



## A Tyranny of Petticoats

*Jessica Spotswood (Editor) , J. Anderson Coats , Andrea Cremer , Y.S. Lee , Katherine Longshore , Marie Lu , Kekla Magoon , Marissa Meyer , more... Saundra Mitchell , Beth Revis , Caroline Tung Richmond , Lindsay Smith , Robin Talley , Leslye Walton , Elizabeth E. Wein ...less*

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**From an impressive sisterhood of YA writers comes an edge-of-your-seat anthology of historical fiction and fantasy featuring a diverse array of daring heroines.**

Criss-cross America — on dogsleds and ships, stagecoaches and trains — from pirate ships off the coast of the Carolinas to the peace, love, and protests of 1960s Chicago. Join fifteen of today's most talented writers of young adult literature on a thrill ride through history with American girls charting their own course. They are monsters and mediums, bodyguards and barkeeps, screenwriters and schoolteachers, heiresses and hobos. They're making their own way in often-hostile lands, using every weapon in their arsenals, facing down murderers and marriage proposals. And they all have a story to tell.

## With stories by:

J. Anderson Coats

Andrea Cremer

Y. S. Lee

Katherine Longshore

Marie Lu

Kekla Magoon

Marissa Meyer

Saundra Mitchell

Beth Revis

Caroline Tung Richmond

Lindsay Smith

Jessica Spotswood

Robin Talley

Leslye Walton

Elizabeth Wein

## A Tyranny of Petticoats Details

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Author : Jessica Spotswood (Editor) , J. Anderson Coats , Andrea Cremer , Y.S. Lee , Katherine Longshore , Marie Lu , Kekla Magoon , Marissa Meyer , more... Saundra Mitchell , Beth Revis , Caroline Tung Richmond , Lindsay Smith , Robin Talley , Leslye Walton , Elizabeth E. Wein ...less

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# From Reader Review A Tyranny of Petticoats for online ebook

## Kate (GirlReading) says

4.75/5\*

This was fantastic and without a doubt one of my favourite anthologies I have now read. I loved the diversity within it. There was not only a diverse collection of stories and settings but also races, cultures and sexualities, it was so refreshing to read! I enjoyed each and every story and the little pieces of insight into the characters and lives whose stories were told. I hadn't previously read anything from many of the authors included in this collection but after reading it, I am very excited to check out more of their work!

There wasn't really a single story I didn't enjoy but I think my top favourites were: 'Pearls' by Beth Revis, 'The Legendary Garrett Sisters' by Y.S. Lee, 'The Colour of the Sky' by Elizabeth Wein and 'Bonnie and Clyde' by Sandra Mitchell.

My only 'criticism' of this, which I honestly mean mostly as a compliment, is that a lot of these stories felt like tasters for a novel. I finished a large majority of them simply wanting more because they were fantastic, the characters were great and the stories captivated me. I would absolutely love to be able to see a lot of these stories made into full length novels, they were all so different from the books I've seen being released recently! If any of these stories ever did get made into novels, I have no doubt I would run to my nearest bookshop to buy it asap!!

Here are my mini reviews for each individual story...

3.5/5\* - 'Mother Carey's Table' by J. Anderson Coats ~ A great start to the anthology. A story about a women of colour, pirates and magical realism elements, what more could you want?!

This was fast paced and interesting, although a little \*too\* short. I felt the ending was slightly rushed and confusing but other than that, this was a fun read and made me so excited to continue reading more of the stories in this anthology!

4/5\* 'The Journey' by Marie Lu.

This was fantastic. I've not read anything featuring Inuit culture or folklore before and I now really want to find some. It was interesting, captivating, magical and intriguing all at the same time.

I loved the cold, icy Alaskan setting. It was painted beautifully and so clearly in such a short amount of time! I really enjoyed how different it was to the usual settings for books I've read! I would have loved this to have been a full length novel! This is the first I've read from Marie Lu but I'm now even more excited to read more from her, as I've wanted to for a long time!

3.75/5\* 'Madeline's Choice' by Jessica Spotswood.

I really loved the setting and time period for this story and I learnt something as well which is always a wonderful bonus after reading! Although I liked the ending, it was a little rushed (although I've found that's often common in the short stories I've read!) I would have loved to have found out what happened before and after and delved deeper into the setting and story but overall this was definitely a really enjoyable read!

3.5/5\* 'El Destinos' by Leslye Walton. A really interesting concept, with beautifully descriptive writing.

3/5\* 'High Stakes' by Andrea Cremer ~ I feel as though there was possibly a little too much going on in this

for such a short story as it was quite confusing at times but nonetheless a fun read! I think this could have been such an awesome full length novel, as I think I needed a little more explanation!

3.75/5\* 'The Red Raven Ball' by Caroline Tung Richmond ~ I really enjoyed the setting of this, it definitely had a Downton Abby feel to it and I love anything to do with spies, so it's definitely made me realise I need to read more books featuring spies. :) The ending felt a little dramatic and rushed but it was definitely a fun read!

4.75/5\* 'Pearls' by Beth Revis ~ I loved this so much. The pacing was brilliant, with a fully rounded story in such a short amount of time. I loved the plot and setting and the fact that it was largely inspired by Annie Oakley. Once again, I would love to have read this as a full length novel, it was fantastic. Definitely the kind of story I was hoping to read when I picked this anthology up.

