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Forge (Seeds Of America Book 2)

Laurie Halse Anderson

The sequel to the National Book Award Finalist CHAINS

Forge

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Synopsis

Blistering winds. Bitter cold. And the hope of a new future. In this compelling sequel to Chains, a National Book Award Finalist and winner of the Scott O’Dell Award for Historical Fiction, acclaimed author Laurie Halse Anderson shifts perspective from Isabel to Curzon and brings to the page the tale of what it takes for runaway slaves to forge their own paths in a world of obstacles and in the midst of the American Revolution. The Patriot Army was shaped and strengthened by the desperate circumstances of the Valley Forge winter. This is where Curzon the boy becomes Curzon the young man. In addition to the hardships of soldiering, he lives with the fear of discovery, for he is an escaped slave passing for free. And then there is Isabel, who is also at Valley Forge against her will. She and Curzon have to sort out the tangled threads of their friendship while figuring out what stands between the two of them and true freedom.

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Customer Reviews

The wolves terrified him. Curzon scrambled down the ravine, thinking about the bodies that the
beasts had dug from their graves after the battle at Freeman's Farm. An escaped slave like
him didn't stand a chance if they caught his scent. Gunfire blasted into the glade.
Musketballs peppered the trees, nearly ripping his ear. Curzon threw himself to the ground, hoping
no British or rebel fire would strike him. When the smoke cleared, a young rebel was staring down
the barrel of a British soldier. Curzon hurled a rock at the redcoat and struck him hard in his
shoulder. Seizing his chance, the rebel fired. His enemy screamed as blood spurted over dead
leaves. The shaken rebel soon prepared to rejoin his comrades, and Curzon was off with him to the
thick of the battle fighting for the freedom of the men who had enslaved him. Valley Forge.
Curzon found himself serving in the army as a freeman, without papers to prove he wasn't a
slave. The cold of deep winter set in, freezing the feet of any soldier left without boots. Icy winds
swept through the camp on nights too cold for pitching tents. All the barrels of salt pork spoiled. With
nothing to eat but handfuls of flour, starvation chewed through the rebel army. Veteran soldiers
poured muddy water and crushed grain over heated rocks to make scorched firecakes. Little choice
for food remained, other than stealing pumpkins from surrounding farms. Trapped in a world of
hunger, freezing weather, and vicious assaults from his own comrades, Curzon missed his friend
Isabel fiercely. She had been the one to free him from Bridewell Prison, rowing all night with
bleeding hands to save his life. One cold day, Curzon's former master rode into camp.
When their eyes met, past and future caught in one life-changing moment. Freedom and slavery
exchanged places. Curzon's world was about to begin over again. Isabel was alive, but
collared in iron, making another escape all but impossible. Laurie Halse Anderson writes dramatic
history that quickly captures your heart. She is a New York Times bestselling author. She won numerous awards and honors, including two National Book Award nominations, the Margaret A Awards Award, and the Assembly on Literature for Adolescents Award.

Forge, the outstanding sequel to Chains, by truly gifted YA author Laurie Halse Anderson, will turn
even reluctant readers into lovers of historical fiction and make history buffs out of even the most
resistant student (young or old). The very accurate descriptions of the horrid living conditions in the
colonial military camps during the winter of 1777 sound like something out of a holocaust history.
The battle scenes are equally accurate, equally horrifying and action packed. Anderson also does a
great job of capturing the idealism, optimism and courage of the young inexperienced colonial
fighters. Even more gripping than the story of the war is the story of the slaves who were promised
freedom if they enlisted for the colonies and were also promised freedom and riches if they spied on
their masters for the British. Adult readers know neither side has any intention of keeping its
promise, but YA readers with their strong sense of fairness and clearly defined ideas of right and wrong will be shocked at the callousness and cruelty of the slave owners and some of the soldiers. I loved that Anderson begins each chapter with quotes from letters actually written by people involved in the Revolution and the events of the novel. Some of the quotes are from leaders like Thomas Payne and Abigail Adams, and some are from ordinary colonists. Forge will be a great movie and a classic YA novel.

I know that this is the second in a series of three books by Laurie Halsey Anderson. I’d read the first "Chains" while inpatient for a medical treatment. It had been provided by the shelves of the sharing rooms library. For where I’ve been myself I’m not sure of what I’d thought that it been recommended for reading levels as young as high school junior years. When I was from the SouthWest as teenage we’d hardly been told any truths about the NorthEast territories during the Revolutionary war. But although mainly fiction except for some quotes posted before the chapters, I’m trying to learn a little about the NorthEast lands original histories. With my lengthlento the second book though actually, about four chapters, I’m wondering if Curzon will come back up alive. He was not awake when the boat met coast, still bruised from the foul conditions of rebel prison and used to starving which I hope saves his life and he waked up later.

Forge is narrated by Curzon. The pace of action is nicely sprinkled with Curzon’s recollections of his separation from Isabel after she rescued him. We also learn more about his past and how he came to be Bellingham’s slave. His resourcefulness and wise judgement of character once again guide him on his path, which ultimately leads once again to Isabel.

Is packed into this historical fiction story. The strength and endurance of early American slaves come to life in this novel.

It required, it actually requested by my 11 y.o. Son, after reading "Chains" by the same author, which was required. He has told me it was exciting!

I bought this book because my daughter’s class at school is reading it and I wanted to check it out & make sure it was suitable for a youngster to read. I read the whole thing in one sitting, couldn’t put it down, and it made me cry. There was no inappropriate/adult content. Definitely a great read, and I would recommend it for adolescent reading material for learning about the revolutionary war!
started reading the second book, Forge, and am not as into it, haven't finished it...I just want to skip ahead to the third book which isn't written yet, I if understand correctly.

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