

Divided We Stand

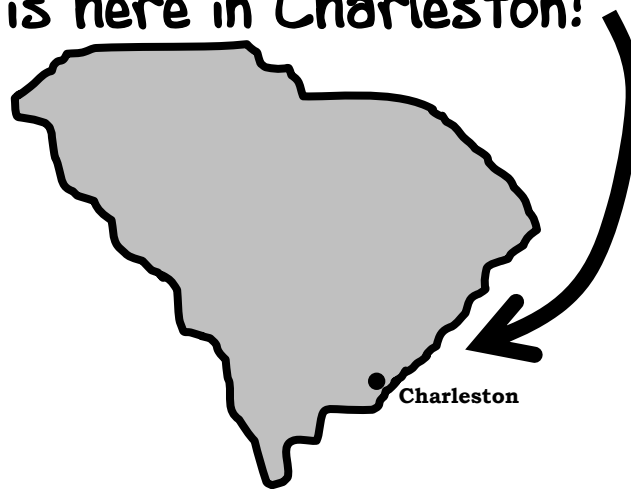
The story of a 10 year-old
girl in South Carolina who
sees tensions rise prior to
the Civil War.

written by **Alissa Torzewski**

Homecourt  Publishers

■ Greenville, SC

The Secession Convention
is here in Charleston!



6 - The Secession Decision

"Why not?" I whined, incredibly disappointed.

Father put down his pen, agitated with Will and me. "I've already told you two - it's a meeting for adults. No children allowed."

"Oh, come on, Father. It's the South Carolina Secession Convention! Everyone's talking about it. You have to let us come with you," Will pleaded.

“Yes, you *have* to let us come with you,” I said, parroting Will.

Father leaned forward in his chair and spoke with quiet intensity. “I said no.”

“But...” Will started.

Father raised his eyebrows. Will stopped immediately, knowing Father was serious. Will and I sulked to the corner of the office and continued to play with the old newspapers.

Father was attending the South Carolina Secession Convention at St. Andrews Hall on Broad Street. The convention was supposed to be in Columbia, but there were a lot of people with smallpox in that city, so it was moved here to Charleston.

Will wasn't lying - everyone really has been talking about the convention. Delegates from across the state are meeting to decide whether South Carolina should declare its independence from the United States. They're hoping other states in the South follow suit.

The Convention is at St. Andrews Hall.



Father stood up from his desk and said, "All right, I have to go. You kids go on home now."

Will and I reluctantly stood up, said goodbye to Father, and started to leave the office. We paused in the door when Father spoke.

"I bet St. Andrews Hall will be crowded and hot. I sure do hope they keep the windows open." He smiled and waved us out the door.

We started on our way home, bundled in warm clothing since the weather was cold.

52 — Divided We Stand

“This is big, sis. This could change everything in the future,” Will said on the way home, walking and kicking pebbles.

“Yeah...” I replied, “I wish we could go.”

Will paused and looked at me. He got that look that he gets every time he has an idea that will most likely get us in trouble. “What are you thinking, William Scott?”

“What if we went to the Convention?” he asked, smiling.

“We’re not allowed to go. Remember? *No children allowed.*” I reminded him.

“What if no one knew we were there? And Father said the windows might be open!” Will said, suddenly remembering.

I waved off the idea with my hand and kept walking.

“Come on, Tilly. No one will see us. There are plenty of places to hide. Think of how neat it would be to see what happens. You want to be a reporter someday, don’t you?”

Will always knows how to catch my interest. I started to consider his plan.



This was my big chance to
act like a real
newspaper
reporter!

“Are you sure we won’t get in trouble?” I asked.

“If we do, I will take full blame,” he assured me.

“Deal.” I said, smiling. We turned around and took the back way to St. Andrews Hall.

