

meet molly

by valerie tripp · Language: EN

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Overview

Meet Molly is the inaugural book in the Molly McIntire series, set in the midst of World War II in 1943. The story introduces ten-year-old Molly McIntire, a spirited girl living in Jefferson, Illinois, whose life is deeply affected by the war. Her father, a doctor, is serving overseas, leaving Molly, her mother, and her siblings to navigate the home front with its rationing, scrap drives, and constant worry.

Molly, like many children of her time, grapples with the sacrifices demanded by the war, often wishing for a return to normalcy and a touch of glamour in her restricted life. She feels self-conscious about her glasses and pigtails, yearning to be sophisticated. The narrative explores her everyday challenges, from trying to make her own hair curlers to participating in victory gardens, all while missing her father terribly. The central conflict arises with the arrival of Emily Bennett, a quiet British war evacuee. Molly initially struggles to connect with Emily, whose reserved demeanor and different experiences clash with Molly's expectations. Through their interactions, Molly learns valuable lessons about empathy, understanding, and the true meaning of courage and sacrifice, realizing that the war impacts everyone differently and that true strength comes from within.

Key Takeaways

- Wartime brings significant changes and sacrifices to everyday life, even for children on the home front.
- Empathy and understanding are crucial when encountering people with different backgrounds and experiences, especially during difficult times.
- True glamour and strength come from character and kindness, not just outward appearance.
- Family bonds and community support are vital for coping with hardship and uncertainty.
- Children can contribute meaningfully to national efforts, even through small actions like victory gardens and scrap drives.
- Missing loved ones during wartime is a shared experience that fosters a sense of unity and hope for their safe return.

Chapter Summaries

A Wartime Christmas

Molly McIntire is introduced, living in 1943 during World War II. Her father is away serving as a doctor, and Molly misses him terribly. She struggles with the wartime restrictions, especially rationing, and dreams of a more glamorous life, feeling self-conscious about her glasses and pigtails.

A Hair-Raising Idea

Molly attempts to make herself more glamorous by trying to curl her hair with rags, but the effort results in a tangled mess. This chapter highlights her youthful desire for beauty and her frustration with the limitations imposed by the war, contrasting with her mother's practical approach.

A Victory Garden

Molly's family participates in wartime efforts, planting a victory garden. Molly finds the work tedious and wishes for more exciting contributions. This chapter emphasizes the collective effort on the home front and Molly's developing understanding of her role in supporting the war.

A New Friend

The McIntire family prepares to host a British war evacuee. Molly is excited at the prospect of a new friend, imagining a sophisticated girl. Her anticipation builds, setting the stage for the arrival of someone who will challenge her perceptions.

Emily Arrives

Emily Bennett, the British evacuee, arrives. Molly is initially disappointed because Emily is quiet, withdrawn, and doesn't fit Molly's idea of a glamorous friend. Molly struggles to connect with Emily, who carries the weight of her wartime experiences.

A True Friend

Molly begins to understand Emily's difficult experiences and the true impact of the war on her. Through shared activities and growing empathy, Molly and Emily start to bond, and Molly learns that true friendship and courage are more important than superficial appearances.

Themes

- Wartime home front
- Childhood innocence
- Empathy and friendship
- Family separation
- Sacrifice and resilience

Notable Quotes

- "Molly didn't want to be sensible. She wanted to be glamorous." — Reflecting Molly's desire to escape the drabness of wartime and her personal insecurities about her appearance.
- "It was hard to be cheerful when you missed your father so much." — Molly's internal thought, expressing the deep emotional toll of her father's absence due to the war.
- "War was not glamorous. War was hard work and worry." — A realization Molly comes to, contrasting her initial romanticized ideas with the harsh realities of wartime life.
- "Even though they were far apart, they were still a family, connected by love." — Molly's mother reassures her about their father's absence, emphasizing the enduring strength of family bonds.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is meet molly about?

Meet Molly is about a ten-year-old girl named Molly McIntire living in America during World War II. It explores her daily life, her longing for her father who is serving overseas, and her struggles with wartime restrictions. The story focuses on her journey of understanding and empathy when a quiet British war evacuee, Emily Bennett, comes to stay with her family.

Is meet molly worth reading?

Yes, Meet Molly is worth reading, especially for young readers interested in historical fiction or the American Girl series. It offers a gentle introduction to the realities of World War II on the home front, teaching valuable lessons about empathy, resilience, and the importance of family and community during challenging times. It's an engaging and educational story.

How does meet molly end?

Spoiler: Meet Molly ends with Molly beginning to form a genuine friendship with Emily Bennett. Molly learns to look beyond Emily's quiet demeanor and understand the profound impact of the war on her. They start to bond over shared experiences, and Molly realizes the importance of empathy and true friendship over superficial appearances, setting the stage for their future adventures.

Who should read meet molly?

Meet Molly is ideal for children aged 7-12, particularly those interested in historical fiction, stories about World War II, or the American Girl doll line. It's also suitable for parents and educators looking for books that promote empathy, understanding of historical periods, and discussions about family and friendship.

How long does it take to read meet molly?

Meet Molly is a relatively short book, typically taking about 45-75 minutes to read. The exact time will vary depending on the reader's pace and age, but it's designed to be an accessible and quick read for its target audience.