



**A Trophy Chapter Book**

✧ A Ballad of the ✧  
**CIVIL WAR**

The story of  
twin brothers  
growing up—  
and apart.



**MARY STOLZ**

## CHAPTER ONE

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**O**N THE MORNING OF AUGUST 24, 1850, Tom Rigby woke early, then lay considering the day ahead. There was going to be a party on this, the ninth birthday of the Rigby twins.

That's us, Tom thought comfortably. Jack and me. We're nine years old.

It was to a big, *big* party. Their mother had been planning it for ages.

Friends and relations, neighbors from nearby plantations, would be arriving with their children, and with lots and lots of gifts. There would be, in Tom's opinion, too many gifts and too many grown-ups waiting to be thanked too much.

Still, he thought, a party is a party and maybe it'll be fun.

He yawned, smiled, looked over at Jack, sound asleep, gently snoring.

"Jack!" he yelled. "Wake up, wake up! We're nine years old today!"

"Call me when we're twenty," mumbled Jack, pulling a pillow over his head.

Tom laughed, got washed and dressed, and bounded downstairs to the kitchen, where Roger, the butler, was polishing silver and Tulitha, the cook, was kneading spongy bread dough.

"Morning, Uncle Roger," said Tom. "Morning, Tulitha! That smells wonderful!"

The cook continued her work in silence, but the butler smiled. "Morning to you, young Tom. Up betimes, as usual, I see."

"Jack's asleep. He won't be nine years old for the first time in his life ever again. But he says we're to call him when we're twenty."

"Can't wait to be all grown up and his own man, our Jack."

Tom shrugged. "Far's I'm concerned, I'm my own man now. Where's Aaron?"

"Down to the quarter."

"When'll he be back?"

"Won't be back."

Tom scowled. "Uncle *Roger*, quit funning. I don't like that."

"Not funnin', Tom. Aaron's been sent to the quarter. For good and all."



## ✧ A Brothers' War ✧

**T**OM RIGBY didn't think that anything could ever come between him and his twin, Jack. But things begin to change when Tom learns that they are not allowed to play with their friend Aaron anymore because he's a slave. Tom is upset, but Jack doesn't seem to care. All Jack cares about is playing soldier.

Eleven years later, when war breaks out, Jack joins the Confederate army. But Tom can't bring himself to fight for a cause he doesn't believe in—slavery. So Tom rides north to join the Union army—even though he knows he may one day have to face his brother on the battlefield.

“Realistic and poignantly drawn. . . .

A good choice for introducing historical fiction.”

—*School Library Journal*

A 1997 American Bookseller Association Pick of the Lists

US \$4.99 / \$6.50 CAN

ISBN-13: 978-0-06-442088-4

ISBN-10: 0-06-442088-4



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Cover art © 1997 by Sergio Martinez  
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