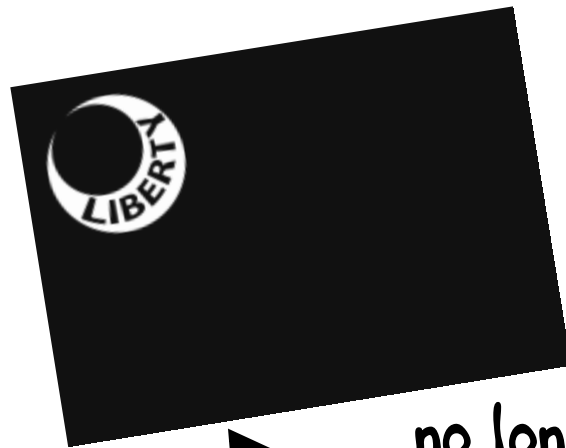
When we got there, the meeting was already in session. There were people loitering outside of the building, so we casually walked around to the back, hoping no one saw us. I doubt we really needed to crawl under those bushes near the windows, but it sure made it more exciting.

We decided the bushes would serve as an excellent hiding spot. I began to realize that Father might have meant to give Will the idea of listening through the window. We slowly stood up to the sill and peeked in.

The Hall was large and open, full of people. There was a balcony level, which was also full of people. Will and I spotted Father sitting in the balcony with his notebook, taking notes. We ducked down when we thought he looked our way, even though he probably knew we were right there.

Mr. Rhett, who I hadn't seen since he interrupted that man's stump speech in October, stood in front of the crowd, reading what was called the "Ordinance of Secession."

It was a long and boring document, and I heard him say something about the union between South Carolina and the United States being dissolved. I imagined our state falling into a cup of tea and disappearing like sugar.



South
Carolina is

no longer part of
the United States!

"...South Carolina has resumed her position among the nations of the world..." Mr. Rhett read aloud.

I heard him read the last section of the Ordinance, which said that South Carolina now has every right that an independent nation would have, like declaring war and making alliances and conducting business and so on. It sounded very formal to me.

After Mr. Rhett read the Ordinance, Governor Pickens approached the platform and called for a vote by asking, "Will the Convention adopt the Ordinance?"

Governor Pickens led the voting for secession.



He called each delegate's name from the roll. The delegates could either reply "yea" or "nay," and, much to my surprise, *every* single reply was a "yea." There were over a hundred delegates, too. Not one single "nay." That made it official. South Carolina seceded from the Union.

Everyone was excited after Governor Pickens declared the final (and obvious) decision. You could feel it in the air. People clapped and cheered. They laughed and shook hands. Governor Pickens settled them down and announced that they would all meet back in the

evening to individually sign the Ordinance of Secession.

Governor Pickens called the meeting to a close, and the men began to file out while some lingered to chat. Will and I watched Father get up and walk down to the first floor. We thought we were completely hidden, but it looked like he was coming over to talk to us.

We were mistaken. He was approaching Mr. Stanton, who happened to be standing close to our window. They shook hands and gave each other a nod.

“Exciting, isn’t it, Mr. Scott?” Mr. Stanton asked.

“Exciting indeed,” Father replied, nodding and looking around.

“Now, I trust that this convention will get a favorable review in *The Charleston Sun*. It would be a shame to occur otherwise.”

“I try to remain as honest as I’m able, Jed. You know that about me.”

“I do. I do indeed.” Mr. Stanton said. He cleared his throat and the two men stood

without talking for a little while. They were polite, but it was also clear that there was tension between them.

“How’s the family?” Father asked.

“Good, good...” Mr. Stanton replied.

“Lydia’s doing well, and the kids are fine.”

“Tilly talks about Victoria quite a bit. She hasn’t seen her in a while. I think she’d like to pay a visit.” Father told him.

Mr. Stanton cleared his throat and put his hands in his pockets. He leaned a little closer to my father and said, “I think it best that she stay home for a while. You know. Until some things become settled.”

Father looked surprised, “Jeb, our children have nothing to do with our political matters.”

