



Rebel Spirits

Lois Ruby

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Infused with history and mystery, this tale of ghosts, love, and murder takes place in present-day Gettysburg, where the Civil War still looms large.

Lori Chase doesn't know what to think about ghosts. She may have seen a few in the past, but those were just childish imaginings...right? Only now that she is living in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, spirits seem to be on everyone's mind. The town is obsessed with its bloody Civil War history, and the old inn that Lori's parents run is supposedly haunted by the souls of dead soldiers.

Then Lori meets one such soldier--the devastatingly handsome Nathaniel Pierce. Nathaniel's soul cannot rest, and he desperately needs Lori's help. Because Nathaniel was not killed in the famous battle. He was murdered. Lori begins to investigate the age-old mystery, stumbling upon shocking clues and secrets.

At the same time, she can't help falling for Nathaniel, just as he is falling for her....

Rebel Spirits Details

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From Reader Review Rebel Spirits for online ebook

Cameron says

I loved this haunting twist on the classic Romeo Juliet style forbidden love. A lot of people are saying that they didn't like it because they felt that Lori fell in love too fast, but ever hear of love at first sight? Think of the movie The Titanic. Rose and Jack were head over heels in even less time than Lori and Nate. As a total sucker for romance and mystery, this book was a great choice for me. Although I do wish the author would have done a better job of explaining why Nathaniel had to go away faster than the battle days.

Modear says

I really love this book. It's my favorite! I was at my school book fair, I was looking at the history section because I love history. Then I saw a picture of an handsome soldier and I automatically take it and buy it. I brought 5 books totals including this one. I like so many books, I was deciding should I take the books or not. I judge the book by its cover. I saw this book in my hand I automatically decided that I have to take this book. I didn't know what it's about, I didn't even read the summary. I starting reading and reading. I woke up @ 2:00am just to read this book. I brought it to school and read it when the teacher is not looking xD For me it's so addicting. The next day, I went to the book fair again and I brought another copied of this book. I gave it to my friend and she fell in love with it. I finished this book in 2 days. That's how much I love it. I never finish a book in 2 days before :P I really love studying history and I like reading about war. Tbh I wasn't sure what the book is about but it include 3 of my favorite genres (Historical Fiction, Mystery and Horror) I know some people might not like it but this is my opinion of this book :)

Emily Ann says

I AM SO SORRY BUT I WILL NOT BE REVIEWING THIS :(However, read my other reviews!!

Heather says

Being the history lover that I am, when I saw this book summary on Netgalley about a Civil War era YA title; I had to give it a try. And, I'm happy to report I was not disappointed.

Lori and her parents have just relocated from Philly to Gettysburg to take on ownership of a bed and breakfast. Along with the staff that seems to think they come with the home, the locals who re enact Civil War battles each year and the teen hot shot who mows the lawn; there is also a resident ghost. Nathaniel is drawn to Lori as someone with the ability to see those who have passed on. She may just be the key to solving his murder and how exactly he ended up buried in the local cemetery instead of being honored as a fallen soldier. With a ring that belonged to Lincoln's infant son, a night time visitor to the shed behind the hotel and a foggy graveyard there is plenty of suspense.

Rebel Spirits would be a good one to teach in the classroom as it is clean and has historical elements. There are a lot of themes that could be explored surrounding Lincoln, the Gettysburg area and period homes. The only minor flaw I struggled with was the role of Lori's parents. They were completely hands off, wrapped up in managing the affairs of their business until the plot re introduces them at a conveniently crucial time and their reaction seems not in sync with their previous absence of influence in Lori's comings and goings. I also would have loved more fleshing out of the characters. The romance is sweet and the story stuck with me after I was done!

Content: Some kissing, sneaking out to be together and mild violence.

Alex2739 says

So this book .. (I feel like I'm starting every review like this) I have a lot to say about it.

The main idea sounded so good and intriguing. I liked the landscape and the place that the book took place.

The way the author handled the mystery was fantastic and it made you be on the edge of your sit.

But I had lots of issues with the romance. How did she even fall in love with the ghost?? They met two times and then they started kissing and caring too deeply for each other. That damaged the whole book. Just why?!?

The main character Lori seemed to act like she was supposed to apart from when she was with the ghost.

