2013

The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks by E. Lockhart

Lauren Everett Johnson
LaurenEverettJohnson@gmail.com

Follow this and additional works at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol33/iss4/10

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the All Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in Children's Book and Media Review by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.
Review:

Frankie Landau-Banks is used to people not taking her seriously—especially her elitist father. But when Matthew Livingston, her dream boyfriend and the cutest boy at Alabaster Prep School, excludes her from the school’s all-male secret society simply because she’s a girl, she decides to show him just how seriously he should take her. Soon the members of the Loyal Order of the Basset Hound are unwittingly doing Frankie’s bidding, pulling off brilliant school pranks with biting feminist commentary. By the time the boys realize who’s behind it all, Frankie has learned a lot about living in a world where boys may be boys, but girls aren’t invited.

E. Lockhart’s tale of high school high jinks is filled with deliciously devious pranks and a relatable protagonist with a weakness for cute boys. Frankie is a complex character who uses her brain, along with platinum credit cards, to not just cause trouble but to make trouble with a cause. With asides about Frankie’s studies in protest and paranoia, The Disreputable History of Frankie Landau-Banks is a useful primer on power and equal rights. Although the male characters are written as simple stereotypes, a deep sense of mystery keeps readers turning pages. If you enjoyed books like The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants and Princess Academy, you’ll appreciate Frankie’s fun, feisty journey to an authentic sense of self.

Reviewer: Lauren E. Johnson

TEXT © The Children’s Book and Play Review 2013