



A Thousand Never Evers

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IN KUCKACHOO, MISSISSIPPI, 1963, Addie Ann Pickett worships her brother Elias and follows in his footsteps by attending the black junior high school. But when her careless act leads to her brother's disappearance and possible murder, Addie Ann, Mama, and Uncle Bump struggle with not knowing if he's dead or alive. Then a good deed meant to unite Kuckachoo sets off a chain of explosive events. Addie Ann knows Old Man Adams left his land to the white and black people to plant a garden and reap its bounty together, but the mayor denies it. On garden picking day, Addie Ann's family is sorely tested. Through tragedy, she finds the voice to lead a civil rights march all her own, and maybe change the future for her people.

A Thousand Never Evers Details

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From Reader Review A Thousand Never Evers for online ebook

Sarah says

Loved this book. My 11 year old daughter read it and loved it, so I wanted to read it too. Deals with the realities of Jim Crow laws in the south. It really put life into what those laws actually meant to African Americans, and the lack of freedom they experienced. Lots of talking points for us to discuss. Highly recommend.

Jen says

A Thousand Never Evers is the story of Addie, growing up in rural Kuckachoo, Mississippi in 1963. Admidst the backdrop of some of the most memorable events in the early Civil Rights movement, Maddie and her family deal with racism on a small town level.

This novel opens with a "Note to the Readers" written by the author, Shana Burg. She writes about the prejudice she experienced as a young girl - a boy drawing a swastika on her notebook in 7th grade, and then goes on to relate her feelings about that to her interest in the Civil Rights movement. This seems like a message to the reader: you can't understand this book unless you've been through some form of prejudice yourself. For a children's book aimed at 9-12 year olds, this might not be the right message. Most striking, however, is the contrast between Burg's experience as a 7th grader and the troubles that Addie encounters -- one some level Burg is attempting to equate when she ought not -- these experiences are not in the same ballpark.

Furthermore, Addie's voice just isn't right. The narration (all supposed to be Addie) swings from sounding like a 30 year old Ivy League educated adult to a young naive girl. Most frustrating though is the dialect - if you are going to use dialect you need to be consistent about it.

I would recommend "The Watsons Go to Birmingham" instead -- same time period - much less contrived.

Carol Baldwin says

Enjoyed this middle grade book about a young girl coming of age in Mississippi in the civil rights era. Well written and thought provoking; a good supplemental book for upper elementary and middle school students studying the time period. I particularly liked how Shana Burg portrayed a convincing young heroine who works for what she believes and is an instrument of change in the community.

Lisa says

I read some great reviews of this book, but I don't think it lived up to them. I loved Addie Ann and her family and I think young readers will appreciate the ending, but I don't think this one will stand the test of

time like Roll of Thunder has.

Kimberly Marksberry says

Geared toward a young audience but I found it immersive, captivating, and didn't want to turn it off (audio book). Found myself becoming truly angry at the injustices and wanting to do something about them. I think it would have the same effect on a child reader and would be a great way to engage them in learning about the civil rights movement.

Sarah Scott says

I definitely recommend this book to everyone! The writing is not too complex or challenging to follow, but the message comes across well! The main character in this story really explains the life of African American citizens during the time period of the major civil rights movement with Martin Luther King Jr. and Medgar Evers. It shows how the white, upper class citizens felt entitled to all things and the "colored" were only there to be servants to them. If you are a reader who really enjoys the history of civil rights with a twist into fiction, I definitely recommend reading this amazing story!

Gustafson96 says

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In Kuckachoo Mississippi, 1963 was a time of racial prejudice. Addie Ann Pickett, a twelve-year-old girl, tries to live a normal life and ignore the slurs that white folk give her. When some older white boys harass her, Addie's brother starts a fight and then flees. He is gone for months and Addie's family doesn't know if he is alive. Later that summer, Addie's uncle is accused of an incident at the white folks' garden and it's up to Addie to save him.