Then she acted like stupidity took over. I wanted to punch her in the face. (Sorrynotsorry)

Evan. The other guy. The guy she should have fallen in love with. Because that would be more rational. (Not because Nathaniel was a ghost) ((I think the author tried to create a love triangle which was unsuccessful & annoying)).

If that was a mystery book without any romance I think it would be a lot better, if not perfect. I was sad by the fact that the author did not handled the story better because I was expecting to love the story.

Disappointed :(

jv poore says

The first feature to grab me was the tone of Rebel Spirits. It is more than confident, not yet cocky; accepting, unapologetic; charming; and totally void of any defensive vibe. As the story centers around “nearly seventeen” year old Lorelei; this reader was stunned by Ms. Ruby’s ability to, seemingly effortlessly, capture the open desire, the willingness to believe, that most teens still carry inside of them (albeit, some much...much deeper than others). While her steadier, yet clearly open-minded older by brother, leans more towards logic and rational explanations; even he has that tiny glimmer of hope....the “why not?” that is sometimes lost in adulthood.

Yes, Lori’s parents truly are startlingly naïve and absent-minded with matters of utmost importance; yet oddly tenacious and relentless on the most trivial of things. The “caretakers” are undoubtedly a bit past odd, edging toward dangerous. The “lawn-boy”...well, okay, he seems like a typical, bleary-eyed, sun-baked kid. Nathaniel Pierce has a starring role, as.....well, Nathaniel is: of course, and why not; a ghost. Not just “a ghost”; but the ghost of a Civil War Soldier, calmly and curiously, standing over Lori’s shoulder, in her tower room, in the creepy, creaky bed-and-breakfast that she can now call home...in Gettysburg.

None of the aforementioned could be construed as spoilers, and that is one of the coolest quirks of Ms.

Ruby's story. At a blush, it would seem that with all of this already in the open, there can't be room for mystique and intrigue; on the contrary, the plot thickens....and thickens. As quick as Lorelei is to end an annoying conversation; this reader was immersed. Mysteries abound, romance flickers and flutters by, all while Miss Lori boldly plows through, looking for answers and keeping careful watch on the caretakers and some pretty suspicious guests.

Rebel Spirits is historical fiction, but with Ms. Ruby's characters feeling oh, so human; the history revealed in such a heart-felt fashion, this reader effortlessly let the "fiction" part slip away, to become fully mesmerized in the few, time-critical, fast-paced days Lori & Nathaniel spend together. Ms. Ruby's enviable skill of combining a story that in turn; elicits chills, danger, even fear and yet references "red-checkered Vans" under an 1860s(ish) hoop skirt is impressive and makes for a fascinating book.

Review written for Buried Under Books Blog.

Whitney says

Rebel Spirits isn't exactly a bad book, but it certainly isn't a good one either. The general premise (high school girl falls in love with Civil War Confederate soldier who has asked her to solve his murder) is simultaneously interesting, and ridiculously cliché. The writing was what ruined the story for me. The book only take place during three short days (during which time the characters manage to fall in love, AND solve a long ago murder), so events are extremely rushed, and therefore highly unbelievable. Lois Ruby uses the plot devise of "coincidence" far too often, ruining its effectiveness and leaving me rolling my eyes about the large number of things that just happened to work out at the right time.

If YA Civil War ghost mysteries are your thing, then this might be a book for you. However, there are many more, much better written, and much more interesting books out there. I would suggest not wasting your time on this one.

Laura Martinelli says

I really try not to judge books by their cover, caption, blurbs or jacket copy. I've found books that sound interesting but were terrible, and I've found books with beautiful covers but terrible insides, but then again I have a lot of books I've picked up on a whim and absolutely loved, even if the cover looked generic or the blurb wasn't the greatest thing ever. When my boss handed me the latest crop of YA ARCs at work, I looked at *Rebel Spirits*' cover blurb...and immediately rolled my eyes. "*What if you fell in love with a ghost?*" Yes because that concept has never been explored, ever.

But, as I said, I was willing to give a fair shot. And then I started reading it. And about ten pages in, I knew that this was not going to be a fun read for me. Because not only is this book an unresearched *mess* but everything else about it is just **terrible**. Let's be fair here: this is nothing new. This is another slot of "Let's try to get the next *Twilight*! Has anyone done ghosts yet?" (Yes. Yes they have; it started six years before that whole thing and IT WAS BETTER.) The plot is not only nonexistent, but in the end it's proven to be futile seeing as the love interest is able to move on AND it wasn't a murder anyway so...why?!

