This is a great fictional account of the winter George Washington's army spent in Valley Forge. I quite enjoyed it.

Warning: There are a few things that might make some readers squeamish, including the severing of limbs in wartime surgeries.

Content:

- * alcohol

- * profanity

- * wartime gore (hangings, surgeries [including the severing of limbs], etc.)

Recommended for 13+, with parental approval (assuming the parent knows how squeamish their child tends to be).

I was not compensated for this honest review.

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Monica Sheffo for TeensReadToo.com

Abigail is a young girl living in Valley Forge during the Revolutionary War. She and her family are enduring great struggles during this hard time, between the birth of a new baby to the battles seemingly taking place right outside their doorstep.

She must get used to the idea that sides must be chosen, loyalties will be tested, and the true reason of what it means to be an American will be realized.

Smart and honest, this story is the perfect read for a budding young history buff. Ms. Gregory writes as Abigail, completely capturing the innocent view of a child forced to grow up in a time of war and great change. Young readers will be able to relate to Abigail's challenges while learning about history along the way.

Printed with a new cover and format, THE WINTER OF RED SNOW is flawless.

Ana Mardoll says

The Winter of Red Snow (Valley Forge) / 0-590-22653-3

Like almost all of the Dear America books, there's a wealth of fascinating history here, from the big picture look at the American army during the winter of 1777 to the day-to-day life details, like cleaning a chimney by lowering a flapping rooster down it! As is typical for the Dear America books, the author presents a balanced view of a complicated situation: although the narrator and her family are avidly patriotic, they do not fail to notice that the wintering army isn't above robbing them near-blind to feed and clothe the soldiers.

Nor does our little 11-year-old narrator much care for the harsh treatment of one of the black freedmen in the army - she is angered that the white soldiers will not treat the black soldiers with the respect and honor they deserve. The narrator's older sister also provides a useful look at the practice of "Bounty Shirts" - the pretty girl sews her name into a shirt for a soldier, hoping to snag a handsome husband. Initially disappointed that her gift goes to an 'ugly' soldier, she later realizes that the soldier was kind, polite, and honest and decides that she values those qualities more than looks or bearing.

Though violence is kept to a relative minimum (no battles are pitched in the narrator's front yard), there are quite a few hangings and whippings witnessed by the narrator. There are also numerous visits to the army hospital, where the reader is shown several amputations, as well as a trough full of amputated hands and feet. Small children may be disturbed by the imagery of soldiers walking barefoot through the snow, leaving bloody footprints behind them. It is also worth noting that several small children die in a skating accident on a thawing pond. Oddly, the "George Washington praying" legend is repeated here, even though almost no

historians give it any credence. I don't know why the author chose to include it, but there you are.

~ Ana Mardoll

Shannon says

Hands down the coolest thing about this book is the built in ribbon bookmark. Red snow refers to blood. Anything else about this book I completely forgot.

Nielson says

A part of the Dear America series, this particular book focuses on the Revolutionary War as seen through the eyes of eleven year old Abigail. The entries describe the grim realities of the war that freed us from England's rule. These books are a wonderful way for students to learn more about these specific times in American history. The writers' stories make past events come alive for the readers and help instill a greater appreciation for our predecessors. Also included at the back of each book is a historical note about the time period as well as reproductions of important documents and paintings during that era. The only downside to these books are the new covers they are coming out with. The new covers take away from the diary feel and look too modern...hate the new look but love the stories within.

Geraldine Orlik says

This story is about eleven year old, Abigail Jane Stewart. She and her two sisters, baby brother and parents live in Valley Forge, PA. circa 1777. She keeps a journal of the events that unfold when General George Washington tries to form his Continental Army near her home. Her family and the surrounding neighbor's lives become consumed in assisting the general and the army through a tough winter. Though the book is fictional it revolves around real people and real events. This book surprised me. I thought it would be a quaint recollection of a young girl's life during war time. However, this book is packed with more drama than Margaret Michell's "Gone with the Wind", only it's not melodramatic the events are simply stated and to the point. Readers will certainly gain an insight into the difficulties facing people of that time and how they coped. The way the events unfold, and how they intermingle with Abigail's life, you will not think it a history lesson but it is. I really enjoyed this book and would recommend it to youngsters. You can tell by the way it's written that the author really likes the subject matter.

