



Caroline's Battle

Kathleen Ernst , Robert Papp (Illustrator) , Lisa Papp (Illustrator)

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Caroline's Papa has barely returned before frightening news arrives—British warships are headed for Sackets Harbor, ready to attack. Every able-bodied man, including Papa, must go and fight. Mama and Caroline are left alone to guard Abbott's Shipyard from the enemy. Caroline tells herself she would do anything to keep Papa's shipyard safe. But when the battle seems to be lost, Mama gives her a terrible order. They must burn the shipyard to the ground to keep it from the enemy. It's the one thing Caroline isn't sure she can do.

Caroline's Battle Details

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Download and Read Free Online Caroline's Battle Kathleen Ernst , Robert Papp (Illustrator) , Lisa Papp (Illustrator)

From Reader Review Caroline's Battle for online ebook

Sue C says

I wanted to see what the American Girl series of books was like. I found "Caroline's Battle" to be compelling, well written, and informative. It would have kept my interest as a fifth grader, and was sophisticated enough for an adult to appreciate.

Caroline and her mother face soldiers during the war of 1812. They save the father's boat building business, but were prepared to destroy it for the cause. This is a part of history I had been ignorant about previously. I'm looking forward to treating myself to more American Girl publications, now that I'm assured of their good quality.

Jessa says

I would have adored this book as a little girl! Caroline is brave and useful during a battle, and the book is a bit more action-packed than American Girl books usually are. I also appreciated that while she was bold and brave, it didn't feel reckless or foolish. Some of the other books, the girls get up to things I wouldn't want to be encouraging a daughter to (looking at you, Rebecca and Kit and maybe also Felicity). Caroline's mother is also awesome; what a woman to look up to!

Lindsay Collett says

Childhood memory: None ... Okay, so this isn't technically one of the American Girl books I read as a kid. But, my memories of those I did enjoy keep me interested in checking in on the historical American Girl books as AG publishes them.

Revisited review: This was a great series, in a great setting. I wasn't sure what to expect, I thought the Caroline series would be boring and bland but I was pleasantly surprised. The War of 1812 time frame and key location setting really kept the stories engaging. The Christmastime story was the weakest of the series, just lacking some of the same excitement of the other stories. Though the titles (for the most part) don't follow the old AG method, the overall story arc felt familiar (in a good way).

Tessa says

girls rule!

Samantha says

Caroline's father has only been home for one night when a battle breaks out in Sacket's Harbor. Though he is still recovering he feels compelled to serve his country. He heads into battle and makes Caroline, her mother, and her grandmother promise to hide out in the root cellar for safety. It occurs to Caroline's mother that if the

British break into the shipyard they might steal the blueprints for the boats which are extremely valuable so she heads down to the shipyard to rescue the documents.

Caroline follows and soon learns that there may be a need to set the shipyard on fire to keep it out of British hands. She struggles with what she must be prepared to do, but luckily the Americans are victorious in battle and only one shed is sacrificed.

Another action-packed story featuring a brave heroine. Recommended for girls grades 3-5.

Valerie says

Caroline's father has returned home, and she thinks it's a time for celebration. There's no rest for the weary, however, when the town of Sacketts Harbor finds out that they will soon be attacked by the British.

Caroline's father joins the militia--though he JUST returned home. She and her mother go to the shipyard to gather the plans to hide them from the British in case of a siege, but the shipyard workers get "drafted" to help fight. Caroline and her mother stay to guard the shipyard. One of the American soldiers informs Caroline and her mother that they are making bonfires in the American shipyard and that they should do the same at the Abbott Shipyard. The plan is to burn down the shipyards in case of attack, so the British won't get the American ships.

She and her mother watch all night and in the morning, they see the American Shipyard start to go up in flames. Caroline grabs a torch and reluctantly burns down a skiff shed, but the officer comes and tells them that it was a mistake. The enemy has actually been chased away and the fighting is over. Caroline and her mother don't set anymore fires.

Father comes home, and all is well!

Danae says

I really like that Caroline has a grown-up responsibility in this book **alongside** her parents. Oftentimes, with these books (and plenty of other books written for children), I can't help thinking "And **this** is where they really should go get an adult to handle this!!" But in this book, children can read about someone their age getting to work with the adults instead of in place of the adults, which is as it should be. I realize that kids like to see themselves as the heroes and I feel like, with this plot, they get that, without the glorified recklessness that usually comes along with it.

Xyra says

My hopes of a well crafted story were not dashed. This installment of Caroline's story brought tears to my eyes a couple of times; evoking emotions of anxiety, dread, and fear as well as others.

Overall Caroline's story is one of life during wartime during the early stages. The British tried to seize US ports and people in hopes of increasing land holdings in the north and keeping the US from providing supplies to Napoleon's forces.

