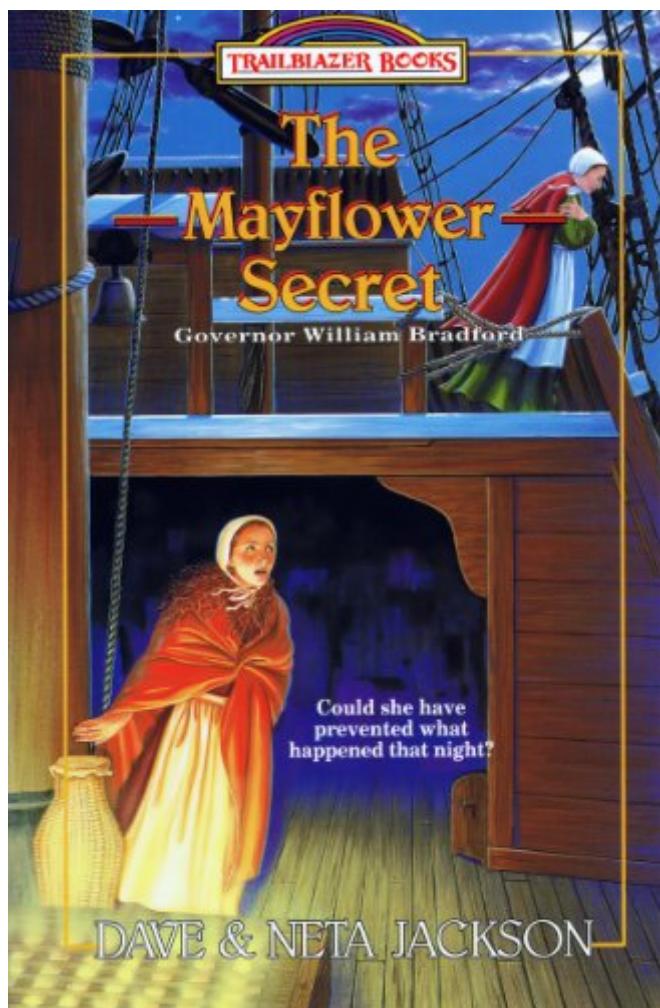


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# The Mayflower Secret (Trailblazer Books Book 26)



## **Synopsis**

Thirteen-year-old Elizabeth Tilley and her family have been waiting for this day for months—â• the day the Mayflower sets sail from England. The late start means uncertain weather and a long, hard journey for everyone. But the trip seems especially rough for Dorothy Bradford, the frail young wife of William Bradford. One night, Elizabeth discovers Dorothy alone on deck. Thinking the woman wants to be alone, Elizabeth returns to bed. But the next morning, she awakes to the news that Dorothy has disappeared! Afraid that William Bradford will blame her for his wife's death, Elizabeth tells no one what she saw that night. When they finally arrive in the New World, many passengers become very ill. Several of them die before the new colony is established, including Elizabeth's parents. Left an orphan, Elizabeth must deal with her terrible secret alone. How can she ever face Governor Bradford again? If she dares to tell the truth, will it ruin her chance for happiness in the new colony? Alone in the New World, Elizabeth guards a shocking secret. . . . An adventure story, ideal for readers 8-12 years of age.

## **Book Information**

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## Customer Reviews

Thank you for making this book available. We are Mayflower descendants (Howland); I prepared an abbreviated family tree (pasted it to the inside back of the book cover) before giving this book to my granddaughter.

We love the Trailblazer books, and the way we can learn history through a story. Although this wasn't the most exciting of the adventures we've read, and maybe it would have been more exciting for a girl, my son and I enjoyed the story. It's nice and sends a good message. Especially enjoyed reading the author's connection to the Pilgrims at the end of the book.

I love it, but I might be prejudiced. This book is about William Bradford, John Howland, and Elizabeth Tilley Howland, my eighth great-grandparents.

Deals with suicide, not a good theme for the child from 10-12.

written for children, but very historical.

This story accented our history lesson, giving us a different point of view of the Mayflower story. Good for ages 9-14.

When thirteen-year-old Elizabeth Tilley and her parents board the Mayflower in 1620, they have high hopes for a better life in the New World. Although they are not Puritan Separatists like many of the passengers, the Tilleys have few economic opportunities in England. But after a long and difficult sea voyage, the Mayflower arrives in Cape Cod in the dead of winter. On deck one night, Elizabeth sees Dorothy Bradford, one of the other passengers, standing by the railing, but tells no one. The next morning, Dorothy has disappeared, presumed drowned. Elizabeth feels terrible guilt and is determined to hide her secret, fearing blame. Soon after, both of Elizabeth's parents die from disease. Elizabeth feels all alone, without family and with few friends, and burdened by the terrible secret she hides. This was a good historical novel about the voyage on the Mayflower and the settling of Plymouth colony. Elizabeth Tilley was a real passenger on the Mayflower, and the authors did a good job at imagining what her life might have been like in the first years of the colony. I would recommend this book to young readers who enjoy stories about Colonial America and the Pilgrims.

Because William Bradford & his second wife were my 11th great grandparents, and John Howland & Elizabeth Tilley are my 12th great grandparents, this book was a must! Very cool history.

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