The characters. Ye gods. Lorelei is allegedly “sixteen—almost seventeen!” and going into her senior year of high school. She acts like a thirteen year old, throwing temper tantrums whenever she’s grounded and the way she acts around Nathaniel. Btw, I think this is a new record for insta-love—Lorelei falls in love with Nathaniel after the second time he appears to her, and she goes into depression after he disappears at the end. FIVE DAYS. YOU’VE TALKED TO THIS GUY FOR LESS THAN A WEEK. The Disney version of *The Little Mermaid* had a stronger relationship build-up than this.

Also, Nathaniel and Lorelei’s ‘witty banter’ is a treat too:

“February second. The whole country waits for the famous groundhog, Punxsutawney Phil, to poke his head out of the ground. If he sees his shadow, we’re in for six more weeks of winter. “ Which sounds appealing now, because we’re sweltering up in the attic.

Nathaniel raises his eyebrows. “Well, I’ll be. Punxsutawney Phil, eh? And if the famous groundhog doesn’t see his shadow, we’re in for roughly six more weeks of winter, right?” We both laugh at the absurdity of a rodent predicting weather. (pg 78-79)

“You’re quite the bossy girl, aren’t you?”

“Of course. I’m a Scorpio!”

“You don’t look a bit like a scorpion, for which I’m immensely grateful.” (pg. 97)

“You look magical in the fading light of day, like a fairy princess,” Nathaniel says, materializing by my side.

I wish I could stop blushing. I’m not sure what to do with all these compliments.

“A princess in a Phillies T-shirt and cutoff jeans,” I say. He has no idea what the Phillies are, or even what jeans are, but I wonder if his otherworldly eyes see something different in me. (pg. 153)

Also, all of the other characters are completely stupid. The only one I liked was Charlotte, basically because the one page she gets an establishing character moment was halfway decent and then she wisely disappears for the majority of the book. Lorelei’s parents are complete idiots, because you know, taking over an inn **the week** before the Gettysburg anniversary should probably be indicative of how they run a hotel. Also, at the end, when Lorelei reveals the fact that she’s been running around with a ghost for the past week, they actually believe her. Even though that it’s been established that they’ve never had any supernatural dealings and called Lorelei’s previous sightings when she was little “cute” and a way to cope. (I don’t want to sit and harp that “OMG *Mediator* is the best thing ever” but you know what? It’s acknowledged that Suze went through therapy and that not everyone believes her about the ghost thing—it takes five books for her best friend to figure it out and accept it.) The other characters are a collection of stereotypes and one-note appearances who barely make any impact on the plot.

Speaking of the plot...there was a plot? Nathaniel spends half the time info-dumping about what happened to him and Lorelei makes half-assed connections based on that. There’s this whole plot about a MacGuffin ring that allegedly belonged to William Lincoln and fell into the hands of an Army doctor that Nathaniel stole for good luck. And then apparently the nonexistent housekeeper and her creepy husband (both of who just started right before Lorelei’s family moved in, and no one mentions this in the business emails?) are trying to find it for...reasons. But then it turns out that Charlotte hid the ring and put on a chain, so that Lorelei will have something to remember Nathaniel by forever! Gag me.

And all of this is more than qualification for me to rate this one star. But here's how I know Lois Ruby didn't do any research aside from Wiki-searching the Battle of Gettysburg:

"Lorelei, you know about Abraham Lincoln's famous 'four score and seven years ago' address that he delivered at Gettysburg, don't you?"

"Yes, Dad. We had to memorize it in eighth grade."....

I wonder about this...If it was such a horrible battle, why would they want to keep reliving it? "But it's been about a hundred and fifty years," I say, calculating. "Isn't it time they got over it?"

Things to note about Lorelei: She claims that she's going to be a high school senior. And that she's lived in the Philadelphia her entire life.

HOW IN THE FUCK DOES SHE KNOW JACKSHIT ABOUT GETTYSBURG.

