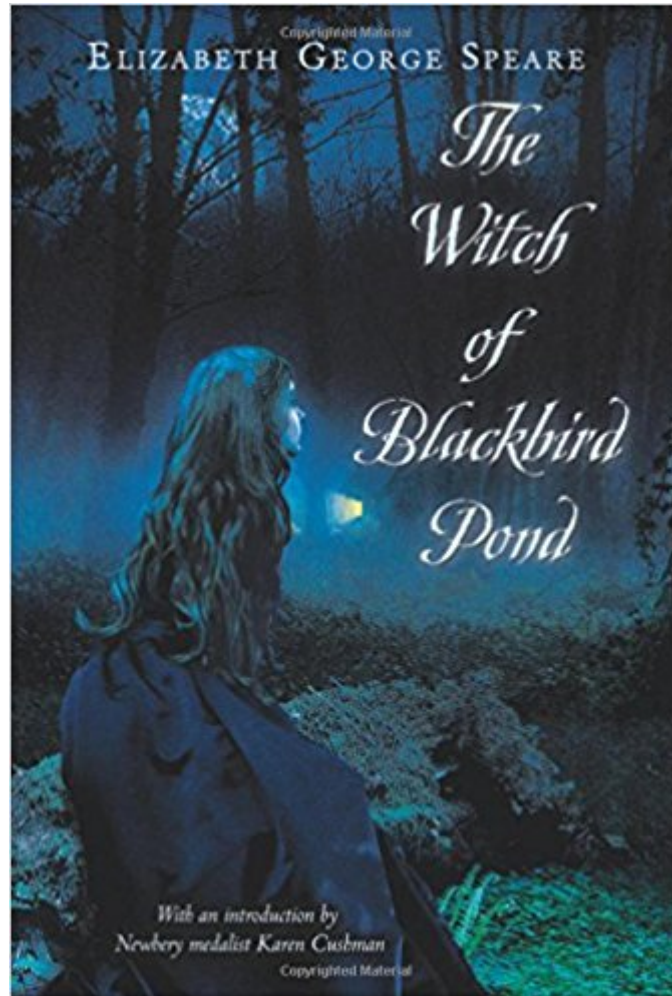




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The Witch Of Blackbird Pond



Synopsis

Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler is marked by suspicion and disapproval from the moment she arrives on the unfamiliar shores of colonial Connecticut in 1687. Alone and desperate, she has been forced to leave her beloved home on the island of Barbados and join a family she has never met. Torn between her quest for belonging and her desire to be true to herself, Kit struggles to survive in a hostile place. Just when it seems she must give up, she finds a kindred spirit. But Kit's friendship with Hannah Tupper, believed by the colonists to be a witch, proves more taboo than she could have imagined and ultimately forces Kit to choose between her heart and her duty. Elizabeth George Speare won the 1959 Newbery Medal for this portrayal of a heroine whom readers will admire for her unwavering sense of truth as well as her infinite capacity to love.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 850 (What's this?)

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (January 10, 2011)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0547550294

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Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.7 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 7.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars 1,045 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #873 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #2 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #7 in Books > Children's Books > Holidays & Celebrations > Halloween

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Forced to leave her sunny Caribbean home for the bleak Connecticut Colony, Kit Tyler is filled with trepidation. As they sail up the river to Kit's new home, the teasing and moodiness of a young sailor named Nat doesn't help. Still, her unsinkable spirit soon bobs back up. What this spirited teenager doesn't count on, however, is how her aunt and uncle's stern Puritan community will view her. In the colonies of 1687, a girl who swims, wears silk and satin gowns, and talks back to her elders is not only headstrong, she is in grave danger of being regarded as a witch. When Kit befriends an old

Quaker woman known as the Witch of Blackbird Pond, it is more than the ascetics can take: soon Kit is defending her life. Who can she count on as she confronts these angry and suspicious townspeople? A thoroughly exciting and rewarding Newbery Medal winner and ALA Notable Children's Book, Elizabeth George Speare's *The Witch of Blackbird Pond* brings this frightening period of witch hysteria to life. Readers will wonder at the power of the mob mentality, and the need for communities in desperate times--even current times--to find a scapegoat. (Ages 9 and older)

