

Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink BOOK REVIEW

Reviewer's Name: Klaudia Janek
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Author (Last name first): Stroh, Stephanie Kate
Title of the Book: Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink
Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers Date of Publication: 2012
ISBN# 0547564597
Price: \$8.99 Grade Level: J/S Number of Pages: 208
VOYA Rating: 4Q 4P

Recommended

Libby is a cute, blond, bubbly girl from Minnesota who is doing an internship in Camden Harbor, MA. Libby is really into historical reenactment, loves to read and is good with children. She teaches the students in her summer camp how to sew, bake and live like pioneer women. A cute sailor is interested in her and she somehow ends living on a ship with a cute, nerdy reporter. Libby's day consists of history, special events and chasing down the ghost that is living on her ship.

I had pretty low expectations for this book, but it was surprisingly good! It had a lot more substance, historical facts and a positive message. It's a fun, quick beach read for girls. I think it's only out in paperback. There is a romance with not much that is objectionable, there is some drinking by the town "bad boys". I would put this book up on a spring break or summer reading book display. It's targeted towards girls and good readers will probably get through this book in a day or two. It's a perfect book for a student looking for a romance novel.

I liked the message that history is cool. That you can be popular and pretty and still be into history. Libby made being a historical reenactor cool. She had lots of attention from boys, she was the target of a mean girl; who thought that Libby was too blonde to like history and she got the cute nerd in the end. There was also the message that you had to get past appearances in order to really know someone. Libby's best friend was gay and they had initially bonded over their love of fashion. Dev plays an important role at the end of the story. The message of tolerance is not in your face, but it's in there....which is good. I think this book is a great addition to a school library. According to the authors website, a follow-up book was just released called "Confederates don't wear couture" where Libby and Dev head to Alabama to sell costumes to Confederate reenactors.

Other Reviews

VOYA

3Q * 3P * M * J * S

Strohm, Stephanie Kate. *Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink*. Graphia/Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2012. 208p. \$8.99 Trade pb. 978-0547565493.

Pink is a soft, gentle color mixing the strong red and pure white. As the title indicates "pilgrims don't wear pink." History interns may choose this fashion with matching shoes (during the off-work hours, of course). Even though history-nerd main character, Libby Kelting, may be a historical-romance-reading, Jane Austen fanatic, she is not weak, gushing, or suffering from the "vapors." It does not hurt that she has a summer romance in between her history internship duties as an eighteenth-century Maine pioneer. During the day, she runs the young girls' day camp at Camden Harbor. There is hearth cooking, needlepoint, and a very cute sailor. At night, she not only shares tiny quarters with an annoying roommate, but she also has limited space for her fabulous wardrobe. Throw in a rookie newspaper reporter, office politics, and a ghost, and Libby Kelting may have a historical summer. It is not be all sonnets, primroses, and homemade ginger bread, though. There are some rough seas at Camden Harbor and Libby Kelting is determined to master them.

In this whimsical tale, the reader is not only entertained, but also learns a little history along the way.--Madelene Rathbun Barnard.

In *Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink*, the unlikely heroine, Libby, brings a gay friend, a ghost, a cute boy, and a history-crazed roommate to the table in a surprisingly engrossing read. It is a nearly perfect book for teens. This nautical, historical work of literature will have you laughing and singing with Libby and her new found friends. 4Q, 3P.--Angi Barnard, Teen Reviewer.

Barnard, Madelene Rathbun & Barnard, Angi

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

Barnard, Angi, and Madelene Rathbun Barnard. "Strohm, Stephanie Kate. *Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink*." *Voice of Youth Advocates* Feb. 2012: 601+. *General OneFile*. Web. 23 July 2013.

Booklist:

Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink. By Stephanie Kate Strohm. 2012. 208p. Houghton, paper, \$8.99 (9780547564593). Gr. 7-10.

Teen Libby Kelting is spending her summer "churning butter in a corset" at a living-history museum in Camden, Maine. A fashion-loving history buff, Libby rocks her 1791 garb at the museum's Girls of Long Ago Camp, where she teaches eight-year-olds how to bake over a hearth. Throw in a ripped-from-a-romance-novel love interest, and nights spent with Star Trek--obsessed Garrett in the fo'c'sle of a ship, and you've got a fairly entertaining summer. Interesting historical facts are woven throughout, but, mostly, Strohm's debut is breezy beach reading--it'll go down as easily as Libby's Colonial Caramel Apple Pie.--Ann Kelley

Kelley, Ann

Source Citation (MLA 7th Edition)

Kelley, Ann. "Pilgrims Don't Wear Pink." *Booklist* 1 July 2012: 60. *General OneFile*. Web. 23 July 2013.