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Beauty Queens

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Synopsis

From bestselling, Printz Award-winning author Libba Bray, the story of a plane of beauty pageant contestants that crashes on a desert island. Teen beauty queens. A "Lost"-like island. Mysteries and dangers. No access to emall. And the spirit of fierce, feral competition that lives underground in girls, a savage brutality that can only be revealed by a journey into the heart of non-exfoliated darkness. Oh, the horror, the horror! Only funnier. With evening gowns. And a body count.

Book Information

File Size: 3717 KB

Print Length: 405 pages

Publisher: Scholastic Press (May 24, 2011)

Publication Date: May 24, 2011

Sold by:Ã Â Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B004VSTP3K

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #3,793 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #2 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Humorous #3 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Girls & Women #5 inÃ Â Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Teen & Young Adult > Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Being a Teen

Customer Reviews

I'd say 3 or 3.5.I'm generally not the biggest fan of satire since humor usually goes WAY over my head, but I really enjoyed this. I read it for the #ReadProud challenge for the Trans YA category not fully aware of how much more this book is than that. BEAUTY QUEENS was silly, lighthearted, and fun, that had a broad spectrum of representation from MTF models to lesbian relationships to confusion about identity in a tasteful way. The interludes with the advertisements were absolutely superb and had me in stitches. The silliness was over-the-top providing a very lighthearted read that

was especially enjoyable for those who are fans of LORD OF THE FLIES.So, why the 3 or 3.5 star?Length.If 1/3rd of the story was cut out, this would have been an excellent page-turner. The inclusion of the pirate boys could have been nixed without losing anything in this friendship story. The plot twists would have had a bit more punch. I found myself skimming through some parts of it that I'm certain I would have otherwise read more thoroughly if it was shorter.Perhaps this isn't the case for other readers. I'd still recommend it.

When satire is done well, I mean really well, there is nothing like it. The subtle (or not so subtle) poking of fun at society is so skillful, you almost don't recognize it at first. I love to teach Kurt Vonnegut's Slaughterhouse-Five to my senior literature classes because satire is such an interesting literary tool for inward self-realization. But Young Adult literature doesn't often touch satire; I guess because it is a sophisticated method of writing? But Libba Bray wasn't afraid to break down the boundaries for YA lit with Beauty Queens. She wrote a hilarious, scathing, and eerily familiar satire that will have you laughing and reflecting the whole time you plow through this "beauty"!When 50 girls, one from each state, fly to the Miss Teen Dream contest, they didn't expect a plane crash on a deserted island. They especially didn't expect to have to learn to survive on their own. Only a handful of girls survive the crash, and all the adults are killed. The girls that do survive are a motley crew, full of a transgender former boy band singer, an anti-pageant feminist who plans to take Miss Teen Dream down from the outside, a die-hard Texan beauty queen, a budding young lesbian, and a girl with a severe hearing impairment, among others. The minorities are of course represented, as they should always be, with an Indian girl who touts her immigrant success story, but is really just a valley girl, and a black girl from Colorado who everyone notices doesn't "talk black". That's right, all your cliches and stereotypes are present and accounted for!The Corporation runs the pageant, as well as most of the world. They create/control most TV, products, and even the secret (or not-so-secret) arms deals. The Corporation has become a huge monster that hides behind silly reality TV and cosmetics. Its connections with Ladybird Hope, former Miss Teen Dream and presidential hopeful, are disturbing at best. But the Corporation doesn't want the beauty queens found- if they are, the islands dirty little secrets will be revealed. In particular, their arms deal with MoMo B. ChaCha, dictator of the Republic of ChaCha (ROC) where they plan to sell him weaponized Lady 'Stache Off against the sanctions on his country. They hope the beauty queens will just die off, but what they aren't prepared for are some seriously butt-kickin' ladies who have developed some serious survival skills amongst their baton twirling and Sparkle Pony dances! These girls aren't going down without a fight! Now add into the mix some fake reality TV pirates

(one of which is a cross-dresser and is very excited the girls have recovered some of their high-heels) and you've got yourself quite an island.Sadly, I just don't think my description does this story justice- it was absolutely hilarious! I loved the snark filled satire, complete with descriptions of a Scottish spy character who prefers his "haggis boiled, not fried". Bray did a marvelous job of slipping into a world of complete buffoons and social commentary cleverly disguised as a simple "survival on a deserted island" story. Truthfully, you won't be able to put this beauty down, even if the bathing suit portion of the show is coming up!With the presence of satire, I would say this would be a great book for that child or student who really gets subtle humor or is fairly sarcastic themselves. This story is going to seem silly and vapid if the reader isn't able to understand the undertones of the story. I can think of a handful of snarky (I love snark!) students who would absolutely love this story. The cover might turn off a couple of boys (or make them more interested), but this story would work well for either male or female readers- it is snarky fun for any gender! It really reminded me of "Lost" coupled with "Miss Congeniality" and a healthy dose of Lord of the Flies thrown in for good measure. I absolutely loved this story, and it certainly appealed to my own snarky side!

I was pleasantly surprised by this one, I have to admit. I havenÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t read Lord of the Flies in ages, so comparing it is a bit tough. DonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t expect a word for word retelling, but as a satire, itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s absolutely giggle worthy and a quick read.The novel starts out with fifty contestants in the Miss Teen Dream Pageant, sponsored by ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“The CorporationÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â•, on a plane en route to the show. A plane crash kills off many of the contestants, the crew and their chaperones, leaving a handful of girls to make their way on the island. The characters are predictably ditzy and stereotypical pageant queens, but are all endearing in their own ways. Several girls, convinced that theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll be rescued, continue their pageant rehearsals while a very diverse group becomes focused on survival. The characters become loveable and endearing, and are surprisingly diverse. As I read, I was excited to see a mix of not only personality types, all very strong in their own ways, but a variety of personal lives. The cast includes a racial mix, bisexual, lesbian and transgender girls. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve struggled to find a fun book to recommend for teens, especially girls, that doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t show them at the mercy of the male main characters. This one definitely fits the bill. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d be hard pressed to find someone who doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t relate to at least one of the contestants.The girlÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s story is interspersed with commercials from The Corporation for products and television shows, a shady business deal from a foreign dictator set on world domination and wooing

the public face of the pageant, and a diabolical plot lead by a former beauty queen bent on taking over the world. When they intersect in the middle of the jungle, along with a ship full of pirates from another reality show on the same channel, the girls and pirates band together to get off the island and save the world.The writing is fun and young and keeps you moving through the multiple story lines, with the character perspectives changing each chapter. A great read for someone looking a little arm chair adventure or needing a little girl power in their lives.

We’ve had this book in our "cloud" since we’ve owned our kindles. I finally gave in and started reading it. I literally kept reading in hopes that it was just starting off as some sort of sattiracal humor- then it would turn ..... but..... I was so very wrong ..... This is honestly only the second book in my entire life that I had to actually stop reading half way thru.....

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