4/5\* 'Gold in the Roots of the Grass' by Marissa Meyer ~ I really enjoyed the 'Wild West' setting for this and the concept for the plot was so interesting. I've not read many books or stories featuring medium's, so this was very intriguing. Marissa Meyer creates fantastic characters and this was no exception to that. I just want to know what happens next. :)

4.75/5\* 'The Legendary Garrett Sisters' by Y.S. Lee ~ I loved this a lot, it was so much fun! The story was perfectly paced and the ending wasn't rushed (which I've found quite common in short stories?) I found the setting really interesting and loved the characters. I'm definitely going to have to check out more of Y.S. Lee's writing! Once again, I'd love a full length novel of this!

5/5\* 'The Colour of the Sky' by Elizabeth Wein ~ I absolutely adored this. The story was gorgeous, I warmed to the characters instantly and essentially loved everything about it. I want to know what happened next, what happens in Tony's future?! I loved that it was based on real people from history, and people I haven't heard of (but feel like I definitely should have?!) I've heard so many amazing things about Elizabeth Wein's books and have wanted to read them for so long and am now even more excited to do so. This was utterly fantastic.

4.5/5\* 'Bonnie and Clyde' by Saundra Mitchell ~ This was SO much fun!! It had an awesome 'Mulan' mixed with 'Robin Hood' kind of vibe to it which I LOVED! It was fast paced with an awesome main character, I loved it! I'm struggling so much with these stories and simply wanting more from them, I'd LOVE a full length novel of this, it was brilliant!!

3.75/5\* 'Hard Times' by Katherine Longshore ~ This was a quick, interesting read! I enjoyed the characters, Rosie and Billy slightly more so than Lloyd. I liked the plot, although the characters and storyline could have done with a little more depth as it felt a tad rushed but it's definitely made me want to learn more about the time period. I'm going to have to check out the movies and documentaries the author recommended!

3.5/5\* 'City of Angels' by Lindsay Smith. ~ I love reading about Hollywood in historical settings, it fascinates me and this story was no exception! City of Angels was an interesting story exploring women's rights, sexuality and women's roles during WW2 in Hollywood!

3.75/5\* 'Pulse of the Panthers' by Kekla Magoon ~ this was really interesting! I would have loved it to have gone into a little more depth and I wasn't too satisfied with the ending but I think that's simply because I was so intrigued and pulled into the story, that I just wanted more!!

3.75/5\* 'The World Is Watching' by Robin Talley ~ This was both heartbreakingly and heartwarming. I really

want to read more about this time, it always interests me so much. This was such an interesting read, terrifying in many ways due to the violence and how truthful it was to the time, but so interesting. It's definitely reminded me that I need to read more into this time in history!

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## **Lola says**

A Tyranny of Petticoats: 15 Stories of Belles, Bank Robbers & Other Badass Girls: anthology of 15 feminist short stories.

1 – "Mother Carey's Table" by J. Anderson Coats: 3.5 stars

An interesting story about a brave pirate girl sans petticoats. A bit confusing, since it felt like a rather incomplete chapter taken out of an existing book. Beautiful detail and writing, though.

2 – "The Journey" by Marie Lu: 3.5 stars

Well my question is, can a journey really only be twenty pages long? Is that a journey or more like a short adventure? It sure felt like a short (mis)adventure to me. Repetitive, but I enjoyed the strong heroine and Marie Lu's writing as well as the Inuit culture.

3 – "Madeleine's Choice" by Jessica Spotswood: 2.5 stars

Why is this short story in this anthology?! There is no badass belle. It's all *déjà vu* with a black girl wanting to marry a white man but she's not allowed. Oh, what to do, what to do? Go against my parents' wishes or not? Bonus points for diversity, however.

4 – "El Destinos" by Lesley Walton: 3.5 stars

Inspired by The Three Fates, this story introduces three very powerful sisters bound by one duty: control people's destinies. Underwhelming, petty romance and rivalry between sisters, but unsurprisingly, Lesley Walton's writing is extremely beautiful.

5 – "High Stakes" by Andrea Cremer: 3.5 stars

I really would not mind reading a novel with Klio as the heroine. She is powerful, ambitious and keeps her sang-froid in the most outrageous of circumstances. That's something to admire. Not enough world-building. What's with all those creatures?

6 – "The Red Raven Ball" by Caroline Tung Richmond: 4 stars

Oh yes, this is my favourite short story so far. It's surprising and unexpectedly complete. I miss Lizzie already. My first read from this author. I need to check her out now.

7 – "Pearls" by Beth Revis: 4 stars

Instead of marrying the snake who rapped her, the heroine flees the city to become a school teacher. Thought-provoking and wonderfully told.

8 – "Gold in the Roots of the Grass" by Marissa Meyer: 3 stars

I think Marissa Meyer, the Queen of Fairytale Retellings could have done a lot better, even though this is not a fairytale. Not the most feminist of works, but there is something there.

9 – "The Legendary Garrett Girls" by Y.S. Lee: 4.5 stars

Well done, Y.S. Lee! Two sisters own a saloon when, one day, an outsider storms in and claims the saloon

for himself. But the sisters won't give it up without a fight! Remarkable.

