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Eleanor Roosevelt

CHARLES P. GRAVES



Eleanor Roosevelt

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Eleanor Roosevelt

First Lady of the World

by Charles P. Graves

illustrated by Polly Bolian

A Yearling Book



*For my mother-in-law,
Marian Weld Minot*

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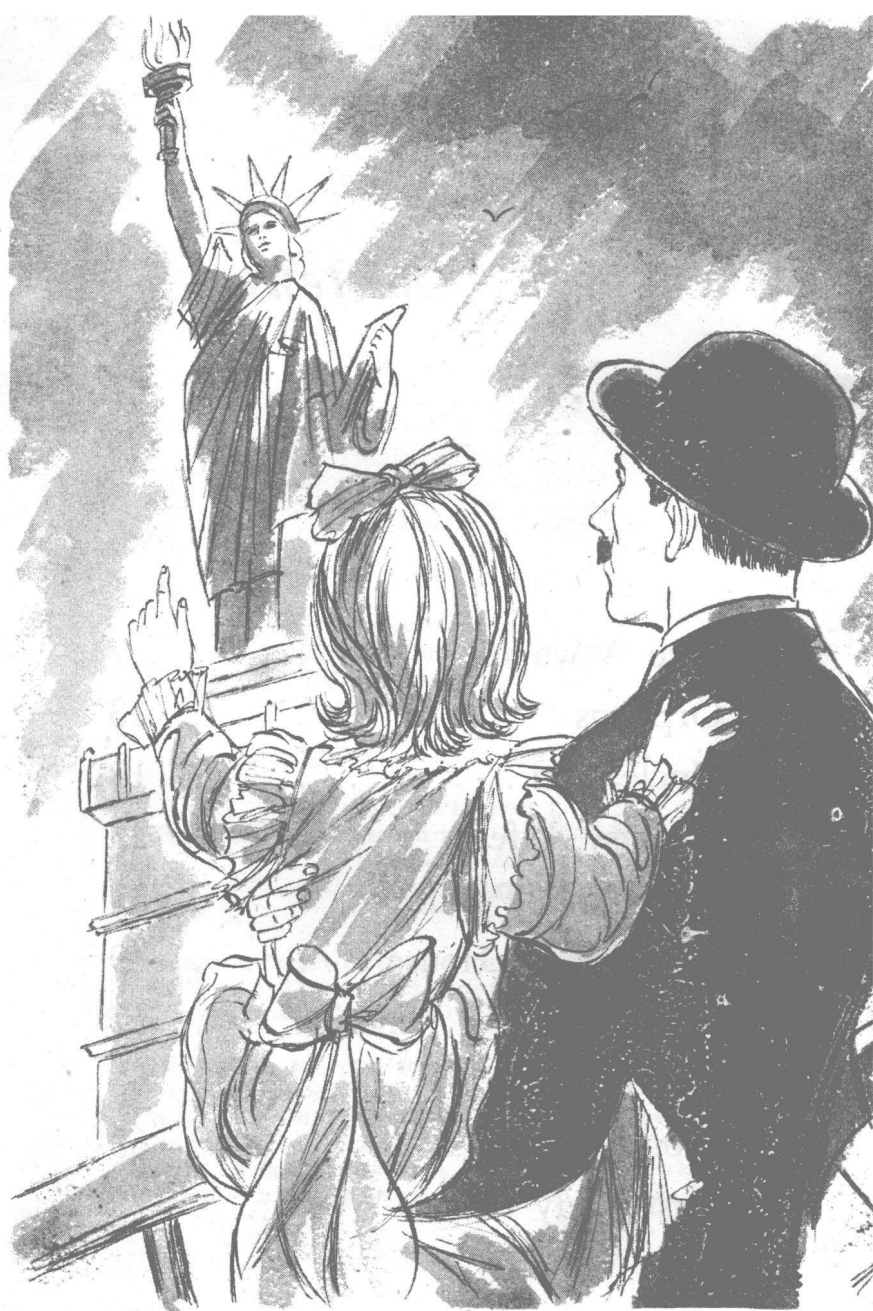
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This book is one of a series of educational, informative biographies, presented in a lively, colorful and interesting manner. They are designed and edited so that they can be read and enjoyed by young readers through the elementary grades. All facts are authentic for they have been carefully checked with leading sources for historical accuracy.

