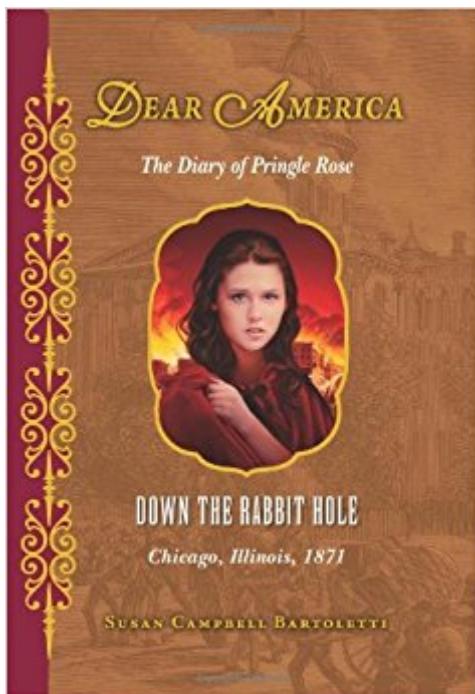


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# Dear America: Down The Rabbit Hole



## **Synopsis**

Newbery Honor author Susan Campbell Bartoletti brings the story of a young girl caught up in a web of murder, lies, and the Great Fire of Chicago to bold life. In the spring of 1871, fourteen-year-old Pringle Rose learns that her parents have been killed in a terrible carriage accident. After her uncle Edward and his awful wife, Adeline, move into the Pringle family's home -- making life for her and her younger brother, Gideon, unbearable -- Pringle runs away with Gideon to Chicago, seeking refuge from the tragedy, and hoping to start a new life. She becomes a nanny for the children of a labor activist, and quickly finds herself caught up in a web of intrigue and lies. Then, when a familiar figure from home arrives, Pringle begins to piece together the devastating mystery of what happened to her parents, and realizes just how deadly the truth might be. But soon, one of the greatest disasters this country has ever known -- the Great Fire of Chicago -- flares up, and Pringle is on the run for her life.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 750L (What's this?)

Series: Dear America

Hardcover: 320 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Inc. (March 1, 2013)

Language: English

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Product Dimensions: 1 x 5.2 x 8 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 21 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #124,050 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Runaways #157 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s #177 in Children's Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Family Life > Orphans & Foster Homes

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## **Customer Reviews**

Gr 4-7-Pringle Rose and her brother, Gideon, who has Down's syndrome, have had a privileged

upbringing in Scranton, Pennsylvania, in 1871. Their parents' death in a suspicious carriage accident changes everything. Gideon survives, but has not spoken since the accident. On a visit to the cemetery, Pringle meets Rabbit, for whom she develops romantic feelings. The siblings' uncaring Uncle Edward and his vicious wife move in, and when it becomes clear that they plan to send Gideon away, Pringle plans their escape. On the way to Chicago, they befriend Gwen Pritchard, a woman traveling with her children in the same train car, and their closeness is solidified after they survive a terrifying crash. When their mother's friend is unable to provide refuge, Pringle and Gideon find a home with the Pritchards. As Pringle learns more about the conditions of mine workers, she begins to rethink what her father, a mine owner, taught her. When they learn the truth about their parents' accident and the role Rabbit played, Gideon runs away. As Pringle tries to find him, the Chicago Fire rages. The epilogue sums up the rest of their story, and the historical note provides context and inspiration. Readers will enjoy this novel with its multiple historical events and engaging personal story.-Kefira Phillippe, Nichols Middle School, Evanston, IL © Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

One day everything changes: Pringle, the daughter of a wealthy Scranton coal-mining family, learns that her parents have perished in a carriage accident, and she and her brother, Gideon, are shifted to the care of cruel relatives. Rather than submit to abuse, and worried that Gideon, a child with Down syndrome, will be institutionalized, Pringle takes her brother and flees to Chicago in hopes of independence and a future opportunity to access her inheritance. Bartoletti's Dear America entry plunks the high-action historical diary tale into the swirl of events surrounding the Chicago Fire of 1871 and the general labor unrest of the day. Lively writing and strong characterizations, especially that of our plucky heroine, keep the pages turning. The connection to Alice in Wonderland, per the title, is a bit overworked and involves a shadowy character with a connection to the accidental death of the parents. Plot coincidences abound, but this and the other Dear America titles continue to offer spirited adventures of kids and young adults who help flesh out America's story. Grades 4-7. --Anne OMalley

I love this book! It has everything a good book should have: suspense, mystery, humor, sadness, and a little bit of romance. This is a book you won't be able to put down. Pringle returns home from boarding school after her parent's mysterious death. Her aunt and cousin move in, and they make Pringle and her brother's lives miserable, so they run away. I don't want to spoil too much, but this is

one of the best books in the new series

Gift to my granddaughter--she loved it.

This book full of personal struggles, a bit of romance, and a VERY surprising turn of events! If you think this book would be boring because of the history, think again! Yes, this book is rich in history, but you don't notice it very much, in a good way. If you enjoy Dear America books, you have to read this book!

PRINGLE Rose is very brave and cares about her brother. It is sort of SAD that her parents died and that her aunt TREATED HER so badly that she ran away to Chicago. My favorite part of this novel is when she tries to find Gideon during the fire. My opinion is that this book is amazing!!!!:): D

I loved this book. Pringle Rose showed such great bravery and courage. It showed how someone like herself could make it through such a struggle. Pringle and Gideon will forever mark how bravery and fear of the Chicago fire. It truly a touching book.

Excellent book. My teenage daughter and I both read it and agree that it was marvelous! Great writing. Many emotions felt while reading this book because of unexpected events that take place. I recommend it for 11-14 year-olds. It is a really good read.

This is the greatest book ever! I could read it over and over and over again. If you have not read it, you should.

Wonderful and captivating story. I love this book series. Feels like your reliving history. Great reading for teens and adults.

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