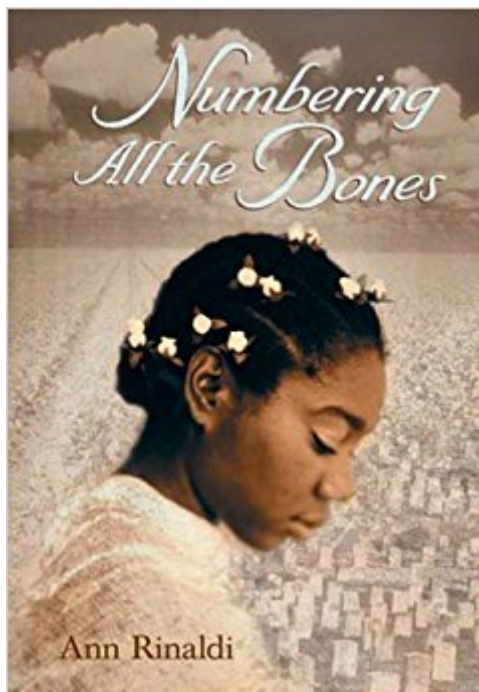


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# Numbering All The Bones



## Synopsis

The Civil War is at an end, but for thirteen-year-old Eulinda, it is no time to rejoice. Her younger brother Zeke was sold away, her older brother Neddy joined the Northern war effort, and her master will not acknowledge that Eulinda is his daughter. Her mettle is additionally tested when she realizes her brother Neddy might be buried in the now-closed Andersonville Prison where soldiers were kept in torturous conditions. With the help of Clara Barton, the eventual founder of the Red Cross, Eulinda must find a way to let go of the skeletons from her past.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Grade 6-8-In the last year of the Civil War, Eulinda, 13, the daughter of a slave and a slave owner, waits for news of her older brother, who ran away to join the Union Army. Neddy carries with him the ruby ring that he stole after their younger brother, Zeke, was framed for the theft, and punished by being sold away. When Eulinda discovers the Andersonville Prison, where Yankee soldiers die daily from starvation and disease, she knows her brother is somewhere inside the walls. After the war ends, she meets up with Clara Barton, and her destiny becomes entwined with giving the soldiers proper burials and ultimately finding the stolen ring. The author's note and bibliographical references provide evidence of sound research to portray the circumstances surrounding the prison where 13,000 Union soldiers died. While the setting is compelling, the characters themselves never quite draw readers into the emotional elements of the story. With the exception of Eulinda, who was educated in secret, the black characters speak in heavy dialects reminiscent of *Gone with the Wind*. Also, confusion regarding factual accuracy occurs when Eulinda relates how her mother deliberately

infected the slave-owner's cruel wife with cholera by slobbering all over her, an unlikely way for the disease to be transmitted. However, the story may interest readers who want to find out more about the prison that was considered by many to be a death camp on American soil. Farida S. Dowler, formerly at Bellevue Regional Library, WA Copyright 2002 Cahners Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Gr. 7-10. The fiction seems purposive in this Civil War story. It's the history that's most compelling, told from the viewpoint of Eulinda, 13 years old in 1864, a house slave on a plantation just a mile away from Andersonville Prison in southwest Georgia. Like Paul in Mildred Taylor's *The Land* (2001), Eulinda is the child of the white master and a black slave. As the Civil War is ending, she goes to the prison in search of her brother, who had run away to join the Yankee army but has chosen to die rather than return to bondage. She witnesses the brutality of the death camp where 13,000 Yankee prisoners perish, and after the war, she helps Clara Barton and others clean up the cemetery and honor the dead. Through her work, Eulinda also frees herself, but the brutal legacy of slavery is always there, in the continuing bigotry toward "niggers" and the wrenching family separation. A haunting theme for discussion is the role of the local people who know nothing, do nothing, about the death camp where they live. Hazel Rochman Copyright © American Library Association. All rights reserved --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Great book about Andersonville POW camp. for youth readers, but good for adults. too.

great book couldnt put it down

Very well written. Captivating. Great for all ages.

this was a very good book also well written and i was very into it.

Excellent for teaching about the Civil War, war crimes, slavery and the need for showing respect for life.

This novel may be fourth grade reading level, but anyone and everyone can grasp the variety of meanings that are subtly placed throughout the book. Ann Rinaldi delivers a very meaningful book filled with so much forgotten information while also making it appropriate for a young and adolescent

audience. For example, I do believe that this is one of the only books that I have ever read that mentions how the white plantation owners back then took advantage of the black women they owned. While younger audiences may not fully comprehend what was discussed, they can at least get the second important message that was deeply elaborated upon: make yourself true. Rinaldi made it clear that everyone, even the young slaves who thought nothing of themselves, has a purpose in life and it is their personal mission to find out what it is. Although this book has great underlying messages, I must take into account the lack of development of the characters. I found it very difficult to relate to any of the characters and it seemed like the book was told more in her head and less out of her head. I was hoping that maybe when I got halfway through the novel that things would pick up and I could get more insight on what the other characters were doing while Eulinda, the narrator, was making herself come true. Also, the writing style was very simplistic. I found that as I kept reading it got harder and harder to finish because it did get dull at some parts. Granted, it was a thirteen year old slave girl that was telling the story, but I still thought that it could use something a little extra. All in all, I recommend this to anyone who is interested in learning more about slave life during the Civil War, or to anyone who just wants to learn more about finding their way in life. Every book has its pros and cons, so as long as you can overlook the few minor flaws, then I think this will be a great book to read.

I have always loved the work of Ann Rinaldi. Her ability to bring her characters alive while taking the reader on the journey back in time. I was first introduced to her work when my daughter had to read several historical fiction books for her History class. She didn't seem to like what I had on my shelves so I went to her History teacher. She recommended I get her some books by Ann Rinaldi. She said she had never met anyone who didn't like to read work by this author. She was correct. This was the turning point in my daughter's reading life. I, the reading teacher had not been able to get her to crack a book for pleasure and yet this teacher had hit on the one author who would do that. In *Numbering All the Bones* we meet Eulinda, a house slave. She was much more than that. Her master was also her father. We start off reading about the accusation of a theft by the master's first wife to get back at Eulinda for being her husband's daughter. This resulted in the mistress selling off Eulinda's youngest brother, who had found the ring. To pay her back, her older brother actually steals the ring for future use. When the mistress dies, the master remarries. His new wife seems to treat Eulinda like an actual member of the family, that is when it is convenient for her in the presence of her husband. As the Civil War Winds down changes take place in the master's house. With a prison down the road from their plantation, the mistress has found a way to make

money off of the situation. At the end of the war a confederate soldier has come to make things right in the abandoned prison. It is learned that 13,000 soldiers, both black and white died there, including Eulinda's brother. When she finds him she finds the ring and goes about trying to set things right. This is done with the help of Clara Barton. I felt so sorry for Eulinda being in a situation where she felt she didn't fit into either world. Although she was a fictional character, most of the other characters were not. I am sure there were many people like Eulinda during this time who took a stand for what was right. This is probably one of the best Civil War book I have read in a long time and one I will proudly recommend to my students. I gave this a rating of 5 out of 5

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