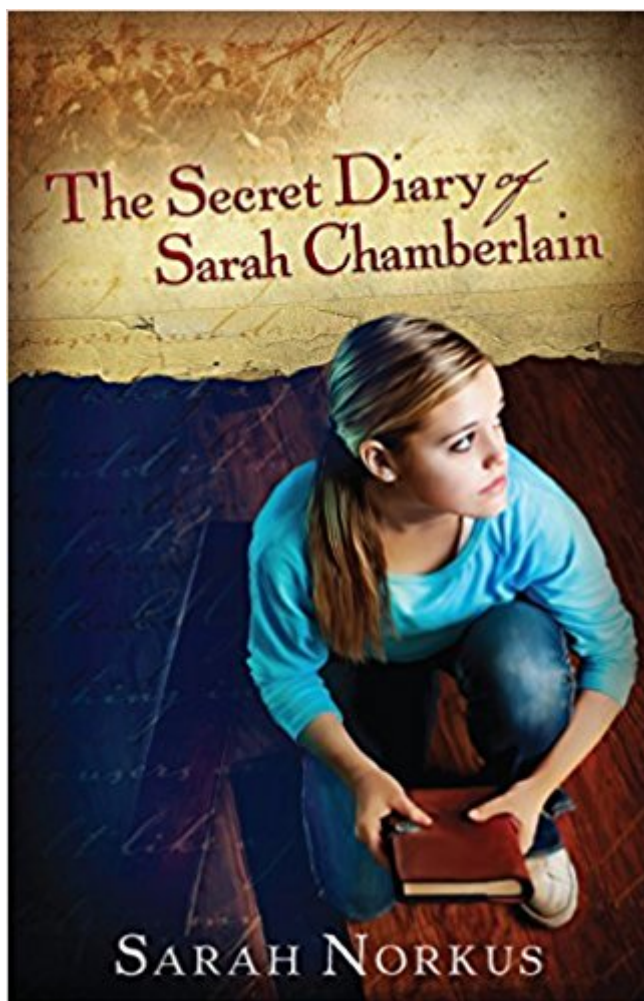


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The Secret Diary Of Sarah Chamberlain



Synopsis

In the year 2008, fifteen year-old Emily Grace (Em) discovers a secret hiding place under a wooden plank in the attic of an old house in Petersburg. It conceals a 150 year-old-diary belonging to Sarah Chamberlain, the previous owner of the house. Carefully turning to the last entry, Em's interest is piqued by the mention of missing confederate gold and a murder mystery. She slips the diary into the pocket of her capris. As she reads the diary, Em is touched by Sarah's deep love for her husband, Robert. Emotionally, Em's life is spinning out of control and the diary is a welcome distraction. Each day her faith slips further and further away as she blames God for the many trials and tribulations she has had to endure. After rereading the last page and Robert's senseless murder, she has one more reason to doubt God's love for his creation. Em slips the diary back in her pocket planning to return it to the attic before helping her mother clean the old house in Petersburg. While scrubbing black scuffmarks off the kitchen floor, Em has an emotional meltdown airing her list of grievances, including Robert's murder, before God. As she shouts that she doesn't believe he really exists, vertigo suddenly hits with a vengeance and she passes out. Regaining consciousness, Em is dumbfounded; the kitchen has been replaced by a nineteenth century parlor.

Book Information

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Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Historical #313 in Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Religious > Christian > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

Sarah Norkus grew up in Lexington, Kentucky, the daughter of the editor of the horse racing magazine, The Horseman and Fair World. She likes to say that writing is in her blood. Her cousin,

Stephen Ambrose wrote many historical military books including, Band of Brothers. She has two published books, a memoir, The Eleventh Summer, and a literary fiction, Until the Wind Changes. Sarah now resides in Colonial Heights, Virginia with her retired military officer husband, Michael. When she isn't writing, Sarah volunteers with the American Red Cross, and in the children's division at Mount Pleasant Baptist Church. Sarah enjoys speaking to groups and refines these skills through her TriCity Toastmasters Club. She is the current Regent of the Colonel John Banister Chapter, The National Society Daughters of the American Revolution, an organization devoted to patriotism, education, historic preservation and community service.

