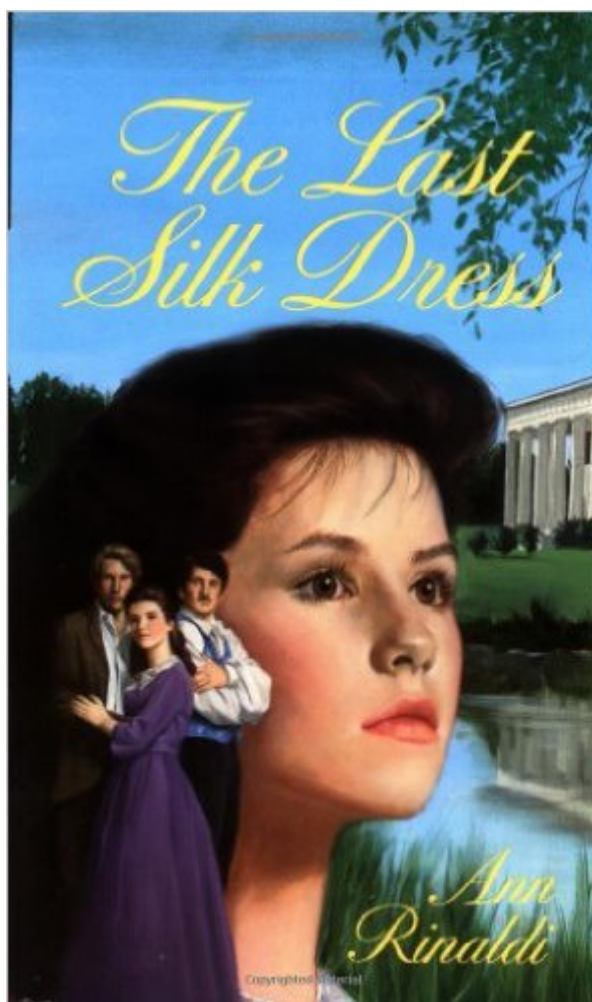


The book was found

The Last Silk Dress



Synopsis

High-spirited, beautiful Susan Chilmark, fourteen, vows to do something meaningful to support the Confederacy during the Civil War. Despite the wishes of her mother, Susan and her best friend, Connie, collect silk dresses from all the ladies of Richmond to make a balloon that will be used to spy on the Yankees. But the issues behind the war aren't as obvious as Susan thinks. When she meets her dashing, scandalous older brother and discovers why he was banished from the family, Susan unlocks a Pandora's box of secrets that forces her to rethink and challenge the very system she was born into. Does she have the courage to do what is right even though it may hurt the ones she loves?

Book Information

Mass Market Paperback: 352 pages

Publisher: Laurel Leaf (October 4, 1999)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0440228611

ISBN-13: 978-0440228615

Product Dimensions: 4.2 x 1 x 6.9 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars See all reviews (133 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #1,129,437 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #71 in Books > Teens > Historical Fiction > United States > Civil War Period #1129 in Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1800s

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Tug of War. It's a game where one team struggles with all its might to drag the other team to its side of the field. When two people begin to play "Tug of War" with your heart, a feeling of hopelessness surrounds you as your heart "stretches" between the two people before it snaps to one end. The power of *The Last Silk Dress* is so intense that Susan's thoughts seem to pull the reader in half as he/she wonders which way to turn. *The Last Silk Dress* provides an emotional story that will hold you within the binding of the book for hours to come. This historical fiction novel portrays the life of a fourteen-year-old girl named Susan, during the Civil War. It is filled with suspense that takes a turn down an unexpected path. Susan is a brave young Southerner, who feels that she must do

something for the Cause in order to be accepted by her abusive, crazy mother. During the battles of war, Susan wonders, while confined in her home, about her long-lost brother, Lucien, who ran away from the family when she was so young. Under the most unusual circumstances, Susan meets up with her brother, who views the South as corrupt and evil. Susan is a daring young girl, who sets off on a mission to collect silk dresses so the South can make a hot air balloon to be used during war. Susan faces the loss of her father, a soldier who she had helped to heal, and her "second-brother," Kenneth, who all had to die for the South. Now, Susan isn't so sure the South has any purpose at all. Susan's dilemmas and losses bring so much emotion into the mind of the reader that there is no possible way to keep the tears from rolling down your face. This story is written with description that sends your mind into the past and puts you by the side of Susan Chilmark.

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