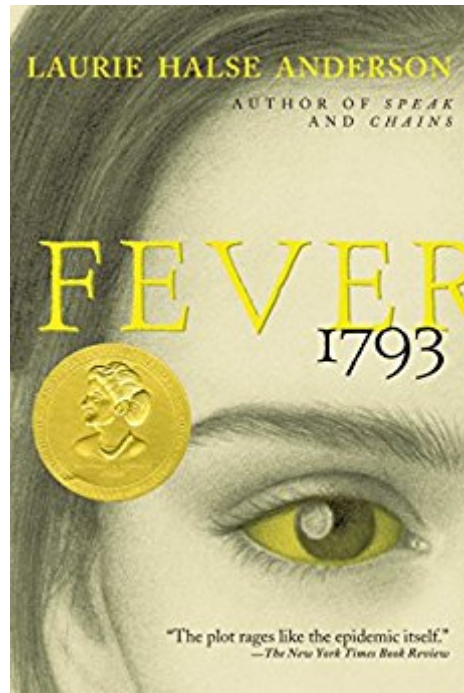




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# Fever 1793



## Synopsis

It's late summer 1793, and the streets of Philadelphia are abuzz with mosquitoes and rumors of fever. Down near the docks, many have taken ill, and the fatalities are mounting. Now they include Polly, the serving girl at the Cook Coffeehouse. But fourteen-year-old Mattie Cook doesn't get a moment to mourn the passing of her childhood playmate. New customers have overrun her family's coffee shop, located far from the mosquito-infested river, and Mattie's concerns of fever are all but overshadowed by dreams of growing her family's small business into a thriving enterprise. But when the fever begins to strike closer to home, Mattie's struggle to build a new life must give way to a new fight-the fight to stay alive.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Not only do I love YA fiction (which kind of grew on me as I taught middle and high school) but also historical fiction. Both of these genres blend together beautifully in Laurie Halse Anderson's "Fever 1793". It is a gripping account, written from the point of view of a fourteen-year-old girl, Mattie Cook during the course of a year, 1793, in Philadelphia. Mattie lives with her mother and paternal

grandfather, a Revolutionary War veteran, above a coffeehouse the family operates in Philadelphia. Mattie chafes under her mother's strict and proper upbringing, and the daily grind of doing chores wears out Mattie's patience. Things change when the yellow fever epidemic sweeps Philadelphia and Mattie finds herself adrift without proper guidance when the people closest to her are unable to support her both emotionally and physically. The story tracks Mattie's growth as an individual, one who needs to make important, life-altering decisions, and grow quickly from childhood to adulthood within a span of a year. The story moves at a quick pace, and makes for riveting reading. Mattie is a strong-willed, defiant, and courageous young woman, and young adults will easily relate to her on this level. Her journey towards self-reliance and independence is credibly portrayed against the historical backdrop of the fever epidemic that swept Philadelphia in 1793 and took many lives. This is a well-written and engaging YA historical novel that will appeal to both teenagers and adults.

I also did not realize this was a young adult book. However I enjoyed the read --it was quick and very informative. I never heard about this epidemic and *Fever* brought it to life. I think the story is told in a very straightforward manner. I would agree the writing is not very complex and I would've enjoyed it more if it had more rich language.

While *Fever 1793* is a book written for children, I would not hesitate to recommend it for adult readers. This fictional account of the Philadelphia Yellow Fever epidemic of 1793 is both fascinating and haunting. Mattie Cook is a young girl on the brink of womanhood. She lives with her mother and grandfather in the upstairs of their coffeehouse. When summertime fevers begin to take the lives of people Mattie knows her family refuses to believe it is yellow fever. The lack of understanding of both the cause of disease and its treatment leads to disaster. When the true cause of the rising death toll is apparent, Mattie's family must decide whether to stay in the city or to follow the many people leaving for the safer countryside. This is a wonderful book. The subject matter may be too sensitive for younger readers.

What a fantastic book! This is the story of a young girl's experience during the Yellow Fever epidemic in Philadelphia in 1793. The author does a wonderful job setting the scene for the tragedy that is about to occur. Ms. Anderson does not shy away from the reality of life at that time, nor does she romanticize it. The reader can not help but realize how tough daily life was even before the fever sweeps the city. When the fever does hit, again, Ms. Anderson is thorough and realistic in her descriptions, without being excessively gory. Her storytelling draws you in and puts you right next to

Mattie, the main character in the story. While written for middle schoolers, this story is engrossing regardless of your age. This is one that everyone should read!! I don't often give 5 stars, but this one definitely deserved it!!

I am 13, and I absolutely loved this book. I really wish it was a series, and I could keep reading about the amazing, interesting life of Mattie Cook in the late 1900s. I recommend this book to anyone and everyone who loves historical fiction. I read this book every chance I got. Early in the morning before school, after school, at night, at breakfast, in the car, etc. Everyone should read this book.

I probably would have given this book three stars just based on the writing (solid, entertaining, but not fantastic), but the book explores a period of history that doesn't get as much attention and addresses less represented groups in early American history as well. Would make a great teaching tool for elementary or middle schoolers, but it's a good, quick read on its own too.

I don't give many books a five. This book's historical accuracy on the many details of the 1793 Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic, makes it very informative. The plot actually gets a B, for being a bit lame, as in there almost wasn't a plot, but at the same time, it kept me reading. Really, the plot was a family had to deal with yellow fever, and at the end of the story the family is close to where it was when the story begins. It's the historical detail and accuracy that make the book a valuable read.

I read this book in preparation for scoring essays based on it for our local Academic Pentathlon competition. I'm glad I had the opportunity to learn about an event in history that I had not previously known. After reading the book, I did some research. Ms. Anderson certainly did her own due diligence in researching the background for this novel. The experiences of the protagonist, Maddie, were borne out by actual events during the Philadelphia yellow fever epidemic of 1793. This book should be on every middle and high school reading list.

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