Sarah Norkus has created a fine work of science fiction / fantasy about a young girl who has lost her faith in God. But God doesn't ignore her - God sends Emily Grace back in time to right a wrong committed in 1865. I challenge anyone to come up with a more original plot. As a writing coach myself, I look for the right patterns in story lines. Sarah Norkus has honed her talent over the last few years with her two memoirs and has finally nailed the fiction narrative. I heartily recommend this story for mid-agers (10-12) and young adults. Even at the age of 49 I found the story engaging and had to hold back a tear when the story ended. As Emily might have said, Cool!

The book started off a little slow, I know it had to set up what was to come. Em was just like any teenage girl but when she went back in time, look like she grew up to be more mature. I would have gave it a 5 but it was a little slow at the beginning.

What a fun read! I was enthralled as I was transported back into the challenging times of the Civil War. I'm not ready to give up today's conveniences, but it was fun to learn much of what daily life was like in earlier times. And I couldn't wait to find out how the suspense would end. The characters are very likable and I was not ready to give them up at the end of this story. I hope there is a sequel in the works!

Wow, what a fun read. Reminds me of the mysteries I loved to read as a teen. Being a lover of history and mysteries this book was an awesome selection. I have encouraged my 13 year old granddaughter to read it

This was a very very good book with lots of history and suspense. You can't wait to get to the end of the book. It's for every age group and not too long.

This book is meant for teens, but is great for any age. A great story and informational as well. Brought tears at the end.

The book for review is "The Secret Diary of Sarah Chamberlain" by Sarah Norkus. This book falls in the genre of fiction, Christian and fantasy. It's 2008 and our main character is Emily Grace, or Em to her friends and family. She helps her mother clean and take care of the local historical society house. Being told what chores she is required to do one day, Em accidentally finds a hidden compartment in the upper floor of the building that holds a diary. It belongs to Sarah Chamberlain from the time frame of the Civil War. Em eagerly reads the book from beginning to end as the contents within captivate her. Soon she bonds to the characters inside the diary as she feels the pain of Sarah, a young wife, who loses her husband a short five years after marriage. But it doesn't end there. One day while helping her mom at the house she starts to get dizzy. When she wakes up all that she knows is no longer. Her family, friends and way of life are gone. What she soon learns is that she has traveled back in time. But not just any spot in history. She is now with Sarah and her household. Her husband has not been killed yet. Any memory of her life is gone. Sarah, a kind-hearted young woman, takes care of Emily in hopes she will recover. Em soon gets bits and pieces of her memory back as she slowly realizes there is still time to save Sarah's husband before it is too late. A friend of mine recommended this book rather highly. I did enjoy it. The pace was good and it was a quick read. The descriptions of the characters were nicely done. There were few lulls in the story line. A nice pick up.

The moment she saw the small brown book, a loud roar filled Em's ears, accompanied by a sharp pain to her head, followed by dizziness. She emitted a soft groan.

Book: The Secret Diary Of Sarah Chamberlain by Sarah Norkus, Living Ink Books, 2012
Genre: Historical Fiction/Adventure
Target Audience: Girls 13-18
Subjects: Civil War, Time Travel, Trials, Trust in God
Summary: Cancer for her, loss of home for her aunt, loss of husband for Sarah. If God really exists He must not care much for His people. That's Emily Grace's conclusion. After some of the struggles she has faced she starts to doubt God and His love, but when she finds an old diary and reads about the murder of an innocent man right at the end of the civil war she makes her decision. God just simply doesn't exist. As soon as she makes her decision, her life completely changes, but not in the way she thought. She finds herself unconscious, wakes up and she is back 150 years ago and a loss of memory. The family she falls in with is very godly, openly

professing a faith she had denied 150 years in the future. As the days go by, she faces choices that will affect not only her and her time, but the past as well. Notes: This is the first in the time travel series about a girl in her mid-teens who finds a diary hidden in an old house and travels through time to learn more about the character of God and grow in her faith. In this book the girl has to learn trust God even when bad things happen. The book does a good job covering the spiritual elements. The spiritual focus of the book is the theme running through the entire book. And (spoiler's warning) the ending is not as tragic as I expected it to be! Spiritual Content Recommendation Scale: 5/5 Reviewer: J:-) miJames 1:2-4 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

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