

# BOOKS

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**BRIGHT APRIL**, by Marguerite de Angeli.  
Doubleday & Co., Garden City, N.Y., 1946.

"YOU'RE BROWN!" These opening words might lead a reader to believe that the book he had just begun was to be one of those modern-day epistles which masquerade under that peculiar term, "best-seller", and would be followed by forty-seven chapters of sex and gore in the back alleys of Harlem.

Nothing could be further from the truth. Those two words are directed wonderingly by a pink-cheeked little girl on a trolley to a ten-year-old Brownie Scout with the delightful name of April Bright.

April is surprised. She turns to her mother and asks if she is really brown. Mother says she is "just the color of coffee with good cream in it" and the incident is over and forgotten by April.

There are other small, quiet events which occur, finally prompting the girl to utter the eternal query, "Why must we be different? ... I don't FEEL different."

The Bright family lives in an older section of Germantown, Pennsylvania. Father is a postman and the home life is normal and happy. There are occasional letters from an older brother in the Army and an older sister is training to be a nurse. Brother Tom wants to be a drummer and bangs incessantly with his drumsticks on anything handy. April divides her time between school and her Brownie meetings.

HER TEACHER tells her of the history of the area and the places George Washington had visited. By tying in democracy and good-neighborliness with George Washington, the teacher interests the students in a community clean-up

## Raise Age for Student Security Benefits

RECENT AMENDMENTS to the Social Security Act have extended the age limit for certain benefits from 18 to 22. Here is an outline of what this can mean to full-time students according to Ed Cocks, manager of the Las Vegas Social Security office:

1) If you were getting benefits on either of your parents' social security accounts, and those benefits were stopped when you reached 18, you may be eligible for additional benefits if you are a full-time student under 22 years of age and have not married.

2) If you are now getting benefits, they can continue after you are 18 if you are a full-time student.

3) If one of your parents has retired, become disabled, or died, and you were already 18 at that time, you may now be eligible for social security benefits if you are a full-time student under 22.

COCKS POINTED OUT that you are considered a full-time student if you are enrolled in a day or evening school for a course of study which will take at least three months and you are carrying a subject load sufficient to complete the course in the time normally required by a day student.

Cocks further advised that if you work during your vacation (or at any other time) and earn more than \$1500 in 1966 or any year thereafter,

campaign. There is a trash-haulers strike and the streets and sidewalks are strewn with ashes and garbage. As the children work in the streets after school the grownups become fired with enthusiasm and everyone pitches in to help clean the neighborhood.

At the Brownie meetings April learns about nature and begins a notebook about birds and trees. It is such a good notebook that she wins a prize—a trip to a farm with some Brownies from another troop.

One of the girls refuses to sit by April and a gentle lecture is given both girls to "love thy neighbor" and "do your best."

A storm makes it necessary to stay overnight at the farm and during the wild, scary night April and the other girl become drawn to each other through a mutual fear of the storm. In the morning they part as friends, with promises to exchange letters. April returns home with a new understanding of people and their prejudices.

FINE FAMILY relations are described and the Brownie meetings will be of particular interest to young readers who are also Brownies. The description of cleaning the neighborhood is a good one and may prompt young citizens of certain parts of West Las Vegas to do the same.

The style and length of BRIGHT APRIL make it quite satisfactory for reading aloud to children although the lack of continuity in the plot may cause some listeners to fidget just a bit.

The many illustrations are soft and warm and were obviously done with a sense of understanding.

Author Marguerite de Angeli is no stranger to children's literature, having written around twenty books. She writes often of Pennsylvania and of the Pennsylvania Dutch. Most of her books deal with the subject of understanding others and of children solving their own problems, which is also the central theme of BRIGHT APRIL.

Other books by Miss de Angeli that youngsters may find interesting include THE DOOR in the WALL, HENNER'S LYDIA; THEE, HANNAH! and YONIE WONDERNOSE.

some of the benefits for months in which you earn more than \$125 will be withheld.

If you are now receiving social security and are not yet 18, the continuation of benefits will be almost automatic. The Social Security Administration will want to know, when you reach 18, whether you are a full-time student. If you are, the benefits will continue until you leave school, become 22, or get married, whichever occurs first.

If you are now 18 years of age or over, payment of the new benefits is not automatic; you (or your parent) must apply for these benefits.

If your benefits were stopped because you reached the age of 18, you need only reapply and show that you are now a full-time student in order to qualify for reinstatement as a beneficiary.

If you have never received social security benefits, but are now eligible because one of your parents has retired, become disabled, or died, you should apply for benefits at the social security office, 601 S. 13th Street, Las Vegas.

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