



The Revolution of Sabine

Beth Ain , Beth Levine Ain (Writing as)

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In 1776 Paris, a feisty teenager defies her mother, her closest friend, and the aristocracy that rules her life in a compelling romantic novel of social intrigue.

Sixteen-year-old Sabine Durand, daughter of aristocrats, thinks of nothing but donning exquisite ball gowns and being seen at all the right parties in Paris. When she secretly rekindles a forbidden friendship with Michel, he spirits her away to her first salon and she meets the revolutionary Ben Franklin. Fueled by ideas of change, Sabine is determined to take control of her life as it spins toward an arranged marriage to a salacious aristocrat. But how can she break free of her social-climbing mother's cruel grasp? Perhaps the secret lies in her portrait, recently painted by Fragonard, and her new understanding of love.

The Revolution of Sabine Details

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From Reader Review The Revolution of Sabine for online ebook

Anastasia says

Sabine is a 16 year old French aristocrat during the 1700's. She wants more than ballgowns and arranged marriages and a chance meeting with Benjamin Franklin and a first reading of Voltaire opens her eyes to a new way. Her friendship with a servant Michel also begins to blossom into something more.

This was a fun glimpse into history from a young girl's perspective. I wouldn't call it a page turner, but it kept me interested during most of it. You find yourself rooting for Michel and Sabine, against her mother and so called rich friends.

Sadly, the ending kind of ruined it all for me. I read the last chapter with an "are you kidding me?" attitude. Basically a good book with a crappy ending.

I wouldn't recommend it just because I would like to spare all of you the disappointing ending.

Elyodnagaet says

This book shows that you have to take charge of your life. In "The revolution of Sabine," one young girl has to choose between her family's happiness or her's. Sabine is a teenage aristocrat living in France, the story is set right before the French Revolution. She is forced to an arranged marriage, but at the same time, she loathes the life of a peasant boy named Michel. One night at a party, she meets the one and only Benjamin Franklin, an inspiration to all the French people. She finally realizes what she has to do in order to make herself happy. The author uses some well descriptive verbs and adjectives, along with history of the preparation for the French Revolution. She uses some French language, but nothing more than a "s'il vous plaît," or a "merci." I liked the book, although it could have been better.

Noa Bash says

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The author did a very good job bringing each and every character to life, while immersing you in 18th century France. I did feel like the ending was a bit convenient, and that was the reason the book lost a star. Overall, this book was well-paced, and it never felt like the author put in "fluff" to make the book look better and longer. I think this book was a very fun, and uplifting read, and I am glad I found it.

Shannyn says

This book was great. As you all know, I am a sucker for a good cover (it makes reading more enjoyable!) and this one really drew me in. So first of all. This book was not just about an aristocratic girl who wanted to escape.

Okay so it was.

But it was written better than most. Instead of the usual "I want to shake things up and find a better life" There was actually some content and thought behind her beliefs. The plot made it so that she was viewing the world around her differently. It's hard to explain but it was written much much better than most "Rebellious teenage rich girl" books. Trust me. And it was a quick read too, so it's definitely worth your time!

Jennifer Wardrip says

Reviewed by Tasha for TeensReadToo.com

It's 1776 in Paris, France, and while it isn't America, there is still discussion of the American Revolution. There is especially a lot of talk about Benjamin Franklin, the revolutionary American who is coming to visit Paris. All of the socially elite are planning parties in honor of his visit, and it is crucial that they are all perfect.

Sabine Durand's mother is no exception. She wants perfection for her latest party where Franklin is the guest of honor. She has even arranged for Sabine to be escorted by one of the most eligible bachelors in all of Paris. The thing is, Sabine couldn't care less. She's not caught up in the aristocratic lifestyle, and she actually cares about what is going on.

She soon rekindles her friendship with Michel, her nanny's son, and her mother is not at all pleased. Sabine doesn't care, though, as she goes off gallivanting with Michel and even gets the chance to meet Franklin. Sabine gets swept up in the meaning of the Revolution and really comes to form an opinion. Fueled by these new ideas of freedom, Sabine is determined to make a change in her life. She starts to break away from her controlling mother and stand up for herself.

