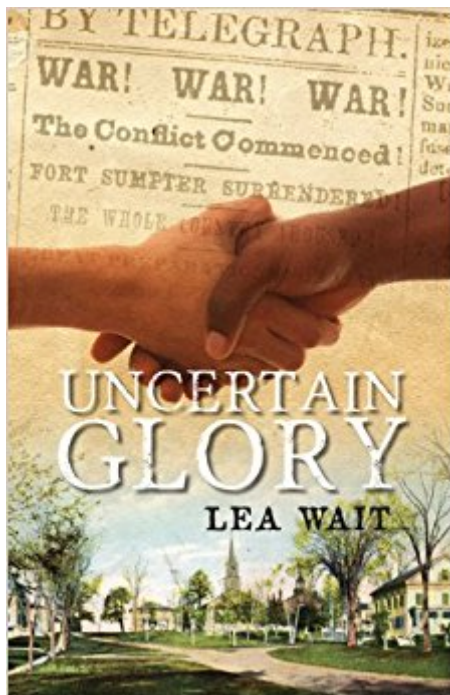


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Uncertain Glory



Synopsis

Joe Wood has big dreams. He wants to be a newspaperman, and though he's only thirteen, he's already borrowed money for the equipment to start his own press. But it's April 1861, and the young nation is teetering on the brink of a civil war. He has to help Owen, his young assistant, deal with the challenges of being black in a white world torn apart by color. He needs to talk his best friend, Charlie, out of enlisting. He wants to help a young spiritualist, Nell, whose uncle claims can she speak to the dead. And when Owen disappears, it's up to Joe to save him. Lea Wait skillfully draws on the lives of real people in Maine's history to tell this story of three young adults touched by war and the tensions it brings, forcing them into adulthood before they may be ready.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Wait nicely captures the infrequently depicted Northern homefront of the Civil War, as well as the entrepreneurial drive that some teens shared when there were fewer age-based labor restrictions. Joe's homespun voice captures the full flavor of a smart and determined kid with his eyes firmly on the future, richly evoking time and place. A worthy and entertaining trip back through time." --Kirkus Reviews
"This is a quick, exciting, well-researched read (based upon actual, real people), and the author does an excellent job of layering in the historical detail needed to understand the story without resorting to info dumps or awkward dialogue exchanges." --Kidliterati
This is a novel where the intervening centuries slip away, leaving prescience and promise with the overwhelming demands of now. --Celia McGee, Center for Fiction

Lea Wait is the author of four acclaimed historical novels for children aged 7 and up set in nineteenth-century Maine. Her books include *Stopping to Home*, *Seaward Born*, *Wintering Well*, and *Finest Kind*. She also writes the New York Times-praised six-book *Shadows Antique Print Mystery* series, traditional mysteries featuring antique print dealer and community college professor Maggie Summer, the most recent of which is *Shadows on a Cape Cod Wedding*. She grew up in New Jersey and Maine, and has an undergraduate degree from Chatham College in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and an MA and DWD from New York University. She worked for AT&T in New York and New Jersey while she was raising her four daughters, whom she adopted as a single parent. She now writes full time, is married to artist Bob Thomas, and blogs at <http://www.maineecrimewriters.com> with nine other Maine mystery writers. She invites you to check her website, www.leawait.com, and to friend her on Facebook.

This is an excellent story. Lea Wait doesn't tell you about life in a small town in Maine. She shows you through the voice and action of the characters. You are invited to walk or run side by side with the young newspaper entrepreneurs as they struggle to keep their newspaper afloat and bring the news of Fort Sumter in the South and town people struggling with their patriotism at the time. These daring young men dare to expose the trickery of a young spiritualist. I really enjoyed this story.

Interesting story about a young adult's running a newspaper, aided by a few friends - one of whom enlisted, despite being underage. It certainly 'brought home' how the war affected northerners as well as southerners, and the disruption of family life for all.

I enjoyed this book but was a little surprised that it ended so quickly. It was surely a quick read.

"Uncertain Glory" is an excellent novel of how the beginning of the Civil War affected people young and old in the New England state of Maine. Lea Wait, author of other historical Young Adult novels and adult mysteries, has used some real historical Wiscasset residents in this gripping story. Fourteen-year-old Joe Wood owns a newspaper. He's helped by friend Charlie and 9-year-old Owen, who is black. Owen becomes a victim of nasty bigotry, and he disappears. Townspeople look for him, but Joe searches harder to find him and bring him home. Along with the regular weekly newspapers, Joe needs to print more special War editions to make enough money for the final payment on his printing equipment. Another big story will be about Nell, a young girl who comes to town with her uncle and aunt. She seems to be psychic, and has given Joe's parents a message

from his dead brother. Is she really psychic or a phony? Joe will find out. Wait combines Nell's story with Civil War uncertainties, heightening the tension. Joe's father volunteers to go to war, so Joe will have to help his mother in the store more often. A New England point of view on the Civil War is not often encountered in Young Adult literature. Lea Wait does a splendid job of bringing her well-rounded characters to life. We feel at home in 1860 Wiscasset, and wonder how the war will affect them all.

Thoroughly enjoyed Uncertain Glory. I'm a Civil War buff, and I realized, while reading this book, how much less attention is paid to the home front in the North as compared to the South. Lea Wait manages to illuminate the early days of the Civil War in small-town Maine with a story that is both fun, and thought-provoking.

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