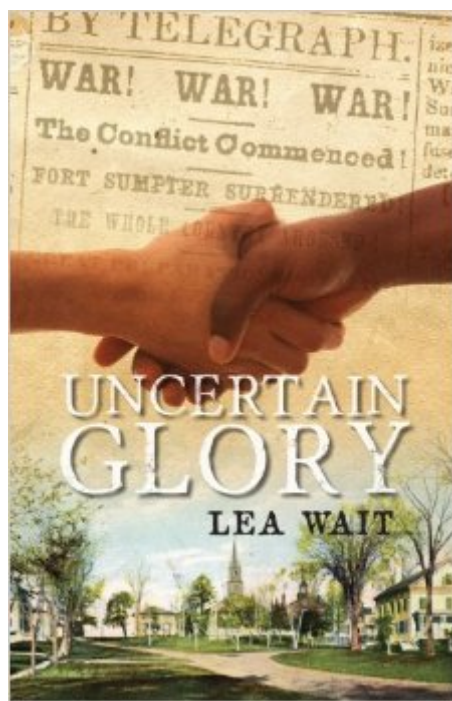


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# Uncertain Glory



## Synopsis

Joe Wood has big dreams. He wants to be a newspaperman, and though he's only thirteen, he's already borrowed money for the equipment to start his own press. But it's April 1861, and the young nation is teetering on the brink of a civil war. He has to help Owen, his young assistant, deal with the challenges of being black in a white world torn apart by color. He needs to talk his best friend, Charlie, out of enlisting. He wants to help a young spiritualist, Nell, whose uncle claims can she speak to the dead. And when Owen disappears, it's up to Joe to save him. Lea Wait skillfully draws on the lives of real people in Maine's history to tell this story of three young adults touched by war and the tensions it brings, forcing them into adulthood before they may be ready.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (5 customer reviews)

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[Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period](#) #479 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Prejudice & Racism](#)

## Customer Reviews

This is an excellent story. Lea Wait doesn't tell you about life in a small town in Maine. She shows you through the voice and action of the characters. You are invited to walk or run side by side with the young newspaper entrepreneurs as they struggle to keep their newspaper afloat and bring the news of Fort Sumter in the South and town people struggling with their patriotism at the time. These daring young men dare to expose the trickery of a young spiritualist. I really enjoyed this story.

"Uncertain Glory" is an excellent novel of how the beginning of the Civil War affected people young and old in the New England state of Maine. Lea Wait, author of other historical Young Adult novels and adult mysteries, has used some real historical Wiscasset residents in this gripping story. Fourteen-year-old Joe Wood owns a newspaper. He's helped by friend Charlie and 9-year-old

Owen, who is black. Owen becomes a victim of nasty bigotry, and he disappears. Townspeople look for him, but Joe searches harder to find him and bring him home. Along with the regular weekly newspapers, Joe needs to print more special War editions to make enough money for the final payment on his printing equipment. Another big story will be about Nell, a young girl who comes to town with her uncle and aunt. She seems to be psychic, and has given Joe's parents a message from his dead brother. Is she really psychic or a phony? Joe will find out. Wait combines Nell's story with Civil War uncertainties, heightening the tension. Joe's father volunteers to go to war, so Joe will have to help his mother in the store more often. A New England point of view on the Civil War is not often encountered in Young Adult literature. Lea Wait does a splendid job of bringing her well-rounded characters to life. We feel at home in 1860 Wiscasset, and wonder how the war will affect them all.

Interesting story about a young adult's running a newspaper, aided by a few friends - one of whom enlisted, despite being underage. It certainly 'brought home' how the war affected northerners as well as southerners, and the disruption of family life for all.

Thoroughly enjoyed Uncertain Glory. I'm a Civil War buff, and I realized, while reading this book, how much less attention is paid to the home front in the North as compared to the South. Lea Wait manages to illuminate the early days of the Civil War in small-town Maine with a story that is both fun, and thought-provoking.

I enjoyed this book but was a little surprised that it ended so quickly. It was surely a quick read.

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