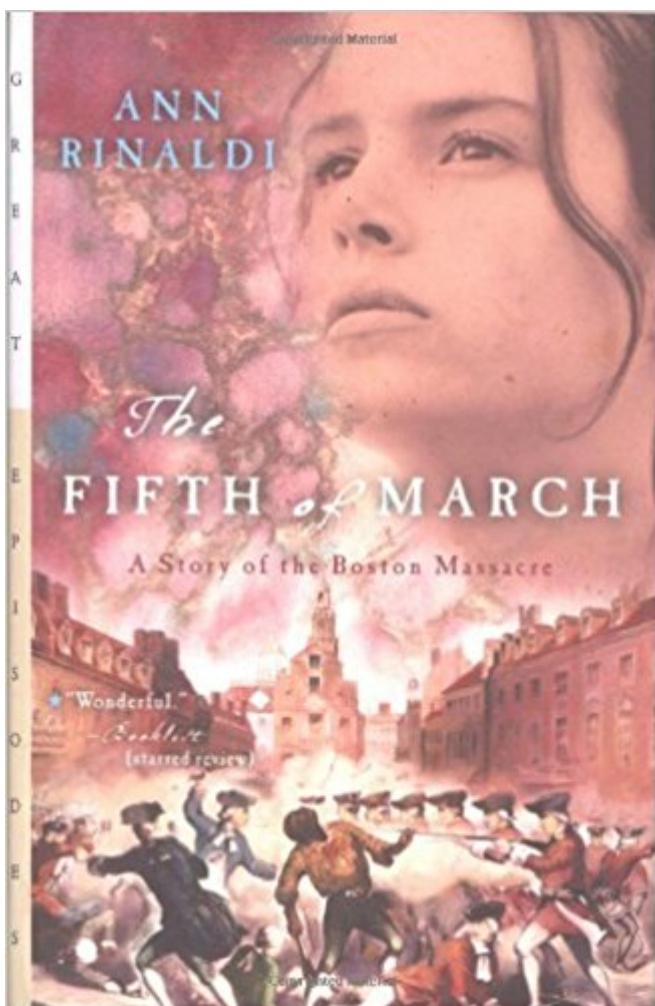


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# The Fifth Of March: A Story Of The Boston Massacre (Great Episodes)



## Synopsis

“Carefully researched and lovingly written, Rinaldi’s latest presents a girl indentured to John and Abigail Adams during the tense period surrounding the 1770 Massacre. . . . Fortuitously timed, a novel that illuminates a moment from our past that has strong parallels to recent events. Bibliography.” • Kirkus Reviews

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Historical events aren't as neat and tidy as they appear in history books, nor are they dissimilar from modern happenings (i.e., the Rodney King case), as Rinaldi (A Break with Charity) ably demonstrates in this painstakingly researched tale told by a young servant in colonial Boston. Rachel is 14, bound as a nursemaid to the children of John and Abigail Adams, at whose house she sees many of the town's "movers and shakers" (one of the book's few faults is its jarringly anachronistic language). When British troops are sent to Boston to keep order, Rachel--despite her increasingly anti-Royalist sentiments--takes pity on Matthew Kilroy, the young sentry posted at the Adamses' door. Their relationship gradually blossoms, but Rachel, who has embarked on an ambitious program to educate herself and who rightly fears "getting into circumstances," refuses to demonstrate her affection in more than verbal terms. Lonely, frustrated, underpaid and reviled by the citizenry he was sent to protect, Matthew explodes during a riot on March 5, 1770, after which he and his fellows are tried for murder and manslaughter in the deaths of five colonialists. How Rachel acts according to her newly awakened social conscience and sense of self-worth makes for

engrossing and educational reading. However, readers may object to Rachel's sense of guilt over Matthew's sexual frustration, and to her pronouncements on "good breeding." Ages 10-up. Copyright 1993 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-9-Through the eyes of Rachel Marsh, an indentured servant in the household of John Adams, Rinaldi shows readers the events leading up to the Boston Massacre. Rachel is an orphan in search of a "place," and in the course of her duties as nursemaid to the Adams's children, she comes in contact with many of the movers and shakers of colonial Boston. She also meets a young British soldier who ultimately will stand trial for his life as a participant in the massacre. The story moves along briskly, and details of life in 18th-century Boston are woven into the narrative. The political unrest, the differing views of the patriots and loyalists, and the constant threat of mob violence are also well portrayed. An author's note provides an interesting glimpse of the way a historical novel is constructed. However, Rachel's reaction to being disowned by her thoroughly nasty Uncle Eb is difficult to credit, given her earlier decision to cut him out of her life. Equally murky is her relationship with Private Kilroy; readers will readily understand his frustration. In the end, readers may be carried along more by the drama of the historical events than by the vacillations of the heroine. Entertaining, but not compelling. Elaine Fort Weischedel, Turner Free Library, Randolph, MA  
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Thus book is filled with a little bit of everything. There us a beautiful story an the true tragedy of The Massacre. But there us also a little bit of romance.I would have liked to see what became of Rachel. Did she marry Matthew and dud she like her new home in Philadelphia?

I really like Rinaldi as an author, and I liked the basic premise of this story. It kept me reading and I had trouble putting it down. However, the characters kept it from being a 5 star book. I didn't like Matthew, and I found his relationship with Rachel to be poorly written - it seemed like Rinaldi couldn't decide if she wanted it to seem like a friendship or a romance. I also found Rachel to be rather naive, and even though the reader is supposed to feel that Rachel has grown and matured by the end of the book, I did not feel that she did.

I had to choose a book to read for English class, and this was one of the choices. I was surprised to

find that I genuinely enjoyed reading it. It's well-written and overall quality reading material. It makes connecting to history simple and even fun. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Historical fiction.

The writing is fairly predictable, however, it is a good introduction for an adolescent to the beginnings of discontent that led to the Revolutionary War. As an adult, however, I wanted a little more from the character. She seemed to contradict her convictions with some of her choices.

Love this book! It coordinates the storyline of my Colonial Boston interactive unit in 5th grade! Ann Rinaldi is such an excellent historical fiction writer, I think. Her characters come alive with their thought and feelings, but are based on factual events you can find documented by historians.

This was a great book. I couldn't put it down once I started, and it's so refreshing to have such historical accuracy alongside a wonderful tale of love and independence.

Well written. Great history

Ann Rinaldi is full of History

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