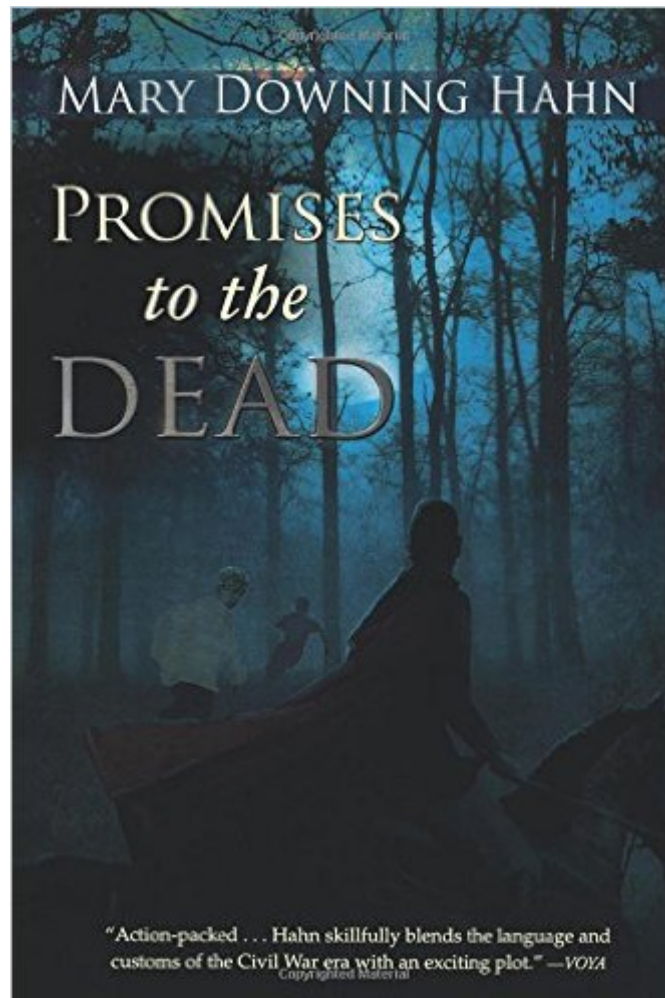


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# Promises To The Dead



## Synopsis

When Jesse went down to the marsh on that fateful day, he expected to find a turtle for terrapin soup. Instead, he comes across a dying slave woman who makes Jesse promise he'll take her young son, Perry, to a relative in Baltimore. Aiding and abetting a slave is against the law, and it also goes against everything Jesse has been taught to believe. But he can't break a promise to the dead, and, more important, he has to follow what he knows in his heart to be right. The journey is more treacherous than Jesse ever imagined. At the crossroads of a country about to plunge into civil war, danger lurks around every corner. Will these boys on the run ever find a safe haven? Includes an author's note.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (44 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #633,424 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #46 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period](#) #237 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > 19th Century](#) #260 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Values & Virtues](#)

## Customer Reviews

This book, *Promises to the Dead*, is a great book that took place during the Civil War time. It begins when Jesse is hunting turtles for the family's famous soup in the family down in the creek. The next thing he knows is that he's finding himself promising a dying slave women that he'll take her young son, Perry, to a relative in Baltimore. Caring for a slave was against the law and against everthing Jesse was thought. He can't break a promise made to the dead and more importantly, he must follow what in his heart is right. The journey turns out completly different from what Jesse thought. He comes upon many hard decisions and tough choices he must do for what he thinks is right. Does Jesse make it through? Read the book to find out!! I did like the book because it was suspensful and tough you to do was right from wrong. It really made you think of what is important

in life. I would recommend the book if you like to be in suspense and if you like books on Historical Fiction and wars.

Loved everything about this novel: the dialect, the quest, the uncommon friendship. I would highly recommend this novel, and don't be dissuaded by the title and Hahn's other novels -- this isn't a ghost story.

This book was the best book I read by this author and so far I have read three books by this author. But this book was so fascinating to me that I read it one whole day I could put the book down, and this is a true story, in the back of the book it tells how this story was a true story that happens to the authors parents grandparents. This is the third book I read and it was amazing ever book I pick up by this author I end up loving it more than I loved the one before . I give this book five stars. One of my new ball time favorites.

I enjoyed this book - it was hard to put down - I wanted to keep reading it straight through. A story that keeps you riveted and you are thinking about what you would do in the same situation. I enjoyed the read.

This is not a typical Hahn book and so, at first, I was a little disappointed. When I pick up a Hahn, I have been programmed to expect chills, thrills and goosebumps. Well, actually, some of that was true in this book, too, but not because of a scary ghost. The chills came from the living--which was so much more evil than anything undead. The story is set during the Civil War (a historic setting was another departure for Hahn's regular style). Jesse is an orphan who lives with his bachelor uncle who sends him into the swamps one night hunting for a turtle so that he might have terrapin soup made by their slave cook. As Jesse is stumbling around in the dark muck, he comes across an escaped slave, who is about to give birth, and her young son. As a Southerner, Jesse has been taught to turn all slaves in but something about this young mother tickles his conscience and, instead, he goes to get her help. On her death bed, the slave makes Jesse promise that he will deliver her young son to relations in the North so that he might be free. It is a promise that Jesse dreads making because he knows it will bring him nothing but trouble. I really liked this book. I fell in love with the character of Jesse--I've never seen a character have so much angst over doing the right thing! The story snuck up on me and surprised me because I was ready to be disappointed with it. That's what I get for doubting Hahn, a master storyteller of any genre.

i thought this book was very interesting it told a lot about how it was when there was slaves.people who like mysteries and thrillers should read this i think mary downing is a great writer and that everyone should read it to find out what it was really like in a persons point of view that was there when there was slaves.

As a middle school teacher, I am always looking for books which will catch the interest of my students. This book has danger, the mysterious, and a touch of history that will grab their attention.

A great Civil War story for students. My fourth grade grandson and I thoroughly enjoyed this. As usual, Mary Hahn wove an interesting story. We did not want to put this one down. Mrs. Hahn is a superb storyteller.

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