--Emilie Coulter --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 5-8-Mary Beth Hurt gives an excellent performance in this reading of the Newbery Award-winning novel by Elizabeth George Speare (HM, 1958). The setting is the Colony of Connecticut in 1687 amid the political and religious conflicts of that day. Sixteen-year-old Kit Tyler unexpectedly arrives at her aunt and uncle's doorstep and is unprepared for the new world which awaits her. Having been raised by her grandfather in Barbados, she doesn't understand the conflict between those loyal to the king and those who defend the Connecticut Charter. Unprepared for the religious intolerance and rigidity of the Puritan community, she is constantly astounding her aunt, uncle, and cousins with her dress, behavior, and ideas. She takes comfort in her secret friendship with the widow, Hannah Tupper, who has been expelled from Massachusetts because she is a Quaker and suspected of being a witch. When a deathly sickness strikes the village, first Hannah and then Kit are accused of being witches. Through these conflicts and experiences, Kit comes to know and accept herself. She learns not to make hasty judgments about people, and that there are always two sides to every conflict. There are several minor plots as well, including three romances, which help to bring this time and place to life. Hurt's use of vocal inflection and expression make this an excellent choice for listening whether as an enrichment to the social studies curriculum or purely for pleasure.

Maureen Cash Moffet, St. Anne's Catholic School, Bristol, VACopyright 2003 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

April 6, 2017 "Finished Reading" April 4, 2017 "Started Reading" Review I loved this story as a child and I love it again now. A different take this time. It was still an adventure of a young girl (Kit) coming to live with her Puritan family all the way from a free roaming life in Barbados after her grandfather's death. Shades of *Little Women* show up because she also has 2 cousins--one very pretty and outgoing and the other sweet, quiet and crippled. Kit meets up with three young men who all seem to fall for her but she holds out until she actually knows who she loves (Nat). He owns a ship that travels from the Caribbean to Massachusetts yearly, so she is able to live her life in both

places half the year. She finds that not all Puritans are cruel but some are and that she doesn't like long church services at least not twice a week. Nor does she like manual labor. :-) The witch in the story is , of course. not a witch. She is an Amish woman who has been shunned by all and branded a witch (literally) on her forehead. She is kind and caring and seems to take in stray and hurting people one by one. She is run out of town when a sickness runs through the village and affects many of the children...some die. So it literally becomes a "witch hunt". With the help of a friend (Nat) she gets away and finds a good and welcoming home with Kit's soon to be husband's family.

The Witch of Blackbird Pond was one of my required reading books when I was in sixth grade. I loved it. Now that I have a daughter who will soon be the same age I was when I first read it, I figured I'd buy this book for her. Except, I ended up reading it myself!! I love it even more now!! It's one of those stories that stays with you long after you finish it.

I read this book when I was looking for a gift for a friend's granddaughter. It is a well written book and is recognized as an empowering book. The lead character is a strong young woman who tests the norms of the time and her locale. Additionally, it shows even in puritanical times some women fought the illiterate superstitions and persecution of those that were of different beliefs and traditions. Although she tested the culture, she respected their traditions. She used her mind and education to affect change and bring in to the open efforts within her family and friends to be more open and accepting. I added this book to our local park's book lending box.

I used this with my homeschool children in middle school. It is a well-written tale that keeps the reader interested, while they learn about early New England settlers and their odd religion-driven habits/lifestyle. A good introduction that will make it easier to introduce the Salem witch trial stories later.

I remember reading this book as a teen and for years I tried finding it again but couldn't remember the name. Then thanks to the kindle it showed up after I finished a book and I read the short description and knew I found one of my favorite books from my teens. This book had made such an impression on me I longed to read it again and it did not disappoint. The main character of Kit was lovely. She was strong, open-minded, and independent especially for a girl in this time period. This was just a wonderful read I'm so glad I found it again after 20 years.

I bought this book as a classroom set for our 5th Grade Class to read together. They just finished reading it and the kids loved it. My daughter was jumping around the house for two days telling me repeatedly that I MUST read this book and that it was amazing. Based on this, I would definitely recommend this book to 10 years old and up who enjoy reading and can handle a bit of vocabulary look up.

I bought this book because my son needed to read it for 6th grade ELA class. While he didn't care for it too much I thought it was a very good book. That is why I gave it a 5 star rating.

Read this as a teenager and loved it. When asked what my favorite book was as a teenager I said The Witch of Blackbird Pond. Still enjoyable to read as an adult.

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