10 – "The Color of the Sky" by Elizabeth Wein: 3 stars

This is a story for the dreamers! Cute, but not enough content. The accident was very sudden, and sadly, the most exciting part.

11 – "Bonnie and Clyde" by Saundra Mitchell: 3.5 stars

This wasn't so bad. Robin Hood-ish bank robbers are better than selfish ones, the ones who keep all the money to themselves, but they still aren't heroes or people to admire.

12 – "Hard Times" by Katherine Longshore: DNF

I simply could not care for this one, and do not ask me what it's about. I read most of it, yet I think I was daydreaming at the same time.

13 – "City of Angels" by Lindsay Smith: 3 stars

LGBT. I'm a little disappointed by how unrealistic most of these short stories are. At least they're not all idealistic. The main characters in this short story reminded me of the ones in the book "Maurice."

14 – "Pulse of the Panthers" by Kekla Magoon: 3.5 stars

The main character learns more about life in this story than we readers do. I enjoyed being introduced to the Panthers.

15 – "The Whole World is Watching" by Robin Talley: 4 stars

LGBT. Powerful story. A little unoriginal in the beginning, but then it got much, much better. I'd even go as far as saying it's inspiring.

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## Lotte says

3.75/5. I absolutely love the overarching theme of this anthology! All of these stories are about girls throughout American history taking their fate into their own hands and being unapologetically themselves. It also gets lots of points for diversity (there's Chinese-American rep, African-American rep, lesbian rep, and more!) and I loved that I learned so much about US history in such a fun way. Some stories fell kind of flat for me however, they often felt too rushed and I didn't really feel invested in the story until it was almost over.

There were quite a couple of gems in this collection though: 'El Destinos' by Leslye Walton (who just *needs* to write another book already!), 'Gold in the Roots of the Grass' by Marissa Meyer, 'The Color of the Sky' by Elizabeth Wein (possibly my favourite out of them all!) and 'Bonnie and Clyde' by Saundra Mitchell.

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THIS BOOK SOUNDS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE. I must have it!

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## Drew says

I really liked about half of the stories in this anthology - but I found that the other half were just mediocre.

As a whole, the anthology focused on different women in particular time periods. There were some well-known authors contributing stories - including Marie Lu and Marissa Meyer. I really appreciated the range of historical settings, from the Wild West to pirates, the Great Depression, and WWII.

### **Mother Carey's Table by J. Anderson Coats - 3.5 stars**

*"My father says he's saved my life nine times."*

This was a cleverly written story about a strong heroine disguised as a cabin boy and pirate myths. I admired the narrator, Jo, and there were some nice action scenes.

### **The Journey by Marie Lu - 2 stars**

*"My mother named me Yakone, after the red aurora."*

I'm not sure what it is, but a lot of what I've read by Marie Lu leaves me feeling disconnected. This one had a neat idea - about an Inuit girl who learned to hunt from her father - but I couldn't sympathize with the main character's tale of sadness.

### **Madeleine's Choice by Jessica Spotswood - 2.5 stars**

*"I have a secret. It tastes like the sweet lemonade they served at last night's ball."*

I thought the narrator, Madeleine, was very immature and meek, though her crush on a hot guy she met at a ball did take an interesting twist.

### **El Destinos by Leslye Walton - 4.5 stars**

*"Folks around here like to say we came from the stars."*

If I'm being honest, the reason I picked up this anthology in the first place was because Leslye Walton was contributing a story. And she did not disappoint - her writing was breathtaking, heartbreakingly, and perfect. The unique plot followed The Three Fates living on a ranch in Texas, disguised as young girls.

### **High Stakes by Andrea Cremer - 4 stars**

*"The blood spattered across Klio's cheek and jaw had yet to dry."*

I loved Klio as a narrator - she was a tough badass who killed people and still found the time to dress up in pretty gowns. I thought the author blended the fantasy elements with the Wild West setting very well, and the ending was superb.

### **The Red Raven Ball by Caroline Tung Richmond - 3 stars**

*"Every autumn, after the leaves have faded from emerald to gold, my grandmother throws the most magnificent ball in Washington."*

This was an interesting story about Elizabeth trying to find a Confederate spy the night of her grandmother's ball, but I never became super invested in the plot and characters.

**Pearls by Beth Revis - 5 stars**

*"I am done with men owning me."*

Oh my, this was a very important and very *feminist* story. Helen refuses to marry the man her father picks for her, so she packs her bags and moves to a little schoolhouse to teach children. This story made me absolutely furious in the best way, and I loved Helen's spirit, her lick of fire and ability to move on.

**Gold in the Roots of the Grass by Marissa Meyer - 3 stars**

*"I was used to ghosts on the streets and in the hills."*

This was another story that had potential but I felt disconnected from. Fei-Yen is a Chinese seer living in a Klondike gold mining town. I thought the plot was a bit weak, which is strange because usually I love Marissa Meyer's short stories.

**The Legendary Garrett Girls by Y. S. Lee - 4 stars**

*"I think you're right: we're going to lose the saloon. But we're going to leave it on our terms."*

An awesome revenge story following a pair of amazing sisters who won't comply when a man demands they hand their saloon over to him.