Katieb (MundieMoms) says

Kristina Gregory captures the innocence of childhood and growing up during America's Revolutionary War. America just gained it's independence from England, but the fighting hasn't ceased. The years are 1776-1777, and winter is a brutal one. Abigail's story is one that will capture the heart and attention of young readers and adults alike who want to gain an understanding of what it was like to live in Valley Forge, PA during 1777.

Abigail and her family are just trying to get by when General George Washington and his army of battered men come to Valley Forge. Through Abigail's eyes, I got to experience through her story telling just how

horrible the conditions were for the men. In the dead of winter the army has little food, some have no coats and no shoes, hence the title Winter of Red Snow. It's through Abigail's story that my admiration for George Washington grew, as Abigail sees him kneel in prayer, the site of his famous Prayer of Valley Forge. A religious man and strong leader, George Washington was kind to Abigail, her family and their neighbors who gave what they had to help sustain General Washington's army.

Abigail grows up quick with the things she witnesses during the army's stay in Valley Forge. Abigail's family has dwelt with heartache before when they lost a baby. Now Abigail has a new baby brother to help take care of, but it's with fear they might lose him again. She also has tasks like tending to her family's daily needs, attending to General Washington's Laundry, helping General Washington's Wife visit the sick and dying soldiers and her family takes in a widowed wife of a soldier who's died.

Abigail learns what it means to be true to your country, be faithful in her beliefs and be proud to be an American. Her story is one that captured my heart and one I highly recommend for teachers for their classrooms, and for those who love to read about history. I know these series are for middle graders, but I find myself completely caught up in the stories. It's like finding my Great-Great Grandmother's journal and sitting down to read it. Once I start to read it, I can't stop.

Romancebooksandmore says

Love this book it may be for kids but that doesn't stop me reading it over and over

Brittany Watts says

This book is a historical fiction book intended for middle school aged children. This book is about a girl named Abby who's mother has just had a baby. Abby is worried about this baby because the other 5 her mother had before had died when they were at that age. Abby and her family work cleaning laundry for the army, sewing and visiting the injured men. Abby's and her family hear all kinds of stories about the war while visiting the injured men and really see how horrible the war is. I gave this book 4 stars because it shows through out the book how Abby begins to grow up and become mature. Also, this book is appealing to young readers because it gives them a chance to see what life is like in the 1700's something they will never get to experience. This also shows reader that we should be thankful for a country and the men and women who served it. Most importantly it shows the reader how important family is and that family should always stick together.

Heather says

As a kid I loved reading the Dear America diaries although I only read a few of them back then. I have recently found myself interested in them again (of course after I gave away all of mine and when the majority of them are still out of print!). However, as of 2010, Scholastic has begun to reprint many of the books as well as release new ones.

The Winter of Red Snow was my second read in this series (however it is the first I am reviewing at this time). I have to admit that I never spent much time thinking about that winter at Valley Forge – and when I did, it was usually about the soldiers and how they were hungry, cold, and drummed into shape by Von

Stueben. However, this book led me to consider the effects on the residents of Valley Forge with all of the soldiers camped in the backyards, literally. Throughout this diary we learn about how the families frequently gave up goods, supplies and food for the soldiers, took jobs to help the encampment, and the sicknesses that could affect them too. We also make a quick trip to Philadelphia during this book where the British troops are encamped for the winter and get to see a comparison of how they wintered compared to the Continental army. Trips are made into the Continental encampment and the headquarters building for General Washington and we learn a lot about the lives of the soldiers.

This book is less of an adventure story and I found it a little less enjoyable than some of the other books in this series because of it. Throughout the story the Continental Army is just waiting out the winter and at the end of the book it is spring and they have set out again. There is great historical information though. If introducing the series to a young one in your life, I might not start out with this book, but once they are sucked into the story mix it in.

This was also my first piece of fiction with George and Martha Washington as characters. They were portrayed very much the way I would expect them to be – the General is very regal, strong, but quiet. Martha is warm, caring, and 100% supportive of the cause.

