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# Comfort



## Synopsis

World War II is over and Ann Fay Honeycut has new challenges—mostly her relationship with her father, home from the war, and the emotional and physical demands of polio. Now that Daddy has returned from fighting Hitler and Ann Fay is home from the polio hospital, life should get back to normal. But Ann Fay discovers she no longer fits easily into old friendships and Daddy has been traumatized by the war. Her family and social life are both falling apart. Ever responsible, she tries to fix things until she finally admits that she herself needs fixing. She travels to the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation, founded by Franklin D. Roosevelt, where she finds comfort, healing, and even a little romance. Although this invigorating experience does not solve all her problems, it does give Ann Fay a new view of herself. In this Parents' Choice Awards Recommended Book, sequel to *Blue*, Ann Fay makes new friends, reevaluates old relationships, and discovers her unique place in the community.

I used to love how that vine with its purple flowers grew on everything. But that was before I was in charge of Daddy's garden. Before I had to cut it back all by myself because Momma was in a bad way about my brother dying and didn't care two cents about the garden just then. At the time, I was so mad at war and polio that I took all my anger out on that vine. And I hadn't been back to Wisteria Mansion since. But now I didn't know where else to go and cry myself a river. So I crawled in under the vines which had grown thicker than ever. I pulled my crutches in behind me. Then I collapsed in the pine needles and let it all out. All the sadness about losing my good life before the war. My frustration with not being able to cross the room without crutches. And misery about not having anyone who knew what it felt like to be me! "—FROM THE BOOK

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

This book is a sequel to BLUE. Readers who enjoy historical fiction will love both books. COMFORT is set in rural North Carolina following World War II. Our heroine, Ann Fay, is recovering from the effects of polio, and her daddy is suffering from post traumatic stress syndrome. This book draws a haunting portrait of the emotional effects fighting has on soldiers and their families. The author conducted extensive historical research in writing this book and it shows, particularly when Ann Fay is treated at Roosevelt's Warm Springs Foundation. All of the secondary characters are exquisitely drawn. I have a special fondness for Ann Fay's neighbor, Junior Bledsoe.

When Daddy returns from fighting Hitler, Ann Fay assumes life will get back to normal. Or as normal as can be expected for a girl with polio. But just as the disease has changed her, so has the war changed her Daddy. And Ann Fay doesn't know what to do. Should she take care of herself and travel to Warm Springs, Georgia for therapy or stay with her family in the hopes she might help her Daddy heal. "Answers come easy to people who never have problems." Ann Fay doesn't have any easy answers, but COMFORT raises profound questions about healing, both mentally and physically, and how important it is to be understood.

After reading BLUE, I was not disappointed by the sequel, COMFORT. The story of Ann Fay's continued recovery from polio and her devastation was incredibly inspiring. I have read stories about polio before, but this one was different because the disease affected the Honeycutt family so deeply. Ann Fay's difficult choice is relatable with many people's stories today - the choice between caring for yourself and helping your family. When Ann Fay decides to go to Warm Springs, she is greeted by one of the most nourishing and wonderful experiences of her life. My heart leaped as she began to get well. But soon after she begins to heal, she discovers that her family's happiness is in jeopardy. She must put her own wellness aside as she returns home. COMFORT is filled with love and the longing for wellness, and the small, interesting bits make up a completely refreshing novel for older readers. Reviewed by: Jane Kinner

A worthy successor for Blue, this novel continues the story of Ann Fay as she goes to Warm Springs, Ga. to continue her recovery from polio and includes a visit to Manchester. Her father deals with the war memories, in a way that reminded me of my great-uncle. Well worth the read.

Ann Fay is anything but a typical 14 year-old girl. Instead of hanging out with her best friend Peggy Sue at the movies, or playing at recess like the regular kids, Ann Fay is stricken with Polio the year before she works a Saturday job to help support her family, spends recess alone with her clickity leg brace, and worries incessantly about why Daddy is a whole different man since returning from the war. Longing to feel normal, a sparkle shines bright in her eyes when she is offered the opportunity to live at Warm Springs—a place in Georgia for Polios to receive rehabilitation treatments. But she also thinks her family will crumble without her. With her parents' blessing, she finally agrees to attend Warm Springs and for the first time feels she is in a place where everyone is just like her. There is real comfort in that. Ann Fay progresses quickly and is soon walking with a cane and making friends. Life is perfect, until Junior Bledsoe from back home shows up at Warm Springs with bad news from back home, forcing Ann Fay to leave the one place she feels her best in. But family comes first, and it is time to step out of her comfort zone and face her daddy and his war neurosis (PTSD). This story is exquisitely told, with both beautiful language and heartfelt revelations, and I learned quick enough that when someone drops a bomb in one small place on this planet, it shatters the whole universe. And not just for a little while either. The breaking goes on forever. Readers will love Ann Fay and enjoy her journey as she realizes that, "Something that hurts can make us stronger. You just have to face it, and after a while it starts to get better." Yes, Ann Fay, it really does.

I read Blue at school, and I was curious about the sequel. I read it in two days, and that was the best two days of my life. I am hoping for a threequel and answers to some things that left me hanging. It is a moving story, and I don't know if a better book exists. I would rate it 1 zillion out of ten if I could, but 5/5 will suit me for now. GET THIS BOOK

Thank you Joyce Hostetter for letting us experience the continuing life story of Ann Fay, who although a fictional character, lives a real life in the pages of your books. Ann Faye has grown & developed without bitterness or self pity. She is a strong and complete person in her own right. and owes much to you for allowing her to emerge. I hope we will get to hear more from her & her family in the future. Ann Faye's life and surroundings in the forties and fifties took me back again to the place she lived & the people she knew. I as well as Ann Fay had polio in 1944 and experienced many of the same emotions & trials she did. If you are a younger person, I can assure you this is the way it was back in those days, and I was comforted to visit that era once again. This may be a book

for younger people, but I highly recommend it for all those who lived through those times. Read the book & pass it down along with 'BLUE' to your grandchildren and those who follow.

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