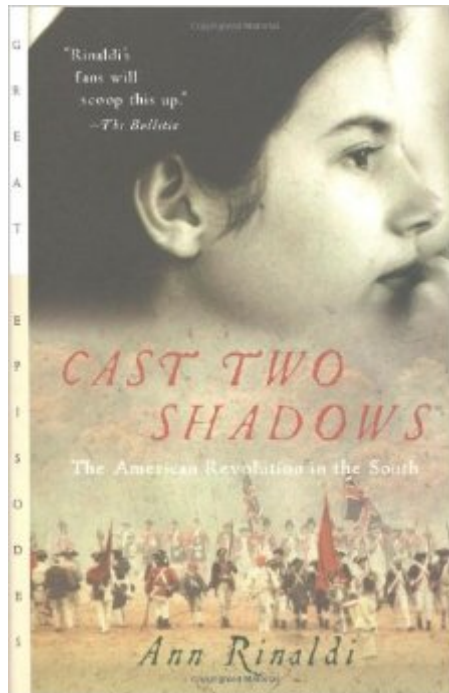


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# Cast Two Shadows: The American Revolution In The South (Great Episodes)



## Synopsis

In South Carolina in 1780, fourteen-year-old Caroline sees the Revolutionary War take a terrible toll on her family and friends, and comes to understand the true nature of war.

## Book Information

Series: Great Episodes

Paperback: 304 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; 1 edition (March 1, 2004)

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ISBN-10: 0152050779

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Product Dimensions: 4.5 x 0.8 x 7 inches

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

Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (40 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #631,903 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #102 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

When my eighth grade English teacher told my class that we had to read a historical fiction book for a book project, I thought I was doomed. I didn't particularly want to read a book about boring history. I searched and searched everywhere for an exciting book that I would like and finally I found the book *Cast Two Shadows* by Ann Rinaldi. I had heard Ann Rinaldi was a terrific writer, so I thought I would give this book a try. I am very glad I picked this book because it is definitely not just a boring historical book. The book took place in Camden, South Carolina, just after the Revolutionary War had arrived there. It is about a fourteen-year-old girl named Caroline Witaker and how her world has been turned upsidedown because of the war. Her Patriot father who is the leading rebel in Camden has just been taken off to jail by the British and her brother is off fighting for the British on the opposite side of the war. Her best friend has just been hung by the British and her sister has fallen in love with the British officer who took over Caroline's house. Throughout this book, Caroline is forced to face conflicts within herself and make tough decisions that will impact her life and the life

of her family forever. I enjoyed this book very much and thought it was certainly worth my time. The beginning was a little bit slow and kind of confusing, but once I got past the first few chapters, the story got really exciting and it didn't want to put it down. The book had a good plot, was very interesting, and actually helped me learn a lot about our country's history without it being boring. It taught me so much about the Revolutionary War that I probably would have never known and it helped me to understand what life was like back then. Another thing I liked about it was that it put me in the place of Caroline Wiltaker and made me feel like I was her. I would highly recommend this book to anyone looking for a good historical fiction book or even just a good leisure book.

"Cast Two Shadows: The American Revolution in the South" was another great novel by Ann Rinaldi, and a very good novel on the Revolutionary War! Caroline, 14, lives with her mixed Patriot/Loyalist family in South Carolina around 1780. Her life begins to change drastically then; her friend, Kit, is hanged for trying to attack Cornwallis, her father is in jail for being a Patriot, her brother, who was at war, needs her to help him, Loyalists are taking over her home, her sister is getting to be friends - very good friends - with a British soldier, and she's also beginning to know her slave grandmother. This book told a good story, with quite a bit of truth in it, about the interesting times of the Revolutionary War. I'd definitely recommend it for anyone ages 12 and up wanting an exciting read! I'd also recommend "A Wolf by the Ears" and "Time Enough for Drums", two other novels by Rinaldi, and definitely the movie "The Patriot" as it is about some of these very places, people, and events mentioned in this book.

When reading literature on the American Revolution, it is rare to find a book placed in the southeast during that time period. Even more rare is a book dealing with a mixed race family of the time. Ann Rinaldi covers both topics well in her book *Cast Two Shadows*. The protagonist, Caroline, is a girl of both African and white descent, with a slave mother and white father. Her father's white family embraces Caroline as a daughter when her slave mother disappears, under strange circumstances. When Caroline is fourteen, the Revolutionary War comes to the South. Her family's home is invaded by British soldiers, and Caroline, her mother, and her sister are put under house arrest. Her brother Johnny and father are away, fighting on opposite sides of the revolution. Johnny is Loyalist, the father, a Patriot. Word reaches the household that Johnny has been wounded. Caroline is released from house arrest to "fetch her brother home." Accompanying Caroline on her journey is her slave grandmother Miss Melindy. Caroline rarely speaks to her grandmother and has no idea how to deal with being in the woman's presence. On the course of the journey, her

grandmother begins to tell her stories, and Caroline learns about her heritage, her family, and why her slave mother disappeared. When Caroline returns home, many things have changed, and she is not the same person who started the journey. The book deals with the subject of mixed slave/white families very well. The Revolution is also covered well, with the focus on how the British soldiers treated families in the southeastern part of the country and what resulted from the invasion. This is a great book to read for an unusual look at the American Revolution, and a side of the war that is often overlooked in history books.

This book was probably one of the best novels I have ever read. It is historical fiction, so you benefit by learning new facts about the American Revolution, without boring yourself to death. The devastating circumstances that the Whitaker family have to deal with are vividly described by the author and will bring tears to your eyes. The realistic 1700's drama is a real page-turner. I would recommend this book for a young adult. Overall, *Cast Two Shadows* is a brilliant work by Ann Rinaldi.

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