



## Julie's Journey

*Megan McDonald*

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It s 1976, and the entire country is celebrating America s 200th birthday. Julie joins her cousins on a pioneer-style wagon train in honor of the Bicentennial. The journey is filled with adventures, challenges, and self-discovery as Julie faces her fears to make an important contribution to her country s birthday. The "Looking Back" section provides additional information about Bicentennial celebrations in the United States.

This book is the fifth in a series of six historical books filled with inspiring lessons of compassion, courage, and friendship. Julie s entire book set includes: *Meet Julie*; *Julie Tells Her Story*; *Happy New Year, Julie*; *Julie and the Eagles*; *Julie s Journey*; and *Changes for Julie*.

## Julie's Journey Details

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Author : Megan McDonald

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## From Reader Review Julie's Journey for online ebook

### Christina says

Nice, I guess. Just more boringness. I can't decide whether Julie's stories are actually less interesting than the other AG books Isobel and I have read together, or if I'm just getting tired of the American Girl format.

Isobel's not getting tired of them. Lately she's been saying that Julie is her favorite and she wants Julie for Christmas.

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### Katharina2001 says

This girl named Julie visits her cousin to go on the bicentennial which is a day you celebrate America and go on a wagon trail. She rides her cousin's horse and falls off and her cousin (her name is April) she laughs at Julie and Julie is mad. But they become friends on the fourth of July and shake hands with the president.

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### Joey says

This was a really interesting story, I hadn't ever heard of the bicentennial train before so reading Julie's adventure getting to be part of the American history and celebrating the 200th birthday of America was fascinating.

Julie joins her aunt, uncle and cousins in the wagon ride heading across America ending in Pennsylvania where the start of independence began, she dreams of experiencing the life that Laura Ingalls Wilder once lived back in the prairie days. She soon finds things aren't quite as fun as she was expecting and that things would be harder than she thought. Though when she learns of her family ancestry she gets her courage to try and in the end gets a big reward for what she did to help everyone.

I really enjoyed this and learned some new historical facts on an era I didn't really know.

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### Leona Carstairs says

This is probably the best installment from the Julie series, but that doesn't mean it is any good. I just do not like this series. It's so bleh. It's one of the worst American Girls series I have read, and let me tell you, I have read a lot. It's just so boring and Julie is annoying.

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### Callie Stillion says

Julie is going on a covered wagon with her cousin April. But when she falls off of Hurricane, and April laughs at her, and tries to make a point from Laura Ingalls Wilder. Then Julie snaps, 'That was only in the TV show, not the books!' When April then finds more interest in Tracy for awhile, they find fun things to do together. But then April and Julie find a way to reunite, and they are proud of themselves when they make it

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to the Fourth of July celebration, and solve a mystery.

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### **Ashley says**

Julie joins her cousins in a Bicentennial wagon journey to Valley Forge. Abby liked how Julie learned to ride a horse and that her favorite books are the Little House on the Prairie books. I liked how Julie was so interested in American history and her own role as an American. They don't call them American Girl books for nothing :)

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### **Taylor says**

Julie is joining her cousins on an old fashioned wagon train to celebrate the bicentennial. Julie can not wait to try pioneer life, especially riding a horse. But her cousin's horse turns out to be a big handful, and Julie is afraid to ride him again. When April her cousin laughs at her, Julie stops talking to April. Witch isn't so easy when you are in the same wagon! as the journey goes harder Julie thinks to herself why she ever even thought of going to this place in the first place. But then she makes an incredible discovery that could make history. But there is only one way to get it-on horse back. Great story it teaches a good moral, I loved it!

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### **Rahmadiyahanti says**

Julie adalah seri "paling muda" dari American Girl. Kisah Julie bersetting Amerika tahun 1974. Saya belum baca seri 1-3, langsung lompat ke Julie's Journey. Kali ini Julie berkunjung ke Pittsburgh untuk ikut merayakan bicentennial (200 tahun) kemerdekaan Amerika.

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### **Laura says**

This story was interesting, but I didn't find myself captivated. This book would probably hold the attention of a juvenile reader though and I might recommend it.

\*Taken from my book reviews blog: <http://reviewsatmse.blogspot.com/2009...>

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### **Kristine Hansen says**

While the plot is a bit far-fetched (dumping things out of the wagon just seem nuts...sorry, it is, they're only 20 minutes from camp at a slow walk. That stuff could have been carried...) it's still a fun read. Could have been a lot better though.

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### **Emily says**

This book was awesome. I loved it. I had no idea our country had a wagon train journey for the bicentennial. I knew it was a big thing but all I knew about was bicentennial quarters. I have no idea why I never knew what a huge deal it was to celebrate that year. Now I'm excited for 2076, 59 years away! I'll be 85 lol. New goal: still be here for our tricentennial celebration. Can't wait to see what we do for it!

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## Ciara says

Julie & her sister join the aunt, uncle, & cousins on some tacky-sounding wagon train in a real Conestoga wagon. They are traveling from Pittsburgh to Valley Forge. The amazing thing is that this actually happened in 1976. A bunch of dumbasses put their heads together & thought, "what better way to celebrate the 200th anniversary of our great nation than to stuff a bunch of our fellow dumbasses into actual authentic Conestoga covered wagons & have them drive to Valley Forge, where there will be a big rally with the president?" God, I am so glad I wasn't born yet in 1976. Everything about the bicentennial sounds like a nightmare. Reading these books is making me feel like the American Girl Historical Dolls just did a triple gain over a shark pit.