Mr. Stanton shrugged. “That’s the way it is, Jacob. If there are unpatriotic feelings in your house, I’m not sure I want my children exposed to it. South Carolina’s a new nation now... and I’m not even sure if you’re a part of it.”

Father
was angry that
Mr. Stanton
called him
“unpatriotic.”



Father clenched his jaw, took a step closer to Mr. Stanton, and said, “Now you listen, Stanton. Secession or no secession, I love my state and I love my people. And I am getting tired of your ridiculous accusations.”

Mr. Stanton blinked slowly. He turned to leave but stopped and said, “I look forward to your article, Mr. Scott.”

Most of the men had left the building, but Father stood alone for a few minutes before he walked out.

We waited for him at the end of the street. The three of us started the walk home together, and Father walked between us with his arms around our shoulders.

“So what have you two been doing this afternoon?” he asked smiling.

“Oh, nothin’.” Will replied. “How was the convention?”

“It was rather eventful. South Carolina has officially declared independence.” Father said and then laughed. “And you know, the funniest thing, right before I saw Mr. Stanton, I could’ve sworn I saw two little heads peeking through a window.”

“Fancy that,” I said, grinning.

Father smiled and tickled us. We broke free and ran ahead, laughing.

Homecourt Publishers

ORDER FORM



The "Lost Years" series was created with the understanding that teachers have limited time and resources and they need an effective way to teach the standards that are easily overlooked.

To order books, **Homecourt Publishers**
 or for more information, contact:
 Ben Bache, managing editor
benbache@homecourtpublishers.com
 Phone & Fax: (864) 877-5123
www.homecourtpublishers.com

3RD GRADE NOVELS

A South Carolina Mystery

A boy finds a strange letter hidden in an antique bed, and he travels across South Carolina trying to uncover its secret.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

The Native

A story about the first settlers in SC, and their first interactions with the Natives.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

Divided - We - Stand

A girl living in Charleston in the 1850s witnesses the rising political tensions prior to secession.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

Palmetto Roots

A story about the impact of the Great Depression and the New Deal on South Carolina.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

Supreme Decisions

A story about the *Briggs vs. Elliott* case and segregation in South Carolina during the 1950s.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

3RD GRADE NOVELS (South Carolina History)

Totals:

Please add 6% SC Sales Tax and 8% shipping charge to all totals:

4TH GRADE NOVELS

A New World

Motivated by a sense of adventure, a boy sneaks onto a ship heading to the New World in the 16th century.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

An American Family Tree

Several generations of slaves and later free African Americans tell their story over a period of 2 centuries.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

When the Dust Settled...

The story of the election of 1796 and the birth of political parties and modern American democracy.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

Tales of the Trail

A family travels along the Oregon Trail to make a life out West.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

State of the Nation

A runaway slave finds himself in "Bleeding Kansas" via the Underground Railroad.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

4TH GRADE NOVELS (Early United States History)

Totals:

Please add 6% SC Sales Tax and 8% shipping charge to all totals:

5TH GRADE NOVELS

The Carpathagger

The story about the end of the Reconstruction Era and the efforts of the South to move onto a new age.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

The Other Side of the Tracks

A girl sees first-hand the impact of Westward Expansion on the American public in the late 1800s.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

Progressive Pete

A boy becomes an unintentional leader of the Progressive Movement.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

On a ROLL in the Suburbs

A story about popular culture, consumerism, and international tensions in post-World War II America.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

"What Lies Ahead"

Shortly after the Cold War, a boy wins an essay contest and earns a trip to the UN headquarters in New York City.

\$11.95 / book x ___ copies
 \$14.95 / Teacher's Guide x ___ copies
 \$175.00 / class set x ___ sets
 *Set = (25 copies)

5TH GRADE NOVELS (Modern United States History)

Totals:

Please add 6% SC Sales Tax and 8% shipping charge to all totals:
