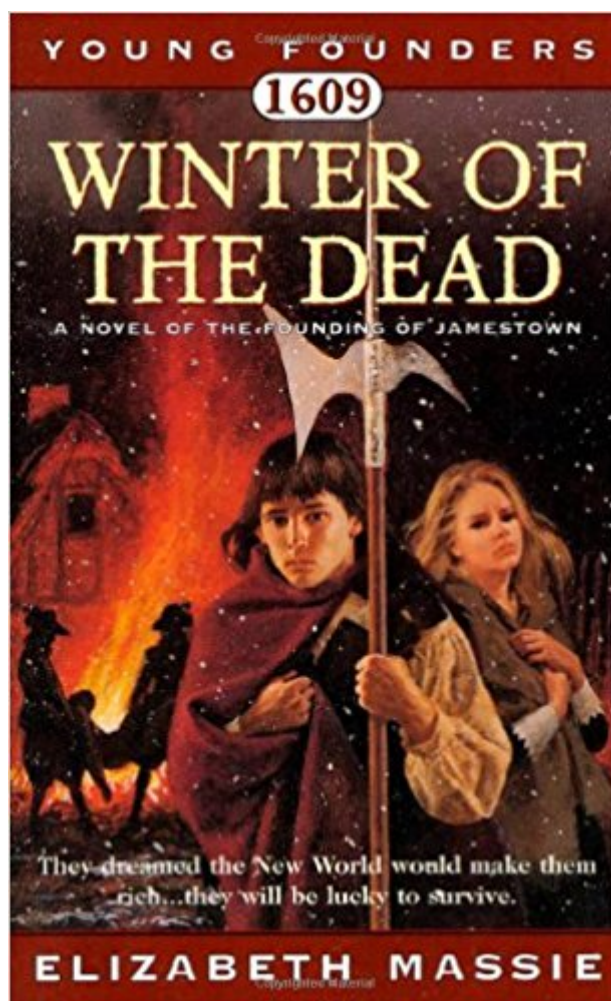


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1609: Winter Of The Dead: A Novel Of The Founding Of Jamestown (Young Founders)



Synopsis

America comes of age--as seen through the eyes of its young founders Nat and Richard are two orphaned thieves on the streets of London. When John Smith offers them passage as laborers on a merchant ship bound for the New World they jump at the opportunity. What luck! The land of Virginia is rumored to be paved with gold. They will be rich! But quickly the boys learn the awful truth: blinded by greed and arrogance, the settlers of the new English colony at Jamestown are unprepared for the brutal reality of frontier life. Inadequate supplies, illness, petty squabbling, malarial summer heat, and bitter winter cold decimate the colony. Those who escape death are reduced to chewing roots and shoe leather to survive--and, in one horrific instance, cannibalizing a corpse. Yet by spring more colonists arrive, dreaming of paradise but finding a colony on the brink of starvation. Through it all Nat and Richard must fall back on their wits to survive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"It is an eye-opener to read about free blacks (as they were called then) fighting on both sides of the Revolutionary War, and as a librarian I welcome this." - Kliatt on 1776: Son of Liberty --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Elizabeth Massie is author of numerous novels for young adult, middle grade, and primary readers. These include the Young Founders series, the Daughters of Liberty trilogy, The Great Chicago Fire:

1871, The Fight for Right, Read All About It, and more. A former middle school teacher, Elizabeth enjoys exploring both important and little-known moments in American history and presenting those moments to readers through the struggles and triumphs of her characters.~ ~ ~ ~ ~ Elizabeth lives in the historic Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, very close to where her family moved in 1747. She says, "Every place is historic. Well-known or not, every town, city, and county has its own compelling tale of people and events, a story that plays a part in the continuing story that is our history."~ ~ ~ ~ ~ --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I purchased 1609: Winter of the Dead thinking it was going to focus on the winter of 1609. If this is the reason you are purchasing the book, know that the book tells the story of first two years of the settlement of Jamestown leaving the winter of 1609 for the last few chapters. While the book itself is interesting- especially as the characters were all real people -it is fictional as the lives are recreated on known events filled in with speculation on what could have happened. It is a good companion to Blood on the River: Jamestown 1607 by Elisa Carbone. The book focuses on Nathaniel Peacock, a young boy recruited by John Smith, who has bought into the propaganda that America is filled with gold that can be picked up without any work. In reality there is no gold only hard work and severe hardships. Nathaniel does survive to adulthood as documented in historical evidence but we will never know what kind of boy he was. The thing that I did like about this book as it does bring out that the boys were brought over not only to help with the work but to be traded with the Native Americans as peace offerings. Overall it was a good book.

I am so very disappointed with this book. Considering this book is set in 1609 and about the founding of Jamestown I would not have expected there to be swear words in it. I purchased all the books in this set that Elizabeth Massie wrote but I am very apprehensive to have my children read the other books.

I was so pleased to find this book! As a teacher, I found it compliments our study of Jamestown and the infancy of what would, in almost two hundred more years, become the United States perfectly. Although a fictional account of one of the boys who did, in fact, come over with the first three ships, it includes actual events faced by actual historical figures...Smith, Archer, Newport, Radcliffe, Pocahontas, and more. The book is well-researched and engaging, with lively dialogue that hints of old-style conversation, excellent detail, action, and adventure. My seventh grade students found the

story fascinating as we read it over a period of two weeks. They were as interested in this as much they would be any well-told tale. They learned about the hardships, the struggles and occasional friendships the English forged with the Native Americans, the reasons for the English settlement and the fear of the Spanish, the terrible death of Archer and the wounding of Smith, the sickness and starvation in the "Starving Time", the desperation of the settlers -- all true events -- while feeling an empathy for teenaged Nat and his efforts to become a man in a foreign, difficult world. Some of my students even asked if there was a sequel to this book, so I directed them to history books that picked up after 1609, and they dove right in! What a way to get kids hooked on history! I highly recommend this for teachers of early American history or students who are looking for an teen adventure set in American history!

Although this book was very informative and taught me a good deal about the first few years in James Towne and the hardships the colonists suffered, I found that it was overly dark and scary. I appreciated the historical accuracy, such as when John Smith was injured, but, especially nearing the end, I found it very horrific. I know that this is what it was really like, but to have John Ratcliffe tortured to death, Nicholas Skot cannibalize a fourteen-year-old boy's corpse, and Peter Scott tortured into confessing that he murdered his wife and then burned at the stake all in quick succession, while myriads of people are dying all around them all the time was simply too much. I am thirteen years old and didn't sleep well at all after I read this book. I would recommend it for those who have a strong stomach.

I live in Yorktown and am in middle school and my favorite books to read are historical novels. This one is about Virginia history but also American history. It is about two boys who come to Jamestown in 1607 and settle with the other men like John Smith. Nathaniel, the main guy who was an orphan in England, likes to be left alone. He is strong and brave when terrible things happen to him and to the colony. John Smith, who he likes at first, really gets on his nerves but I won't say why because you need to find that out yourself. Nat learns a lot of things and even falls in love when a new ship comes in 1609 and a new girl arrives. The author makes everything seem really real and I think anyone would like this book, and all ages.

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