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Chapter 1

Two Voyages

“Look, Eleanor.” Mr. Roosevelt lifted his little girl above the ship’s rail. “There’s the Statue of Liberty. It was just put up last year.”

Eleanor gazed at the giant statue of “Miss Liberty” holding a torch. “What a big lady!” she cried.

The year was 1887. Anna Eleanor Roosevelt was two and a half years old. She and her mother and father were on the *Britannic*, a ship that was leaving New York City for Europe.

The next day the ship ran into some heavy fog. The fog whistle blew every few seconds to warn other ships nearby.

Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt had tea with some friends that afternoon. Eleanor passed the cake.

Mrs. Roosevelt was a very lovely woman. She thought Eleanor was an ugly duckling. "She is such a funny child," Eleanor's mother said to one of her friends. "She's so shy and so old-fashioned. We call her 'Granny.'"

Eleanor hung her head in shame. She was glad when her parents took her for a walk on deck.

The fog was so thick that Eleanor could hardly see the water. Suddenly, the fog lifted. Another ship was headed straight toward them!

With a loud noise the ship plowed into the *Britannic*. It ripped a big hole in her side.

"Stay here," Mr. Roosevelt told his family. "I'll get our life preservers."

When he returned the deck was crowded with passengers. A sailor ran up. "Lower the lifeboats!" he shouted. "The ship is sinking!"

Mr. Roosevelt was afraid to climb into a lifeboat holding Eleanor. He might drop her.

"Hold my little girl," he told one of the sailors. "Then hand her to me."

When he was in the lifeboat he held out his arms. The sailor tossed Eleanor through the air and her father caught her. Eleanor started to cry.

The ship that hit the *Britannic* was

the *Celtic*. It didn't seem to be sinking, so the men in the lifeboat rowed toward it. Sailors on the *Celtic* lifted the Roosevelts aboard.

A short time later a message came from the *Britannic*. The captain said the ship would not sink after all. But it must return to New York for repairs.

The *Celtic* was going to New York too, so the Roosevelts stayed on board.

When Eleanor was five her mother and father took her on another voyage. Her new baby brother, Elliot Roosevelt, Jr., was along too. This time the ship reached Europe safely.

The Roosevelts went to Italy, where Eleanor's father gave her a donkey. He hired a boy to lead the donkey while Eleanor rode on its back.



The boy led the donkey up a steep, rocky trail. They were gone a long time. When they returned the boy was riding on the donkey and Eleanor was leading it.

“Why aren’t you riding the donkey?” Eleanor’s father asked.

“Because the boy doesn’t have any shoes,” Eleanor said. “The rocks cut his feet and they’re bleeding. I’ve got shoes on and I don’t mind walking.”

Mr. Roosevelt picked Eleanor up and hugged her. “I’m glad you’re so kind and generous,” he said.

Eleanor smiled. Her father always made her feel important and happy. Eleanor was never shy around him. She loved her father more than anyone else.

Chapter 2

Orphans

While the Roosevelts were in Europe another baby was born. They named him Hall.

When they returned to New York Mr. and Mrs. Roosevelt went to many parties. One day when Eleanor was six her father asked her to go to a party. It was a Thanksgiving dinner for poor newsboys. Mr. Roosevelt wanted Eleanor to help serve the dinner at the newsboys' clubhouse.



As they rode there in a carriage, Mr. Roosevelt said, "There are many poor people in the world. It is our duty to help them." He told Eleanor that many of the newsboys were orphans and had no homes.

"Where do they sleep?" Eleanor asked.

"Sometimes in wooden boxes," Mr. Roosevelt said. "Sometimes in the doorways of buildings."

When they reached the clubhouse it was crowded with newsboys. Eleanor saw that many of them wore rags.

She was pleased to help serve the dinner. The boys had all the turkey they could eat.

When the dinner was finished the boys put on a show. One boy stood up and told a joke. "There are two good

reasons why people don't mind their own business," he began. "One is that they have no business. The other is that they have no minds."

"Ha, ha!" Eleanor giggled loudly. All the newsboys looked at her. Eleanor blushed so red that her face looked like a ripe tomato.

The newsboys sang "Yankee Doodle," and Eleanor tried to sing with them. Then she fell sound asleep and her father put her in the carriage.

The next morning Eleanor overslept and was late to school. This was unusual for her school was on the top floor of her house. Her mother and some of her friends ran the school for their children.

Sometimes when school was through