2008

Unclaimed Heart

Alison Canar

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

BYU ScholarsArchive Citation
Canar, Alison (2008) "Unclaimed Heart," Children's Book and Media Review: Vol. 29 : Iss. 6 , Article 22. Available at: https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/cbmr/vol29/iss6/22

This Book Review is brought to you for free and open access by the 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.

Reviewer: Alison Canar
Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult
Rating: Dependable
Genre: Adventure stories;
Subject: Love--Juvenile fiction; Social classes--Juvenile fiction; Fathers and daughters--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

Constance and Alexandre come from two different worlds, but a twist of fate brings them together. Constance Blackchurch stows away aboard her father's ship, Good Bess, when he sets off to find her mother, missing without a trace since Constance's infancy. Meanwhile, orphaned Alexandre Sans-Nom, or No-Name, is biding his time to escape from pearl diving for his greedy master, de Locke. The two cross paths when Good Bess encounters de Locke's pearler. Alexandre sails with Good Bess to Ceylon, hoping to find a passage to his native France. Secretly, Constance enlists Alexandre to help her search for her mother. Constance and Alexandre fall in love, but the difference in their social classes keeps them apart. Meanwhile, de Locke swears revenge against Alexandre and Blackchurch. They all meet near the spot where Constance discovers evidence of her mother's drowning. Alexandre saves Blackchurch's life, and Blackchurch decides to consent to the young couple's marriage if Alexandre will sail for a year as an officer on Good Bess.

*Unclaimed Heart* features a hearty blend of action, adventure, and romance. It switches perspectives between Constance and Alexandre throughout the novel, making both characters more fully developed. The background and experiences of both characters are interesting in their own way. The weakest point of the story may be the plotline of Faith Blackchurch, Constance's mother, which never quite comes to a satisfying conclusion. Nonetheless, there is something for everyone to enjoy in this intriguing novel.

Volume 29, no. 6 (July/August 2009)