I live in Pittsburgh, I'm about four and a half hours away to the west from the Gettysburg area. I went to college a half hour away from there; I have friends who grew up in the area. If Lorelei actually lived in Philadelphia for a good chunk of her schooling, not only would she have gone to the battleground multiple times, but she would have also known a good chunk of the history around it.

Not to mention, **IT'S FUCKING GETTYSBURG**. It's not some random skirmish that's only famous for having a lot of soldiers die and Lincoln making a speech on the battlegrounds. This is not something that's so impossible to research or not know next to nothing about it. And yet, here's how it's treated in the book:

"Those loonies, they take vacation days...Every boss man in Adams County gives 'em off. But look at 'em. There's thousands..."

"Those diehards, they take their uniforms out of mothballs and pour in from all over the U.S. of A. They'd bawl like babies if they had to miss these first few days in July. The crazies want it the way it was back when, so folks gussy up in Civil-War blues and grays and red britches, shooting at each. Used to be a battleground, you know..." (pg. 51)

Excuse me. *bashes head against wall*

Here's some info about Gettysburg: they service a million people A YEAR. According to this article, 200,000 people are expected for the anniversary reenactment next month. (Hence, why the fact Lorelei's family is moving in the week before is not only laughable, but they probably have the worst inn in the area. No wonder they only have one guest family without ulterior motives.) And guess what! I know that compared to Philly, Gettysburg is a small town. It's NOT a Podunk town in the middle of nowhere with three historical houses and that's it. There's a local college nearby. It's actually got a really nice downtown area. I would really like to know the reason why Lois Ruby couldn't be bothered to take a trip, because going to Gettysburg, even in the off months, is fairly inexpensive, even when you take in the airline tickets. Did Point not want to foot the bill for her? I know she did some tourism research, because she mentions a ghost tour and that the town is obsessed with spirits. Unfortunately, the only place this tour goes to is the citizens' cemetery and that's it. Try that there's **eight** different ghost tours, many running at the same time, and they're a massive draw as well. Gettysburg is repeatedly described as "the boonies"—nope, try again. (I believe the county you're looking for is Lancaster County, aka Amish Country. It's the reason my best friend is desperately trying to move out towards me. Gettysburg is a big city to her.)

(All right, I have to mention this: I've taken one of these ghost tours, when my mom and I went to visit my college. We got the most narmastic tour guide ever, he was trying to be mysterious but it was so boring to hear him talk. At the end of the tour, he related stories of tourists would encounter "reenactors" only to turn around and find the reenactor disappearing in thin air. He ended the tour by saying, "So remember...if you see someone in period clothing, it may be a reenactor...OR IT MAY BE A GHOST!"

Hence why I burst out laughing whenever Lorelei meets Nathaniel for the first time and she thinks he's a reenactor.)

This isn't even touching on how the history's handled. This is what Lorelei actually says about the Civil War:

I know that most soldiers in the Army of the Potomac were fighting to preserve the Union after the Southern states pulled out. Most in General Robert E. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia fought to preserve the Confederacy, to keep slavery as their way of life. That much I learned in US history last year, even though I read that Lee wasn't all that keen on slavery. But the rest, on both sides? Some were pure abolitionists, totally against slavery, and others were fighting on any which side, just for the adrenaline rush of war. (pg 124)

Aside from the horrible editing in that sentence (the editing job could be worse, but it's still bad), that's an explanation of the Civil War I expect from a third grader. By the time you've hit junior year of high school, you really ought to have a better grasp on the politics surrounding the split—it's not just about the slavery, and even Lincoln was extremely reluctant at the onset to including freeing slaves. I read that above passage to my sister—a US history major whose specialization is the Civil War—and I can't begin to describe the look of horror and depression on her face.

This isn't just bad research, this is an *insult* to history. Is this what the standards for junior high/high school are nowadays? Because this isn't only insulting, it's embarrassing to assume that your target audience isn't going to know anything about the history involved. My current WIP is a alternate history/steampunk-fantasy YA novel that centers on the Homestead Strike, which is a very well-known event in the area and to historians. To everyone else, I'm pretty sure they wouldn't know names like Andrew Carnegie and Henry Frick automatically, so I do spend some time explaining things about the history of the steel mills and the unionization of workers. Because I know people won't know these things. And even though the name Gettysburg ought to be instantly recognizable to anyone of school age, there's still a lot of details that you can add in—talk about the fields and the forests, all the monuments that litter the battlefield. Oh, wait, that requires research, doesn't it.

