



Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime

Janet Benge, Geoff Benge

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Written for readers age 10 and up -- enjoyed by adults!

Without formal education or a missionary organization to back her, Gladys raised her own finances for the overland trip that would bring her to the country and people that God had etched so deeply on her heart...China!

What follows is an amazing adventure of faith and determination. Gladys Aylward, a housemaid from England, dared to trust God in the face of dire and seemingly hopeless circumstances. Her life is one of the truly great missionary stories of our era.

Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime Details

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From Reader Review Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime for online ebook

Roxanne Emerson benoit says

Not as good as the first one that I read...but still amazing to think there are people who serve God in this way.

Elaine says

some spoilers ahead Wow, what an incredible life she had! Against insurmountable odds, she lives her dream to become a missionary in China, and hits one obstacle after another, but never gives up. She becomes an innkeeper, adopts like a 100 children as she runs an orphanage, quiets a prison riot, becomes an official foot inspect for the Chinese province, escapes with 94 children when the Japanese invade her town, all while telling the good news of Jesus everywhere...it's incredible what she has gone through! After reading a lot of Young Adult adventure books, it's amazing to think that this person was REAL, and lived a life that seems like it would fit into one of these YA adventure books-relatively poor and not well educated girl dreams of traveling to China, gets kicked out of school because she's not good enough, works as a housemaid and educates herself as much as she can, until she saves up to go to China, spends weeks travelling to China, ending up on a train, walking, and on a mule litter until she arrives to be "an apprentice" to find that her mentor is old and crotchety. They have to find a way to make a living, as outcasts in this small Chinese village, where everyone mocks and ridicules them, so they start an inn...but before long, her mentor DIES and she's left all alone to figure out what she has to do to survive without the money her mentor had and without her guidance. As she continues in her work, she becomes more respected in the community and becomes an ally to the local Chinese official in charge of the village, and ends up being called upon to help stop the cruel foot-binding practice of the Chinese, as well as numerous other tasks. She grows in popularity in the area, she takes in orphans, and then next you know, the village is being bombed by the Japanese! She becomes a wanted woman, with a price on her head, she hides out in caves, escapes the village under cover of night, and takes a gruelling 3 week trek as refugees, mostly on foot, facing starvation and sickness, to take her orphanage kids to safety. After all that she's suffered, the war ends, but the Communists take over and brutally execute the Christian students she ministered to at a university. Through it all, she never loses her faith, and continues the work she loves-telling others about the love of Jesus. A beautiful story, full of triumphant moments that leave you in awe of how one English woman could have lived all of this!

Tina at Mommynificent says

I enjoyed reading this book aloud with my girls. As with all the books in this series that we've read so far, this story is very inspiring and challenges us to dream big! I've never had to pre-read any books in this series before, and I didn't do so with this one, but I found myself regretting that. There were some extremely gory scenes in this book including the main character witnessing someone being beheaded and the head rolling across the town square and landing at her feet. These scenes would have completely freaked my 5 and 9-year olds out so I found myself editing on the fly several times throughout the book which I don't enjoy doing as I am not particularly good at it. I truly can't imagine going through the things Gladys and the children went through and I would never want to minimize any of their suffering, but if you are sharing this with young

children as I was, be aware that you may need to do some quick editing or maybe look for a different biography of Miss Aylward that is aimed at a younger audience.

Amy says

I read this book aloud to Aurora as part of our Sonlight curriculum this year. I don't think I, personally, would have chosen it as a read-aloud for 4th graders. The book is quite heavy. It's the true story of Gladys Aylward and her experiences as a missionary in China. It is set during the time of the second world war. Ms. Aylward's life was filled with stories of God's amazing provision but also a fair amount of blood, desperation, hunger, and death. Aurora did not like it. What stood out to her were all the sad stories, rather than the ways in which God provided. I definitely think this book is a worthwhile read for adults, or even teens. Ms. Aylward lived an amazing life, and it's a story worth telling. I just don't think it's a good fit for elementary students.