**The Color of the Sky by Elizabeth Wein - 3.5 stars**

*"What I want to know is why don't the dad-blamed white newspapers print Bessie Coleman's name?"*

I enjoyed this story - it was simpler than the others, highlighting an African-American girl, Tony, and the injustices and racism in the 1920s.

**Bonnie and Clyde by Saundra Mitchell - 2 stars**

*"Caleb Newcastle has wanted me since I turned thirteen. That's when I robbed my first bank."*

This one read more like an autobiography - there was hardly any dialogue and it didn't provide any excitement for me.

**Hard Times by Katherine Longshore - 3 stars**

*"The dust bowl dried us all up bitter as seeds and spat us out all over the land."*

A reporter interviews a couple of hobos during the Great Depression. This was pretty good, but I would've liked some grittier details and a harsher setting.

**City of Angels by Lindsay Smith - 1.5 stars**

*"All our lives we've been raised to take care of men and let them take care of us."*

The pacing of this story *really* dragged for me. It follows Evie in the 1940s, when all the men have gone off to war. It had a few good messages about strong women fending for themselves, but I didn't care for the characters.

**Pulse of the Panthers by Kekla Magoon - 3 stars**

*"I'd always been a good girl."*

Yet another story about racism, this time later - in the 1960s. The author highlighted an activist movement,

the Black Panthers.

### **The Whole World Is Watching by Robin Talley - 2 stars**

*"We're running. All of us. The hippies in their dirty clothes. The protesters with handkerchiefs tied around their faces."*

Hippies are marching on the Jackson bridge in the 1960s and police known as "pigs" are releasing tear gas on them. Sadly, the writing didn't capture my interest. I wish the anthology had ended on a stronger note.

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### **Nat says**

Source

I was so excited when I found about this anthology because some of my all-time favorite authors were included and I got to visit Leslye Walton's beautiful writing again (I really really really love The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender).

As a result, I've been hyping this book up in my head for months, which usually spells disaster, but this did not disappoint.

I personally really enjoy reading anthologies.

I read My True Love Gave to Me: Twelve Holiday Stories earlier this year and came realize that short stories are one of my favorite types of storytelling. They stay with me for a long time because of their ability to pack a short, emotional punch that leaves me thinking about it for a long time to come.

In this particular anthology there were some incredibly beautiful stories.

It includes 15 original short stories, written by a mix of authors both well-known and relatively new, places young women of racially diverse backgrounds at the centers of fictional narratives throughout American history.

Including heroines that are monsters and pirates and screenwriters and schoolteachers. They are brave and scared, uncertain and sure. But they carry on through their hardships because there is a spark inside them that refuses to be extinguished.

I really enjoyed this book, it opened my eyes to a new side of history.

It was creative, engrossing, and well-crafted.

Rating for each of the stories:

**(From here on this review will contain spoilers.)**

### **"Mother's Carey's Table" J. Anderson Coats (1710: British North America)-3/5 stars**

This tells the story of a runaway slave girl posing as Joe, a sailor boy – but the truth is exposed, with devastating consequences, when she tries to sink the Spanish warship threatening her crew.

A strong opening to the anthology with interesting writing, but I felt no real connection to the main character.

I did, however, enjoy the aspect of magical realism in this story, it intrigues me to no end.

*"I learned to stop asking about Mama. Pop said it was easier that way. That we love people when they're*

*here, but when they go, they're gone."*

#### "The Journey" Marie Lu (1723: The Great Land)-4/5 stars

This follows the journey of Yakone, a young Inuit girl, that flees across the frozen tundra after white traders destroy her family's village and murder the innocent people within, her parents included, in cold blood. I had no idea about the history surrounding Inuit folklore, so this storyline definitely intrigued me. I've read and enjoyed several of Marie Lu's books, but I must say that this short story was definitely my favorite piece of writing of hers.

*"The spirits will guide you," he said, "if you take only what you need and respect them in their domain. Even in the darkest night. Remember that, Yakone, and you will never be lost."*

*"I'll remember," I replied."*

#### "Madeleine's Choice" Jessica Spotswood (1826: New Orleans)- 3/5 stars

In Jessica Spotswood's story the main focus is on the romance and the choice a free girl of color has to make between the longtime family friend that's a respectable middle class man of color, who has offered her marriage — or the romantic, wealthy white planter who cannot and whom the mother does not approve of. The narrative's voice in this story didn't really draw me in and her friendship with Eugenie rubbed me the wrong way. It felt like an unhealthy friendship that made me feel really sad for the main character, Maddie:

*"You expect a man like that to wait for you?" Eugenie shakes her head. By this time we're sitting together on the cream-colored silk settee in the parlor. "I thought you had more sense than that, Maddie, I really did."*

*"She's my mother," I protest. "Even if I don't agree with her, I have to respect —"*

*"Do you? I thought you were in love — like something out of one of your novels, you said!" Eugenie's voice is laced with lemons. "And now you're willing to give him up to please your mother? I thought you had more spine than that too."*

But in order to decide which man she wants in her future, she seeks advice from voodoo queen, Marie Laveau.

I personally found this to be the highlight of the storyline because.