(OH AND BTW the weak-ass Lincoln connection? This is how Lorelei describes it: “[William] was eleven when he died. I know it for a fact.” *If Wikipedia is factual. YES IT'S THE TRUTH YOU IDIOTIC BINT.* The Lincolns losing three sons is not an exaggeration, it's fact, and while it's a tragic story you sure as hell don't get to use it to justify your fucking “omgsotragic and deeeep romance.”)

As I said towards the beginning, I was more than willing to give this a fair shot. The plot and characters were enough to drive the rating down, but add on the sheer carelessness to the research and the history, and I'm ready to cause physical harm to my copy. (And did. Multiple times.) This is a book not only to be thrown at a wall with great force, but to be avoided at great cost. And, just because I'm curious, if anyone living in Gettysburg actually finds this book, I really wanna know your thoughts on it, because I think you all should sue for misrepresentation.

Janell says

I thought the idea was good, but it was missing something in the writing.

Amy says

I'd probably give this book a 2.5 because 2 seems harsh but, it's not exactly a 3 either. The idea is nice, girl falls in love with ghost and solves his murder. However, I kept asking myself, "What do they think is going to come of this?" Are they just going to keep dating even though he's dead?

I didn't dislike this book, but I wasn't liking it either. The writing felt very "fanfiction-y" and Mary Sueish. For example, when Lori tells her friends and family she's talking to a dead ghost no one thinks she's crazy! They simply go along with it, without a second thought. There's also a lot of cliché writing.

The book is also very rushed for nearly 300 pages. Lori manages, to move, meet Nathaniel, fall in love, and solve his murder in 3 days.

Overall, I liked the idea but the book wasn't that great for me. I wouldn't recommend to anyone, but if you like Civil War books, or this seems like your cup of tea I'd tell you to pick it up from your library instead of purchasing.

Amanda Caldwell says

Originally posted at The Book Babe.

Let me make something clear. I don't like writing negative book reviews. I'm sorry Scholastic, you're a great publisher, a favorite of mine since I was a child. I gave the last review I wrote for you, *Better To Wish*, 5 out of 5 stars. To the author, I'm sorry also. I could never write a book, so you at least have better writing talent than I do. However, I did not enjoy this book. AT ALL. I actually stopped reading for about a week because I just could not force myself to read this. Somehow I prevailed, mostly because I'm doing a group reading challenge and I didn't want to let my teammates down.

I'm trying to analyze and determine why it is that I don't like this book. Was it because it was Young Adult? That can't be it, because I have rated many Young Adult books between three and five stars. Was it because it was a paranormal romance? Eh, it's not my favorite genre, but I do have a soft-spot for ghosts. I don't feel like the fact that a ghost was a love interest ruined the book, at all. So what could it be? I think it really just boils down to the writing. It was almost like the book was written by someone's mother who was trying to convince her teenage daughters that she can be cool. She obviously failed miserably. Here are some examples of times I shook my head throughout the book:

"The shirtless guy riding on the mower checks us out as we pull into the gravel driveway. He is maybe a year older than me, and as tan as a muffin, with longish blond hair sweaty on his shoulders. He reminds me of a border collie."

LMBO, really? REALLY? He was "tan as a muffin"? What kind of muffin would that be? Blueberry? Chocolate? I don't even think my grandma ever described a man as being "tan as a muffin". Who says that?? And this is supposed to be a 16-year-old girl talking. I'm not even going to go into the border collie comment.

"He's wearing a Dallas Cowboys T-shirt today, I see from way up here. I grab my glasses off my desk to inspect closer."

She had to grab her glasses to checkout a guy. Oh wait, she didn't check him out, she "inspected" him.

"What a fair-weather friend Gertie's turning out to be."

Look Lois, no teenager says "fair-weather friend". Did the author write this book while watching The Golden Girls and taking her arthritis medication?

"In the front parlor there are about a million copies of her book for sale. It's called What a Girl Saw and Heard of the Battle. Maybe I ought to buy a copy. Sixteen dollars? Forget it."

