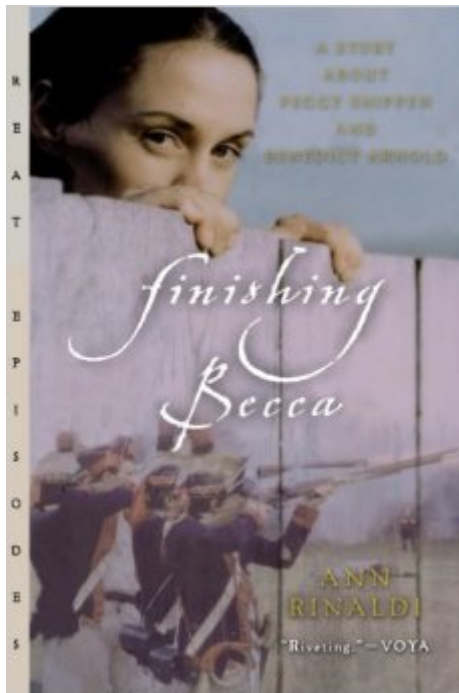


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Finishing Becca: A Story About Peggy Shippen And Benedict Arnold (Great Episodes)



Synopsis

An independent-minded young maid tells the story of social-climber Peggy Shippen and how she influenced Benedict Arnold's betrayal of the Patriot forces. Revolutionary Philadelphia is brought to life as Becca seeks to find her missing pieces while exploring the complicated issues of the war between the impoverished independence men and the decadent British Tories. This tale of treachery comes alive under [Rinaldi's] pen. --Kirkus Reviews

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars See all reviews (50 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

Fourteen year old Becca Syng feels like pieces of her are missing. So when her mother secures her a job as a maidservant in return for lessons in french, dancing, and needlepoint, she believes that it will help her find herself. She starts working for the Shippens, a prominent Philadelphia family who has taken great pains to remain neutral during the Revolutionary War. It is Becca's job to take care of Peggy, the most beautiful, not to mention the most spoiled, out of the four girls. Becca finds herself in a world she never thought existed, filled with balls, men, and the like. After being discarded from the British Captain Andre, Peggy sets her sights on American General Benedict Arnold. They fall in love and are soon married, despite the age differences (18 to 37). Becca is soon brought into another household, filled with deception and lies. She witnesses Peggy's influence over Arnold, coaxing him to break with the Americans. She then overhears Arnold confessing to break with the Patriots, but is caught in the process. Arnold blackmails her into not telling what she's heard by saying that he will hang her stepfather for being a double agent and that he will confiscate her

farm. She is also not allowed in the city for a year and is dismissed from their services. Becca then learns with the rest of the colonies about Arnold's treason, but lives with the knowledge of having the power to stop it. I like Ann Rinaldi's books, and I don't think any of them are bad. I love how she takes people from outside the picture to witness something important in our American history (ex. Annie Brown in *Mine Eyes Have Seen*, Fanny McCoy in *The Coffin Quilt*). This gives the reader an unbiased perspective. Not only did I learn something from this book, but I enjoyed doing so.

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