One of the unique aspects of this diary that I enjoyed was the inclusion of recipes in the diary. Martha Washington's famous 40 egg cake (!) is included as well as a recipe for onion soup, and another that I cannot remember at this time. This lends itself to a cooking experiment!

There was a very extensive historical note at the end of this diary. They set up the events that preceded Valley Forge as well as a summary of what happened afterward to the surrender at Yorktown. There was a lot more of a note in this than many other historicals that I have read and I think this is wonderful especially for the youth who these books are designed for. There is a sequel to this book, *Cannons at Dawn* and I am interested as to where this book takes us, since at the end of *Winter of Red Snow* the soldiers have left Valley Forge.

There were two narrators of this book – the first was the narrator for the actual diary and the second narrated the historical note at the end. The narrator for the diary was wonderful at conveying a youthful sense to her narration and really made you feel like you were listening to the inner thoughts of Abby as she wrote in her diary. There was emotion and emphasis where there should be. The narrator of the historical note was sufficient in her role, but I am not sure why they needed two different narrators.

Mundie Moms & Mundie Kids says

Kristina Gregory captures the innocence of childhood and growing up during America's Revolutionary War. America just gained its independence from England, but the fighting hasn't ceased. The years are 1776-1777, and winter is a brutal one. Abigail's story is one that will capture the heart and attention of young readers and adults alike who want to gain an understanding of what it was like to live in Valley Forge, PA during 1777.

Abigail and her family are just trying to get by when General George Washington and his army of battered men come to Valley Forge. Through Abigail's eyes, I got to experience through her story telling just how horrible the conditions were for the men. In the dead of winter the army has little food, some have no coats and no shoes, hence the title *Winter of Red Snow*. It's through Abigail's story that my admiration for George Washington grew, as Abigail sees him kneel in prayer, the site of his famous Prayer of Valley Forge. A religious man and strong leader, George Washington was kind to Abigail, her family and their neighbors who gave what they had to help sustain General Washington's army.

Abigail grows up quick with the things she witnesses during the army's stay in Valley Forge. Abigail's family has dwelt with heartache before when they lost a baby. Now Abigail has a new baby brother to help take care of, but it's with fear they might lose him again. She also has tasks like tending to her family's daily needs, attending to General Washington's Laundry, helping General Washington's Wife visit the sick and dying soldiers and her family takes in a widowed wife of a soldier who's died.

Abigail learns what it means to be true to your country, be faithful in her beliefs and be proud to be an American. Her story is one that captured my heart and one I highly recommend for teachers for their classrooms, and for those who love to read about history. I know these series are for middle graders, but I find myself completely caught up in the stories. It's like finding my Great-Great Grandmother's journal and sitting down to read it. Once I start to read it, I can't stop.

Brennan H says

I have recently been reading The Winter of Red Snow, by Robert Waguespack. Abigail Stewart is living in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania with her two sisters, baby brother, and parents. They clean general Washington's shirts and have actually met him and his wife! Unfortunately, it is a time of great tragedy and loss. Her family is doing all they can for the soldiers, but it's hard to help somebody who steals you sheep, hens, pigs, and even fences. They sneak into people's barns to sleep and don't bother to clean up after. Lots of them are sick, have no shoes, and most are losing at least one body part.

I think the author did a good job with the book. It is a tragic book, but it has a lot of voice and the words they use like "ye" and "thou" bring the story to life. The book is a diary with dates, times, fictional and non-fictional characters, and real places. It's so interesting to hear about a time so different than ours. Overall I rate this story four stars. It can be heartbraking, but I just can't put it down!

Rebecca says

Abigail Jane Stewart, called Abby by her family and friends, is eleven years old and living in Valley Forge, Pennsylvania when the American army arrives there in December 1777. Abby is mostly worried about her mother and her new baby brother, because five of her brothers died in infancy and she is afraid for this new baby. She thinks war is an adventure and doesn't understand how serious it is.

However, when Abby, her mother, and her two sisters get a job doing laundry for General Washington, Abby and her sisters learn firsthand about the horrors of war. Determined to do their part to help, they sew for the soldiers, and visit the sick and injured soldiers in the encampment. In the process, Abby matures and understands the sacrifices of the soldiers, and that freedom is worth fighting for.