#### "El Destinos" Leslye Walton (1848: Southwest Texas)-5/5 stars

Leslye Walton's story was one of my most anticipated stories in this anthology and it was, simply put, *beautiful* and *heart-wrenching*.

I read her debut novel, **The Strange and Beautiful Sorrows of Ava Lavender**, a few months back and I have not stopped raving about it.

So when I found out that she was featured in this anthology, I started counting down the days to when I could finally read more of her writing.

*"El Destinos"* follows three sisters that are based on The Three Fates — immortal goddesses that appear in Greek, Roman, and Norse mythology — who were once believed to control the destiny of each mortal from birth to death.

Valeria, Rosa, and Maria Elena, the three immortals are sent down to live as Mexican American sisters during the years after the Texas annexation. And their responsibility is to control the threads of life and

death.

As always, Leslye Walton did not disappoint when it came to family relationships. I simply cannot put into well enough deserving words how well-written and developed her characters are, especially considering the length of this story.

I'm so glad that Leslye was featured in this book.

*“Folks around here call us el destinos. They like to say we came from the stars. And when I stare up at the infinite heavens stretched out above us like a shroud, it’s hard to imagine we came from anywhere else.”*

#### “High Stakes” Andrea Cremer (1861: Boston, Massachusetts, and Natchez, Mississippi)-3/5 stars

“High Stakes” is a short historical fantasy story that had me confused a lot of the times, but I am glad that I took the time to read it.

This follows Klio, a supernatural assassin hired to protect the powerful player, Hamilton Stuart, in the poker game that will determine which faction the supernatural world will take in the Civil War.

#### “The Red Raven Ball” Caroline Tung Richmond (1862: Washington, DC)-3.5/5 stars

Elizabeth “Lizzie” Van Persie is tasked with finding the Confederate spy at her formidable grandmama’s annual ball – with surprising results.

There were parts that I enjoyed, especially the ballroom scenes— it had a very *Downton Abbey* feel to it that I liked.

Yet the whole revelations felt a bit dramatic, which I can enjoy on *Downton Abbey*, but in this story I felt no real emotions during those sections.

#### “Pearls” Beth Revis (1876: Chicago, Illinois, and Cheyenne, Wyoming Territory)-5/5 stars

*“I never knew how easy it is to escape if you don’t mind leaving nearly everything behind.”*

This story truly surprised me with how much I liked the main character, Helen. She is a well-rounded and developed character, I really enjoyed reading about her.

Helen's a young woman forced into marriage with a cruel man, but bravely decides to flee in order to become a schoolteacher in the rough Wyoming Territory.

The group of students she taught were both heartbreak and heartwarming to read about and even more so towards the end.

I was really invested in this story and in the short time it took me to finish it, I'd grown really attached to Helen and all the students.

Also, the story about ‘the snake asks the possum’ that Annie told the class is still on my mind. *So good.*

#### “Gold in the Roots of the Grass” Marissa Meyer (1877: Deadwood, Dakota Territory)- 5/5 stars

Visiting Marissa Meyer’s writing is such a comforting thing because I know it will always keep me engrossed, flipping the pages, and engaged. And I’m glad this story holds no exception to that rule.

“Gold in the Roots of the Grass” follows Fei-Yen, a Chinese American spirit medium, helping a young prospector’s spirit find justice for his murder.

Marissa Meyer's writing combined with one of my favorite things in books (mediums) was going to be an all time favorite story of mine right from page 1. The whole prospect of spirits and ghosts intrigues and scares me to no end.

And Marissa did an exceptional job with capturing both feelings in this story.

*"It was amazing to me how easily their suspicions came and went. How strongly they wished to believe, despite how they scoffed at our ways and traditions."*

#### "The Legendary Garrett Girls" Y.S. Lee (1898: Skagway, Alaska)-**3/5 stars**

This story involves the Garrett sisters, Clara and Lily, who have a prosperous frontier saloon that Soapy Smith, a corrupt con man, is interested in overtaking. They have to cleverly fight back against him and his henchman, so that they can get safely out of town.

I enjoyed reading about the friendship between the sisters and how they had each other's backs, but the rest of the storyline didn't really hold my interest.

#### "The Color of the Sky" Elizabeth Wein (1926: Jacksonville, FL & Dallas, TX)-**4.5/5 stars**

This story is based on the true events surrounding the death of the pilot Bessie Coleman, the first black woman to gain a pilot's license and the first American, black or white, male or female, to earn an international pilot's license.

*"The Color of the Sky"* opened up my eyes and heart with its incredibly written storyline.

Antonia "Tony" meets her hero, aviatrix Bessie Coleman and bears witness to the tragic events that led to Bessie's death in a flying accident.

I'm glad Tony got to meet and talk to Bessie Coleman in person, their exchange made me smile and even tear up when I thought about it afterwards.

*'To My Dear Admirer Antonia. Only you can make your dreams come true. Always reach for the sky and soon it'll be time for you to take flight. Your friend, Bessie Coleman.'*

#### "Bonnie and Clyde" Saundra Mitchell (1934: Indiana)-**3/5 stars**

*"Here's the thing: I didn't want to be famous. I just wanted to take care of my folks."*

Marjorie May Johnson a cross-dressing, bank-robbing teen bandit, more commonly known as 'Baby Boy Wabash', is continuously on the run from lawmen, one specifically being her beau.

