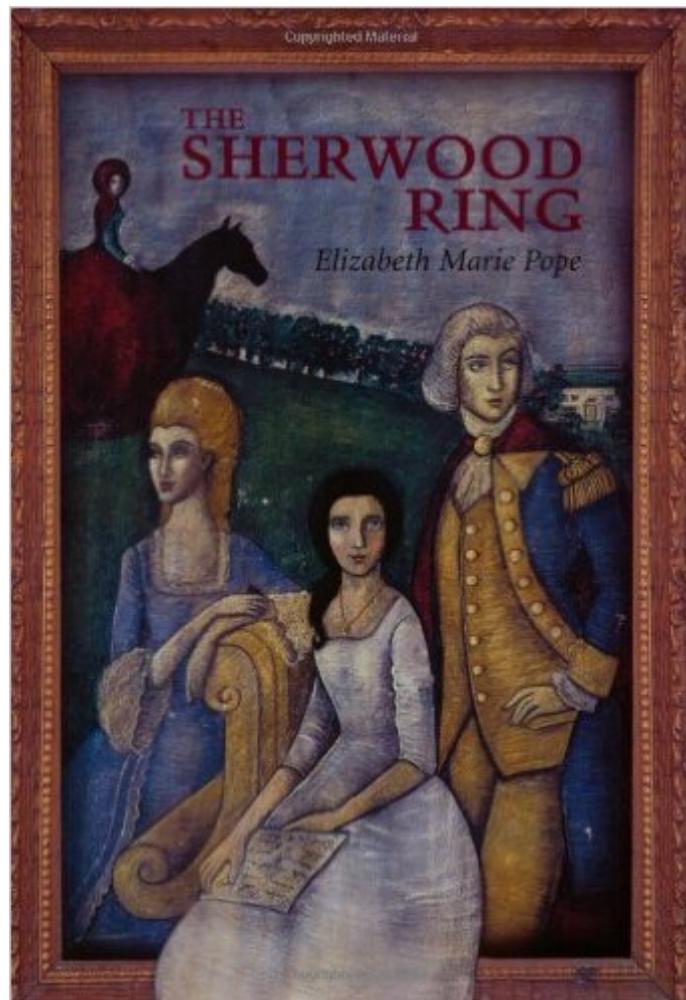


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The Sherwood Ring



Synopsis

Newly orphaned Peggy Grahame is caught off-guard when she first arrives at her family's ancestral estate. Her eccentric uncle Enos drives away her only new acquaintance, Pat, a handsome British scholar, then leaves Peggy to fend for herself. But she is not alone. The house is full of mysteries and ghosts. Soon Peggy becomes involved with the spirits of her own Colonial ancestors and witnesses the unfolding of a centuries-old romance against a backdrop of spies and intrigue and of battles plotted and foiled. History has never been so exciting "especially because the ghosts are leading Peggy to a romance of her own!"

Book Information

Paperback: 256 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (October 29, 2001)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 0.8 x 5 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (56 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #299,995 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #196 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #1411 in Books > Children's Books > Science Fiction & Fantasy > Spine-Chilling Horror

Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

Let me first dispel any misconceptions you might have. Upon first hearing the title, I assumed that this was a Robin Hood retelling. It isn't. This is a children's historical fiction, but in this case the history imparts a vivid backdrop for the story to take place. You never feel pressured to know overmuch about the events of the American Revolution (although your enjoyment will be enhanced if you do). History isn't a dry, weighty affair in this book--it's what gives The Sherwood Ring its breath. I've also heard this called a ghost story. Technically true, but each of the characters is vividly, blazingly drawn, undimmed by any ghostliness. Their purpose is not to haunt the present as echoes of the past. In fact, it is *their* story which forms the heart of the book, and I argue that you spend more time in the time of the American Revolution than in the present day. The appearance of those

characters as ghosts only provides you with a chance to observe a delightful parallelism between *then* and *now.* Throw in some romance. Not the soppy kind that you want to wring out, but the thoughtful kind between two well-suited characters that makes you want to cheer it on. There's a good share of humor, as well. Despite the presence of a war in one storyline and ghosts in the other, this really is not a grim book at all. So: one American corporal, his normal arrogance dampened by desperation as he searches for a British conspirator who slips through his hands. The butterfly-deft woman who taunts him for his failure. His sister, quite sensible, but even the most clearheaded can get a bit muddled when caught in a snowstorm, and so she rides straight into her own share of problems.

...read this one, without a doubt. This is historical fiction done with skill-after I finished it, I wanted to research the Revolutionary War even further (I had recently done a project for my history class-a novella about the Rev War-so I had been doing a lot of research already) to see if Peaceable Sherwood really existed. I have owned it for a week and have been unable to put it down. My history teacher recommended it to me and I must commend her for that. With an interesting romance set in two time periods and amidst ghosts and family traditions, this is one I doubt you will be able to put down. The book starts out with Peggy Grahame going to New York to live with her uncle in the family's ancestral estate, Rest-and-be-thankful, after her father dies. On her way there she first sees a woman whom she later discovers is the ghost of her ancestors, and she also meets a young British scholar named Pat in the country doing some research on the War for Independence, who is also headed for Rest-and-be-thankful. Peggy's uncle banishes him from the house at first sight for unexplained reasons. A very typical situation, is it not? Peggy's uncle prove to be overly busy and never has any time for her, so she sets off to explore the house by herself-and there are enough mysteries without explanation. As Peggy explores the estate, she finds pieces of her family's history which bring visits from ghosts. And not just any ghosts, mind you. These are ghosts so real and captivating that I often felt that the ghosts had more life in them than Peggy and Pat did. Each ghost comes to Peggy and tells her a bit of his story from the time of the War.

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