



2008

Two Girls of Gettysburg

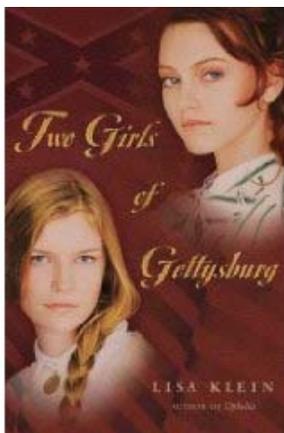
Larysa Bordner

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Klein, Lisa. *Two Girls of Gettysburg*. Bloomsbury U.S.A., 2008. ISBN 9781599901053. \$16.99. 393 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner;

Reading Level: Young adult;

Rating: Dependable;

Genre: Historical fiction;

Subject: Gettysburg, Battle of Gettysburg, Pa., 1863--Juvenile fiction; United States --History --Civil War, 1861--1865--Juvenile fiction; Friendship--Juvenile fiction; Book--Reviews;

Rosanna and Lizzie may be cousins and best friends, but their looks, personalities, and family situations are vastly different from each other. When the Civil War breaks out, they are both deeply changed by its effects. Lizzie simply wants to go to school with her friends. But when the war breaks out, she ends up running her father's butcher shop and trying to hold her family together. Rosanna wants to be a well-to-do housewife for her sweetheart, but she ends up following him off to war and serving as a nurse. Each girl matures and learns from her experiences during the war, and they vow to take what happened to heart.

Klein does an excellent job of creating realistic characters to fit a well-known historical event. In fact she bases Lizzie on a real person, but not all of the events and people are factual. Klein has a long list of references at the end of the book to show she has researched the material that she bases the book around. Although *Two Girls of Gettysburg* presents a touching and convincing story, it is not something that would seem appropriate for all audiences. The story is told from sixteen-year-old girls' perspectives, but there are sexual references which make the book seem more mature than the audience for which it is intended. However, the book is well written and would be a useful tool in giving teenagers, specifically girls, a lifelike connection to the battle of Gettysburg and the Civil War.

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