



Abbie Against the Storm: The True Story of a Young Heroine and a Lighthouse

By Marcia K. Vaughan, Bill Farnsworth

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Abbie Burgess helps her father care for a lighthouse on a small island off the coast of Maine. Together they tend the lamps, organize supplies, and watch the endless Atlantic waters. When Abbie's mother becomes ill, her father must sail to the mainland to find food and medicine. While her father is away a fierce winter storm descends, and Abbie must summon all her courage to care for her ailing mother, comfort her frightened sisters, and keep the flames of the lighthouse burning.

Abbie Against the Storm is based on an actual incident that took place off the coast of Maine in the winter of 1856 and on a real young woman who rose to the challenge of saving her family and countless sailors.

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Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Set on an island off the coast of Maine in 1856, this fictionalized account of an actual incident centers on a 17-year-old who diligently assists her father, the keeper of twin lighthouses that flank a stone house. After a supply ship fails to appear and her father sets out in a small dory to fetch food, he leaves Abbie in charge. She rises to the task when a fierce storm descends, tending the flames of the 28 lanterns that illuminate the towers, scraping ice from the exterior glass and rescuing the hens from impending disaster. The hens' eggs keep the family alive during the stormy four weeks that pass before her father's return. Abbie proves herself a vigilant lighthouse keeper: "Not once in all that time did the lights fail. Not one ship floundered. Not one life was lost." Vaughan's (Animal Fair series) straightforward narrative conveys the danger of the storm as well as the heroine's bravery and stamina, but youngsters may pick up on the plot's loose strands. Though she introduces Abbie's three sisters, their mother is mentioned much later in the story, almost incidentally ("Mother's coughing grew worse"), and the fate of twice-mentioned older brother Ben is never resolved. Farnsworth's (The Christmas Menorahs) resplendent paintings of the turbulent seas heighten the drama and lend the tale immediacy. Ages 4-8. (Feb.)

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From School Library Journal

Grade 1-4-In 1856, during a ferocious storm, Abbie Burgess single-handedly maintained the lighthouse on a tiny island off the coast of Maine. Combining realistic paintings with lively writing, this oversized picture book turns her exploits into thrilling, almost cinematic drama. Readers meet the 17-year-old on the day she moves to the island with her parents and sisters, a resolute girl determined to help her father mind the lights in their twin towers. When Papa sails to the mainland to replenish their dwindling supplies, he leaves her in charge. An unexpected storm blows up. At its height, huge waves wash over the island, sweeping away outbuildings. For four weeks, Abbie keeps the lights burning, cares for her ailing mother and frightened sisters, and runs the station until the dangerous seas subside and her father can return. Vaughan's fictionalized biography brings the young heroine to life, while the illustrations make the violently changing moods of the sea so palpable that readers can feel her danger and celebrate her courage. Peter and Connie Roop's *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie* (Carolrhoda, 1985) reduces the story to pedestrian controlled vocabulary and the art pales by comparison. The courageous teen also merits a chapter in Candace Fleming's well-researched *Women of the Lights* (Albert Whitman, 1996). Even if the other titles are owned, this one merits purchase.

Margaret A. Chang, Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts, North Adams

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From Booklist

In this elegant picture book for older readers, based on a true story, Vaughn recounts the tale of 17-year-old Abigail Burgess, who successfully cared for her family's Maine lighthouse during a fierce winter storm in 1856. Abbie has always helped her father tend the lanterns and his logbook, so when he leaves the island for food and supplies, she knows what to do. Unfortunately, the gale is especially severe, and Abbie must help her mother and sisters survive as well as protect the lights. Luminous paintings by Bill Farnsworth mesh perfectly with the elegant text, allowing readers to feel the storm's fury. Peter Roop's *Keep the Lights Burning, Abbie* (1985) is similar in scope and reading level, but this book will be welcomed for story hours and group presentations. *Kay Weisman*

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lori Johnson:

Do you have favorite book? Should you have, what is your favorite's book? E-book is very important thing for us to understand everything in the world. Each reserve has different aim or perhaps goal; it means that book has different type. Some people sense enjoy to spend their a chance to read a book. These are reading whatever they acquire because their hobby is actually reading a book. Think about the person who don't like reading a book? Sometime, individual feel need book whenever they found difficult problem or even exercise. Well, probably you should have this *Abbie Against the Storm: The True Story of a Young Heroine and a Lighthouse*.

Kevin Gans:

Book is to be different for every grade. Book for children until finally adult are different content. To be sure that book is very important for all of us. The book *Abbie Against the Storm: The True Story of a Young Heroine and a Lighthouse* seemed to be making you to know about other expertise and of course you can take more information. It doesn't matter what advantages for you. The book *Abbie Against the Storm: The True Story of a Young Heroine and a Lighthouse* is not only giving you considerably more new information but also being your friend when you truly feel bored. You can spend your personal spend time to read your reserve. Try to make relationship while using book *Abbie Against the Storm: The True Story of a Young Heroine and a Lighthouse*. You never feel lose out for everything should you read some books.

Steve Adams:

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Edward Knudsen:

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