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Chains laurie halse anderson sparknotes

"Starred Review. Pursuing similar themes as M.T. Anderson's Octavian Nothing, this gripping novel offers readers a startlingly provocative view of the Revolutionary War." - Publishers Weekly. "Starred Review. While waiting, they can enjoy M.T. Anderson's The Astonishing Life of Octavian Nothing, Traitor to the Nation: Volume II, The Kingdom on the Waves, another superb take on the subject." - Kirkus Reviews. This information about Chains shown above was first featured in "The BookBrowse Reviews are necessarily limited to those that were available to us ahead of publication. If you are the publisher or author and feel that the reviews shown do not properly reflect the range of media opinion now available, please send us a message with the mainstream media reviews that you would like to see added. Any "Author Information" displayed below reflects the author's biography at the time this particular book was published. Write your own review Another Bookworm One of those books that force you to re-evaluate your life Laurie Halse Anderson did an outstanding job on this novel. Her simple yet insightful style of writing is so original; I have never seen anything like it. 'Chains' has all the elements of a worthwhile story, this coming from an ardent reader who is experienced in judging books. A gripping plot, interesting characters, and subtle morals weaved between the lines; you'll find them from the first page. For those who are questioning whether or not to read 'Chains', I assure you of my recommendation. Sydney love it I really like this book. I think it's one of my faves now. I even got to meet the author! I had to read this book for the English Festival and it was sooog good! The twist she put this story opposed to other stories about slavery was unique. I recommend you read this, and ignore the people who hate it. Unless you really don't like historical fiction, listen to them, but in my opinion it's only boring at the beginning but there is a lot of interesting parts to make up for it. alexandria evans chains review This book was amazing. I was hooked when I read the first paragraph! This book deserves 11 points out of 10. Though i am not a historical fiction, Chains really stands out to me. i can relate to most characters, especially Isabella. I would definitely recommend this book to a friend. Thank you other bozos are talking about. This is the best most inspiring book ever... You guys lost your mind: P Get a Life Bookworrms gooood This is a great book and taught me a lot about myself and people around that time period. It is unlike most historical fiction books which put me to sleep! I finished it in a day because I couldn't put it down. Please read this book, you will become Isabel as you do. ... 9 more reader reviews "Chains" is the story of thirteen-year-old slave Isabel's journey to discover her inner strength and fight for her freedom amidst the depravity of slavery and the upheaval of the Revolutionary War that divided America. The novel opens on the day of Miss Mary Finch was the owner of Isabel and her little sister, Ruth. Before Miss Finch died, she ensured that both girls would be given their freedom in her will, but an evil relative of Miss Finch sells the two girls back into slavery for a profit. The girls' new owners, the Locktons, are devout Loyalists living in New York. They are minorities in the divided city as most in the colonies support General Washington and his desire to free America from British rule. On her first day in New York, Isabel is confronted by a Patriot officer's slave, a boy named Curzon, who asks Isabel to spy on her new masters to help the Patriot cause. He knows that messages from the Loyalist army may pass through the Locktons' home, and he hopes Isabel will share that information with the Patriot Army. He promises that his master will ensure Isabel's freedom in exchange for her help. Although she is wary, Isabel agrees. Isabel quickly realizes that the Locktons view her and all other slaves as not human beings. They talk about intensely private affairs in her presence because as a slave, she is invisible to them. It is easy for Isabel to gather condemning information but she knows that if she is caught consorting with a Patriot soldier, she will be beaten, sold, or worse, killed. It is only when Madam Lockton begins beating Ruth and eventually sells her to the highest bidder, that Isabel gets serious about her spying duties. She gathers the most useful information for the Patriot Army, a list of soldiers seeking to assassinate General Washington, and runs to the Patriot barracks. The Patriot barracks. The Patriot general that promised to save Isabel turns his back on her once she shares what she knows, and Isabel is returned to the abusive hands of Madam Lockton. As punishment for her insolence, Madam Lockton brands Isabel is returned to the abusive hands of Madam Lockton. As punishment for her insolence, Madam Lockton brands Isabel is returned to the abusive hands of Madam Lockton. As punishment for her insolence, Madam Lockton brands Isabel is returned to the abusive hands of Madam Lockton. that the British, if they remain control of the colonies, will seek to free all slaves. If she is free, Isabel may be able to find her sister and reunite her family. She reaches out to the Loyalist leaders but is once again rebuked. At the same time, Isabel's friend Curzon enlists in the army in the stead of his master, hoping that his bravery, should he live through the battle, will earn him his freedom. He is captured by the Loyalist Army and held as a prisoner of war in horrendous winter conditions. When Isabel hears of this, she begins visiting him, bringing him food and warm clothes. Knowing that she no one to depend on but herself, Isabel hatches an ingenious plan to escape enslavement. On the night of the queen's birthday ball, Isabel escapes from the Lockton home and with the help of a kindly prison guard, helps rescue Curzon from certain death. She steals a rowboat and rows through the night, ultimately ending up in the free state of New Jersey. After years of abuse and struggle, Isabel is free. Chains opens with a funeral, which pretty much tells us up front that it's going to be a pretty bleak story. Isabel, our heroine, and her younger sister, Ruth, are attending the burial of their owner, Miss Finch planned to free the girls in