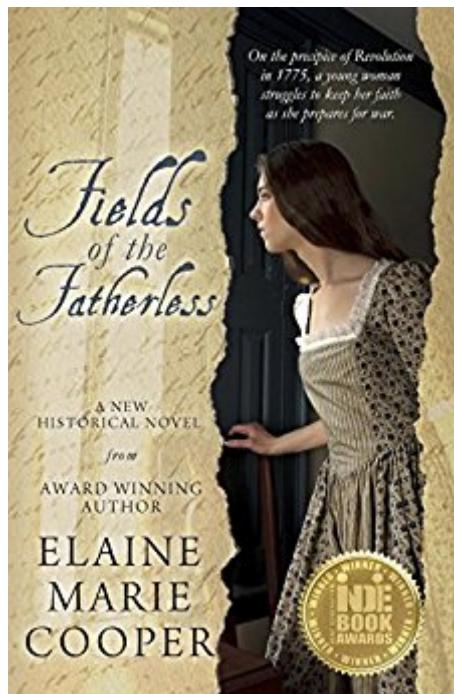


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# Fields Of The Fatherless



## **Synopsis**

In the early months of 1775, war is brewing in the American colonies. Although frightened, eighteen-year-old Betsy Russell (an ancestor to actor Kurt Russell) of Menotomy Village, Massachusetts, wants to be prepared in case of attack by British troops. Her father, prosperous farmer Jason, is the fourth generation of Russells on this land yet their very rights as British Colonials are being stripped away one by one. Will the King of England take their land as well? Tensions are growing here in the countryside west of Boston and the outbreak of battle seems a certainty. Jason desperately wants to protect his family his wife, children and grandchildren and their future. Betsy makes every attempt to be prepared for the worst. But not even the American militia could have predicted the bloody massacre that was about to occur right on the Russells' doorstep. If Betsy loses everything she holds dear, are the rights of all the Colonists endangered? Fields of the Fatherless is based on a true story. Winner of the Selah Award for Young Adult FictionWinner of the Next Generation Indie Book Award for Best Religious FictionWinner of the Moonbeam Children's Book Award for Best Young Adult Religious FictionInspirational content (I): Content of an inspirational/religious nature. May also contain some violence (V) certain readers may deem objectionable.

## **Book Information**

File Size: 984 KB

Print Length: 137 pages

Simultaneous Device Usage: Unlimited

Publisher: Lighthouse Publishing of the Carolinas (June 14, 2016)

Publication Date: June 14, 2016

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01H2UK9IS

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #352,495 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #80

inÃ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian > Historical #333 inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Children's eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious Fiction > Christian #349 inÃ  Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Literature & Fiction > Religious & Inspirational Fiction > Christian > Collections & Anthologies

## Customer Reviews

Fields of the Fatherless\*\*\*\*\* by Elaine Marie Cooper

Months before that first shout, "The regulars are coming! To arms! The regulars are coming!" the only daughter of Jason and Elizabeth Russell prepares the best they can for what is certain to be impending war between the American colonies and the British. Fields of the Fatherless conveys the thoughts, fears and prayers of the Russell family and the colonist living in Menotomy Village (now Arlington), Massachusetts located on Concord Road leading to Boston. Before each chapter we get a glimpse of Betsy's heart, fears and prayers from her journal writings. On April 19, 1775 their worst fears come true, the war has come right to their front door. What follows is nothing like Betsy, her family or neighbors could have even imagined. As her father leaves to join the minutemen, he reminds Betsy that he is counting on her to keep everyone safe. As pops, sharp bursts of ignited gunpowder continue to grow into explosive terror, thunderous blasts cannon fire, followed by the wails and screams of the wounded, Betsy's sister-in-law struggles to give birth. Birth such a blessing but there is death too on this day. so much death. Who died, who is wounded? Lives forever changed. Elaine Marie Cooper has taken historical facts and written a powerful, compelling story from Betsy's view from her journal entrees. Her descriptions are such that I felt as if I were among the colonists, experiencing what they experienced not just reading about it. Heart-wrenching emotions, forgiveness, love, compassion and faith take hold of your heart as the story unfolds which stay with the reader long after the ending. (Note: I actually read this book a few months ago but recently was given an audio copy to listen to by the author. The narrator of the book did a wonderful job). ~~I received an audio-book from the author for my honest review~~

Short novel of Christian historical fiction based on a true historical account of the 1775 conflict in the village of Menotomy, Massachusetts. Betsy Russell is an eighteen year old girl living in a Patriot family near colonial Boston. Her village is busy preparing a militia for the inevitable battle looming on the horizon with the British. Betsy feels slighted that her younger brother Noah is taught how to fire

a musket, while she is expected to stay home and play a support role. When Betsy confides her feelings to the blacksmith, he gives her a small knife to defend herself and protect her family. Betsy could never imagine what role that knife would play in her future. The battle brings both joy and tragedy to the Russell family. Betsy will grapple with grief, struggle with her Christian faith, assume heavy family responsibilities, become a nurse, and find out about love in many unexpected ways. This novel is based on actual historical events; the fictional characterizations and quotes from the Bible add a humanistic element to the narrative. Some of the battle details are a bit graphic, which is the reason I would suggest the target audience to be age thirteen and older.

Birth pains.....the birthing of a baby or of a nation? Both begin simultaneously in Elaine Marie Cooper's newest book, intending a realistic comparison of the grueling pain and bleeding during birth and war. Believing the characters were fictional and the story based on Ms Cooper's admirable deep research of that era and area during The Revolutionary War in Massachusetts, I was astonished to learn otherwise! Just this morning I finished reading this compelling story, and fell behind other readers posting reviews. Having read through several inclusive reviews about the story, I wondered what more I could say that would impress a reader to obtain a copy of *Fields of the Fatherless* - if they weren't already convinced. Nearly every lexis or depiction has already been used to illustrate this exquisite story. I can only add I am profoundly touched by the sensitivity shown in Elaine Marie Cooper's narrative of historical changing events of our nation. There is no romance in Ms Cooper's story...only the courting of God to the hearts on either side to believe and trust in Him. During the short time that Betsy cared for an injured enemy soldier with such compassion and forgiveness did I think romance might emanate. There is a slight impetus that suggests that possibility is not null and void in the future for Betsy. From the 1700's, we read of the horror and atrocity of war, and yet do we truly understand the pain unless we ourselves have been in current warfare? Betsy's story doesn't end without promise. We do go forth. Reading only snippets from Betsy's diary gave me a longing to read its entirety, owning up to my snoopy curiosity. Betsy's story says much to me about the author's personal relationship with our Lord. Stories, fictional or real based on the Revolutionary War or all wars are not pretty. The beauty of Ms Cooper's story is being witness to the growth and maturity of Betsy and those in Menotomy spiritually and emotionally. Love and war are much the same in any century that God's children struggle. The most challenging part of humans experiencing what these families and community lived or died through is forgiveness. It would be easy to venture philosophically into the need today of the same kind of loyalty to good morals, love and faith displayed within the Russell family. Betsy's faith and

obedience firstly to her beloved earthly father was the heart to understanding her Heavenly Father. Ms Cooper creatively poses enough dangling hooks in this story, for which there is purpose. I'm already growing impatient for that purpose to be revealed in her next novel. My review has left some relevant details out, so if you want to know what they are....do Elaine Marie Cooper the honor of reading *Fields of the Fatherless*. Oh, and do read the Afterword...you won't stop thinking about it!

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