

**Title:** *Forge*

**Author:** Laurie Halse Anderson

**4 stars**

**Reviewed by:** Sarah Cuevas, 17

**Read in January 2014**

**Star Teen Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity**

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If you haven't read *Chains*, I suggest you do so. This book, *Forge*, is a sequel to Anderson's brilliant story about Isabel and her little sister Ruth being sold into slavery just before the Revolutionary War. *Chains* is narrated by Curzon, a smart 13 year old boy that has just escaped slavery with his feisty, ambitious friend, Isabel. Curzon and Isabel reluctantly part ways; Isabel to find her younger sister, and Curzon to find his way as an escaped slave. Curzon finds himself caught in the middle of the Battle of Saratoga. He falsely joins the army as a "freed" slave, and must live this lie to survive his fellow soldiers' wrath. His platoon continues to march into the Battle of Valley Forge. Winter's harshness won't relent as the soldiers try to find warmth, nourishment, and comfort in their desperate situation. Food and supplies are scarce. Curzon's mind is clouded: How will he survive fighting in the Revolutionary War? How can he continue to convince his fellow soldiers that he is a freed slave? Where is Isabel? Does she still only think of him as merely a friend? Is she even alive?

I enjoyed reading into the perspective of a young slave during the time of the Revolutionary War. I caught a glimpse and understanding of what it must be like to fight: one against thousands. *Forge* is a well written and captivating book, but I enjoyed *Chains* quite a bit more. *Chains* is written from the perspective of Isabel, and I felt more connected and interested in her story.

*Forge* is perfect for ages 12 and older. Reading this book while learning about American History is interesting and exciting. *Forge* gives the perfect perspective of a teenager's experience and hardships during the Revolutionary War. I highly suggest this book for anyone of ages 12 and up.

*Forge* would be a wonderful gift. If your child is in American History class at school right now, or will be next year, this book will give wonderful perspective and insight to The Revolutionary War, one of the major events that shaped America. I personally have a genuine love for Laurie Halse Anderson and her historical fiction books. This book is perfectly written and highly recommended for anyone who is interested in American History, or just a good read in general.

#### Recommended Titles

*Chains*, by Laurie Halse Anderson

*Fever of 1793*, by Laurie Halse Anderson

*Uprising*, by Margaret Peterson Haddix