It was a quick and interesting read with a compelling narrative, but because of the short length not much happened that had me on the edge of my seat.

#### "Hard Times" Katherine Longshore (1934: Washington State)-**3.5/5 stars**

Rosie "Curls" Marie Weaver is a girl from Nebraska that's been living on the rails for 8 weeks and been accompanied by 12-year-old Billy for 7 of them.

On their way to hop a train towards the coast in search of a better opportunity they meet Lloyd, who may just help them with their luck.

I definitely enjoyed reading about Billy and Rosie together, he even made me tear up at one point. But Lloyd's character I could have done without.

“City of Angels” Lindsay Smith (1945: Los Angeles, CA)- 3.5/5 stars

This follows two factory workers, Evie and Frankie, both aspiring to be in the movie industry. The former to be a screenwriter and the latter an aspiring actress.

They begin to fall for one another—but soon things begin to change when the men return from war.

“Pulse of the Panthers” Kekla Magoon (1967: California)-4/5 stars

*“It’s been a good life. Quiet. So quiet.”*

*“Not so quiet now,” I said. “But it’s only one more day.”*

*“And the day after that, and the day after that,” Granny said. “The tomorrows keep on coming.”*

This follows Sandy and her journey towards unraveling her own family’s history when the Black Panthers hold a meeting on their farm.

Along the way she meets Bobby, a member of the Black Panthers, that opens up her eyes by openly talking about his worldview.

I really really loved reading the interactions between Sandy and Bobby.

*“He peered into my bowl and frowned. The batter looked, at the moment, like a lumpy white soup. “That’s gonna be a thing?” he asked.*

*I gave him the look he deserved for that comment. “Haven’t you ever been in a kitchen before?”*

*He scratched his head. “I brought in some groceries for a girl one time.”*

*I couldn’t help but smile at that one.”*

Me too.

“The Whole World Is Watching” Robin Talley (1968: Chicago, IL)-3.5/5 stars

*“PEACE NOW!” The shouting from the crowd has changed back. “PEACE NOW! PEACE NOW!”*

*I nod along with them. There’s something hypnotic about a good protest. Standing with dozens or hundreds or thousands of people who all want the same thing you do. Calling out for it together from the depths of your soul.”*

This follows Jill’s journey with her girlfriend and friends caught up in the riots and police brutality of the 1968 Democratic National Convention.

The horrors that happened during it were extremely hard to read about. But definitely a strong end to the anthology.

All in all, I’m really glad I picked this one up because the women featured in this anthology are incredible storytellers and exceptional writers.

*\*Note: I’m an Amazon Affiliate. If you’re interested in buying **A Tyranny of Petticoats**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I’ll make a small commission!\**

This review and more can be found on my blog.

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### **Cait • A Page with a View says**

4 was my average rating of everything put together.

This was a really neat anthology of historical fiction stories by some of my favorite YA authors! I just loved the idea of such a wide variety of strong heroines and settings. My favorite short story was definitely Marie Lu's one about an Inuit girl! Most of these could easily be full novels and/or awesome movies, though.

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### **Taylor Knight says**

I loved A Tyranny of Petticoats! I really liked the diversity of the characters and I loved the writing styles of all the stories. I found all the stories to be compelling and interesting. I did think that pretty much all of the stories could have been full length novels and they would have been a bit better that way because a few of them were a little rushed and underdeveloped. But overall, I loved of the stories and I would definitely recommend.

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### **Sandra says**

You got me at Marie Lu!

And then at some of my favourite authors like: Beth Revis, Jessica Spotswood and Marissa Meyer.

And other authors I've been wanting to read too!

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### **Beth says**

I'm honored to be a part of this anthology--especially because it includes so many awesome authors!

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### **Elise (TheBookishActress) says**

Average Rating: 3.43 Stars.

Historical fiction feminist anthology sounds amazing, and it's certainly not bad, but as a whole this was sort of disappointing. Funny story: my cousin owned a copy of this ages ago and at the time I was desperate to know all the dates, which I'm still desperate to do. I think we had some kind of Google doc? Don't ask me why that happened. Anyway, this story collection was pretty awesome.

→ Mother Carey's Journey by J. Anderson - ★★???

In the 1710 Caribbean, during the golden age of pirating, Joe disguises herself as a boy to keep her and her father safe. This story took a weird turn around halfway through, which I'd normally love, but it somehow didn't work here. It would've been better if Anderson had built up more suspense previous to the twist, and if the story had been far, far longer. The twist just seems weird, not interesting, in this short a story.

→ The Journey by Marie Lu - ★★★★?

In 1723 Alaska, Yakone flees her village after it is attacked. Marie Lu's writing style shines here, and her heroine is strong and likable. The Alaskan wilderness almost could've been described more; that being said, I had a perfect mental picture of everything in my head. Anyone who loves dogsledding and survival stories will enjoy this.

→ Madeline's Choice by Jessica Spotswood - ★★???

A girl in 1826 New Orleans is caught between two boys. I liked the culture of New Orleans incorporated, but that was about it. It's not bad, just not great.

→ Los Destinos by Leslye Walton - ★★★?

