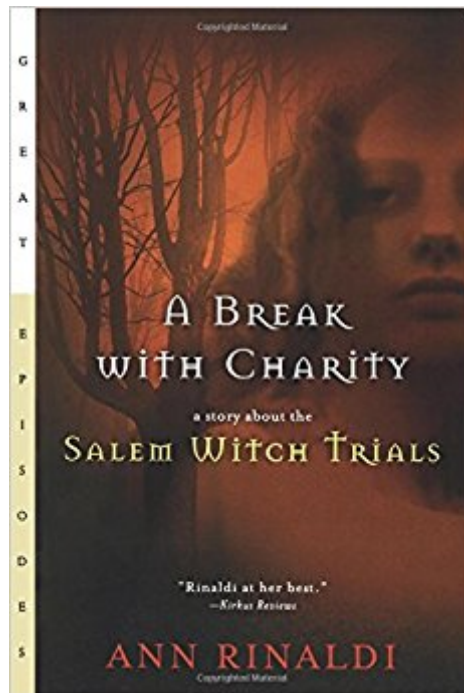


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# A Break With Charity: A Story About The Salem Witch Trials



## Synopsis

Susanna desperately wants to join the circle of girls who meet every week at the parsonage. What she doesn't realize is that the girls are about to set off a torrent of false accusations leading to the imprisonment and execution of countless innocent people. Susanna faces a painful choice. Should she keep quiet and let the witch-hunt panic continue, or should she "break charity" with the group--and risk having her own family members named as witches? Reader's guide included.

## Book Information

Series: Great Episodes

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 153 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #30,938 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #14 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary Periods #37 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial

Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Boredom and frustration in a small Puritan town provide fertile ground for a band of teenage girls to incite and nurture deadly mischief. Susannah English, caught between the desire to be a part of the group and her revulsion toward their wickedness, finds herself an unwilling party to what would become the Salem witch trials. A graceful blend of fiction and history, Rinaldi's incisive and thoughtful narrative brings to life a dark period in America's past. The reader is confronted with conflicting and disturbing issues: lies masquerading as divine truth, courage, trust and the terrifying power of a rising tide of hysteria. The artful placement of Susannah as an observer provides a 360-degree view of the causes and effects of inexplicable mass persecution. At the same time, the author's quiet, factual style stands in a soothing contrast to her inherently shocking and histrionic subject matter. Finely tuned, well researched and very accessible, this novel ranks with Rinaldi's

finest work. Ages 10-up. Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 6-10-- Well researched, this story of the Salem witch trials is told 14 years later from the perspective of a young woman who lingered on the fringes of the bewitched girls' circle in 1692. Susanna English, daughter of a free-thinking Salem family, is both attracted to and frightened by what she sees brewing in Tituba's kitchen. When the group begins to "cry out" on townspeople, one girl admits to Susanna that they are playing a game, seeking freedom from the harsh Puritan code of conduct. As the game gains momentum, the circle begins to believe in its own power. One young woman warns Susanna that if she betrays them, the bewitched girls will accuse her family. In fact, Susanna's family is torn apart, and so is all of Salem. The plot is rich with details and names that will be familiar to those who have read about the trials. However, despite the tumultuous events, the characters remain rigid. Contributing to the formality of the text is the author's use of Puritan diction and grammar. Even Susanna's anguish, as she is torn between her fear of revealing her secret and her sense of responsibility because she is silent, is muted. Nevertheless, *A Break with Charity* portrays an excruciating era in American history from a unique perspective, and it will be enjoyed by readers who enjoy psychology, the supernatural, and history. An excellent companion volume is Ann Petry's *Tituba of Salem Village* (HarperCollins, 1988). --Carolyn Noah, Central Mass. Regional Lib. System, Worcester, MA Copyright 1992 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

I love historical fiction and this book did not disappoint. At the end of the book the author tells the reader what was fact and what was fiction. Well done!

great book

The most intriguing part of this book was the author's explanation of how she intertwined fictional characters and fictional events with true life individuals. Read an interesting novel that developed into true life drama to explain the mindset of Puritans of the past.

A very well-written story about the Salem witch trials. A little bit of fact mixed with a little bit of fiction made for an enjoyable read for me. Recommended to a friend and she liked it a lot also. A nice, easy read, able to finish it in just a few days.

I liked this book. Gives details about the trials and helps readers understand this event in history. Preteens will enjoy this book.:D

This was well written. I enjoyed it very much and look forward to reading other books by Ann Rinaldi.

Ann Rinaldi is great at writing historical fiction, every single one of her books that I have read have been phenomenal. Another great book that I have read by her is numbering the bones.

This was not available in your local book stores. It was needed for school, and with the quick delivery, was able to complete homework before it was due.

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