

Midwest Review of Books DDC review

The Fiction Shelf

Dogs Don't Cry

John F. Andrews

46 North Publications

979-8989383542, \$26.99, HC, 300pp

Synopsis: Abby is the Durand family dog, a companion for fifteen-year-old Marcel and his sister, Geneviève. Marcel is plagued by doubts about his courage as he approaches military age. Geneviève has severe pneumonia and is convinced she will soon die.

Evacuation is ordered as the German army barrels toward their home village. The doctor tending to Geneviève warns their mother that the rigors of evacuation will kill the young girl on the eve of her thirteenth birthday. Their mother waits until the last moment to leave their home in search of shelter.

A disastrous escape leaves them orphaned and alone.

Marcel and Geneviève must find a distant relative, Cousin Henri, who lives near Paris. However, they have never met him, are not sure of his last name, and don't know his address. Abby is the key -- Henri is her former owner, though she begs to differ on the "owner" concept. If anyone can find him, she can. The teens confront their worst fears while seeking refuge amid the chaos of war, armed only with their faith in Abby.

Critique: An effectively engaging and deftly crafted blend of adventure, suspense, and coming of age during the chaotic turmoil of World War I, "Dogs Don't Cry" is part of author John F. Andrews's exceptional 'Novels of the Great War' series and a truly memorable read from beginning to end. A prized pick for personal reading lists and community library World War I historical fiction collections, it should be noted that this hardcover edition of "Dogs Don't Cry" from 46 North Publications is also readily available in paperback (979-8989383535, \$16.99) and in a digital book format (Kindle, \$7.99).

Editorial Note: John F. Andrews (<https://johnfrederickandrews.com/>) is the award-winning author of the 'Novels of the Great War Series' which includes "Our Desperate Hour", "An American Nurse in Paris", and "Dogs Don't Cry". Andrews writes from the perspective of a service family member and critical care physician to craft unique historical stories based on real events. His characters struggle along side some of the real heroes of WWI, as well as showing the plight of civilians caught in one of the most horrible conflicts in human history. His novels are stories of struggle, survival, hope, resilience, and love.

Jim Cox

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