I usually love first-person narratives. However, the main character's mind is so simple. She thinks nothing deep. This is basically the complexity of her thoughts. The reader gains nothing by having insight into the main character's personal thoughts and feelings.

""Oh Hello!" You're the daughter of that new couple running Coolspring Inn," she says, clapping her hands as if she's smashing gnats."

How exactly does one clap their hands as if smashing gnats?

"We yammer like magpies, and I tell her everything I know about Nathaniel."

She and her friend not only "yammered", but did so as if they were magpies.

Okay, so I could go on and on. At this point, I'm 25% into the book. This could take all day. So, what it comes down to is this book was torture to read. It could have been good... the Civil War is an era that has always intrigued me as well as haunted houses. Unfortunately, the writing put up a block that stopped me from enjoying this book at all. 1 out of 5 stars. Sorry.

I received an Advanced Reader Copy (ARC) of this book courtesy of NetGalley and Scholastic in exchange for an honest review.

Giselle Martin says

This is an amazing book that has everything! From love, ghosts, to mystery. It has a lot of suspense, and a lot of shocking parts. The characters are very easy to fall in love with. The author made a well-written book that was able to capture my attention, and I hope to be able to read more books by this author in the future, and that the author keeps writing books like this one, filled with romance and mystery. I do recommend this book for people who like suspenseful reads, and mysteries with some romance, there might even be a love triangle involved, so get your hands on a copy as soon as you can.

Brad Sells says

I hate to say it, but I was disappointed by Rebel Spirits. While the plot was intriguing, I couldn't get past the characters.

I'll go ahead and start with the problem I had with Rebel Spirits - the characters just felt too two-dimensional for me. I couldn't connect with Lori, which was the biggest problem I had. She just seemed too flat for me to get in touch with, and I just didn't like her. Nathaniel was better because of his secretive backstory, and I enjoyed learning about his past!

And luckily, that's what redeemed Rebel Spirits for me. The scandal, the secrets and the hidden past makes Rebel Spirits an enjoyable, quick read. Whenever it's brought up in the book of Nathaniel's mysterious past, I was reeled in and hooked deep into the story, and it kept my interest the entire time. It definitely was my favorite part about the book and redeemed it for me.

And the entire story felt too jumbled, for me at least. We had the hidden past-thing going on, and then, BAM insta-love, which I didn't care for in this case. I don't read many ghosts stories, especially not ones with insta-love, so I guess Rebel Spirits does stand out in that way. I just would have preferred more eerie and haunting scenes, less romantic. But that's just for me.

Overall, Rebel Spirits let me down. Who knows, this may be the book for me! Some parts worked for me, some didn't, unfortunately.

Anna says

First off before I dig an deeper than the surface of this book, the title is a COMPLETE misnomer! This book centers around the ghost of a soldier from the Union, a.k.a. the Northern Army. Not the Southern one, who are referred to as the 'rebel' army. Therefore it makes no offense, and is slightly confusing. There, now that inconsistency is out of the way, let's get on with the actual review! :) Lorelai 'Lori' Chase is a sixteen year old girl who is forced to move with her parents to Gettysburg, away from all her friends, so they can finally open their own Bed and Breakfast like they've always wanted to. The building they've purchased comes with an inherited staff, some creaks and fix-it situations - oh yeah, and did anyone mention the ghost of a murdered soldier? Lori has been keeping a secret from her parents and her best friend for a long time that makes this ghost a nuisance. She can see him and communicate with him. Lori has been able to see spirits for years. With the anniversary of the Battle of Gettysburg approaching, soldier Nathaniel Pierce only has a short amount of time to discover who murdered him and why so he can rest in peace. With treasure, scorned relatives and battlefield mayhem clouding the truth will Lori ever be able to help him find out what really happened? And how can she stop herself from falling for such a charming guy...even though he's dead? With treasure at stake things quickly turn deadly and it will take all her wits for Lori to make it out alive.