Will Sabine succeed? And is there a possibility of maybe finding real love in this time of change?

This book is one of those historical fiction novels where the author just gets it all right. The facts were spot on, her description of the setting was great, and the overall atmosphere that she created was genuine.

Sabine's character was wonderful. She learned to stand up for herself and discover what really needed to be done in her life in order for her to be successful. She had the right amount of feistiness and seriousness to keep the reader intrigued in her life.

I also thought it was really interesting that the author chose to set the story in the time of the American Revolution, but also in Paris where there wasn't as much of a change going on. The reader got to see how the Revolution effected the whole world. The setting also made Sabine's change much more interesting, because she was taking political ideas and applying them to her life, which I found to be absolutely compelling.

I think THE REVOLUTION OF SABINE is a great book for all ages. It provided a great historical aspect, but yet it wasn't so overloaded with facts that it was boring. Sabine's journey to discovering herself was very realistic, and most teens will be able to relate, even though the story is set in 1776. Beth Levine Ain did a great job and I look forward to reading her future works.

Lisa says

Though the cover makes it look like a romance novel for teens, I actually liked this book. It was interesting to see Sabine torn between the aristocracy and rebelling against her mother's way of life. I thought the end proved her to be a strong-willed teen that today's readers will find sympathy with.

Brenda says

Sabine Durand was born into a world of French aristocrats, a world in which she feels like she belongs. That is until her overbearing mother decides it is time for Sabine to get married and has chosen a lecherous aristocrat to become her husband. As her world starts to spiral out of control, she secretly rekindles her relationship with a servant boy named Michel who escorts her to her first salon and a meeting with the famous Ben Franklin.

This book is a very good read for junior high students who are interested in historical fiction. The plot line is very similar to other books where the arranged marriage is seen as the ultimate threat and rebellion is a liberation for all the teenagers involved.

Lady Knight says

I love historical fiction, but I really love it when an author looks at a subject from a new perspective. The Revolution of Sabine takes a look at the American Revolution (and the rumblings of the French Revolution) through the eyes of a sixteen year old aristocratic girl. At first that may seem to be an odd fit, but it works well.

Sabine has never truly been comfortable with her life of "ease", seeing it as one big façade. When she was a child her best friend was the son of her governess, Michael. But as she grew older her mother broke up the relationship and forced Sabine into more aristocratic friendships. At her first portrait sitting, Sabine is given Voltaire's Candide to occupy her so she doesn't fidget as the artist works. She is so engrossed that the artist gives it to her. Candide is the turning point in her life; she comes to see Michael in new light, to understand what the Americans are doing, and to relate to Benjamin Franklin. This book is well done, and my poor excuse for a review can't even begin to do it justice.

Keri says

I enjoyed reading this book my second time around much more than I did reading it the first time. I think this is because I've learned enough about the relationships between the American and French Revolutions to finally understand the book's key themes and concepts. I love the allusions to Lafayette throughout the novel as well as the references to great essays by Thomas Paine and works of literature by Voltaire. However, this book leaves me conflicted because the language, dialogue, and characters in the novel are definitely geared towards younger readers, but I think it is older young adult readers with a background in this era of history

that may truly appreciate what the book is trying to say. As a result, I almost wish the dialogue and characterizations would have mirrored the maturity of the subject matter.

Tia says

A cold and distant mother, an arranged marriage, conniving best friend and a forbidden love.

I enjoyed this story. I believe I first heard about it from Misty on You Tube. I saw it being offered at discount on Bookcloseouts and nabbed it.

Character Development...4

Story..... 4

Pacing.....5

Scenery....There really wasn't any

Believability...4

Abby says

The Revolution of Sabine by Beth Ain Levine

Candlewick, 2008, 224 pages

YA Historical Fiction

In Beth Ain Levine's The Revolution of Sabine, Sabine's revolution is not the only revolution going on. Sabine is experiencing the American Revolution but through a lens which is atypical for American readers. Sabine is a young French girl, struggling with the idea of traditional womanhood in Eighteenth Century France. Her coming of age becomes more difficult as, not only her headstrong attitude leads her to want something other than what her parents want, but the presence of Benjamin Franklin in France and his grand ideas. It doesn't hurt that her governess's son, Michel, has been hanging around more often and has plans to run off to the New World to help the colonies fight their English parent. When Michel offers Sabine the opportunity to come with him, she's torn. Does she leave her controlling parents or let the boy who's grown on her more than she expected go?

