



Come Juneteenth

By Ann Rinaldi

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Sis Goose is a beloved member of Luli's family, despite the fact that she was born a slave. But the family is harboring a terrible secret. And when Union soldiers arrive on their Texas plantation to announce that slaves have been declared free for nearly two years, Sis Goose is horrified to learn that the people she called family have lied to her for so long. She runs away--but her newly found freedom has tragic consequences.

How could the state of Texas keep the news of the Emancipation Proclamation from reaching slaves? In this riveting Great Episodes historical drama, Ann Rinaldi sheds light on the events that led to the creation of Juneteenth, a celebration of freedom that continues today.

Includes an author's note.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 5-7—The author's talent for bringing history to life is vividly showcased in this novel. When Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863, Texas slave owners, fearing an uprising, kept the fact a secret. They were finally forced to reveal the truth two and a half years later, on June 19, 1865, which came to be known as Juneteenth and is celebrated to this day. In this story, 14-year-old Luli has grown up with Sis Goose, a young mulatto girl, technically a slave but raised as part of the family. Luli's father is an invalid and her mother is busy running the plantation, so her older brother, Gabriel, has assumed responsibility for her, teaching her to ride and shoot like a boy, and instilling in her a fierce independence. Although Sis Goose is like a sister to Luli, and Gabriel is in love with her, the family does not tell Sis Goose of her freedom, which results in a devastating tragedy. Luli's authentic voice demonstrates Rinaldi's ability to evoke the human side of history, and the novel's evenhanded approach portrays the moral ambiguities of the time fairly and honestly. Believable characters with human strengths and weaknesses, lively writing, and plenty of action and suspense make this book a real page-turner for lovers of historical fiction.—*Quinby Frank, Green Acres School, Rockville, MD*

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From [Booklist](#)

Two years after Lincoln issued his Emancipation Proclamation, Texas slaves finally learned that they were free. Rinaldi personalizes the shocking Reconstruction history in this gripping novel that focuses on two young Texas women. Thirteen-year-old Luli and slightly older Sis Goose have been raised as sisters by Luli's parents on their Texas plantation. Sis Goose, the daughter of a white steamship captain and a black slave, is technically a slave herself, and when word of emancipation begins to circulate, Luli's family (including older brother Gabe, who has begun an affair with Sis Goose) tell their adopted daughter that the rumors are false. The repercussions of that lie lead to increasingly catastrophic events after the Yankees march in. Writing in Luli's naive, biased voice, Rinaldi focuses sympathetically on the dilemmas of her white characters, and their viewpoints about freedom and bondage will surely challenge contemporary readers. The moral questions are right at the surface, along with the troubling historical facts; readers will want to discuss it all. Suggest Mildred Taylor's *The Land* (2001) to follow this. *Gillian Engberg*
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Review

"Believable characters with human strengths and weaknesses, lively writing, and plenty of action and suspense make this book a real page-turner for lovers of historical fiction."--*School Library Journal*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Gerald Magee:

In this 21st hundred years, people become competitive in every way. By being competitive currently, people have do something to make these survives, being in the middle of the crowded place and notice through surrounding. One thing that occasionally many people have underestimated that for a while is reading. Sure,

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Corey Mason:

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Martha Royal:

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