her will. When Isabel confronts Miss Finch's brother about this, though, he basically thinks she's making it up. To make matters worse, her lawyer is stuck in Boston, where a major uprising has just taken place over the British colonies' desire for independence. As a result, Isabel's hopes turn to dust. We'd like to say that somebody texts the lawyer and he makes an emergency trip to Rhode Island to sort stuff out, but unfortunately (a) that doesn't happen, and (b) it's 1776, so that's impossible anyway. Instead, Miss Finch's brother sells Isabel and Ruth to Anne and Elihu Lockton, two rich British merchants from New York who are loyal to their country in the independence conflict. They're also not very nice people, especially Anne, who makes the girls call her "Madam" and is basically Mommie Dearest, Cruella DeVille, and the wicked stepmother from Cinderella all rolled into one. Ouch. Sounds like a winner. As she goes about her duties, Isabel befriends Curzon, a slave who works for Mr. Bellingham, one of the chief law enforcement officials for the Patriots. He tells her that if she hears Lockton, Madam, or any of their Loyalist friends talk about sensitive information related to the conflict, sharing it could likely buy the freedom owed to her and Ruth. Isabel initially rejects his offer, saying that her job is to take care of her sister and she cannot put her sister in jeopardy. Meanwhile, life at the Locktons' gets pretty difficult for the girls. Madam verbally abuses Isabel and makes Ruth into her personal servant. When Isabel comes into Madam's chamber one day to find Ruth crying, she realizes that they need to get away from the Locktons once and for all. She overhears Lockton and some of his Loyalist friends talking about money they have hidden away in a linen chest to bribe the rebel army with, and Isabel makes a daring, dangerous journey to Bellingham's in the middle of the night to pass the news onto Curzon. The next day, Patriot officials come to search the Locktons' house. This initially overjoys Isabel, until she learns that Lockton hid the money somewhere else because he figured they'd be stopping by. Lockton is arrested under suspicion of treason, but the powerful influence of his aunt, Lady Seymour, allows him to be set free the next day. Several days later, Isabel overhears Lockton and his friends plotting to kill General George Washington. She goes to Bellingham's associate, Colonel Regan with the news, and he promises to look into hers and Ruth's case in exchange for the valuable information. Lockton flees to England once he hears that the plot has been discovered. Ruth is plagued by frequent seizures, which make Madam believe she's demon-possessed. As a result, she sells Ruth after giving Isabel a sedative in a milk beverage to keep her from fighting back. When Isabel learns the truth, she confronts Madam, who has her arrested and branded on her cheek with the letter I for insolence. With two failed attempts at seeking help from the Patriots and her sister now long gone, Isabel feels more hopeless than ever. Curzon comes to see Isabel and tells her how sorry he is that things didn't work out. He explains that Bellingham has asked him to take his place and fight on the American side in the war. Isabel also hears rumors that the British intend to free any slaves who will run away and support them, so she decides to give this a try and heads to a British ship when Madam sends her to run errands. Unfortunately, no one will accept her help. She does, however, experience a welcome break when Lockton farms her out to help Lady Seymour, who is in poor health. Things get worse when New York City literally catches on fire and the blaze destroys a giant chunk of the city. Isabel rescues Lady Seymour from her burning house, and the two of them develop a friendship after Isabel saves her life. They return to the Locktons' home, where much of Isabel's duties consist of caring for Lady Seymour, who becomes debilitated after the horror of the fire. When the British capture Fort Washington, all the Patriot troops are thrown in the British prison not far from the pump where Isabel gets the Locktons' water. Isabel learns that Curzon is among them, and begins bringing leftover food to the prison. When she sees that the other soldiers are mistreating him because he is a slave, she makes a deal to deliver messages to their captain, who is out on parole in the city. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her, but she can't just let her friend die. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her, but she can't just let her friend die. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her, but she can't just let her friend die. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her, but she can't just let her friend die. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her, but she can't just let her friend die. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her, but she can't just let her friend die. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her, but she can't just let her friend die. Isabel thought her spy days were behind her her string of verbal abuse, Madam lets it slip that she actually still owns Ruth—because she couldn't find a buyer for her, Ruth was sent to the Lockton estate in Charleston. Isabel is understandably pretty upset about this, so Madam locks Isabel in a potato bin and threatens to have Ruth drowned as a punishment for helping the Patriots. Knowing that Ruth is still in the Colonies gives Isabel the courage to bust out of the Locktons' house. She steals a pass from Lockton that declares that she is a free slave, gives herself a new name, and leaves. She is about to steal a boat and row across the river to New Jersey when she remembers how kind Curzon has always been to her, and knowing that she can't leave him behind, she goes to the prison and pretends to be cleaning cells. She finds Curzon lying on the floor, delirious with fever, and tells the guard that he's dead. When he gives her permission for her to take him to the pile of bodies outside, she puts him in a wheelbarrow and takes off for the dock. Curzon and Isabel get a boat and row like mad across the river before collapsing unconscious on the New Jersey banks. When she realizes she's gotten the two of them out of New York to safety, she asks Curzon if he's able to get up and walk... and the story continues in Forge, the next book in the series.

