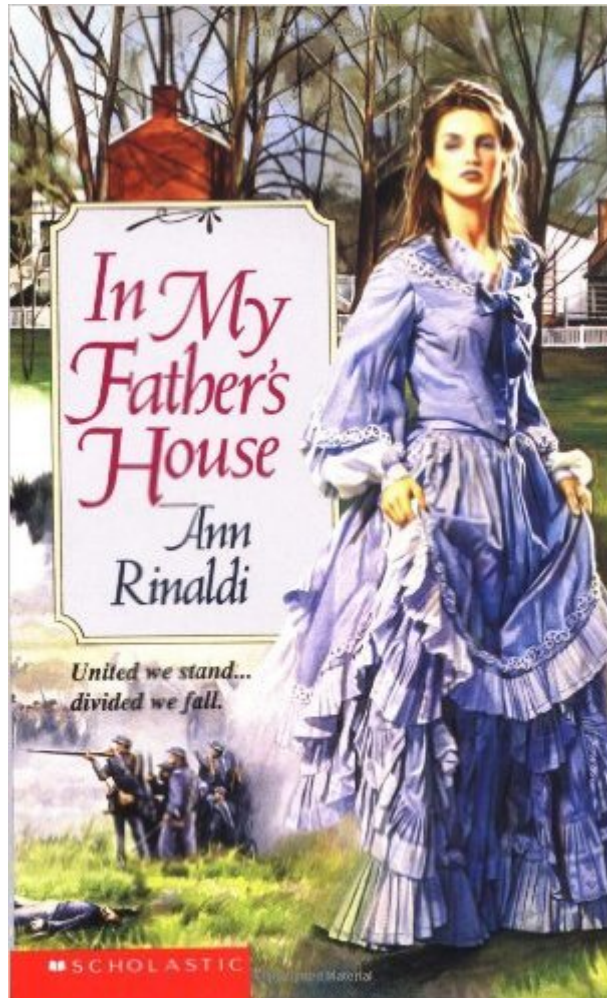


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# In My Father's House (Point)



## Synopsis

An ALA Best Book for Young Adults, now in paperback. This insightful historical novel set during the Civil War looks at a girl's struggle to keep her family together and to accept her stepfather's beliefs about slavery and the war.

## Book Information

Age Range: 12 and up

Lexile Measure: 640L (What's this?)

Series: Point

Mass Market Paperback: 336 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Paperbacks (November 1, 1994)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590447319

ISBN-13: 978-0590447317

Product Dimensions: 6.7 x 4.2 x 0.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 0.3 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (79 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #317,156 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #263 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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[Historical Fiction > United States](#) #1290 in [Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction >](#)

[Historical Fiction > United States](#)

## Customer Reviews

In *My Father's House* follows a young Southern girl, Oscie Mason, as she lives twelve years of her life, plagued by the Civil War. It all starts when Oscie's mother, Virginia, marries Will Mclean. Oscie does not like him, mostly because she is unwilling to allow her beloved father to be replaced. She is disrespectful and rude to him as often as possible, and the two fight with each other constantly, even when Oscie is only a little girl of seven. But when Will Mclean buys a new slave, Mary Ann, Oscie is enraged. Oscie quickly finds that Mary Ann is evil, practicing voodoo, and is sure that she is set to curse the family. Meanwhile, talk of war is raging like wildfire. Will Mclean, or "Daddy Will" as the girls have come to call him, hires a yankee teacher, Button, to tutor the girls. Oscie grows attached to Button, and they become fast friends. One night in January, upon the arrival of one life, another in the family is lost. This is the first tear in the family, and one in the many heartbreaks of Oscie herself. This is a fabulous book. I could not put it down, and was finished with it in a matter of

days. You have to be a mature reader to really enjoy the story though. Another Rinaldi triumph.

This is very interesting and informative. Couldn't put it down, but just to be clear - Rinaldi's books are for younger readers, not adults, although I know of adults who do read her. Still enjoyable and historically accurate.

This was the first Ann Rinaldi book I have read. I was immediately drawn to the characters and Ms. Rinaldi's wonderful talent for storytelling. She carefully built and detailed the relationship between the heroine, Oscie Mason, and her step-father, Will McLean, and how their relationship changes as a result of the War between the States and Oscie's growing to adulthood. I was fascinated by the little known fact that the Civil War started and ended on the property of the McLean family. I would highly recommend this book to any high school American history class. Ann Rinaldi has brought history alive again.

Ann Rinaldi puts forth nothing but her best in all her books, especially *In My Father's House*. Rinaldi's main character is Oscie. She is young, free-spirited and interesting. Oscie is trapped between her world of luxury down South and the war taking place on her front lawn. This book is full of excitement, danger and sadness. Everything from sisters drowning, war happening and Oscie's tutor causing a riot because she was from the North is right in the pages of this wonderful book. I loved it! It was suspenseful, sad, happy, and interesting all at the same time. It tells a lot of truth about the Civil War. If you are a big fan of *Gone With The Wind* it is inevitable that you will enjoy *In My Father's House* by Ann Rinaldi.

This book was my favorite childhood book when I was a pre-teen. I enjoyed historical fiction novels and relating to a strong yet complicated female lead character who is growing into herself as she transition from child to young woman, develops her relationships with her parents, siblings and peers, and experiences young love. The novel is fairly historical accurate about the civil war and its affect upon the lives of people living through the war, beginning with the first battle at Manassas/Bull Run on the plantation of the McLean family and concluding with the peace treaty signing between Generals Grant and Lee at the McLean House in Appomattox Court House. The story follows Oscie Mason, stepdaughter of Wilmer "Will" McLean, through the 1850s and 1860s. I highly recommend this novel and other novels by Ann Rinaldi. As a pre-teen I learned a lot of historical knowledge from her books and easily related to the characters and their transition from child to young adult. My

sister recently gave me a copy for Christmas this year to replace the one that I had lost years ago - I eagerly read it by the fireplace and enjoyed this novel just as much now as I did then.

I think this is Ann Rinaldi's best book. I found so much to empathize with in the character Oscie -- she is clever, a little rebellious, mostly loving, thinks she knows everything, and there is just enough (appropriate) romance to make the book feel fun to read for the target audience. After reading this book I bought lots of Ann Rinaldi's other books -- only *The Fifth of March* came close, in my opinion, to creating as strong and memorable a heroine. Highly recommend.

Ann Rinaldi is one of my favorite authors. All of her books are very good, and teach the reader about history. This novel was especially historical. *In My father's House* was about the McLean family who lived in the house at Bull Run, which was the narrator's father's house, and then later moved to a house in Appomattox Court House. Bull Run was the first major battle of the civil war, and General Robert E. Lee's surrender to General Ulysses S. Grant took place in the study of the McLean's house in Appomattox Court House. I was so interested while reading all about the characters lives, and then thrilled at the end to realize that it was all true. I think that one of the best parts about Ann Rinaldi's books is that at the end of them she gives a brief summary of what is true and what is fiction. It was just incredible at how accurate the whole book was to the history, and how interesting the character's lives were throughout the war. I loved the novel *In My Father's House*!

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