Kayla says

I really enjoyed this book. What this woman endured was amazing to me, and I don't think many could have done what she did. She was definitely a devout Christian and her example made me want to do better. Definitely increased my faith to do the hard things God asks of us.

George Slade says

Gladys Aylward's story. She became a national hero in both England & China. She was a foot binding-reform worker for the Chinese gvt. & a prison reform activist for the Chinese gvt. She did more work for the Chinese government than she did for Christianity. She made a few European friends in China, but by and large she felt like a FOREIGNER the whole time she was in China. She became a close friend of the local mandarin, and adopted quite a few Chinese children.

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This one too I read in the It is the inspiring read of an English maid named Gladys Aylward born in 1902, who got it into her noggin that she must have travelled to China, and done missionary work. Well what follows is a trip to China for a lifetime that involves much more than missionary work. Death and danger were always around the corner lurking:

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An inspiring story of how Gladys Aylward travelled from England-China, and back, and back! An inspiring read:

Carolyn H. says

Gladys Aylward was an inspiring woman who followed God with all her heart. Her story challenges me to do the same - to pursue Him fearlessly.

Joy says

The dictionary defines adventure as "an undertaking usually involving danger and unknown risks." The life & work of missionary Gladys Aylward can be described as nothing less than an adventure. At the "old" age of 32, Gladys embarks on a journey to China, where she knows she is called to be a missionary. Filled with mishaps & harrowing escapes, Gladys makes it to her destination, in the northern mountaintops of China. As she sets about her work, sharing the Gospel with everyone she meets, her integrity & hard work catch the attention of the public official of the town. Gladys is asked to help unbind the feet of women in her province, and shares God's love along the way. Gladys' amazing ministry is culminated during the Japanese occupation, and the Communist rule, when she finally leaves the land she's known for 30 years. But her legacy still remains today, and inspires generations of young missionaries & world changers to embrace adventure and God's call on their lives. She is truly a hero of the faith.

I absolutely loved this book, and read it in about 2 days. It's quick, yet thorough, giving much detail on Gladys' work. I am nothing short of inspired after reading this book. Full of confidence in God's call on her life, Gladys sets out to bring Good News to China for the rest of her life. Challenge accepted.

Shannon says

What an amazing story! Gladys Aylward really had some determination to serve the Lord! Another great biography by Benge

Susan says

Gladys Aylward lived a remarkable life. She was obedient to God's call on her life and many Chinese became believers as a result. She experienced incredible difficulties that she was able to overcome only with God's help and in situations where she was out of options, God always came through. He also prepared the way for her and those she helped. She truly lived for others in her obedience to God.

This book was a quick read and perfect for those who want to be reminded of God's faithfulness and provision for those who follow Him in radical obedience.

Tori Hook says

Gladys Aylward: The Adventure of a Lifetime is one of those rare books that renews your faith and is a grand adventure, as I believe most if not all in this series will be. As a young woman, Gladys became irrevocably convinced that God wanted her to serve as a missionary in China. Though it took her years to get there, she finally arrived in China, and started ministering to the people. Following her arrival (an adventure of its own), Gladys continued to serve God in so many incredible ways while she was in China.

I had heard very little about Gladys Aylward before I read this book, but I must say that she was an incredible woman. Her faith through trials, her bravery when things seemed impossible, her willingness to

serve in whatever way was put in front of her. I truly loved reading about her, and would even consider her someone I'd want to model myself after. What an amazing woman of God. If you want to be moved in your faith, then this book (and the rest of the series too, presumably) is for you.

Adam Balshan says

4 stars [Missions]

W: 3.5 (fast read, simple and readable, rousing); T: 4.25 (almost stunning); P: 4.

Nicole says

A very nice biography of a wonderful woman.

Ginny says

Gladys's story is inspiring, and I want to learn more about her. My sons enjoyed every bit of her story.

Danica Abisror says

This was an exciting missionary story that I read to my 6-year old. He (and I) really enjoyed it!
