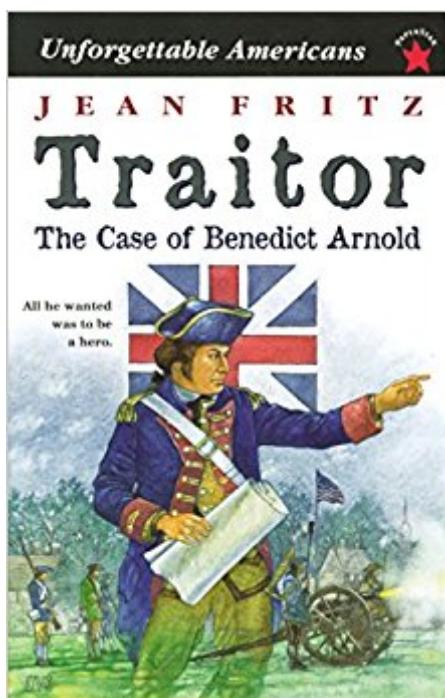


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Traitor: The Case Of Benedict Arnold (Unforgettable Americans)



Synopsis

Benedict Arnold always carried things too far. As a boy he did crazy things like climbing atop a burning roof and picking a fight with the town constable. As a soldier, he was even more reckless. He was obsessed with being the leader and the hero in every battle, and he never wanted to surrender. He even killed his own horse once rather than give it to the enemy. Where did the extremism lead Arnold? To treason. America's most notorious traitor is brought to life as Jean Fritz relays the engrossing story of Benedict Arnold -- a man whose pride, ambition, and self-righteousness drove him to commit the heinous crime of treason against the United States during the American Revolution. A highly entertaining biography illuminating the personality of a complex man. • Horn Book A gripping story. . . As compelling as a thriller, the book also shines as history. • Publishers Weekly An ALA Notable Book A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year An ABA Pick of the Lists A Horn Book Fanfare Title

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1020 (What's this?)

Series: Unforgettable Americans

Paperback: 192 pages

Publisher: Puffin Books (May 19, 1997)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0698115538

ISBN-13: 978-0698115538

Product Dimensions: 4.9 x 0.5 x 7.7 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.1 out of 5 stars 17 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #150,140 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #20 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Law & Crime #98 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > United States #111 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

Customer Reviews

"Fritz gives excellent coverage of the confusion and individualism of the American colonies and the

Revolutionary War effort.... This book could engender an understanding of the colonial period and, as shown by Arnold's life, the many considerations that affect adult decision-making". -- School Library Journal, starred review "A highly entertaining biography". -- Horn Book "Fritz has made another lively, readable life story." -- Kirkus Reviews "A gripping story. . . As compelling as a thriller, the book also shines as history." -- Publishers Weekly An ALA Notable Book A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year An ABA Pick of the Lists A Horn Book Fanfare Title

Acclaimed biographer, Jean Fritz, was born in China to American missionaries on November 16, 1915. Living there until she was almost thirteen sparked a lifelong interest in American history. She wrote about her childhood in China in *Homesick, My Own Story*, a Newbery Honor Book and winner of the National Book Award. Ms. Fritz was the author of forty-five books for children and young people. Many center on historical American figures, gaining her a reputation as the premier author of biographies for children and young people. Among the other prestigious awards Ms. Fritz has garnered are: the National Humanities Medal, the Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, the May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture Award, the Christopher Award, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Non-Fiction Award, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, and many ALA Notable Books of the Year, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, and ALA Booklist Editors' Choice Awards. She passed away on May 14, 2017.

This book is a brazenly derivative faux-history, based entirely on other recent histories of Benedict Arnold. It presents not a single new fact about Arnold and his time. To make matters worse, Fritz paraphrases her sources in a highly generalized way, leaving the events ambiguous at times when disambiguating details are, in fact, available. Even "Cliff's notes" would be better. I do not recommend this book.

Thank you. This is exactly the condition listed. It is a perfect replacement for our old worn out copy.

it was good but it wasn't super exciting or anything. it's not the best thing I've ever read but it was not the worst

Somewhat Hard for an 11 year old boy. Whatever a very good book. This Lit circle novel is a great book!

A good historical book; used in obtaining facts about Benedict Arnold. A book, I'm passing down to my son and sister.

I liked this biography, it included interesting details about Arnold's early life, his difficulty getting along with people, his quest to impress and his craving for a thrill. I also appreciated the author's inclusion of the possible motivation for his treasonous behavior being that he was trying to bring an early end to the war and spare America unnecessary hardship and suffering. Whatever his thinking it was clear that Arnold's mind didn't work in quite the same way most minds work. Jean Fritz obviously doesn't share the same favorable view of Arnold as Steve Sheinkin, author of 'The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery'. Sheinkin portrays Arnold as mostly misunderstood. I enjoyed reading both takes on the life of Benedict Arnold, either way you look at him his life makes for a very interesting story. I wish I could find a novel that features him that would be a good fit for me.

While most definitely not the first author to do it, Fritz ends up giving a rather twisted account of Arnold's childhood. No doubt, this is because all authors before her have done the same, spreading vicious rumors about the young Arnold, started only in light of his treason. His personality, as described by Fritz, is quite frankly ridiculous. She is unwilling to admit that Arnold did anything good. While he was a skilled businessman and merchant, this book would give you a different impression. In addition, she does not want to admit that Arnold was a brilliant commander and soldier. One example of this is at the Battle of Valcour Island. where she criticizes Arnold's decision of placing his troops at Valcour Island. This was actually a strategic move on Arnold's part. The book notes that "the wind was against the British and only seventeen of their gunboats were able to row into the narrow channel." This was part of the reason he chose the position. He planned for the British to sail right past his fleet (which they did) and then have to turn back to engage the Americans, buying them time to make preparations. It was also chosen BECAUSE it was a narrow channel, so that all of the ships from the larger British fleet couldn't participate in the battle. I would recommend The Real Benedict Arnold, by Jim Murphy instead.

This book was great! It tells all about Benedict Arnold. He is a VERY interesting boy. If you really like reading about Revolutionary Heros, then this is a good book to read. Of course you might not be able to call him a hero when you find out what happens at the end. This book tells all about Benedict,

before, after, and during the war. Even if you don't like reading non-fiction, you will now. For instance, did you know that Benedict was obsessed with shoes? Or that he killed his own horse because he didn't want to give it to the British? Or that the woman he married was involved in a terrible scandal? Well, if this sounds intriguing... READ IT!!!

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