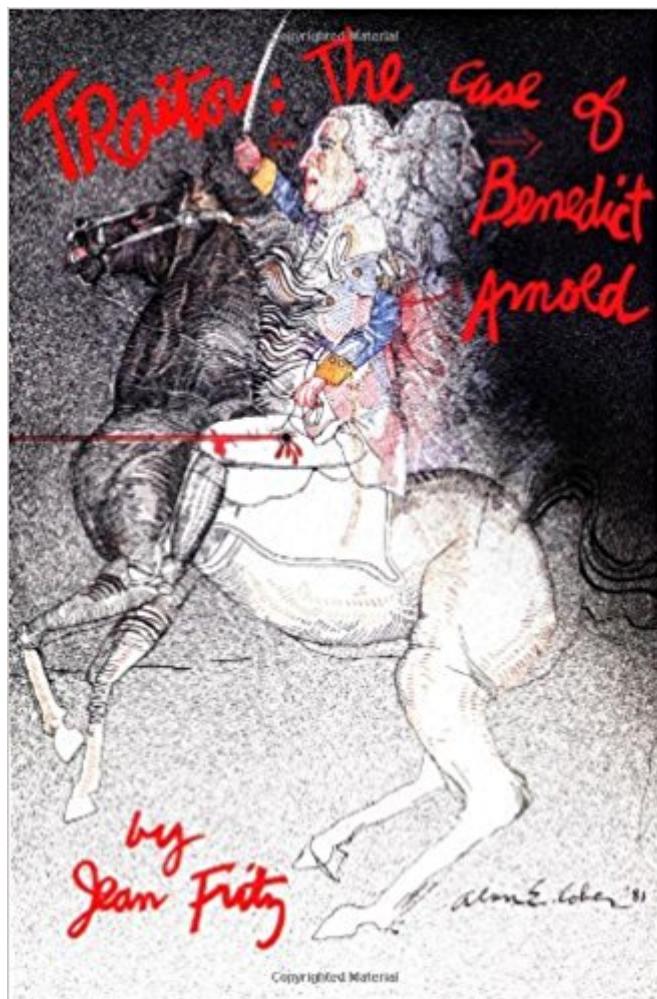


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# Traitor: The Case Of Benedict Arnold



## **Synopsis**

"Jean Fritz's biography of Benedict Arnold is bound to be universally acclaimed. It is a gripping story, related in the author's swift, eloquent style and perceptively recording examples of Arnold's twisted character, from his birth in 1741 through his betrayal of Revolutionary forces and the aftermath of his treason . . ."--Publishers Weekly.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

"Fritz gives excellent coverage of the confusion and individualism of the American colonies and the Revolutionary War effort.... This book could engender an understanding of the colonial period and, as shown by Arnold's life, the many considerations that affect adult decision-making". -- School Library Journal, starred review "A highly entertaining biography". -- Horn Book "Fritz has made another lively, readable life story." --Kirkus Reviews "A gripping story. . . As compelling as a thriller, the book also shines as history." --Publishers Weekly An ALA Notable Book A New York Times Book Review Notable Book of the Year A School Library Journal Best Book of the Year An ABA Pick of the Lists A Horn Book Fanfare Title --This text refers to the Paperback edition.

Acclaimed biographer, Jean Fritz, was born in China where she lived until the age of thirteen. She tells her story in *Homesick, My Own Story*, a Newbery Honor Book. Ms Fritz is the author of forty-five books for children and young people. Many center on historical American figures, gaining her a reputation as the premier author of biographies for children and young people.

Among the prestigious awards Ms. Fritz has garnered are: a medal from the National Endowment for the Humanities, a May Hill Arbuthnot Lecture, a Laura Ingalls Wilder Award, an American Book Award, a Christopher Award, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Non-Fiction Award, a New York Times Notable Book of the Year, and many ALA Notable Books of the Year, School Library Journal Best Books of the Year, and ALA Booklist Editors' Choice Awards.

This book is a brazenly derivative faux-history, based entirely on other recent histories of Benedict Arnold. It presents not a single new fact about Arnold and his time. To make matters worse, Fritz paraphrases her sources in a highly generalized way, leaving the events ambiguous at times when disambiguating details are, in fact, available. Even "Cliff's notes" would be better. I do not recommend this book.

Thank you. This is exactly the condition listed. It is a perfect replacement for our old worn out copy.

it was good but it wasn't super exciting or anything. it's not the best thing I've ever read but it was not the worst

Somewhat Hard for an 11 year old boy. Whatever a very good book. This Lit circle novel is a great book!

A good historical book; used in obtaining facts about Benedict Arnold. A book, I'm passing down to my son and sister.

I liked this biography, it included interesting details about Arnold's early life, his difficulty getting along with people, his quest to impress and his craving for a thrill. I also appreciated the author's inclusion of the possible motivation for his treasonous behavior being that he was trying to bring an early end to the war and spare America unnecessary hardship and suffering. Whatever his thinking it was clear that Arnold's mind didn't work in quite the same way most minds work. Jean Fritz obviously doesn't share the same favorable view of Arnold as Steve Sheinkin, author of 'The Notorious Benedict Arnold: A True Story of Adventure, Heroism & Treachery'. Sheinkin portrays Arnold as mostly misunderstood. I enjoyed reading both takes on the life of Benedict Arnold, either way you look at him his life makes for a very interesting story. I wish I could find a novel that features him that would be a good fit for me.

While most definitely not the first author to do it, Fritz ends up giving a rather twisted account of Arnold's childhood. No doubt, this is because all authors before her have done the same, spreading vicious rumors about the young Arnold, started only in light of his treason. His personality, as described by Fritz, is quite frankly ridiculous. She is unwilling to admit that Arnold did anything good. While he was a skilled businessman and merchant, this book would give you a different impression. In addition, she does not want to admit that Arnold was a brilliant commander and soldier. One example of this is at the Battle of Valcour Island, where she criticizes Arnold's decision of placing his troops at Valcour Island. This was actually a strategic move on Arnold's part. The book notes that "the wind was against the British and only seventeen of their gunboats were able to row into the narrow channel." This was part of the reason he chose the position. He planned for the British to sail right past his fleet (which they did) and then have to turn back to engage the Americans, buying them time to make preparations. It was also chosen BECAUSE it was a narrow channel, so that all of the ships from the larger British fleet couldn't participate in the battle. I would recommend *The Real Benedict Arnold*, by Jim Murphy instead.

This book was great! It tells all about Benedict Arnold. He is a VERY interesting boy. If you really like reading about Revolutionary Heroes, then this is a good book to read. Of course you might not be able to call him a hero when you find out what happens at the end. This book tells all about Benedict, before, after, and during the war. Even if you don't like reading non-fiction, you will now. For instance, did you know that Benedict was obsessed with shoes? Or that he killed his own horse because he didn't want to give it to the British? Or that the woman he married was involved in a terrible scandal? Well, if this sounds intriguing... READ IT!!!

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