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Catherine And The Pirate



Synopsis

Catherine Born to a prominent Boston family, Catherine Markham is a bit of a hellion despite her gentle upbringing. Stifled by the rules imposed by society, Catherine yearns for adventure. When her beloved brother is kidnapped, she decides to deliver the ransom herself -- with the help of a young man few others might turn to. The Pirate Derrick St. John lives on the edge. The memory of his dead father tainted by treason, Derrick's life has been spent at sea in both legal and not-so-legal pursuits. Determined to clear his father's name, the last thing this young pirate wants is to embark on a voyage to Savannah in the midst of a war with the British, much less with a young lady who spells trouble at every turn. An emotion stronger than caution takes hold of Derrick, and he finds himself unable to refuse Catherine's pleas for assistance, even though the journey promises peril for them both. And so the headstrong girl and the daring sea captain sail into an exhilarating adventure that fast becomes a journey of the heart.

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Customer Reviews

Karen Hawkins was raised in Tennessee, a member of a huge extended family that included her brother and sister, an adopted sister, numerous foster siblings and various exchange students. In order to escape the chaos (and whilst hiding when it was her turn to do the dishes), she would huddle under the comforter on her bed with a flashlight and a book, a habit she still embraces to this day. For more information about Karen, or pictures of her chasing a box of donuts while training for a road race, visit her at www.karenhawkins.com or write to her at Karen Hawkins, P.O. Box 5292, Kingsport, TN 37663-5292.

I am now in my twenties and I will be the first to admit that I do like romance novels, but this romance novel for teenagers is refreshing. There is are simply kisses between the leading characters. I like the idea of them falling in love with personalities rather than the physical. I t was charming as most Avon True Romance books are. Definitely worth reading.

This book was very hard to buy, most places have it at an outrageous price but it was worth the price and the wait. This is a wonderful story, one of Karen Hawkins best! What I didn't know about this book was that it was written for teens. My granddaughters andl both loved it and would recommend it to anyone who reads teen books.

love the book and the author..I say it alot but say it when I mean it

I absolutely enjoyed Catherine and the Pirate. It was fun, funny at times, an adventure from beginning to end.

Love her books!

Teen historical romance Catherine and the Pirate by Karen Hawkins was published by Avon in 2002. On page one, we meet seventeen-year-old Catherine, a wealthy young woman living in Revolutionary-era Boston, the moment she discovers that her presumed-dead elder brother might actually still be alive. Intent on rescuing him, she seeks help from her brother's handsome best friend, former pirate Derrick St. John - much to her stern and conniving Uncle Elliott's dismay. This novel is tasteful, addicting, true to the era, funny and romantic. I loved Catherine and Derrick's building relationship from start to finish. It was believable, heartfelt and endearing. The way it developed was realistic and interesting. I also enjoyed the historical setting of colonial/Revolutionary America, the elements of adventure on the high seas, the family secrets, and all of the side characters - even the first mate, Smythe, and Catherine's enormous dog, George, were memorable. A chaste romance for younger readers, and one that adults can enjoy, too. I am so sad that the novel is currently out-of-print, and I hope they bring it back!! In the meantime, used copies are available.

The amount of five-star reviews (even four-star reviews) for this book is mind-boggling. I first read it