In 1848 Southwest Texas, the three fates live out one incarnation. I liked the concept and writing of this, but it's overly romantic and far too short.

→ High Stakes by Andrea Cremer - ★★★★?

A murderer in 1861 Boston. This one is more fantasy than historical fiction, but man, is it fun. It's so well-plotted and the heroine, Klio, is cool. There's a death in here which seemed to me like burying a character for the sake of plot, which I didn't love? But everything else was perfect.

→ The Red Raven Ball by Caroline Tung Richmond - ★★★★?

In 1862 D.C., Lizzie attempts to catch a confederate spy. This story has an enticing plot, it's true, but mostly I just loved Lizzie's character. She's strong with good conflict. This story is paced perfectly and incorporates great historical context; I had a great picture in my head.

→ Pearls by Beth Revis - ★★★★★

Helen Davies flees her rapist fiancé in 1876 Chicago for a small schoolhouse near Cheyenne. This story is BADASS and the heroine is awesome. The ending was just flat-out perfect.

→ Gold in the Roots of the Grass by Marissa Meyer - ★★★★★

In the Dakota Territory of 1877, Sun Fei-Yen helps out a boy named James. It's one of the cutest, best things I've ever read. That ending was so great!! I love happy takes on depressing plotlines.

→ The Legendary Garrett Girls by Y.S. Lee - ★★★★?

In 1898 Skagway, Alaska, Lily and Clara Garrett run their mother's bar— until they're confronted by legendary bandit Soapy Smith. This story is badass as hell and I liked that. I just felt the ending was a bit confusing - what does that even mean.

→ The Color of the Sky by Elizabeth Wein - ★★???

Tony, a young black girl, sees Bessie Coleman's death in 1926 Jackson, Florida. And it's honestly completely boring. I just didn't connect with *anything* here, and I get the feeling the author didn't either.

→ Bonnie and Clyde by Saundra Mitchell - ★★★??

In 1934 Indiana, a girl dresses as a boy to rob banks undercover. This one is a fun ride, but nothing all that

special.

→ [Hard Times](#) by Katherine Longshore - ★★★?? ←

Rosie rides the rails from a 1934 hobo jungle to Washington State. This was sweet and I liked the characters and story arc, but it was far too rushed.

→ [City of Angels](#) by Lindsay Smith - ★★★?? ←

While working at a factory in 1945, a riveter discovers her sexuality. This was sweet at parts, but it's mostly a love story, and the love story ends unhappily as usual. I would've loved to see a happier ending for Frankie and Evie.

→ [Pulse of the Panthers](#) by Kekla Magoon - ★★???

In 1967 California, a girl meets members of the black panther party. And that's essentially all that happened, which was incredibly disappointing. I liked the multifaceted portrayal of the Panthers, but there's just nothing else of note here.

→ [The Whole World Is Watching](#) by Robin Talley - ★★★★? ←

At the Michigan Avenue protests in 1968 Chicago, a girl decides whether or not to come out with her sexuality. This one is both sweet and powerful.

VERDICT: In general, this is a pretty good story collection; I just didn't feel it went *quite* far enough.

[Blog](#) | [Goodreads](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Youtube](#)

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### Shannon ([leaninglights](#)) says

The idea of the book is awesome and kick butt. The writing is strong throughout and the MCs we meet are incredible. BUT. This felt like a chapter sampler for 15 awesome books that are never going to be finished. Some were more effective than others but many felt rushed and incomplete. I would have preferred a few less stories and have had them a bit more flushed out. But overall, it was a compelling read and I recommend!

Detailed Ratings:

Mother Carey's Table by J. Anderson Coats - 3 stars

The Journey by Marie Lu - 3.5 stars

Madeleine's Choice by Jessica Spotswood - 4.5 stars

El Destinos by Leslye Walton - 4.5 stars

High Stakes by Andrea Cremer - 4 stars

The Red Raven Ball by Caroline Tung Richmond - 5 stars

Pearls by Beth Revis - 4.5 stars

Gold in the Roots of the Grass by Marissa Meyer - 4 stars

The Legendary Garrett Girls by Y. S. Lee - 3.5 stars

The Color of the Sky by Elizabeth Wein - 4.5 stars

Bonnie and Clyde by Saundra Mitchell - 3.5 stars

Hard Times by Katherine Longshore - 3 stars  
City of Angels by Lindsay Smith - 4 stars  
Pulse of Panthers by Kekla Magoon - 3 stars  
The Whole World is Watching by Robin Talley - 4 stars

\*PS - I really enjoyed the authors notes at the end of each short story! It really added a lot of background and depth to the stories!

