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Fancy Pants (Only In Gooding Book #1)



Synopsis

Humorous Romance From a Bestselling Author When Britisher Lady Sydney Hathwell's father dies, the American who planned to wed her suddenly reneges. Stranded in America and penniless, Sydney contacts a relative in Texas who, mistaking her male-sounding name, invites his "nephew" to join him on his ranch. "Big Tim" Creighton, however, is appalled when this mincing fop arrives at Forsaken. He determines he'll turn Fancy Pants Hathwell into a man before the boss returns home. From the get-go, he has "the kid" mucking stalls, clearing and plowing a field, and assisting with a difficult calving. But when Sydney's true identity is uncovered, Tim resents being deceived. Yet in time, he also finds that he doesn't like all the attention Sydney garners now that she's wearing pretty gowns... Together Sydney and Tim will discover the importance of family and what it means to be a man--and a woman--of God.

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Customer Reviews

Some Spoilers I really wanted to like Fancy Pants as I think that the premise has the promise of a great read. However I was terribly disappointed. Lady Sydney is an unaffected and unsympathetic character whose ruse is carried out farther then necessary or probable for a woman of her time. She

is waiting to reach her "age of majority" yet I was surprised to find that she is 17 waiting for 18 not 20 waiting for 21 as it most defiantly would have been for that time period. Through the beginning of the book I found her to be ridiculously naïve for her supposed advanced education, making foolish assumptions and basing her impulsive decisions on them. By the end of the book I didn't find that she had improved or grown in many ways at all even though she wrestles with being a sinner and the idea of forgiveness and ultimately accepts salvation. Big Tim really confuses me. We see ghosts of his background that we are supposed to connect to but are never fully developed; they could be powerful touchstones to explain who he is but fall flat. Tim's attitudes and actions are puzzling; he dislikes Sydney instantly and sets about to pound her into manhood, next we find him in a fury upon discovery of Sydney's true identity, suddenly he is leading her to Christ then before we know it he is thoroughly and possessively in love with her and on the way to the altar. For a man who is a respected Christian member of the community- loved by all- he comes off to me as angry, obstinate and undesirable marriage material. The conclusion of the story and developing romance is positively rushed; the much anticipated arrival of Sydney's uncle is conspicuously lacking and the triumph over lurking evil simplistic, insufficient and anticlimactic.

I borrowed this book from the library on a whim - looking for a new Christian author I might like. I began liking the book, then loved it, then disliked it, then kind of kept reading hoping it would get better, and finally quit reading 20 pages or so from the end. I don't even care how it ended. For all I care, Hume might come and claim Sydney as his bride and steal her away and even THAT would be a better ending than ANYTHING Hake was clearly planning. *spoilers* I am so bummed about this. All I want to find is a Christian author who writes appealingly, and well, not so...ooey-gooey? What's the word...sugar! Tim calls Syd "sugar" throughout the second half of the book, and that's exactly what this is: a sugar-coated treatise on how to be a Christian and get to Heaven. First of all, for a "Christian", Tim is the least likeable character I have read in a long time. From the first moment, he behaves abominably. And there's NO excuse for behaving so poorly to another human being. Guess how many times he apologizes for any of his actions in the entire book. Zero. Not once. Apparently everything he does and says gets a free pass because he's a God-loving man just trying to "make something" out of Fancy Pants. I found his lack of manners and, as Syd calls it, "couth", unbearable. Even in 1890 Texas, men could've been expected to be kinder toward a young boy and/or a young lady. Even after Velma repeatedly berates Tim for his actions (the only highlight of this entire book, because he and his disgusting ego finally get taken down a notch), he doesn't even begin to make up for them. You know what happens?

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