On the way to Valley Forge, Julie tries to ride her cousin's horse & gets thrown off into a stream. Her cousin laughs at her & Julie vows never to speak to her again. But she gets over it when their wagon gets stuck in a pothole (God, I wish I was making this up) & they have to lighten the load by leaving behind some of their belongings. Julie ditches her entire collection of "Little House on the Prairie" books, thinking that Laura Ingalls Wilder didn't have books on her journey to the frontier, so Julie shouldn't either. This somehow brings Julie & her cousin together again.

Along the way, the wagon train is supposed to be gathering up signatures for some scroll they are presenting to the president. What is with Julie & getting people to sign shit? I bet she grows up to be a UPS delivery person. The scrolls are some bullshit about how, "I still honor the values & beliefs that inspired the Constitution" or something. Julie decides she wants to get the signature of some old dude living in Hershey, Pennsylvania. She & her cousin blow off a fun-filled day at the Hershey Amusement Park (just like the chocolate-themed amusement park where Mary Ingalls tragically went blind in the "Little House" books) to ride the scary horse to the old dude's house & get his signature. He's all, "Why do people keep asking for my signature? Some yahoo in a wood-paneled station wagon just asked for my signature too." Station wagon man is some souvenir salesman who has been following the wagon train & selling bootleg memorabilia.

Could this book get any stupider?

Anyway, old dude agrees to sign the scroll for Julie. He's also like, "Oh hey, my great-great-great-great-great grandpa signed the real Constitution. Look," & he busts out a real authentic copy of the Constitution from colonial times.

Old dude, WHAT are you doing? Put that shit under glass! Don't just wave it around on the front porch in front of children! Also, I feel that bragging about how your great-great-great-great-great grandpa signed the Constitution is a really stupid thing to brag about. Especially the way this guy does it, like, "oh, by the way, I don't know if I mentioned that I'm not just old. I'm also a descendant of someone who signed the Constitution." I bet he used to use that line to get ladies into bed when he was young & spry.

Naturally, when they get to Valley Forge, the scroll that old dude signed goes missing. I will add that the leader of Julie's wagon train group says that he'll be a shoo-in to present the scrolls to the president since his group got old dude's signature. Hello, JULIE & HER COUSIN got old dude's signature. Shouldn't they do the presenting if that's all it takes to get chosen? Anyway, Julie assumes that the souvenir guy took the scroll, to sell it. She runs off & confronts him, but he's like, "nope, not me." On the way back to camp, she wonders if

maybe this friend of her wagon trail leader stole the scroll. they have a "friendly competition" going as to who can get better signatures. because what better way to celebrate the principles our great nation was founded on, in this, its 200th year, than to compete over how some americans' signatures are better than others?

she breaks into his covered wagon, which is filled to the brim with scrolls. sure enough, she finds the stolen scroll. she steals it back & runs back to her camp. her leader guy is all, "what? i thought that guy was my friend!" then he tells julie to present the scrolls since she recovered the stolen scroll. & GOT THE SIGNATURE THAT SUPPOSEDLY MADE IT WORTH STEALING IN THE FIRST PLACE, HELLO. so julie gets to shake president ford's hand. it would have been great if then president ford had fallen offstage like the infamous grape lady, because, you know, he was clumsy, but he doesn't.

& therefore, this book lost its one shot at redemption.

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### **Marya says**

To further prove the point that the character of Ivy is WAY more interesting than Julie, this book features no Ivy and it is a snoozefest. I kept begging other people to read this aloud, just so I could avoid it.

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### **Kimberly Brown says**

One of my favorite series of the AG series. Earth Day, Chinese New Year, endangered animals, bicentennial, and more.

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### **Kristen Luppino says**

This was a fascinating moment in history I did not know about and I really enjoyed learning. I enjoyed Julie's character, though, again, a little farfetched.

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### **Lola says**

I'm not going to lie. Riding in a pioneer-style wagon train to celebrate the 4th of July sounds awesome. I'd really enjoy celebrating like that. Then again, I am a history junkie who probably thinks way too much about what other time periods she'd like to live in. This book is one of the few times I've thought to myself, "Huh, I'd like to live in the 70s." I usually go for the 20s-40s. Those were the days. Anyway, I really liked this installment of Julie's story. I didn't actually know the Bicentennial was celebrated like that. Recommended!

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### **Kathryn H says**

Julie's journey was about the celebration of America's 200 birthday. There was going to be a wagon train to Valley Forge. Julie lives in San Fransisco and she goes all the way from California to Valley Forge in a

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wagon She gets to ride a horse, but she falls off and got drenched. Her cousin laughed at Julie and hurt her feelings. The cousin said she was sorry and everyone got along in the end.

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### **Book Troll Real Escape says**

Julie is one of the American girls who was born during the 1970's. In this book, Julie, her sister, and cousins go on a pioneer trip to celebrate the Bicentennial of America. Julie lives in San Francisco but they fly to Pennsylvania, where they then take a covered wagon on a trip through the state. They meet up with famous people and have lots of fun.

I really liked this book because of the adventure in it. I also like that Julie was in Pennsylvania and visited places that I either live near or have visited. The story was told well and it made sense. I learned a lot through reading this book, which I enjoy because it is almost like you aren't really learning.

I would give this book 4.5 Liberty Bells out of 5

Review by B

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### **Elizabeth says**

4.5

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### **Sarah Crawford says**

This story takes place at the time of the American bi-centennial. Julie and Tracy, among many other people, are going to make a trip in a covered wagon (some people traveling from the west coast) to come together in one place to celebrate the nation's birthday.

Julie has to get used to traveling in an uncomfortable wagon and she tries to ride a horse, but ends up being thrown into a creek. Eventually she faces up to her fear of getting back on the horse when an opportunity arises to visit a very old man and get his signature on a re-dedication scroll.

Which is then stolen, setting off yet another adventure for Julie.

The historical section covers the events of the bicentennial. The entire book is interesting, but especially the historical section.

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