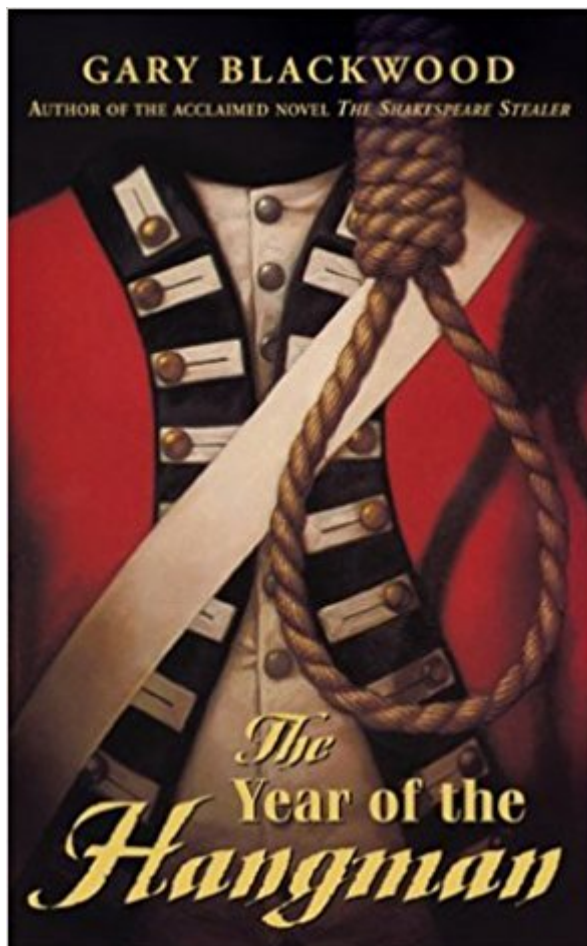


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# The Year Of The Hangman



## Synopsis

In 1776, the rebellion of the American colonies against British rule was crushed. Now, in 1777-the year of the hangman-George Washington is awaiting execution, Benjamin Franklin's banned rebel newspaper, Liberty Tree, has gone underground, and young ne'er-do-well Creighton Brown, a fifteen-year-old Brit, has just arrived in the colonies. Having been shipped off against his will, with nothing but a distance for English authorities, Creighton befriends Franklin, and lands a job with his print shop. But the English general expects the spoiled yet loyal Creighton to spy on Franklin. As battles unfold and falsehoods are exposed, Creighton must decide where his loyalties lie...a choice that could determine the fate of a nation.

## Book Information

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Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure

## Customer Reviews

In this adventurous, if somewhat unrealistic, novel, Blackwood (The Shakespeare Stealer) imagines what would have happened if the Americans lost the Revolutionary War. In 1777 (called the Year of the Hangman "because the three sevens in the date resembled the miniature gallows" and because of all the British traitors hanged), spoiled 15-year-old Creighton is taken from London by force, and sent to the Colonies to live with his uncle. But when Creighton accompanies his uncle, an unkind Englishman named Colonel Gower, to a new post in West Florida, their boat is seized by patriot privateers, led by the infamous Benedict Arnold. They bring the prisoners to the Spanish territory of New Orleans and imprison Gower, but take Creighton to live with Benjamin Franklin. Creighton agrees to spy for Gower, discovering that Franklin publishes a revolutionary paper, but his

conscience begins to bother him. Not only are Franklin and his friends kind to Creighton but the lines between what is "good or bad, right or wrong" blur. A few characters seem stilted, such as Sophie, a hot-headed, French-speaking maid, and Peter, a warmhearted giant. But history buffs will recognize some clever dialogue ("It's a far more difficult thing to make up your own mind about what's right and act accordingly," Arnold tells Creighton) and the hero struggles with compelling questions, such as the meaning of honor and the value of war. Jail escapes, duels, code-breaking and more keep the story moving. Ages 14-up. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Grade 8-10-The author of *The Shakespeare Stealer* (Puffin, 2000) guides readers through a might-have-been America in this suspenseful alternative history set during the Revolutionary War. In Blackwood's imagined 1777, the upstart colonists have been routed by superior British forces. George Washington awaits execution and the rebel leaders who have escaped capture are in hiding or have fled. Dashing Benedict Arnold has become a privateer operating out of French-controlled New Orleans, where Benjamin Franklin runs a printing shop and distributes an illegal newspaper, *The Liberty Tree*. Enter 17-year-old Creighton Brown, an upper-class English wastrel who arrives in Louisiana as Arnold's captive, after an earlier abduction from London that had been arranged by his mother. Lodged with Franklin, Creighton becomes a reluctant publishing assistant, and, as he begins to admire the Americans and their principles, an even more reluctant British spy. Creighton's lazy, spoiled ways undergo a revolution of their own when he is caught between dangerous plots and counterplots and is forced to take risks that threaten more than one life. Packed with action, convincing historical speculation, and compelling portrayals of real-life and fictional characters, this page-turner will appeal to fans of both history and fantasy. Starr E. Smith, Fairfax County Public Library, VA Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Purchased this hardcover for a class novel study. It is an excellent read to teach kids about twists on age-old stories (the Revolutionary War). It is also wonderful to instruct kids on how personal change is possible. While Creighton starts out as the bad guy, his uncle quickly displaces him. The characters are all quite believable, especially Ben Franklin. Overall, I have purchased 20 hardcovers of this selection so that all of my students can appreciate great literature.

I liked this book, I really enjoyed the plot, characters, and especially the setting! Great read if the

American Revolution interests you.

A great 'what if...?' story! Easy read!

Bought it for my teenage son and became so intrigued by the premise, I had to read it myself. I'm glad I did.

I got this book for my daughter's summer reading assignment for Advance History. She just started reading it, but she said it is interesting. I asked her if she thinks it's in good condition for being used. She said that she thought it was new :). We are pleased with our purchase. Thanks

It is okay I nothing too great about this book.

It was a purchased for my son. He said it's a great book

I give this book two stars because i love reading history books, but the print is tiny and it put me to sleep. I tried reading it and had to finish it for school, but it was more boring than my text book. It starts off pretty boring, and starts to get better, but then it's over. I wouldn't suggest it.

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