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April Morning: A Novel



Synopsis

Howard Fast's bestselling coming-of-age novel about one boy's introduction to the horrors of war amid the brutal first battle of the American Revolution. On April 19, 1775, musket shots ring out over Lexington, Massachusetts. As the sun rises over the battlefield, fifteen-year-old Adam Cooper stands among the outmatched patriots, facing a line of British troops. Determined to defend his home and prove his worth to his disapproving father, Cooper is about to embark on the most significant day of his life. The Battle of Lexington and Concord will be the starting point of the American Revolution—and when Cooper becomes a man. Sweeping in scope and masterful in execution, *April Morning* is a classic of American literature and an unforgettable story of one community's fateful struggle for freedom. This ebook features an illustrated biography of Howard Fast including rare photos from the author's estate.

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Colonial & Revolutionary Periods

Customer Reviews

April Morning is a coming-of-age novel set in colonial America. Adam Cooper is 15. He is

displeased with his father's strict, demanding, rational nature. The only thing his father likes more than a good argument is winning a good argument. He intends for Adam to follow his intellectual path, a route to which Adam is not inclined. It seems to Adam that he can do nothing to please his father, although that opinion will change sharply before the day ends. Adam's father is a leader in a committee that is preparing to defend the colonies from an anticipated British assault. Adam's father is certain that the British will listen to reason if the villagers stand their ground. A group of villagers assemble in the village square to have words with the Redcoats as they come marching down the road. Appeals to reason are met with bayonets and muskets. The villagers who do not die scatter, having not fired a shot. Adam suddenly finds himself fighting for a cause. He isn't much of a fighter, but during the course of a long, eventful and exhausting day, Adam and his fellow colonists badger the Redcoats by hiding behind walls and in the woods and taking potshots at them, with considerable success. The novel's importance, however, comes from the description of how war, even a single day of war, has a profound impact on Adam. He bears losses, lives with regret, and redefines his relationship with his father and the rest of his family. The novel presents an interesting and probably accurate view of the Revolutionary War, as fought (at least initially) by men who knew nothing about war, who thought of concepts like liberty and natural rights as abstractions, and who were winging it when they took up arms against the British. The Battle of Lexington had no leaders, just ordinary people doing what needed to be done, often with great reluctance and less courage than the history books might suggest. As Adam's coming-of-age story and as a larger story of a free people's natural reaction to oppression, *April Morning* is a small masterpiece.

This was at least my second, perhaps my third time reading this novel and once again I found it very informative. Historically it recounts the morning of April 18-19, 1775 and the first battle of the Revolutionary war. The story is told through the eyes of Adam Cooper, a boy of 15. We have the teenage angst of a boy feeling unloved by his father, who is a strict disciplinarian. Adam is confused by his feeling and his desire for independence from his father. Adam also is interested in a young girl who lives nearby. Word has come down that the British are coming and men and boys run to sign up to stand against the redcoats. Adam's father allows him to sign up and in the course of one day the boy grows into a man after encountering war and loss.

I was rather disappointed in this coming of age story centered around the events of April 19th, 1775 in Lexington, Massachusetts. Fifteen year old Adam Cooper is faced with becoming a man

overnight, when conflict break out between his townsmen and the British army. The book began promisingly, but the plot was slow and didn't progress beyond the basic premise. The characters were underdeveloped and somewhat unbelievable as period personas. Perhaps worse, the history of April 19th, 1775 and the conflict was inaccurate.

Caught the movie by the same name with Tommy Lee Jones & Rip Torn, which is based on this book, and liked it pretty well, so when I ran across this book, I couldn't pass it up. It's not Hemingway, but a good historical fiction read. For those like me who enjoy this sort of Genre, I think you'll not regret taking the time to read "April Morning".

I chose this book for my 9th grade daughter to read as part of our study of the Rev War and was surprised to find that I enjoyed it tremendously. Mr. Fast's character portrayals is incredibly insightful and terribly moving. You really are *with* the characters each step of the way. Don't miss this one!

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I loved this book, staying up until 4AM to finish it. I'm a big fan of the idea of citizen soldiers standing up against a tyrannical government, and as a youth I loved stories about young men doing brave things. This is a coming of age story, but not your typical coming of age story that is a pleasantly ending teen novel... the protagonist of this book participates in a brutal battle, one of the most critical events in American History, at the tender age of 15. His transformation is, by necessity, almost instantaneous. As his uncle in the story says, "went to bed a boy and woke up a man." I love the way the characters were developed and you end up with a clear and believable image of the people and the time. You will also have a better understanding of the reasons behind the revolutionary war and how it began. I take away one star because the Author misses a couple of decent chances at a history lesson for no particular reason. For Example, the leader of the Lexington Militia that morning was John Parker and he was not killed. In the novel it was Jonas Parker, who in reality was John Parker's cousin and was killed that day.

Very good story. It with stands the test of time. Adam Cooper stands on the verge of becoming a man. The awful stage between boyhood and adult male. His father is a demanding man and has set his sights on the man he wants his son to be and is pushing for that goal. Adam resents this pushing. Into this family drama is the start of the U.S.A. revolution for it's independence. Adam and

his father comes together to stand-up to the Redcoats.As the battle of Lexington and Concorde explodes around them Adam gets the respect from his father that he has long searched for but at a steep price.

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