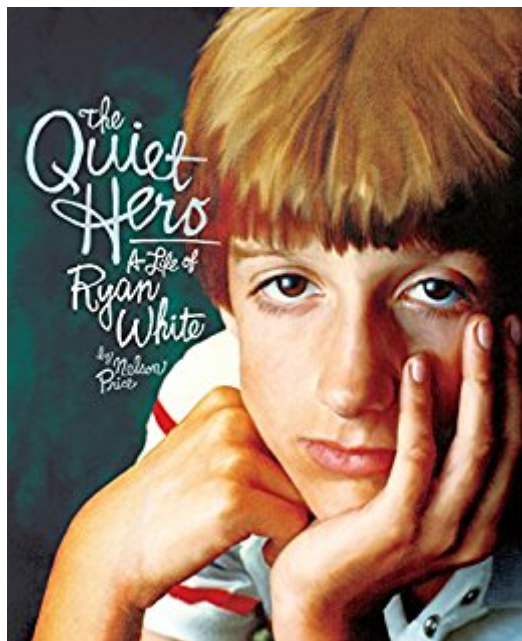


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# The Quiet Hero: A Life Of Ryan White



## Synopsis

In 1985 the eyes of the world turned to the Hoosier State and the attempt by a thirteen-year-old Kokomo, Indiana, teenager to do what seemed to be a simple task—join his fellow classmates at Western Middle School in Russiaville, the school to which his Kokomo neighborhood was assigned. The teenager, Ryan White, however, had been diagnosed with Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome from contaminated blood-based products used to treat his hemophilia.

“It was my decision,” White said, “to live a normal life, go to school, be with friends, and enjoying day to day activities. It was not going to be easy.” White’s words were an understatement, to say the least. His wish to return to school was met with panic by parents and some school officials. The controversy about White and the quiet courage he and his mother, Jeanne, displayed in their battle to have him join his classmates is explored in the eleventh volume in the Indiana Historical Society Press’s Youth Biography Series. *The Quiet Hero* is written by Nelson Price, who wrote about White’s odyssey during his days as a reporter and columnist for the Indianapolis News. Price goes behind the scenes and brings to light stories and individuals who might have been lost in the media spotlight. After a nine-month court battle, White won the right to return to school, but with concessions. These were not enough for parents of twenty children, who responded by starting their own school. At school, White became the target of slurs and lies, and his locker was vandalized. Although the White family received support from citizens and celebrities around the world, particularly rock singer Elton John, the situation grew so controversial in Kokomo that they moved to Cicero, Indiana—a community that greeted them much differently. In Price’s book, White, who succumbed to his disease in 1990, comes across as a normal teenager who met an impossible situation with uncommon grace, courage, and wisdom.

“It was difficult at times, to handle; but I tried to ignore the injustice, because I knew the people were wrong,” White said. “My family and I held no hatred for those people because we realized they were victims of their own ignorance.”

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Husband read this in 2 days n he never reads a book. We personally knew the family and I think that is why he was so intersted. The nite lite guardian angel that Ryan had was given to him by my mother in law

It was good book, but hard for me to read, made me cry.

The book is well written with lots of varied photos throughout. The information it contains offers a nice outside perspective to complement White's own autobiography. I can't help but feel disappointed, though, that the book was clearly written at a level to be accessible by preteens. The text is full of simple declarative statements and contains little subtlety, and as such the book is not as compelling as its story. There's nothing wrong with juvenile nonfiction, and there's nothing wrong with this book when considered as part of that genre. But I felt the need to point this out because I did not get that impression at all from any of the descriptions I read of the book, and others should know what to expect in order to avoid similar disappointment.

Love it! quick delivery as well

I bought this from indianahistory.org...don't do that cuz the shipping and handling is about the same as the book, just wait til it gets in stock here...that being said, here's what I think about the book.

This is amazingly put together with info not in other books like Ryans own book or his

mothers...while yes there IS some repetitiveness, it's negligible. Like Ryan's own book, this is choc full of photos. I LOVE photos of Ryan so I was very pleasantly surprised. This book is about 60% story and 40% photos...so it's a dream come true for me.

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