

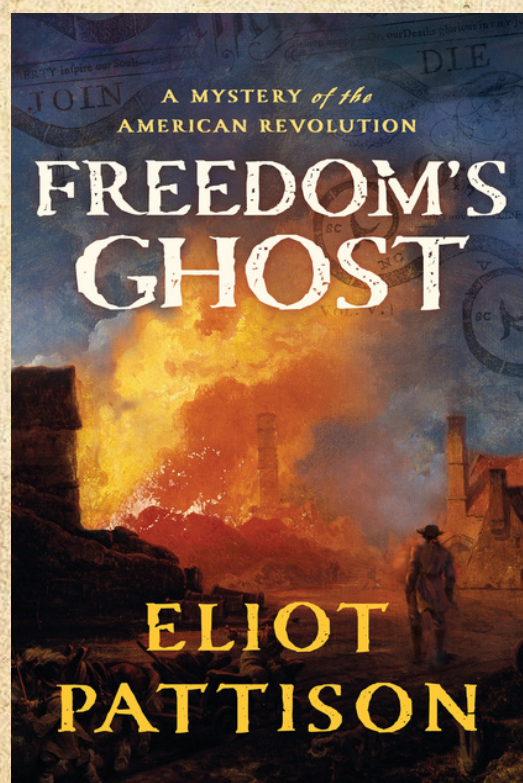
Freedom's Ghost

by Eliot Pattison

The cause of freedom for which Duncan McCallum has long struggled is facing its greatest crisis yet in 1770 Massachusetts. Newly returned from deadly intrigues in London, Duncan discovers that these same provocateurs have arrived in the colony, set on fomenting a preemptive war against the patriots through murder and subterfuge. Duncan's fiercely independent fiancée Sarah, raised by the Mohawk, sets her own defiant course in the midst of the British army occupation, smuggling in vital manufacturing secrets as well as eight runaway slaves. Duncan mounts a desperate secret defense of the patriot cause, aided by John Hancock, John Adams and his new friend Crispus Attucks. He is on the verge of stopping the ruthless London agents when he discovers Crispus dead on the bloody snow of the Boston Massacre and Sarah taken by the army to the hated tyrant General Gage in New York. With his small cohort of outcasts Duncan sets off to rescue Sarah only to discover he must save Manhattan itself.

About the Author

Eliot Pattison is the author of the Inspector Shan series, which includes *The Skull Mantra*, winner of an Edgar Award and finalist for the Gold Dagger. Pattison's *Bone Rattler* series follows Scotsman Duncan McCallum on the road to revolution as he fights to protect the cause of freedom. Pattison resides in rural Pennsylvania.



Discussion Questions

- The ideal of freedom aspired to by John Hancock, John Glover, Crispus Attucks, the escaped slaves, and the Native Americans don't always seem to be the same. How might those differing views of freedom affect the foundation of a new nation?
- The author has stated that Britain planted the seeds of rebellion by the types of people it pushed to the American colonies, forcibly and otherwise. Is there evidence of this in *Freedom's Ghost*?
- How does Sarah Ramsey's Mohawk upbringing affect her perspectives, motivations, and actions? Would the story be different if told from her perspective?
- "You have been out too long in this world." Conawago chastises Duncan when Duncan is slow to detect the true nature of the boneman Hugo. What does he mean? What is encompassed by "this world"? Why does Conawago say humans live in multiple worlds? Is the world in which native women sing to whales, for example, the same as the one in which colonists complain of taxes from London?
- "Sins may take a twisted road," Corporal Rhys forlornly declares to Duncan, "but they will always catch up with a man." What are the different ways that sins catch up with characters in the novel?
- The author has often stated that during this critical pre-revolution period colonists were in an "identity crisis" as they drifted away from their original British identity towards an untested, new "American" identity. What characters in the novel show signs of this identity crisis? The growing opposition of once-loyal citizens to the king's occupation troops is one example of this shift. What other signs of this identity crisis do you see in the novel's characters?

Discussion Questions

- As Duncan pauses over words spoken by Conawago, he recalls that “The old Nipmuc spoke not in terms of simple facts but in truths.” What do you think this means? How might truth be different from fact?
- Conawago, Pine, and other tribal members in the novel are well aware that their tribes are facing extinction. How do you think that affects their perspectives on the European colonials and the independence movement?
- The author sharply contrasts the natures of mid-18th century Boston and New York. Which would you rather live in and why?
- The novel offers several perspectives on Major General Thomas Gage, military commander for North America, who later becomes governor of Massachusetts. Did your view of Gage change as the novel progressed? Did you ultimately see him as a relentless tyrant? A man hard pressed to reconcile his honor, his passion, and his duty?
- The author has written that historical fiction offers human connections to our past, enabling a deeper bond with its participants than that presented in classroom texts. Do you agree? Why or why not? Did you discover such a bond with any of the characters in Freedom’s Ghost?
- After reading the novel, who or what do you consider to be the “ghost” of the title? Does it refer to London’s stealthy spy? To Crispus Attucks and the dead of the Boston Massacre? To Jacob Book? To the Highland victims of the Butcher Cumberland? To Duncan’s secret role in protecting the cause of freedom? Could it perhaps refer to the elusive, ethereal nature of freedom itself?