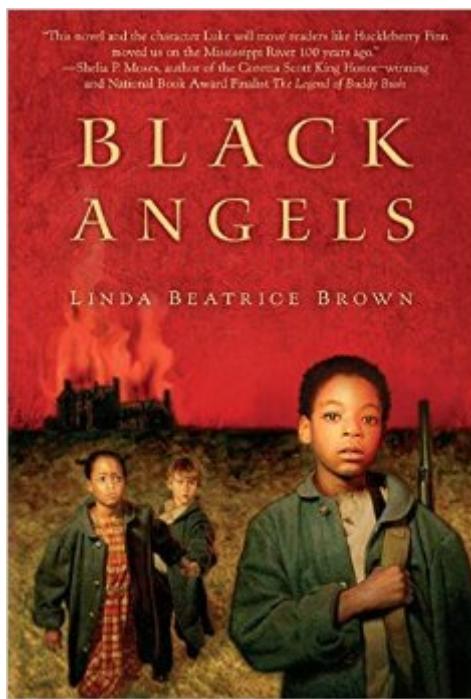


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# Black Angels



## **Synopsis**

The compelling story of three young orphans who must survive on their own during the Civil War. It's near the end of the war, and rumors of emancipation are swirling. Eleven-year-old Luke decides to run away to freedom and join the Union Army. But he doesn't find the Yankee troops he was hoping for. Instead, he finds nine-year-old Daylily, lost in the woods after suffering an unspeakable tragedy. Her master set her free, but freedom so far has her scared and alone. Also lost in the woods is seven-year-old Caswell, the son of a plantation owner. He was only trying to find his Mamadear after the Yankees burned their house with all their fine things. He wanted to be brave. But alone in the woods with two slave children, he quickly loses all his courage, and comes to greatly depend upon his new friends. In the chaos and violence that follows, the three unrelated children discover a bond in each other stronger than family. A touching, beautifully written narrative, *Black Angels* is a riveting, special read.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: HL690L (What's this?)

Hardcover: 272 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers; First Printing edition (September 17, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399250301

ISBN-13: 978-0399250309

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 5.9 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (12 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,317,164 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #81 in [Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period](#) #1267 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s](#) #1541 in [Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Friendship, Social Skills & School Life > Social Skills](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## **Customer Reviews**

Three children, each with their own harrowing stories of pain and loss, find each other in the woods in the midst of Civil War terror. Luke, just eleven years old, is a run-away slave determined to head

North in search of freedom. Daylily, two years younger, has just witnessed a brutal set of murders and is paralyzed with fear and shock. Little Caswell, the only white child in the group, lost his mother in the panic of an attack by Yankee soldiers and is desperately confused about where to go. As the oldest and equipped with a gun, Luke quickly takes on the role of leader and caregiver as he guides the other two through the woods in search of food, water, and shelter. As they struggle to overcome incredible danger, sickness, and hunger, they learn to love and trust not only each other, but also two women who serendipitously take on guardian roles in their journey to freedom and safety. *Black Angels* provides an eye-opening account of some of the traumatic aspects of slavery, the Civil War, and the post-war treatment of African Americans, as well as a story of how love and support help three children to navigate this trauma and grow stronger. Added to the mix are important lessons in economics related to scarcity, discrimination, and the institution of slavery. Some of the violent scenes make this book more appropriate for older children and young adults, who will undoubtedly walk away with a deeper understanding of the Civil War era and a stronger appreciation for social justice.

**BLACK ANGELS** is the beautifully-crafted story of three children - two escaped slaves and one lost white boy - on the run during the heart of the Civil War. Luke and Daylily seek freedom in the north while little Caswell just wants to find his "mamadear." With his home turned to ashes by the Rebs, Caswell's all alone - he has little choice but to tag along with the other children. Feeling responsible for his young charges, Luke leads them toward Harper's Ferry. It's a long journey, fraught with danger from soldiers, wild animals, starvation, fever, and so on. Each new adventure bonds the kids together until they've formed the strongest sort of family. Even in the enlightened North, black and white children can never be brothers and sisters - after all they've been through, will Luke, Daylily and Caswell see their family ripped apart? Will any of them find the kind of world in which they long to live, the kind where friendship and love matter more than skin color? One of my favorite reads of the year, this is an unflinchingly honest, but tender story about courage, faith and friendship. It's engrossing, moving and memorable. I loved it.

I found this book to be excellently put together. The story of three children left alone during the civil war, make their way north. They start out strangers and full of mistrust but end up as family. There are some battle field descriptions that may not be for the youngest readers . There are racial terms that may be offensive to some if the historical roots are not explained first. A great adventure story!

BLACK ANGELS is targeted for young people, but like all great literature, its appeal is universal and ageless. As the children of this compelling novel bravely grapple with the consequences of senseless war and racism, we realize how relevant their story is for our time. Luke, Daylilly and Caswell are presented to us with such moving depth and insight, we take them into a permanent place in our hearts as we have the children of TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD. Following the challenging journey of these children, we are hooked from the first page to the last. Just one warning: you will get so engaged you're likely to be sorry it ends and find yourself saying, "Please, Linda Brown, continue the story."

As two runaway slave children and a small lost white boy struggle to survive and succeed in the woods of the Civil War South, some profound change and bonding takes place. Dr Brown has given us a treasure on various aspects of 'family' and what it means. Positive and negative. Liberating and controlling. The scenes and descriptions bring hard times to life, calling us all not to forget, but to remember and learn. This is an involving book, one that well deserves to be widely read. I would strongly recommend it high school history classes that can discuss it openly. Ralph Cauthen Social Worker in Greensboro, NC

Dr. Brown has written a book that should be required reading for all students studying the Civil War as well as other wars. Too often we forget the quiet tragedies in wars - the children. This well-written riveting book shows us the innocence and survival of small children (ages 7, 9 and 11) and what the war has taken away from them. Dr. Brown has given us a gift of her prose. Book clubs would benefit by using this book - 2 of the children are Black and one is white and the interactions between them would stimulate much discussion. I highly recommend Black Angels as a must read.

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