



2010

### The Last Full Measure

Lauren McMullan

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#### BYU ScholarsArchive Citation

McMullan, Lauren (2010) "The Last Full Measure," *Children's Book and Media Review*. Vol. 31 : Iss. 4 , Article 14.

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Rinaldi, Ann. *The Last Full Measure*. Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2010. ISBN 978054738980. \$17.00. 224 p.

Reviewer: Lauren McMullan

Reading level: Intermediate, Young Adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Fiction; Historical Fiction;

Subject: Gettysburg, Battle Of, Gettysburg, PA., 1863 -- Fiction; United States -- History -- Civil War, 1861-1865; Family Life -- Pennsylvania -- Civil War, 1861-1865; Books--Reviews;

Before Gettysburg was ever known as the bloodiest battle of the Civil War it was just a quiet Union town where Tacey Stryker grew up. With her Father and two older brothers serving in the war, she is left with her unceasingly optimistic mother to take care of her brother David and his bum leg. Then the war comes through — bloodying the Culp’s hill, threatening the free black population just out of town; ripping away the people that Tacey holds most dear bit by bit.

On the back of her book Rinaldi has written the following to her readers: “WARNING: This is a historical novel. Read at your own risk. The writer feels it necessary to alert you to the fact that you might enjoy it.” It is aptly placed. Without missing a step Rinaldi has run her characters through the hell of living next door to a historically accurate war zone. Without needless gore or over the top depictions, this story, taking place during one of our countries most horrendous moments, manages to pull the reader through the tragedy with interest, hope, and a truly marvelous story.

Volume 31, no. 4 (March/April 2011)