As this series is geared for younger readers, many of the more gruesome parts of wartime life are not mentioned. While the story is well crafted, I found the "Looking Back" section at the end an important piece for all readers. It tells of the British trying to destroy the ship General Pike, Dolley Madison's heroic endeavors in saving important documents and portraits from the fire that destroyed DC, and the inspiration for the Star-Spangled Banner and how it came to be the USA's national anthem.

I'm not sure the last one will stand up to what books 4 and 5 accomplished, but still holding hope.

Caroline Herfindahl says

War has reached Sacket's Harbor and Caroline and her momma have some tough choices to make. Suspense and decisions are the themes of this story. In this book I loved the relationship between Caroline, her mother and grandmother.

Ruth Mortensen says

War is approaching Sackatts Harbor. Caroline will do anything to keep her Papa's boat yard safe. Caroline and her mom are protecting the boatyard when they get terrible news. If the war reaches the boat yard they must burn it down. What will Caroline do?

Jen says

I read this with my four 9 year old book club girls. They really seemed to enjoy it. There was a good story, with great historical connections that weren't difficult to explain or understand. There was drama, some suspense, and a realistically happy ending. I really liked & appreciated the factual historic section at the book's end, which gave ME information to lead the girls. :)

Cathy says

I read this after my 3rd grader, and I must say that this is one of my favorite American Girl series.

Becky Keir Grace says

Caroline's father has returned home! Caroline is overjoyed to have her family back, but words has come that the British are planning on attacking Sacket's Harbor and are after the ship yards. Caroline's father volunteers to fight in the battle, along with most other men, leaving the women behind to care for the stores and homes. Caroline's mother head s to the shipyard to defend it. She realizes if the Americans are not able to hold off the British, then she must destroy the shipyard, for that would be better than to allow it to fall into enemy hands. Caroline helps her grandmother into hiding and is surprised when she is given a basket a food enough for two to take to her mother. Inside she finds a gun. Caroline's grandmother leaves the choice to Caroline, who decides to go to the shipyard to help her mother.

I admire Caroline's bravery; her mother's as well. They are prepared to do what it takes to help the war effort. The Hathaways have left to go into hiding during the war, and Caroline's aunt and uncle have recently purchased a new farm and are living there. It is Caroline and her mother to defend the shipyard.

After reading this book I want to travel to Sacket's Harbor. I am learning so much more about history with this series.

Michael says

So this is about as good as it gets: the British send a fleet and 900 men to invade Sackett's Harbor during the War of 1812. Caroline and her mother have to prepare to burn their family's shipyard to the ground to keep it from falling into enemy hands. There is actual fighting in this book: cannons, rifles, militias, Red Coats.

I am giving it five stars because, 1. it's well written, and 2. it's not as boring as it could be. Also, in each of these books there is a small historical section at the end that tells about what really went on during the war, and how the book relates to actual history. My seven year old is fascinated, and looks forward to reading more.

Can't ask for anything better than that.

Carolyn says

The battle at Sackets Harbor where Caroline lives is suddenly coming closer to home. Her newly returned Father, turns around and goes out to fight the battle. Caroline and her mother must stay home to defend their family shipping yard. Even if that means setting it on fire so that it does not fall into the British hands.

Caroline's Battle was a thrilling story, but the author claims it was actually a real battle that took place in the War of 1812. What I found more fascinating than learning about this battle, though, were the other historical things that happened in the War of 1812, such as: the US stars and stripe flag was commissioned to Mary Pickersgill to be *so large that the British will have no difficulty seeing it from a distance*, the first White House was burned to the ground and First Lady Dolley Madison saved key historical documents and Washington's portrait from being destroyed, and finally Francis Scott Key wrote the Star Spangled Banner.

Seems there was more to the War of 1812 than we realize.

Stefanie Kellum says

I think Caroline might be the bravest of all the American Girls. :)

Kristine Hansen says

Oh my....I love the stark and raw emotion of this story, the way you feel like you're there in the battle, the

way you become Caroline in this crucial moment. This has to be my favorite book so far in this series. Just really awesome story of what real courage is.

Clara says

This was INTENSE for an American Girl book. So many things that I wouldn't have expected!

Amie says

This book presents the Battle of Sackets Harbor in a way that's engaging and interesting for girls. I wish American Girl hadn't retired Caroline, because it's so important for children to learn about all our wars.

Callie Stillion says

Caroline is very worried because battle is beginning. . . and Papa is going back to war. . . which makes her even MORE worried. So, why did she let her Father go out to war. 'But. . . Papa, you can't leave! You got back yesterday!' Caroline exclaims. Her Daddy makes her let go of his shirt, but Caroline does not know why she did it.
