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Marlow's "Andi to the rescue" (book review)

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Book Reviews



Marlow, S. K. (2017). *Andi to the rescue*. Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications. 111 pp. \$7.99. ISBN 9780825444333

When Andi's teacher, Miss Hall, is injured in a fall, she is dismayed to learn that her mother will be the class substitute. However, that is only the beginning of Andi's troubles. Although, Mrs. Carter observes classroom procedures and handles the class bully with great skill, neither she nor Andi are prepared for what happens at the end of the day. Both Andi and her mother are kidnapped at gunpoint in what is a case of mistaken identity. Believing Mrs. Carter to be Miss Hall, both she and Andi are taken to the hideout of gentleman outlaw Will Benton, who is holed up out of town. Mrs. Carter, who has been mistaken for Miss Hall, is ordered to teach him to read and he intends to hold her hostage until she accomplishes the task. Unbeknownst to Andi and her mother, a quick-thinking friend observed the kidnapping and alerted Andi's brothers, who organized themselves into a search party. Along the town sheriff, they pursue the outlaw band who kidnapped their mother and sister. After a daring rescue attempt, the outlaws are apprehended. In a gesture of good will, Mrs. Carter and Andi promise to come by the jail and teach him to read.

Andi to the Rescue is intended for children ages seven to nine. Marlow has included a glossary of words pertinent to the time period and to the story. In the closing pages, she presents various historical facts upon which the story is based. This is clearly a work inspirational fiction for children. Unlike many earlier works of this genre, the lesson of trust in God in all circumstances does not overpower the story. The main characters are life-like and well-drawn, showing both strengths and weaknesses, which is a mark of good fiction. Readers of the *Little House* series by Laura Ingalls Wilder will appreciate the books which chronicle the life and antics of Andi Carter. This would be a good addition to a church or Christian school library. Academic libraries that support institutions with Elementary Education programs would also find it beneficial.

Reviewer

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