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Confederates Don't Wear Couture



Synopsis

Publishers Weekly praised the "A Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink" author Stephanie Kate Strohm for "turning a strong heroine and a few surprises into a clever, tightly written book that will keep readers wondering who will become Libby's Mr. Darcy." This romantic sequel follows suit in high style! High-style hoopskirts, that is . . . When history nerd Libby's gay fashion designer best friend "A asks for help selling his gowns to the wives of Civil War reenactors, "A she jumps at the chance to frolick on a nineteenth-century playground. But Alabama's no sweet home: sweltering heat, no Starbucks, a vengeful ghost . . . And the boys? Miss Libby's got the North and the South fighting for her heart.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Sassy characters and great fashion- awesome descriptions! A great followup novel and quick read.

As my subject says, I was a little afraid to read this one. As a matter of fact, I almost didn't select it at all. See as a non-white American, I see the word Confederate and get a bit concerned. It can be a

fine line between glorifying what was romantic about the Confederacy, while still acknowledging the grim realities. Well, this non-white American loved this little book! The author does a fine job of presenting a fun little story, while still acknowledging historical truths. Libby is cute and her best friend Dev is adorable, if a little bit of the stereotypical gay friend. The fact is that I loved Dev. I want a best friend just like him. The bits of history strewn throughout the book are fascinating, but the story doesn't suffer for it. You get a cute romance, a bit of a mystery and an all-around fun story. The only thing that kept this from being a full five star read was that I didn't really like one of Libby's love interests. I was beyond confused in what she saw in him and ended the book still confused. However, overall, this was a very fun story and I would read more by this author!

In a lot of ways, this book took me back to the early 2000s when every TV show or movie had a flamboyantly gay best friend ready to make snide remarks and offer up innuendo at a moments notice. While these characters still show up in media, they aren't as plentiful as depictions of gay men have become more nuanced. Dev fits the old stereotypes perfectly which keeps him kind of uninteresting, but I did like him a bit better than fact-booth Libby. I really felt like she was auditioning for a quiz show for most of the book. I get the theme....I really do...and I like that a cute (if you can look past the above) book for young adults contains any history, but the computer-like input topic, output information delivery of it is a bit awkward for a reader accustomed to a steady build of period details. Maybe this is more noticeable if you are a real history nerd who isn't being introduced to new concepts. (Fact: There is a moment in the book where a sentence references The Daily Planet and Clark Kent and then spends the next sentence explaining what The Daily Planet is and that Clark Kent is Superman. Very awkward.) Again, the target audience for this book may merely embrace the cute and look past the stereotyping and info dumps. If you are an adult looking for a YA fiction break, you might skip this.

When I first heard that the book *Pilgrims don't Wear Pink* was going to have a sequel my first thought was why? Why have a sequel when the first book was just ok and everyone ended up pretty happily. Then I thought, well, maybe this won't be so bad if its more of a companion and not a full on sequel. But it ended up being a full on sequel with a plot that just really annoyed me. I liked where all the characters ended in *Pilgrims* and I hate conflict just for the sake of conflict. The whole purpose of this book seemed to just put a break into a happily for now couple (as I don't realistically think that teen couples will be a forever after sort of love) but this just ruined all those warm fuzzies I had at the end of *Pilgrims*. *Confederates* was ok for what it was but I just wish that Libby and Garrett

didn't have to deal with the conflicts that they did. This, of course, is just one reader's opinion and I did enjoy some of the antics that Libby and her BFF Dev got into. I guess I just expected something different and so was sad when it was just more of the same as Pilgrims.

Last year, I had the great delight of reading *Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink*, about the summer adventures of a young girl named Libby who reminded me a lot of myself. She loves history, fashion, reading, Jane Austen, among other interests and I immediately clicked with her. Although that story was standalone, I was pleased and intrigued to find out there would be a sequel. This one follows the summer after graduation with Libby and her best friend Dev embarking on a tour within a Confederate reenactment army to sell gorgeous and authentic gowns. Meanwhile her boyfriend is at his internship in New England and a new guy starts demonstrating interest in Libby. To add to the chaos, there is another ghost haunting them! For the most part, I would say this book has the same kind of lighthearted tone and style as the first book. If you ate up that story, this will go down similarly. It is set over the course of a summer and follows a similar structure while also representing some growth on the part of Libby. A big change this time around is that Libby and Dev set off on their adventure together, which was a fantastic decision because Dev was such a highlight during his too brief appearances in the first go-around. As a lover of history, I found the elements here even more enthralling. Is there a time period more beloved by American history buffs than the Civil War? I don't think so and this book did a great job of portraying the deep passion people still have. Personally I wish the Union had gotten a bit more attention as they fought for what was right and won but Dev made a good point that the contemporary Confederate side will pay more and you've got to follow the money. Overall: A fun and flirty delight all the way through—highly recommended for fans of book one and this is a great (clean) beach read!

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