back in 2004, when I was in my late teens, and probably would have given it three stars back then. These days I am not even that forgiving, and upon giving it a reread out of sheer curiosity, I'm forced to give it a two. As others have pointed out, the title is misleading, as the hero is, in fact, an EX-pirate. It's not a good sign when a book starts lying to you before the first page, even. The story could have been an interesting tale of a girl falling for a guy from the wrong side of the tracks (and said guy trying to atone for the past mistakes that landed him on the wrong side of the tracks in the first place), but unfortunately it never really delivers. The setting is pleasantly swashbuckly and the plot and pacing is generally good, but the characterizations are all over the place, and the actual romance— as in, the emotional development between the hero and heroine— leaves a lot to be desired. They fall in love not so much because it makes sense, character-wise, but because story conventions demand it. She is the heroine and he is the hero, so thus, they must get together. And since this is YA, we don't even get lust masquerading as love, as so many adult romances can claim to their dubious benefit. Oh, sure, the heroine checks out the hero's abs and chest more often than she probably should, but mostly she falls in love with him because...well...she just does, simple as that. Same goes for the hero— there's a bit of physical attraction on his end, but that's about it. A classic case of "telling, not showing" if there ever was one. As for the characters themselves, well, "Mary Sue" is a term that admittedly gets thrown around too liberally these days (usually aimed at any female character who dares to be the protagonist), but Catherine really is quite Sue-ish: her only flaw is that she's flawless. She comes off less like a real and believable person, and more like the author just created a physical frame and piled a bunch of "awesome" attributes on top of it. She's a tomboyish bad*ss yet she's also a demure, proper lady! She knows more about wounds and infection than even the ship's medic (because she's previously played veterinarian's assistant in the barns, naturally)! She knows enough about carpentry to casually help with ship repair! She's so good with an 18th century pistol (weapons not exactly known for their accuracy) that she can shoot guns right out of the villains' hands! And all this, despite the fact that she's basically American aristocracy! Derrick, the hero, fares a little better, often coming across as a blissful voice of reason in a story gone mad, but even he suffers bizarre, oscillating shifts in character. It's almost as if the author outlined the book with him as a serious, broody ex-criminal set on atonement, but when the time came to actually write it, wanted to instead make him a grinning, roguish pseudo-rake. One particularly laughable part describes him as flashing a "rare smile," despite the fact that he's been flashing smiles and grins the entire scene. On top of all that, the language is distractingly modern, both in tone and actual word choices, and Catherine in particular is irritatingly modern in her sensibilities, what with her "I don't

need no man" attitude and her constant angsting that she's too young and unworldly for her brother's best friend to be at all interested in her. (Yeah, never mind the fact that he's trying to protect your reputation since he's, you know, an EX-CRIMINAL.) There's also an uncomfortable Madonna/wh*re complex that seems to permeate the book. Catherine, of course, can do no wrong, and is in fact compared to multiple characters' mothers at times, but whenever another female character dares to enter the narrative? SI*ttty b*tches, all of them. It's the sort of thing I could forgive in a romance novel written in the 1970s, but this was written/published in 2002, and the author should have known better. 21st century feminism: this ain't how you do it. And it sure as heck isn't the sort of thing I'd want an impressionable teenage girl exposed to. Not with all the other toxic misogyny that bombards mass media. Last but not least, technical errors abound. Numerous typos, forgotten words, inconsistent dialects, an inconsistent TIMELINE (did Royce hire Derrick four years ago or promote him to lead captain four years ago? how could Derrick's father have been judged to be a traitor to the country before the United States even EXISTED as a country? etc.), a case where one character is actually referred to by the wrong name, and then there's the fact that the author clearly needs to learn when to start a new paragraph (as in, she does it far, FAR more often than she should). There are also seemingly important details that get brought up only to be promptly forgotten about, and multiple times the author seems to brain-fart and forget what her characters are doing and/or have done, such as when Catherine throws a hat on her bed only to find said hat in her closet two sentences later. The cumulative effect of all of this is that the book reads as half-baked, more of a rough first draft than a finished product. So yeah, the relatively solid plot, decent pacing, and character potential save this from being a one-star story, but I can't in good conscience rate it any higher than a two. It's a "clean" romance in the respect that there's no sex, but if you're looking for something to give to a teen (or even to read, yourself), you can do far better.

Well written with lots of action, Catherine and the Pirate is a fine novel for teens. The characters are multidimensional and the hero is especially notable with his haunted past and thirst for redemption. Catherine Markham is determined to ransom back her brother, even though her uncle is convinced that he was killed when British fired upon his ship. He believes the ransom note that the family has received is a hoax to extort money from the wealthy family. Seventeen year old Catherine takes matters into her own hands when she disguises herself and hies down to the Boston docks looking for a ship so she can sail to Savannah, and deliver the ransom. She fortunately finds her brother's best friend Captain Derek St. John. Derek is a young captain, only twenty-one but he is

devoted to the Markhams because they offered him a second chance after his pirating days. He takes the lovely Catherine to Savannah but is worried about her safety and his own feelings. This tale is a colonial version of the boy from the wrong side of the tracks who falls in love with a girl who society says is beyond his reach. Derek fights his growing feelings for Catherine but it is difficult. She is a kind generous girl who also reciprocates his affections. Both leads have adventurous spirits and both are very loyal. This is a sweet romance that demonstrates the seeds of young love in a colonial setting. Catherine is a strong heroine that teens can empathize with and even though she is constrained within the norms of her era, Catherine still is independent and forthright. Derek has a strong need to prove himself to society and to Catherine. He feels unworthy of her due to his past but luckily Catherine sees beyond this to the brave thoughtful hero he is.

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