I first read The Winter of Red Snow in 1996, when it was first published as one of the first books in the Dear America series. Each book in the series is the fictional diary of a preteen or young teenage girl living during an important time in American history. Out of the many books in the series, this one remains one of my favorites. The Dear America series truly brings history to life and helped me develop a love for historical fiction, and I am glad to see the series is being brought back into print for a new generation of readers. Highly recommended.

Jess says

Abigail, a cobbler's daughter, describes in her diary the winter Washington and his troops camped out at Valley Forge.

It's OK but gloomy.

At times depressing and brutal: five children drown in a frozen lake, Abigail and sisters visit camps where soldiers are starving and sick and there's a large pile that appears to be wood but is in fact limbs, a girl gets her hair shaved as a punishment for selling her hair for a wig, etc. I'll give that it's honest (thieving by soldiers, death, lack of suitable clothing food, etc) but none of it is much fun. Actually, the more I think about it, the more it seems that the lives pretty much suck.

Mrs. Washington is an interesting character here - she's shown both as a kind woman who spends an hour a day in devotion and who regularly visits with soldiers and prays with them but also as a lady who sent her slave to get 40 eggs from the locals to bake her husband a cake.

The epilogue is an interesting touch but it makes it out to seem like the characters are real people when they are not. Historical notes do appear at the end of the book and I get the feeling this was well researched but there aren't any source notes.

Are all Dear America books such downers?

Jadalynn says

This book is historical fiction and it would be good for intermediate readers. This book is the diary of a young girl growing up in the middle of the revolutionary war. It's a somewhat dry book, there's not much to it. I remember reading it for the first time, probably in 6th grade, not really enjoying it, and reading through it again I still didn't really enjoy it. It's not a bad book, but not all that fascinating. Kids could learn a lot from it, but only if they read it. I like to encourage children to read books that I think they'll enjoy and I don't know too many children who would truly enjoy this book. It has some journal entries that are probably put there just to make it seem like a real journal, but really have no reason for being, they're just so short and pointless. Some say "it rained all day" we don't really need to know that. I feel like if something serves no real purpose it shouldn't be there. It's another book that I don't think I would pick to use in a class room but if a child elected to read it I would be pleased with that.

Purlewe says

My 3rd Dear America book.

I will say I liked this better than the SC Civil War story. Perhaps it was b'c it is set in Valley Forge, which is very close to where I live. It is someplace I have visited frequently. Perhaps it is b'c I have a large interest in colonial life. Either way I felt that this was a great story for children who are interested in learning about how people lived before the Revolutionary War. How did the soldiers survive that terrible winter of 77/78? How did they become a militia? What was George Washington like? This book gives a story told by a local girl

who lives near General Washington's house in Valley Forge.

I liked how the story is told both as a way to record the history of the time (family life, taking care of food, cleaning, laundry, etc.) as well as a record of camp life with the soldiers and generals in Valley Forge. There was such poverty and the hunger during the terrible cold winter. Everyone suffered. And it was a wonder that more people didn't die before the war really happened.

I would recommend this for young kids interested in colonial times as well as people who are interested in Revolutionary War stories.

Shelby says

This story is about eleven year old, Abigail Jane Stewart. She and her two sisters, newborn baby brother and parents live in Valley Forge, PA in 1777. Abigail begins her diary during the Revolutionary War, as hundreds of poor, freezing, and starving soldiers spend the winter in Abigail's hometown. During this time, Abigail and her family work for George and Martha Washington. She witnessed hangings and drumming outs even whippings! Most of the families suffered loss. Abby and her sisters learn firsthand about the horrors of war. Determined to do their part to help, they sew for the soldiers, and visit the sick and injured soldiers in camps. In the process, Abby matures and understands the sacrifices of the soldiers, and that freedom is worth fighting for.

I really enjoyed this book. I enjoyed the interactions between the Stewart family and the Washingtons. I really liked the way the author wrote the book and I would recommend this book.

I didn't really like the crazy scandal of Lucy's hair. It's just her hair! But I guess that maybe women were expected to have long beautiful hair...
