



# Toliver's Secret

*Esther Wood Brady*

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**Toliver's Secret** Esther Wood Brady

When her grandfather is injured, 10-year-old Ellen Toliver replaces him on a top-secret patriotic mission. Disguised as a boy, she manages to smuggle a message to General George Washington.

## Toliver's Secret Details

Date : Published October 29th 2014 by Knopf Books for Young Readers (first published 1980)

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Author : Esther Wood Brady

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## **From Reader Review Toliver's Secret for online ebook**

### **Rebecca says**

I'm enjoying reading some books that highlight the parts that some young children played in the American Revolution. This was a fun little story of a 10 yo girl's adventure as she attempted to get a secret message through enemy lines.

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### **Heather says**

Toliver's Secret is fast-paced historical fiction aimed at middle grade age kids. It has a good amount of tension and does a great job of expressing the feelings of the patriots being occupied by the redcoats. I highly recommend it to kids studying the Revolutionary War.

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### **Lucinda says**

There are never enough books to read to my kids on the topic of doing hard things for good and although I liked the idea that a spy gave General George Washington insider info that led to him attack the British on Christmas, I believe he designed his plan of attack through prayer, strategic planning in council and inspiration from God. He was desperate for a win after some horrible losses and we know he prayed for God's help.

The only thing missing from this book, in my opinion, was uttered prayers from the small girl as she faced frightening trials and the odds were against her. Not once did she seek for divine help.

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### **Anastasia says**

Toliver's Secret by Esther Wood Brady is about a little girl named Ellen who learns that her grandfather is a Patriot spy! He gets injured the day he is supposed to fulfill an important assignment, and Ellen is the only one who can take his place. Join Ellen on this fast-paced adventure as she travels across bays, comes face-to-face with British soldiers, and more! She even does this all disguised as a boy! I give this book a five-star rating, because the book is very detailed and suspenseful! It will definitely keep you on the edge of your seat! I recommend this book to lovers of history, suspense, and adventure!

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### **Madison Borowski says**

The book Toliver's Secret, by Esther Wood Brady, is about a girl named Ellen Toliver who goes on a amazing mission to deliver a loaf of bread to someone in her grandfathers place. Will she be able to do this without getting caught?

I definitely rate this book a five star book because it has a mix of history and adventure and even some mystery.

If you love history books or books about adventure than this is the book for you!

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### **Missy says**

This is the first book I checked out when I got my first library card . . . at 12. I was a late bloomer of a reader, I confess. I credit this book, along with Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree, with changing my life forever. I became a reader because of them.

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### **Darlene says**

I read this book aloud to my children. It is an historical fiction adventure set in New York in the 1700s.

Ten year-old Ellen Toliver is a meek and mild girl, who is often bullied by another girl named Dicey. Grandfather encourages Ellen to stand up for herself and talk back to Dicey, but Mother is against the advice reminding Ellen that her late father would not approve because he wanted his daughter to be ladylike. Grandfather huffs that Ellen can still have pretty manners while being bold when she needs to be!

Ellen's grandfather hides a silver snuffbox containing a secret message about the British inside a loaf of bread. It should be a simple task for him to deliver the bread to a friend in Elizabeth-town, who will ensure the message gets to General Washington. However, when Grandfather falls and sprains his ankle, he needs to find someone else he can trust to deliver this important message. He turns to his granddaughter, Ellen, and asks whether she would disguise herself as a boy to carry out this errand. But he warns her that it will be dangerous, because spies are often hanged! Not that they would do that to a child, but they would go after the person who sent her on the mission...her Grandfather.

Ellen sees this as her chance to stand up and be bold and to make her grandfather proud of her! She agrees to the assignment, which is very simple: Just walk down to the docks and get on a farmer's or oysterman's boat to Elizabeth-town, find the Jolly Fox Tavern, and hand the bread over to Mr. Shannon who runs the tavern. Mr. Shannon will welcome Ellen and take care of her for the night and ensure that she gets back to the dock to catch a boat first thing in the morning. Of course, things do not go as planned! Some boys steal the loaf of bread, and Ellen must chase them down to retrieve it, which causes her to miss the farmer's boat to Elizabeth-town. Instead, she must ride with the Redcoats and carry the bread right under their noses! What Ellen does not realize is that the boat is going to Perth Amboy instead of Elizabeth-town, taking her about ten miles too far! Her journey to Elizabeth-town is fraught with adventure and mishaps.

We really enjoyed this book! We thought it was a great adventure, and it is nice to see a heroine who is not afraid to take some risks.

MY RATING: 4 stars!! It was really good!

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**Rose says**

Children's fiction set in the Revolutionary War. This is about a girl who dresses up as a boy to take a dangerous package through enemy lines.

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**Alice says**

Toliver's Secret is about a girl named Ellen and the day her grandfather is supposed to go on a very important mission he sprained his ankle, so who's going to go deliver the the special secret? Ellen of course! Join Ellen on her mission to delver the message, all while disguising to be a boy!

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**Sarah Grace says**

I really enjoyed this book when I was younger! Definitely a great read for children 8-14.

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**Arlette Yonkers says****Simple tale of a young heroine**

I chose to read this book with a small group of 4th graders while we studied the American Revolution. It was a nice companion novel and gave us a lot to talk about, such as life in colonial New York, spies, and soldiers on both sides of the war.

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**Lindsay says**

I read this aloud with my children (ages 9, 7 & 5) and we all greatly enjoyed this courageous historical fiction tale of a young girl carrying a secret message through enemy lines during the Revolutionary War and all the crazy circumstances she faced. A great read if you are studying this time period in American history. The kids were begging for more with each reading.

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**Miss Amanda says**

gr 4-6 166 pgs

American Revolution, NYC / Elizabeth, NJ. 10 year old Ellen has never been brave. Every morning, she avoids the water pump nearest her house to avoid the bully who hangs out there. When her grandfather is injured, he tells Ellen that she must make a dangerous journey to NJ by herself. At first, Ellen wants to refuse

until she learns that without her help a very important message to other patriots in NJ won't be delivered.

Great story

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**Kimberly Harris says**

What a great read out loud! I read this to my kids - ten and six - and they really enjoyed it. Set during the American Revolutionary War, the main character has to face her fears and learn courage and bravery. It's a gentle introduction to the tensions of war and the world back then. It's also a fun and exciting read, with short chapters.

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**Austin Phadounsyavong says**

I like this book about in history 1776 in south story kid name Ellen Toliver was shock about his grandfather is a patriot spy meaning that kid want secret and can't tell anyone if happen or caught then will dead.

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