One of the things that I thought the author did well was character development. This is the best coming of age story I've ever read. Burg really stresses the importance of standing up for you and your people. Also, adding that age doesn't matter and you don't have to be going through segregation to take a stand and make a big impact. You can definitely tell by Burg's voice in the story that she went through the same thing. Lastly, not only was the novel entertaining, but it was very informative. I never knew about all of the cross-burnings and church-bombings. I give this book a five out of five star rating.

Gayle Swift says

It's one thing to read about prejudice and injustice and totally different to experience it personally. A Thousand Never Evers introduces young readers to these painful realities through the eyes of twelve-year-

old Addie Ann.

Shana Burg manages to conjure the context of race issues in 1963 Mississippi with richness and intensity and has created characters that thrum with emotion--love, jealousy, anger, grief, sadness, terror and courage. The reader feels the interconnectedness of the black and white communities, how inextricably woven and interdependent they are and how fear and power operate to maintain the unjust status quo.

This book will engage readers and while it gets pulses racing, it will open their eyes--and hearts--to important issues of social justice.

I recommend this book.

Ashley Guzman says

A Thousand Never Evers was about the old days when segregation was still in the law. Addie is a girl who used to work with his Uncle in a house with a kind man. The book made me feel lots of feelings at the same time. I recommend this book to people that are interested in this book I think the book was ok.

Edward Ledesma says

I thought this book was actually kind of neat, it had good writing in it to explain what's going on. This book had really good on telling my how the main character is thinking or feeling. I would give this book kind of an action or adventure. This book is about a girl who is about to go to seventh grade but makes a terrible mistake and know she has to fix it.

Jocelyn Aguilar says

I did not like this book but it would be great if people that love like sad or touching books. And that like reading about segregation and stories about how things would be if you were black or white. this book was about a girl named Addie ann and she had to keep some secret from all the people that lived around. And her parents and everyone around her would tell her to tell rich people what they want to hear and she would wonder why.

Nadia Lotfy says

To be honest, I didn't like this book that much. This book is about a girl named Addie Ann Pickett and she is a black girl. One day she loses her brother because he hurt a white boy trying to protect her. Ever since then he is hiding and Addie's family doesn't know where he is, and if he is even alive. I don't like this book because it is sort of like history and that is not my type of book, I am more of a fantasy and dystopian sort of book person. I recommend this book to people who like to read about things that could happen and things that were happening back then because that is what this book is about. I give this book 3/5 stars, sorry but this book was lame.

Denise Johnson says

I listened to "A Thousand Never Evers" as an audiobook. The narrator was excellent and brought the emotion of the main character, Addie Ann Picket, and of the time to the forefront. The book references many historical events that play a role in the roller coaster ride of events that lead to a satisfying ending.

Bobby Simic says

By-the-book and somewhat lifeless tale of racism in the 1960s South (it owes a lot to "To Kill a Mockingbird," if you ask me). The overstuffed story lurches and never properly builds. It tries too hard to incorporate bits of history with the (too) many instances of racism that Addie Ann's family goes through, and, therefore, lacks momentum. This is on our Mock Newbery list. It shouldn't be honored. Not bad, and its heart is in the right place, but not a stand-out.

Denise says

A slice of Southern life during the Civil Rights era, told from the perspective of little Addie Ann Pickett, who is 12 years old. She lives in Kuckachoo, Mississippi in 1963. Addie Ann is a strong character who tells us about her Mama, Uncle Bump, Flapjack, her cat and her brother Elias. Small moments of happiness and triumph, mixed with lots of worry, unfairness, prejudice, and fear are expressed in Addie's words. As Addie's understanding of segregation and her determination to come out on top and how she finds the courage to make a stand when it really counts. In chapter 26, Addie reflects on the bond she has with her family. "Everything is gone but the circle." This well written historical fiction should be on a must read for young teens.
