Enthusiasm

Sarah Wanlass

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Reviewer: Sarah Wanlass  
Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult  
Rating: Dependable  
Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction; Humorous stories;  
Subject: Interpersonal relations--Juvenile fiction; Musicals--Juvenile fiction; Schools---Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews

There are those who lead and those who follow. Ashleigh is an enthusiastic leader, ready to include anyone and everyone in her latest and greatest plan; Julie is her loyal friend and follower. Still, at times Julie cannot believe Ashleigh's outrageous obsessions. It is always something new. This time, Ashleigh has fallen in love with Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*. She is now fixated with the time period, characters, dress and speech of Austen’s novels; she speaks like Elizabeth Bennett, wears gowns like Emma Fairfax, and when she decides that she and Julie must crash a ball to find True Love, there is no stopping her. Julie is quickly drawn into Ashleigh's scheme to attend the ball at Forefield Academy, a nearby boys' prep school. According to plan, Ashleigh and Julie find boys at the ball. But who is in love with whom?

This delightful young adult novel is told from Julie's perspective and follows a series of adventures, escapades, and slightly awkward encounters as she learns how to balance family, friendship, and love, yet still remain true to herself.