



Blue

By Joyce Moyer Hostetter

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Ann Fay Honeycutt accepts the role of "man of the house" when her father leaves to fight Hitler because she wants to do her part for the war in this Parents' Choice Silver Honor Book. She's doing well with the extra responsibilities when a frightening polio epidemic strikes, crippling many local children. Her town of Hickory responds by creating an emergency hospital in three days. Ann Fay reads each issue of the newspaper for the latest news of the 1944 epidemic, but soon she discovers for herself just how devastating polio can be. As her challenges grow, so does her resourcefulness. In the face of tragedy, Ann Fay discovers her ability to move forward. She experiences the healing qualities of friendship and explores the depths of her own faithfulness to those she loves—even to one she never expected to love at all.

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Editorial Review

From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 4-7. Thirteen-year-old Ann Fay always wanted to be just like her father, but when he gives her a pair of overalls before going off to fight Hitler, her feelings are mixed: "Wearing britches so I could take the place of my daddy wasn't the same as wearing them so I could climb trees." [...] Hostetter weaves her own North Carolina community's history into heartfelt fiction, marked by an agreeable, vernacular narrative and unobtrusive symbolism surrounding the color blue--the hue of both Ann Fay's overalls and the pesky wisteria vine that, like grown-up responsibility made palpable, threatens to overtake her victory garden. An incongruous structural rift mars the novel's latter half, set in the polio hospital, where the heart-tugging family drama gives way to a programmatic story line about an obstacle-laden friendship between Ann Fay and an African American patient. Still, the intriguing history of the illness and the powerful first-person voice will propel readers through to the novel's deeply satisfying conclusion. *Jennifer Mattson*
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Review

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"Chock full of life, history and character development. . . . The subject of polio is a rare one in children's fiction, and these characters and their story are worth getting to know." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"Chock full of life, history and character development. ...The subject of polio is a rare one in children's fiction, and these characters and their story are worth getting to know." --*Kirkus Reviews*

"This fascinating book will keep the reader captivated until the very last page." --*Children's Literature*

About the Author

Joyce Moyer Hostetter received a BA in early childhood education at Lenoir-Rhyne College in Hickory, North Carolina. She continued her studies in special education at the University of North Carolina--Charlotte and in art at James Madison University in Virginia. She lives in Newton, North Carolina.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Lawless:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important act, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your trouble; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled Blue. Try to face the book Blue as your pal. It means that it can be your friend when you really feel alone and beside that course make you smarter than ever before. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let us make new experience as well as knowledge with this book.

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