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### Cece (**ProblemsOfaBookNerd**) says

Average rating: 3.3  
My final rating: 3

And, for a bit of detail, my ratings for each story (favorites marked with a \*):

Mother Carey's Tale by J. Anderson Coats: 2.5/5  
The Journey by Marie Lu: 3/5  
Madeleine's Choice by Jessica Spotswood: 3/5  
El Destinos by Leslye Walton: 4/5  
High Stakes by Andrea Cremer: 3/5  
The Red Raven Ball by Caroline Tung Richmond: 3/5  
Pearls by Beth Revis: 4/5\*  
Gold in the Roots of the Grass by Marissa Meyer: 3.5/5  
The Legendary Garrett Girls by Y.S. Lee: 4/5\*  
The Color of the Sky by Elizabeth Wein: 3.5/5  
Bonnie and Clyde by Saundra Mitchell: 2/5  
Hard Times by Katherine Longshore: 2/5  
City of Angels by Lindsay Smith: 4.5/5  
Pulse of the Panthers by Kekla Magoon: 4/5  
The Whole World is Watching by Robin Talley: 3.5/5

For those curious, there are two queer stories in this collection (City of Angels and The Whole World is Watching). And beyond that, each of the stories does a very good job of representing a very wide collection of wonderfully diverse female characters, which was great to see.

Unfortunately, many of the individual stories felt like the authors were taking on more plot than they could really tell in 20 pages and this made many of the stories that had the pieces to be great fall flat. Two of my favorite stories, Pearls & The Legendary Garrett Girls, were both more wild west stories that I absolutely adored. Besides that, El Destinos & City of Angels were each magical in their setting and in their female characters. El Destinos in particular did an incredible jobbing of weaving a fantastical and complex story in a very limited period of time.

I wish that this collection overall could have been as strong as these four stories, but I think they sometimes took on too much. And also I think that the number of stories that also tried to tackle fantasy and magical realism, besides historical fiction, were taking on a lot in a very limited period of time and it often didn't work very well for me. I was frustrated by the fact that even though this was sold as a historical fiction collection, it was more often than not a historical fantasy collection. I think it could have been improved by just sticking strictly to historical fiction.

Great collection of diverse female characters, with some standout stories, but overall as a collection it didn't quite meet my expectations.

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### **Andreea Pop says**

Marie Lu?! Marissa Meyer?? Jessica Spotswood, Elizabeth Wein, Beth Revis and Robin LaFevers? And Andrea Cremer with Katherine Longshore?

### **WHAT IS THIS SORCERY?**

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### **TL says**

\*check my status updates for the ratings I gave the stories\*

Overall pretty good, some stories I loved/liked better than others but it kept my attention to the end :).

Some of the girls just crackled and left on the page (I wouldn't have minded seeing them in a full length book) while others lacked a 'spark' for me.

Not a fault of the writing really but just that they didn't click for me \*shrugs\*

Would recommend.

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### **April (Aprilius Maximus) says**

#### **Mother Carey's Tale by J. Anderson Coats - 3/5 stars**

At first I was super indifferent about this story, but the ending was so beautiful and sad!

#### **The Journey by Marie Lu - 4/5 stars**

So heartbreakingly beautiful. Marie Lu definitely surprised me with this one!

#### **Madeleine's Choice by Jessica Spotswood - 2/5 stars**

Yikes. This one did not sit well with me at all. The main character was insufferable and I just hated her reasons for doing what she did at the end. I don't know, I just really didn't like this one!

#### **El Destinos by Leslye Walton - 4/5 stars**

At first I was really confused and couldn't figure out what I was reading, but then it all clicked into place and it was really quite beautiful.

#### **High Stakes by Andrea Cremer - 2/5**

This story had a lot of potential, but in the end, there wasn't enough world building around the concept of 'The Game', and I didn't like the way the only person of colour in the story was treated.

#### **The Red Raven Ball by Caroline Tung Richmond - 3.5/5 stars**

A great story set during the civil war involving a young girl who is attempting to catch a spy at her grandmother's annual ball. I expected something a little more out of this one, but it was still enjoyable!

**Pearls by Beth Revis - 5/5 stars**

As someone who is going to be a fully qualified teacher in less than a year, I LOVED this story so much! It follows a woman who runs away from home (and the creepy af guy she's supposed to marry) to become a schoolteacher. LOVE, LOVE, LOVED this one!

**Gold In The Roots Of The Grass by Marissa Meyer - 4.5/5**

I really loved this one. I could read a whole book about these characters, they felt so real and I loved them so much!

**The Legendary Garrett Girls by Y.S. Lee - 4/5 stars**

YES QUEENS!!!! Love me some strong, young, business-owning women!

**The Color of The Sky by Elizabeth Wein - 4/5 stars**

I actually didn't remember the true story of Bessie, so reading this was like a punch in the gut :( So sad, but what an inspiring woman!

**Bonnie and Clyde by Saundra Mitchell - 2.5/5 stars**

Really would've liked to see this story taken a little bit further and have Caleb find out who the bank robber really is!!

**Hard Times by Katherine Longshore - 4/5 stars**

I keep learning new things about American history that I never knew before through reading these stories! I really loved the characters in this one. They were so genuine and sweet, especially little Billy!

**City of Angels by Lindsay Smith - 4/5 stars**

A lovely story of a girl coming into her own and discovering her sexuality during the second world war!

**Pulse of the Panthers by Kekla Magoon - 4/5 stars**

Loved this! It follows a girl as she learns about the Black Panthers when some of the activists come to stay on their farm. I kind of wanted a little bit more from her character, but nonetheless, this was a great story.

**The Whole World is Watching by Robin Talley - 4.5/5 stars**

Set during a massive protest, a young black woman comes to terms with her feelings for her best friend, while running to safety from tear gas and police officers. I really loved this one!

Overall Rating - 3.67 stars!

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