



Eleanor

By Barbara Cooney

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In the tradition of her award-winning Emily, two-time Caldecott winner Barbara Cooney presents a lively, moving portrait of one of our most beloved First Ladies. With meticulous research and clarity of vision, Cooney recreates the worlds that shaped the life of Eleanor Roosevelt, from the daunting grandeur of a 19th century ballroom to the simple humanity revealed at a Christmas dinner for the poor. Full color.

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Eleanor By Barbara Cooney Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Award-winning author Cooney presents a well-researched and poignant storybook biography of Eleanor Roosevelt's childhood. The wartime First Lady of the New Deal, who became one of the most beloved Americans for her empathy with the downtrodden, was famously unglamorous and plain in looks, even as a child. Her beautiful and awful mother humiliated the little girl, calling her Granny, "because she is so funny and old-fashioned looking." Orphaned at nine the girl eventually found her way to confidence, helped initially by a boarding-school headmistress. The book mentions only briefly Roosevelt's later achievements, so a parent will have to supply a little context for this tale of an ugly duckling who turns into, not a swan, but a fulfilled and happy duck.

From Publishers Weekly

The privileged though painful childhood of First Lady and humanitarian Eleanor Roosevelt (1884-1962) is chronicled with tenderness and care in Caldecott Medalist Cooney's (Emily; *The Ox-Cart Man*) memorable picture book biography. Skillfully compressing a bounty of detail, the author/artist focuses on Eleanor's emotional life as a childhood "ugly duckling": "From the beginning the baby was a disappointment to her mother," Cooney begins. The tale ends with Eleanor's years at Allenswood, the English boarding school whose gifted headmistress helped transform Eleanor into a confident young woman. Cooney wisely refrains from specifically naming the Roosevelt family, allowing children to experience the text as an entertaining story as well as a piece of history. Creamy, reverently rendered paintings portray fashionable Manhattan, Hudson River Valley and Long Island settings; Cooney's intricate reproductions of houses and her recreations of period clothing and interiors are pleasures to behold as well as visual history lessons. An afterword sheds light on Eleanor Roosevelt's career (but would have benefited from the inclusion of her birth, marriage and death dates); most readers will probably want to explore more fully the groundbreaking achievements outlined here. Ages 5-up.

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From School Library Journal

Grade 1-3?Cooney once again brings her unique vision to biography. Beginning the story with Eleanor's Roosevelt's mother's disappointment at her birth, the author emphasizes the girl's lonely and often fearful childhood. By the time she was nine, both of her parents were dead, and she lived with her grandmother. At 15, Eleanor was sent to boarding school in London; when she returned home three years later, she had gained a confident understanding of her own unique strengths. The book ends with Eleanor's public role still to come. A brief afterword provides information about her worldwide influence in her later life. For young readers, however, the important story is of Eleanor's childhood and the many problems she overcame. Cooney's paintings are well suited to her subject and convey a sense of the past through muted colors and careful details. By showing the young Eleanor at the fringes of the pictures on many pages, the artist emphasizes her subject's isolation and loneliness. Toward the end of the story, however, Eleanor is squarely in the center of the page. Cooney thus accentuates Eleanor's coming out, her character now fully formed in all its quiet dignity.?Barbara Kiefer, Teachers College, Columbia University, NY

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Jeffrey Diaz:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite publication and reading a publication. Beside you can solve your problem; you can add your knowledge by the reserve entitled Eleanor. Try to face the book Eleanor as your friend. It means that it can be your friend when you truly feel alone and beside that of course make you smarter than in the past. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you. The book makes you more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So, we need to make new experience along with knowledge with this book.

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Billie Brown:

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