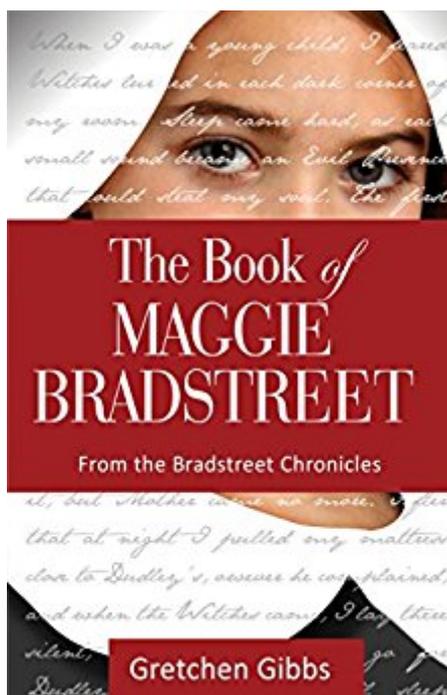


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The Book Of Maggie Bradstreet (The Bradstreet Chronicles)



Synopsis

Stop a terrible wrong or blindly follow her elders . . . what happens near Salem when Maggie must choose? Maggie Bradstreet is a curious girl of thirteen with a mind of her own, which can get her into trouble in Puritan New England. She wants nothing more than to prove to her brother's friend Job that she is no longer a child, but when witches are discovered in the community of Andover, Massachusetts, her world turns upside down. Maggie's diary tells of excitement turned to horror as more and more people are accused of witchcraft, and her best friend's mother is taken off to jail. She tries to save her friends and in the end must save herself. The Book of Maggie Bradstreet is the untold and remarkable story of what happened to those accused of witchcraft in Andover, just a few miles from Salem. From a talented new voice in YA historical fiction, Gretchen Gibbs's The Book of Maggie Bradstreet is companion to Anne of the Fens in the gripping Bradstreet Chronicles. The series' historical fiction based on written records about the author's own ancestors can be read in any order. Each book in the series includes an afterword with additional historical content.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The protagonist and supposed writer of this imaginary diary is modern enough for us to identify with -- she is more rebellious, probably, than the historical 13-year-old Margaret Bradstreet could have gotten away with in Puritan New England -- while still reflecting the character of the times in, for example, her unquestioning belief in the existence of witches. The language is direct and easy to read, with just enough archaic sentence construction to keep the reader conscious of the time period in which the book is set. The early parts of the book describe the life of the times in some detail, enough (my retired teacher wife notes) to be useful for making history come alive in a middle-school or high-school history class. Later sections of the book become quite gripping. The conflicts between religious beliefs and social norms on the one hand, and a desire for justice and faith in one's friends on the other, lead to actions that put Maggie and her family at risk. Even though I already knew she survived (the real Margaret Bradstreet is an ancestor of the book's author), I was on edge to find out how her situation was resolved. Because of the age of the protagonist, this book is likely to appear in the "young adult" section of libraries, but I think adults will find it equally satisfying. Although this is an unsolicited review, I should disclose that I am a friend of the book's author.

This particular era of American history has held my interest since reading *The Crucible* in high school. Everybody knows about Salem. Andover is mentioned in *The Crucible* and I've always wondered about what went on in other towns during this time and if it was as bad as what happened in Salem. The answer, sadly, after reading this is yes. I loved the fact that the author based this on real people living in Andover during that time. She did an excellent job creating and giving shape to Maggie's voice, so much so that her words, even those simple observations and descriptions of daily life before, during, and after the trials, flowed easily from the page. Often making me feel as if I were there in the middle of things myself. I used to wonder what life must have been like for women back then. And now I know without a doubt that I could not and would not have survived it. A great book, one well-worth the read. I recommend this to anyone with an interest in this particular era in history.

This story was the reading of a young girl in Massachusetts in the 1600s when there was a lot of stories of witchcraft. It was very interesting and gave a good description of their lifestyle. At the start I didn't think I would finish it, but am glad I did. I do enjoy stories in different periods of history.

I was totally absorbed in this novel! The writing absolutely catches the voice of a young girl trying to understand the horrible events around her, and the story itself--even for those of us who know something of the witchcraft trials--was mesmerizing. I was brought to tears at times. The characters were all beautifully developed. It's an ageless story of people believing lies and getting caught up in mass hysteria, relevant as well today.

The Book of Maggie Bradstreet is a delight, and so is the young Puritan girl who lives this story. Both in its illumination of the details of life at the time, and horrifying in its portrayal of human vulnerability to superstition and suggestibility, this is a page-turner. A finely crafted, deeply researched book of historical fiction, it is also written with humor and heart. I was so sad to bid Maggie goodbye.

The story of the storm of witchcraft accusation that occurred at Andover during the Salem witch trials is insightfully told here by a descendant of the Bradstreets, a respected Massachusetts family whose solid standing in the community was not enough to protect them from a theocracy built upon fear.

An interesting book about a young girl living in Andover during the witch trials. She is refreshingly naive about this part of our history.

This book was an amazing read. I read the whole book in one day I could not stop. I have recommended this book to many people and would do so to you also.

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