



Happy Birthday, Molly: A Springtime Story

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Molly is excited to learn that an English girl is coming to stay at the McIntires', and just in time for Molly's birthday! But Emily Bennett turns out to be different from the glamorous girl Molly pictured. Emily is shy, and seems unfriendly. Then Molly discovers that Emily is worried about her father, and the girls become good friends. They even plan to turn Molly's tenth birthday celebration into a real English tea party. But they can't agree about what's important, and it takes a special birthday surprise to help them patch up their hurt feelings.

Happy Birthday, Molly: A Springtime Story Details

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Miri says

In this Molly story there is a new arrival at the McIntire home, Emily Bennett a refugee girl from England has been sent to America to escape the bombings and is staying with Molly's family. Molly is excited at first, but finds it really hard to get to know Emily, she hardly talks and never smiles, but soon Molly learns how to befriend Emily and they end up planning Molly's birthday party together.

Lauren says

Wonderful book for the American Girls series.

Kelly says

Meh. Realistic, but not as heartwarming. Molly is actually spoiled in this one and so whiny.

Sarah says

Molly, an American girl in 1944, during WWII, thinks she has it very tough. She misses her father terribly and doesn't like that they have to live without some things. An English girl named Emily comes to stay with Molly and her family and she thinks Molly is spoiled compared to her. Molly then realizes that she has it easy compared to Emily in some ways. Her and Emily plan a birthday party together that is going to be a princess tea party, but they disagree on some things. Will they put their differences aside and have a great party?

I enjoyed this story because it really showed the differences between the Americans' lives during the war and the British. It showed how different kids grew up during this time and how hard it was for both countries.

E says

I'll admit I particularly love the American Girl books for their celebration of American history while refusing to gloss over the tough issues. This is one of the best examples.

In this story, Molly is forced to question many of her preconceptions about her country and war when she meets Emily, an English girl who has experienced war. Early on in the book, Molly is excited as her brother pretends to bomb her as she hides in a make-believe shelter, alluding to the all too common juvenile love of "playing" war. Later she must listen to Emily's eerie description of a real air raid during the Blitz. She is later shocked that the English do not share America's view of itself as the vastly superior hero to whom they should be forever grateful when Emily recoils at an American radio broadcast about the war-weary Brits.

When Molly discovers "My Country 'Tis of Thee" is in fact the British national anthem, she's had enough truth for one day.

Woven through the very girly trifles of princess dress-up and tea parties, the tough issues offer invaluable lessons.

Lizzie says

Molly was my favorite American Girl growing up. I loved reading these stories.

Vichida says

The book was about a girl her name was Molly . One day a new girl came to her house Molly said,"Why is she here mom and who is she?"Then mom said,"she came to stay in our house for awhile,because London had a war"so Molly told Susan and Linda to go first."Then Molly started to ask the new girl and her personality.They both had fun spending time together.They both told each other about them selves.Then Molly showed the new girl her bedroom.One day they had a fight after that they both said sorry to each other. after that Molly realize that tomorrow is her birthday .She was so exited .Then they all celebrated Molly's birthday and they all had fun.

Sharon says

It is 1944 and America is involved in World War II. Nine-year-old Emily Bennett, from England, comes to live with the McIntire family for a short time. Emily's stiff, formal personality is quite a contrast to Molly McIntire the extrovert! When a blackout occurs, Molly sees Emily's discomfort and fear; Emily has experienced the Blitz and has seen the realities of war. Molly sees the war as "pleasantly scary". Finally, the girls bond over their interest in English royalty(the Princesses, Margaret and Elizabeth). They plan an authentic English tea to celebrate their birthdays. Molly then feels that the dull English tea is not the way she wants to celebrate, and the girls argue and say hurtful things. Will they be able to resolve their differences?

Elizabeth says

4.5

Kelsey says

~2017 Reading Challenge: a book you loved as a child~

Molly Strzelecki says

January 2018

3 stars

Jen says

Keeping up with the kiddo with this read. ;) This is an excellent introduction to what the war was like for a British child, and the history is conveyed smoothly. But the girls were so petty in this story, it was frustrating. I found it difficult to believe that the children wouldn't have gotten a little more explanation from adults to encourage compassion.

Emily says

Of course, the character of Emily is my favorite in this book. The theme of American Exceptionalism is examined. Still a timely topic for today's reader. And the party dress is my favorite.

Tiffany says

Audio version.

Danielle says

After reading three books in the Molly series that proved to be abysmal, the fourth installment was a much welcomed surprise. This book, more so than it's predecessors, actually showed the effects of war on the world, as well as Molly and her family. I was wondering if the narrative would ever address this somewhat sick habit of these kids to play war and have fun in bomb shelters. Luckily we have a new character named Emily to set these Americans straight. And she calls Molly out on her BS. Yes, Molly is still a spoiled child. I'm not sure the narrative wants to address that reality seriously and so these books shall remain, at best, just okay.
