

THE EVER-AFTER BIRD (GREAT EPISODES) BY ANN RINALDI



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About the Author

ANN RINALDI is an award-winning author best known for bringing history vividly to life. She lives in central New Jersey.

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Now that her father is dead, CeCe McGill is left to wonder why he risked his life for the ragged slaves who came to their door in the dead of night. When her uncle, an ornithologist, insists she accompany him to Georgia on an expedition in search of the rare scarlet ibis, CeCe is surprised to learn there's a second reason for their journey: Along the way, Uncle Alex secretly points slaves north in the direction of the Underground Railroad. Set against the backdrop of the tumultuous pre-Civil War South, *The Ever-After Bird* is the story of a young woman's education about the horrors of slavery and the realization about the kind of person she wants to become.

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Flamingnet.com Top Choice Book-loved the characters

By Flamingnet Teen Book Reviews

When CeCe McGill's father gets killed, Cece just wants everything to be a bad dream. With her mother dead, too, CeCe needs someone to take care of her. All of a sudden, a man who claims to be her uncle comes to take CeCe in. CeCe has heard many stories about this man and not all of them are good. CeCe agrees to live with Uncle Alex, but with hesitation. CeCe finds herself whisked away in an adventure of a lifetime. Being a famous bird watcher and painter, Uncle Alex uses this profession to get into plantations in the South where he ends up freeing slaves. Uncle Alex brings along his assistant, a student at Oberlin College and a former slave, but CeCe doesn't seem to get along with her very well. When CeCe has to save her and sees how terrible slavery is, it changes her forever.

This book is thebest historical fiction book I have ever read!

The author,Ann Rinaldi, does a fantastic job of making you feel like you were part of the story, sitting right by CeCe and Uncle Alex. I loved the characters that the author created, especially warm-hearted Uncle Alex. The way that the author talked about slavery really moved me. It made me think differently about life back then. I could not put the book down, and I was intrigued with the story even when there was

only background information. I think that the author ended the book well without leaving you wondering about what really happened to the characters. If you like historical fiction, you won't want to put down *The Ever-After Bird*.

Reviewed by a young adult student reviewer
Flamingnet Book Reviews
Teen books reviewed by teen reviewers

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Courtesy of Teens Read Too

By TeensReadToo

If he hadn't been determined to help runaway slaves, he would still be alive. That's why CeCe McGill hates abolitionists. Her father devoted his life and their home to giving aid as part of the Underground Railroad, but it was also what ended his own life when he was shot. His death left CeCe an orphan.

When CeCe's uncle, a doctor and an artist, arrives after her father's death, she is nervous about leaving the only home she's ever known to live with him in Ohio. It doesn't take long for her to realize he has a kind and gentle soul. So why is it a surprise when she learns he is an abolitionist just like her late father?

The difference is that CeCe finds herself more directly involved in the abolitionist movement. Uncle Alex and his assistant, a young, black college student, are planning a trip to the South. Uncle Alex wants to study rare birds, and his assistant wants to research the institution of slavery for her studies at Oberlin College. CeCe is invited along for the adventure.

The three travelers must adhere to the behaviors and customs of the South. Uncle Alex's assistant, Earline, will be assuming the role of slave, and CeCe and her uncle must act in character as her owner and mistress. If they are discovered, the punishment could result in death. CeCe is well aware that her uncle will be doing more than just searching for the scarlet ibis known as the Ever-After bird. He will also be helping point slaves in the direction of freedom.

CeCe's adventure is filled with educational opportunities as she learns about the world of rare birds and the workings of slavery. She sees the hope of freedom, but it is often colored with the tragedy of abusive treatment and even death. All she hopes is that they survive and, in some small way, make the world a better place.

Ann Rinaldi is well known for her historical fiction. *THE EVER-AFTER BIRD* paints a unique picture of slavery in the South, and the fight fought by brave individuals who wanted to see its end. Her descriptions compare the gentle refinement of the South with the startling reality of life behind the grand plantation houses and blooming magnolia bushes.

Reviewed by: Sally Kruger, aka "Readingjunky"

3 of 4 people found the following review helpful.

Age discrepancy

By Mara Zonderman

One of Rinaldi's better recent efforts. A somewhat transparent look at the evils of slavery, but a convincing one. My biggest problem about this book was that the main character, CeCe, was said to be 13-going-on-14, but was treated throughout the book at much younger. Especially when dealing with a time period when

childhood was much shorter than we're accustomed to, it seemed odd that a girl of that age would be treated as needing so much protection. Other than that, the book seemed realistic and would definitely be good for middle school-age children to learn about slavery. And, of course, I loved all the references to Oberlin!

[See all 7 customer reviews...](#)

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