Characterizations of the inhabitants of Levine's story are rather flat. While the motivations of some of them are very clear (such as Sabine's mother), their actions and descriptions cause a caricature effect, pushing their personalities to the extreme and making them somewhat unbelievable. Unexpectedly, one of the most reasonable characters seemed to be Benjamin Franklin, who makes brief cameos in the novel but does not get directly involved in the action of the events. Sabine herself is predictable as the but-I-don't-want-to-get-married-mother teenage daughter typical of similar stories. Some of the characters mirror, in a superficial way, characters of a Jane Austen novel. Sabine's friends provide the gossip-y ladies who care only for marriage; her potential suitor the antagonistic and rude upper-class would-rather-get-the-plague-than-marry guy; the we-grew-up-together-but-we-aren't-really-related love interest; the actually-pretty-cool dad -- you get the picture. All of this might be fine except these characters are recurring in historical writing and feel unoriginal.

Although Levine's main character is sixteen or seventeen, the book feels more appropriate for readers ages

nine to twelve. The content may be a little political for readers of that age, but the writing style fits right in with other books readers of those ages might be reading. The themes of the book are similarly very clear, leaving little room for debate. This may make the book a good candidate for younger students doing book reports or analyses, but for the casual reader, makes the experience somewhat uncomfortable. If Sabine had a theme song, it would probably be "Free Bird." We get it.

The ending of *The Revolution of Sabine* isn't totally predictable if a little anti-climactic. It's a strange mixture of realistic and unrealistic that left me feeling somewhat unsatisfied. It tied up the book as a whole with a shrug for me. This book had been sitting on my TBR list for several years and, ultimately, I didn't feel like it was worth the anticipation and guilt I felt whenever I saw it sitting at the top of my Goodread's list. This might be a great selection if you teach middle school English or are a middle school student. Beyond that, there are better options out there.

♥♥ out of ♥♥♥♥♥

Kristen says

Sabine has it all - dresses, food to kill for, and no problems whatsoever... oh besides having a mother who cares little for her and just wants to marry her off. Sabine seems happy for the most part, until she realizes that when it comes to marriage, she now has no choice in the matter. Her husband to be scares her with his rough attitude and lack of charm when alone with her and she turns to books and an old childhood friend (Michel) for help. It's set during a time in France where they admire Ben Franklin and the start of revolutionary groups start appearing.

Lindi says

I enjoyed this book set a few years before the French Revolution, but thought it filled with stereotypes -- the fop, the good peasants, the evil aristocrats, the charming, but clumsy, princess who is more at ease walking on cobblestones than dancing in a ballroom -- proof of her essential goodness. That said, I very much appreciated the ending. It's a pleasure to read a book about a teenage girl who recognizes that being parted from her "true love" might be the wisest thing for her, that it might actually help her grow.

QNPoohBear says

I thought I would enjoy this novel of a young lady who wishes to break free of the constricting rules of her wealthy French family just prior to the French Revolution. The story wasn't nearly long enough to fully cover the subject. I did like Sabine and her personal growth was interesting but the ending felt kind of rushed and unsatisfying. Sabine's mother is a wonderful villain and well-written so that the reader alternately sympathizes with her and hates her. The writing style seemed very juvenile and modern for a YA historical fiction novel. I've read better but I've read worse.

Clickety says

The only reason this got on the 'read' shelf instead of 'put-back' was that it was so short. The characters are tissue-paper thin, not to mention ridiculously modern. Eugh.

And the plot is stale and completely predictable, right down to the 'twist' at the end. Dear Author: don't just tell "any teenage girl's coming-of-age story." Tell THIS one. Make it unique. PLEASE.

And you know what? If you can't DO that, go back to editing. You've clearly noticed which pieces work well together; that doesn't mean you can just put pieces together and pretend it's something new.
