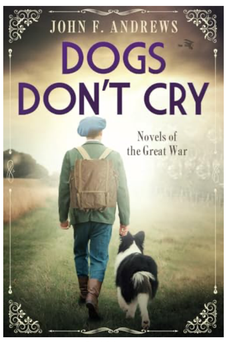
Dogs Don't Cry: Novels of the Great War

WRITTEN BY JOHN ANDREWS

REVIEW BY VICKI KONDELIK

This novel tells the story of two French children, Marcel and Geneviève Durand, and their border collie Abby. As the German army approaches their village, the family must evacuate, but thirteen-year-old Geneviève has pneumonia, and her doctor says she cannot be moved. Meanwhile, fifteen-year-old Marcel plays war games with his friends and dreams of joining his father in the army. Their world is shattered when they receive news that their father has been killed in battle, and then their mother dies in an attempt to escape from the village. The children and Abby have nowhere to go except to the home of a distant cousin in Paris, whom they have never met. They know only his first name, Henri, and the name of the neighborhood where he lives. Henri is Abby's former owner, and she is the only one who could identify him, if only dogs could talk. The children undertake a long and exhausting journey as Geneviève is sent to an orphanage and Marcel and Abby are left to walk to Paris.

Dogs Don't Cry is a poignant and heartwarming novel about the plight of French refugee children during World War I. John F. Andrews tells the story from the alternating points of view of Marcel, Geneviève, and Abby. I found the dog's point of view the most entertaining, and I especially loved those chapters. Abby is highly intelligent, and Andrews conveys her love for the two children very well. Marcel and Geneviève are wonderful characters too. Marcel wants to be a soldier but is afraid he won't live up to his war hero father, and Geneviève wants to be a nurse, and is frustrated that her illness is slowing them down. Andrews' description of their journey and the hardships they face is powerful. I highly recommend this book.



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