Two Girls Of Gettysburg

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Synopsis

Lizzie and Rosanna are cousins. But when the Civil War breaks out, Lizzie finds herself committed to the cause of the Union, while Rosie is swept up in the passions of the old south. Torn in their alliances, each girl finds herself grappling with the brutality of war, and the elusive promise of love, until the battle at Gettysburg brings them together once again.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: 830L (What's this?)
Hardcover: 400 pages
Publisher: Bloomsbury USA Childrens; 1 edition (October 1, 2008)
Language: English
ISBN-10: 1599901056
Product Dimensions: 6.5 x 1.4 x 8.5 inches
Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds
Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars — See all reviews (31 customer reviews)
Best Sellers Rank: #1,092,125 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #69 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period #420 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > Military #644 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Military & Wars
Age Range: 12 and up
Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Once in a while I read a juvenile/young adult book. I bought this yesterday, when it was the Kindle Daily Deal, and I'm happy that I did. I couldn't put it down, and just finished it. I thought it was well-written, well-researched, and it was nice to have a book concentrate on the residents of Gettysburg and the effect of the battle upon them. I really enjoyed it. There is a little bit of swearing by soldiers, but not a lot. I have read much worse, and I am certain that today's kids hear much worse in school and on the street. There is some sexual activity, but it is all after marriage, not graphic, and done in a positive and tasteful manner. I think that this book is appropriate for 7th-9th graders. I didn't like Rosanna at first. She seemed to be a mini-Scarlett O'Hara-flirtatious, shallow, self-centered, but she shows an amazing growth and depth, and although I still liked Lizzie, I felt that Rosanna was the stronger, and more admirable character. I highly recommend "Two Girls of
Fifteen-year-old Lizzie Allbauer lives in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania in 1861, shortly before the outbreak of the Civil War. When her sixteen-year-old cousin Rosanna McGreevey comes to visit from Virginia, Lizzie thinks the girls couldn’t be more different. Lizzie is shy and doesn’t feel she is pretty, while Rosanna is beautiful, outgoing, and flirtatious. However, the two girls develop a friendship. When war breaks out, Lizzie’s father and brother enlist in the Union Army, and Rosanna returns to her home in Richmond, Virginia. From that point on, their lives diverge sharply. Lizzie helps support the Union cause that her father and brother are fighting for, and helps run the family business while the men are at war. Meanwhile, Rosanna marries a handsome young Confederate soldier and follows him to war, nursing the wounded soldiers. Eventually the girls reunite and witness the Battle of Gettysburg.

Two Girls of Gettysburg is a wonderful historical novel that does a good job at showing both sides of the Civil War and how the conflict destroyed lives and tore families apart. The novel is told through the alternating voices of the two girls. Lizzie’s chapters are told from a standard first-person point of view, while Rosanna’s are told through diary entries, similar to a Dear America book. As a result Lizzie’s story was more detailed and her character was a bit more developed than Rosanna’s as a result. I highly recommend this novel to teens with an interest in history, as well as older readers who still love young adult historical fiction.

I picked up this book because my 14 year old daughter and I are going to visit Gettysburg this summer, and I thought this book might provide some interesting background. I found the book very well-written and well-researched, and liked the way the author used the theme of cousins from North and South to highlight the way the war literally tore families apart. The characters grow and mature over the course of the novel, and Klein does not shy away from the human cost of the war. The reader also gets to see the battle of Gettysburg from the point of view of a civilian from the town, rather than a soldier. I thought this was a worthy addition to historical fiction about this endlessly fascinating period of our history. While the protagonists are both girls, there are plenty of male characters as well in addition to military details that might appeal to boy readers to.

A view of the Civil War and two cousins, one from the south and one from the north--who become close in Gettysburg, PA, before war breaks out. They reconnect during the Battle of Gettysburg--as one has served as a nurse with the South and the other living in Gettysburg as bullets fly and the wounded seek refuge.
Two Girls of Gettysburg is a wonderfully written tale of two cousins from either side of the American Civil War. Lizzie, a responsible and caring teenage girl, has lived in Gettysburg all her life and her cousin, Rosanna is a flighty and passionate girl who has come from the South to stay with her sister who lives in Gettysburg. Throughout the war, the girls are involved in their separate adventures, and keep track of their lives through diary entries. Two Girls of Gettysburg is a story of friendship, courage, and growing up. For a while now I have been searching for books that are similar to the Dear America series, which I loved to read when I was younger, and Two Girls of Gettysburg fit the bill perfectly. As in the Dear America series, the story chronicles the lives of two ordinary girls who live at a time of extraordinary history, however the story is written about teenagers instead of pre-teens. Lisa Klein does a great job of including a lot of history and real facts into her story, and I am now looking forward to reading her other works. For anyone who enjoys reading historical fiction, especially teenage girls, this book is a must-read.

I thought this story was very good. It was well written, and having been to Gettysburg, I could picture in my mind the places that Lisa Klein was talking about. I’ve often wondered what the townspeople of Gettysburg did or did not do during the battle.

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