What's new Scooby Doo? That's what I felt like saying as I read a good majority of this novel. It reads like a movie-of-the-week suspense piece and the middle grade feel/style did it no favors for me either. Of course, sucker that I am, I couldn't resist a book involving a Civil War ghost and a murder mystery. *Slaps forehead dramatically.* D'oh! This wasn't a badly written book by any means - a cute, cookie cutter, middle-grade

romance. It was just unfortunately predictable, the characters were bland without any real development/spice and the whodunit was pretty cut and dried. Oh yeah, it also employed the dreaded paranormal love triangle and insta-love tropes. The cute lawn boy who's in his summer before college or the ghost of a Union soldier (who actually seems like kind of a smug dick most of the time to me). Choices, choices and of course they both luuurrrrvveee Lori and want to be with her. Yeah, sure. Also, this whole thing takes place in less than a week. To me that just comes across as lazy under the pretense of plot momentum. Ruby mentions some seriously great stuff like reenactments on battlefields, cemetery 'ghost' tours and presidential connections to her own murder mystery. But that's all they are in a really short and underdeveloped book - tidbits of things that could have made this book far better than it was.

This is the kind of book that 12 year old me would have devoured and 'loved forever and ever!' (As evidenced by my recent Caroline B. Cooney re-reads, I was nowhere near as harsh [i.e. bitter] of a book reader back then). I would read anything with pages and ink at that point in my life, so that isn't really saying much. Even Ruby's attempt at inserting interesting guests at the B&B fell short of a working plot device. The ending is very neatly tied up, but is very vague in terms of answering what the characters will end up doing/being. I would recommend this to teachers with reluctant readers, and those who want to get a kid interested in history with some light fiction. Overall, not for me but I'm sure it would entice someone to read and I do give props to the author (and subtract some personal points) that she kept me reading to the end.

VERDICT: 2/5 Stars

I received an Advanced Reading E-book Copy from the publisher, via NetGalley. No money or favors were exchanged for this review. This book was published on June 1st, 2013.

Katherine says

"My dream is to win a beach volleyball game, and then take a dip in the ocean. Icy raspberry lemonade will be delivered to me by a surfer boy with golden hair. My dream is definitely not moldering in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, population: eight thousand people obsessed with a bloody past."

3.5 out of 5 stars

Well, considering how absolutely unrealistic this novel is (and the fact that it read more like a 90s teen novel than one set in the present day), **this was a surprisingly sweet read.**

Lori Chase has moved with her family to Gettysburg to run a bed and breakfast. She's decidedly not enthused until she meets the mysterious Nathaniel Pearce. He's handsome, charming, chilvarous... and very, very dead. Turns out, Nathaniel is a Union Soldier from the Civil War who was murdered, and his soul can't rest in peace until he discovers who did it.

*"I need your help to solve a murder.
'Oh, really? Who's the murder victim?
'I am.'"*

Lori has the power to see ghosts, so she agrees to help him, even if it means putting her life (and heart) on the line.

The best way to describe this novel is **cute**. If you're a fan of Disney Channel Original movies, Hallmark flicks that make you feel good, and 1990s after school specials, then you'll like this book (and I mean it with the best regards). Nothing was particularly offending about it, if you take it for what it's worth. The characters are sweet but nothing particularly special. Those adjectives pretty much describe the whole entire novel. Again, it's like a really corny made-for-TV flick, but you can't stop reading.

Lori and Nathaniel's romance is extremely instalovey. Though I guess if you were being fair about it, you could say that since he only has like five days in his human form, it HAS to go fast. But **can we just admire the author poking fun at her own trope?** Lori's explaining it to her parents and I swear it's the funniest thing in this book.

""I fell in love with him during the Battle Days."

'With a ghost? In three days?! This is more than I can handle without pastry. Miriam- lots of it, the gooier the better. In fact give them to me intravenously.'

Dad's popping one mini cream puff after another into his mouth, and Mom's breathing like an asthmatic, but on the whole, they're handling it pretty well for parents."

I was laughing so hard at that point I could hardly see straight. For an author to use said trope, but then to basically savage it through her characters is pure gold.

However, I will have to say that the subplot about a missing artifact kind of made the novel fall apart a bit towards the middle and the end. It turned the book more into *Indiana Jones* than *Nancy Drew meets Liberty's Kids*, if you know what I mean. I didn't think it was necessary to have it in there for the main story line, but the historical background was done fairly well.

Ghost story romances are kind of hard to write, as there's a fine balance between making a ghost seem human without being too human or too ghostlike. But for the most part, **this book was a fast, sweet read, even if the ending act was executed poorly.**
