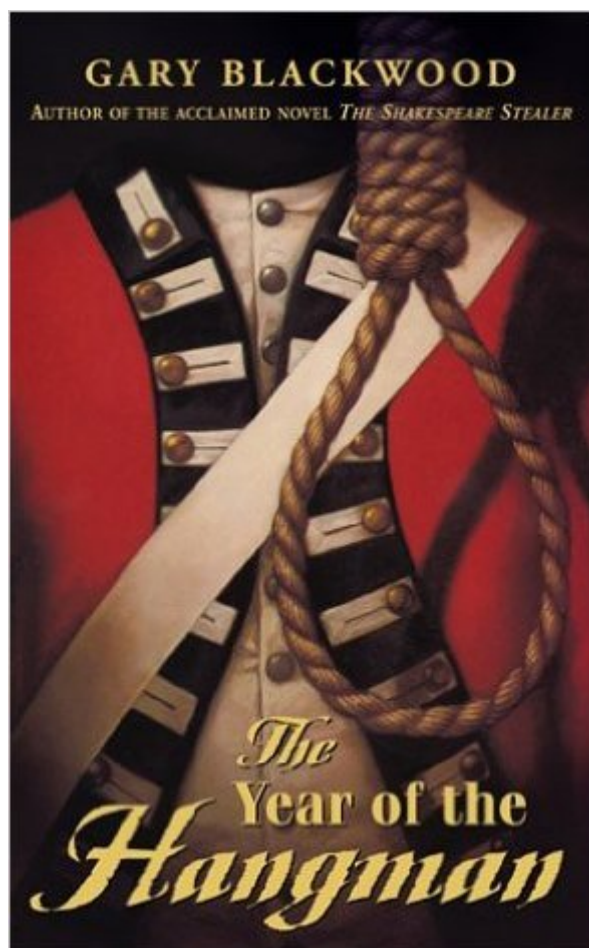


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# The Year Of The Hangman



## 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

Mass Market Paperback: 261 pages

Publisher: Speak; Reprint edition (February 9, 2004)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0142400785

ISBN-13: 978-0142400784

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 0.7 x 6.8 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 3.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (88 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #47,591 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #13 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial & Revolutionary Periods #912 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Action & Adventure

## Customer Reviews

"In 1777, the year that Creighton turned fifteen, hanging became a familiar topic of conversation. Some even called it the year of the hangman, because the three sevens in the date resembled miniature gallows, and also because the year had begun with a rash of executions." Creighton Brown is an English boy who is everything but a gentleman, with his bad temper and lazy habits, but when his mother ships him to live with his disciplinary uncle he learns to think twice about his attitude. Soon he will find himself in the middle of New Orleans living with the brilliant Benjamin Franklin and his assistant Sophie while plotting his escape back to England as well as accommodating Benedict Arnold in one of his artistic plans. When Creighton discovers what he is really feeling inside, his world gets turned upside down. Gary Blackwood's *The Year of the Hangman* was one of the most interesting and action packed history novel I have ever read. I really

enjoyed the way the author turned history around completely. I would recommend this book to anyone interested in history or just looking for a good what if story.

I think this is a really good book because mostly when you look at history it's boring and you don't want to know about it. I gave five stars hands down. The reason is because it shows that we shouldn't take freedom for granted. In this book a young boy named Creighton is a little piece of crap that nobody would want for a son. That's why his mom sent him to be with his uncle in the American colonies. Creighton's uncle sends him to spy on Benjamin Franklin, the legendary printer, to learn about the rebels. I thought this book was put together well and I enjoyed it. An element that is represented most in this story is suspense. I kept thinking is Creighton going to get caught? I would recommend this book to people who always think What if?

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.

"By the winter of 1776, the American Revolution seemed doomed. The Continental Army had suffered major defeats...As we all know, Washington managed to beat the odds against him...and went on to defeat the British. But it didn't have to happen that way...This is a story of what might have happened." Gary Blackwood wrote this on page one and two of his book *The Year of the Hangman*. This quote sums up the entire point of the book. *The Year of the Hangman* is based during the revolutionary war and explores the idea of what might have happened if Washington and the Patriots lost the war. It is a story about a boy named Creighton Brown who lives in England. His mother is concerned about Creighton's bad behavior and orders her brother to kidnap Creighton and take him to America. During the novel Creighton meets Ben Franklin, Benedict Arnold, Peter (Arnold's body guard), Colonel Gower (Creighton's Uncle), Lieutenant Hale (Gower's body guard) and Sophie (Franklin's maid). Creighton also learns of his father's real fate and his contribution to the war. After living with the Americans, Creighton struggles with his conscience to decide where his loyalties really lie--to the Americans or to the British. Read *The Year of the Hangman* by Gary Blackwood to find out more about this exciting alternate history novel!

What would happen if the British had won the Revolutionary War? In *The Year of the Hangman* by Gary Blackwood, this alternate history novel brings it to life. A mischievous boy named Creighton Brown is sent from England to America to spy for the British. Over time he ends up in New Orleans, where he lives with the one and only Dr. Franklin, a French servant and a giant man named Peter. After becoming friends with the Americans he also intrigues into their likings and helping out the printing of *The Journal* a newspaper in New Orleans. While he spies and reports information to his uncle who is the Lieutenant Governor for the British his conscience comes to haunt him by telling him that he is disobeying his new friends or doing the right thing for his country. The choice is his. British or American? I give this book four stars for excellent detail and a book that you just don't want to put down. It is interesting to see what happens. What happened to George Washington? Is Benedict Arnold a traitor? How would life have been like? Knowing what Creighton had been through the decision is shocking. One reason I dislike this book is for the some French they add in the sentences.

Great story by Mr. Blackwood. The writing was way too easy, which is good, which is why they call it Young Adult fiction I guess. But the characters, historical and fictional, act real enough to gain your interest and love/hate for them. The story really is a coming of age episode for a spoiled young man learning about honor and loyalty. The historical aspect is what drew me in and kept me reading. The ending seemed rushed and a bit abrupt, but seeing the transformation of youth overshadows the wrap up. A more in depth story about rebellious american colonists plotting to overthrow the british would need much more to support it, but in "The Year of the Hangman" less might have equaled more. I enjoyed the read as I was able to imagine "What If" Gen. George Washington and his continental army lost the american revolution. Blimey! Very good insights on war reducing us to the necessities. There never was a good war, or a bad peace. (Ben Franklin's Observations) 3.5 stars

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