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# Confederates Don't Wear Couture



## Synopsis

Publishers Weekly praised the 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 asks for help selling his gowns to the wives of Civil War reenactors, she jumps at the chance to frolic 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

Lexile Measure: 700L (What's this?)

Paperback: 240 pages

Publisher: HMH Books for Young Readers (June 4, 2013)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 054797258X

ISBN-13: 978-0547972589

Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 0.6 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 8.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (30 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,925,540 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #89 in [Books > Teens >](#)

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[Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries](#)

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

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!

In *Confederates Don't Wear Couture* we have the further adventures of Libby, a history nerd from the Midwest. Straight out of high school her best friend, Dev, convinces her to spend the summer with him traveling around civil war re-enactments selling wonderful clothes to the long suffering wives and girlfriends of the soldiers before she goes off to college and her boyfriend, Garret, in the fall. Along the way things get interesting as Libby fears she's falling for the hunky "Beau" of the 15th Alabama and Beau fears he's under a family curse. When Garret, as a journalist, shows up unexpectedly to investigate the ghost stories and finds his girlfriend dancing with Beau, things go from bad to worse faster than you can say "Robert E Lee." I know I'm not the target audience but this was cute and I enjoyed the first book. And having been a re-enactor for 20 years I can have a laugh at this. Probably that led to part of my problems with this book. They spend all summer going from fight to fight, battle field to battlefield and even allowing that someone might be able to commit every weekend to this-we do have regular jobs, what were they doing on the weekdays? They just sit around, like stuck in suspended animation until the events start. I'd go nuts of a week of that, never mind weeks of it. They are also travelling with a group of authenticity nuts. I know some exist out there but in all honesty. People wear jeans and t shirts and underwear when not "on" like Monday through Friday morning. Ok most people wouldn't know this but common sense should kick in while reading. The other element that made this book less enjoyable is Dev, Libby's best friend. We are to believe they have been friends since early childhood but the character is so self-centered, egotistical and rude you can say he is unlikely to get any new friends. This just out of high school loud mouth is such a terminally unthinking show off that I started to imagine him with a permanent

fist shaped dent in his face from the number of people who must have just clobbered him `off screen' every day.still I did enjoy this. it was not as good as the first book and the mystery was pretty easy but, target audience or not, I'm looking forward to the next one as Libby starts college in the lands H.P. Lovecraft wrote so lovingly of in western Massachusetts, but without Dev!

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