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The Freemason's Daughter

Liz Sugihara

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Book Review

Title: The Freemason's Daughter

Author: Shelley Sackier

Reviewer: Liz Sugihara

Publisher: Harper Teen

Year: 2017

ISBN: 9780062453440

Pages: 376

Interest Level: Young Adult

Rating: Dependable



Review

Jenna MacDuff and her small clan have been on the run for months. Moving from place to place to gather support for their exiled monarch sends them away from Jenna's beloved Scotland to a family estate in England. The clan is hired to build a garrison for the Duke of Keswick, but they have secret plans of their own. Jenna's father warns her to not draw attention to herself or the clan, but it becomes increasingly difficult when she catches the eye of Lord Pembroke, son of the duke. Strong-willed and opinionated, her growing friendship and attraction to Lord Pembroke causes her to give away key information. The clan's secret plans of starting a rebellion against the current king are revealed and Jenna narrowly escapes with her family.

While the plot has potential, the story and character development leave a lot to be desired. It is clear that Jenna and Lord Pembroke grow to care for each other, but there is a lack of chemistry between the two characters. Other aspects of the plot, such as the secret plans and Lord Pembroke's desire to change his educational pursuits, seem to overshadow their small growing romance. With no announcement of a sequel so far, the abrupt ending was very anti-climactic. There is little mention of the planned rebellion and the book ends with a last-minute escape. Overall, the book has potential, but the lack of character development, slow pace, and ending that left loose ends makes it a quick but unimaginative read.