Leigh Ann Conners is spunky and determined. Although she often finds herself in trouble, she loves her two older brothers dearly and would do anything to make them proud. When the Yankees arrive in Roswell, Georgia, Leigh Ann places a French flag upon the family’s mill. She hopes the Yankees will then spare the mill from destruction, but her actions have disastrous results. Sent north with the women and children who worked in the mill—all branded traitors for making fabric for Confederate uniforms—Leigh Ann embarks on a journey that requires her to find her own inner strength. Only then will she find her place in the war.

Roche came to dinner on March ninth, the day of the battle of the Yankee Monitor against our Merrimack, two ironclad gunboats in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Teddy had received word of the battle by telegraph, and after dinner he sent Jon down to the telegraph office for the results of the battle. It was a draw. I couldn’t see why everyone was so worried about two boats, clad in iron, fighting each other. Our armies had taken so many losses lately, all over the place, and we had so many men killed. It looked as if we were losing. My brothers went around grim-faced and sharp-tongued.

Leigh Ann's Civil War was overall an enjoyable historical fiction read. Ann Rinaldi, as she always does in her historical novels, has taken an event from history and brought it to life. The novel is based on the true story of the female mill workers captured by the Union army, a little-known event from the Civil War that I hadn't known about before reading this book. There were a couple of things I found a bit problematic, however - Leigh Ann's dysfunctional family history was a bit of a distraction at times from the main story of her experiences during the war, and there were some magical elements.