



Rebecca and the Movies

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On her tenth birthday, Rebecca can hardly believe it when cousin Max invites her to join him for a day at his movie studio to watch a movie being made! Although her parents don't approve of actors or movies, Mama relents and says Rebecca may go. At the studio, Rebecca meets the glamorous Lily, a real movie star. When the camera begins to roll, Rebecca knows she must sit quietly and watch. Suddenly, the director shouts "Cut!" and Rebecca finds herself facing an opportunity she never imagined in her wildest dreams. Does she have the nerve for it? And what would her parents say if they knew?

Rebecca and the Movies Details

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From Reader Review Rebecca and the Movies for online ebook

Heather says

Of the four books in this series, so far, this is the first that didn't have a clear message or moral. That's not a critique. It's just a statement of fact. I liked the story and it was fun to read about how movies were made so very long ago. I also liked that Rebecca has figured out that acting isn't just fun - it's hard work. Will she go on to one day have a career? Who knows? It's really not important. What is important is that she's learned she enjoys acting and is thinking about what life as an actress would be like. If girls could learn anything from this book it's that you can't just expect life to open doors for you. Sometimes, it's a matter of being in the right place, at the right time (Rebecca was on the set when the director needed a child), but other times, it's a matter of hard work and putting in the effort - doing your best (like she found out when she actually began to act).

Alexandria says

I love the Rebecca series, but this book was not on par with the rest of the line. Rebecca doesn't really do much character growth, but rather experiences a bit of wish-fulfillment. It's important for readers to know that their dreams can come true, and to keep themselves open to opportunity. But American Girl usually tries to teach lessons with their tales and this one kind of left that to the side.

But, because I love Rebecca and her series, I will certainly be adding this volume to my kids' bookshelves.

Reagan says

It's Passover and it's also Rebecca's birthday. Rebecca thinks that she can't have a birthday party and that her family have forgotten all about her birthday. But she is wrong. Her family holds a surprise birthday party for her. Max, Rebecca's cousin gives her a fancy hat for her birthday and says that this hat should not be worn only at home. That's when the conversation turns to movies. Rebecca's mom lets her go to the movie studio with Max. There she gets to play a part in the movie. Rebecca is so happy! At the movies, Rebecca meets Lily, another actress whom Max is in love with. Rebecca makes friends with Lily. Rebecca is so happy that she got to be part in the movie.

I love this book. I love almost all of the American girl books. But I haven't read all of the book in the American girl series. This series is one of my favorite series ever.

Bree says

This review is from the point of view of a mother. I'm reading the Rebecca series to decide when they will be appropriate for my daughter.

This book required quite a bit of suspension of adult disbelief.

spoiler ahead:

The handling of the fact that Rebecca's birthday occurs during a high holiday was well-done, but the idea that her conservative family would allow the family scape-grace to take their daughter out to a movie set, and she would get a walk-on part to a silent film required a bit more suspension of disbelief than I could manage. And the fact that Rebecca knew it would upset her family enough that she didn't tell them, was definitely not cool from a parental aspect, especially since she isn't found out and there are no ramifications for disobedience and lying by omission.

The Looking Back section about early motion pictures was interesting, and I'm sure it makes for more interesting and unique doll items to sell.

While I haven't rated any one particular book of Rebecca's very high, I think the stories as a whole are timeless and relevant to the target audience - they deal with teasing, accepting someone who is different, judging others, celebrating your heritage/faith/traditions, and I think Rebecca grows throughout the series. I like the emphasis on Rebecca's emotions as she grapples with issues - this is a well-rounded series, and even exceeds some of the earlier AG historical series.

Thing 2 says

Read this short book in a day :D I love reading the American Girls series because they are a nice and easy read

Erin says

Cute American Girl story.

So here's the thing about the Rebecca series. She's a Jewish girl growing up in NYC. Very cool to read and learn about...or so I thought. Everything is just skimmed over: Jewish traditions, life in New York, differences in culture. I'm reading these with my 9 year old and I feel like we still haven't learned much. For example, in this book Rebecca's family is celebrating Passover. I wish we had learned more about what the traditions are during this holiday. I felt the same way in the winter holiday one too. Other than that these are cute stories, perfect for the 8-10 year old crowd.

Erin says

Rebecca turns 10 this passover and truly believed her family had forgotten until her cousin, Rose, took her to the surprise party where she had egg creams and sponge cake waiting for her arrival. Not only that, but her cousin, Max, got her a gorgeous, fancy hat and took her to the movie studio (he's an actor!), similar to where Charlie Chaplin might make a silent film! Not only that, but Rebecca gets a real treat that will surprise her Bubbie and parents who do not approve of the film-making industry as a career. I would recommend this to

anyone who is interested in this time period. I like how the American Girl books show small pictures representing different vocabulary mentioned in the book, such as phonograph and grease paint, that today's young readers might not be familiar with.

Samantha says

Rebecca's 10th birthday falls around the same time as Passover. She worries that with all of the holiday preparations underway that her family will forget her big day. They not only remember, but they surprise her with the best birthday yet complete with beautiful gifts and a cake. As a special treat, her cousin Max invites her to the movie studio to see him in action. At the studio, Rebecca gets a chance to play a small part and catches the acting bug! Recommended for girls grades 3-5.

Elizabeth says

Rebecca is 10 Years old! Her uncle Max takes her to work with him a few days after her birthday to show her around the Movie Studio. But when Rebecca has a chance to be in a movie will she take it? And what will Bubbie think?

I Really liked this one. It's my favorite in the series (at least so far) the entire story was really great from start to finish. I don't want to go to far into and put on spoilers but the Birthday Party for Rebecca was really cute and when they were visiting Max's work place. I loved the entire story. Also just randomly I loved the chapter name "Music wherever she goes" it just sounds really cool and it caught my eye when i opened the book.

Amber M. McCarter says

I'm reading these for conversation purposes with my own 10 year old daughter, who loves Rebecca... But I was legitimately intrigued by this one!

Jane Fujiwara says

I really enjoyed learning about the old style of making movies. Also though this story takes place all in one day, it had a nice arch.

Carolynne says

Rather unrealistic story in which Rebecca gets to achieve her dream of acting in a movie at the age of ten and one day. There was a potential conflict between Rebecca's traditional Jewish upbringing and the faster world of movie making, but Rebecca comes off as both naive and preachy. Not the best in the series. However, as always the author's note at the end gives some historical context, in this case about the early silent movie

industry as well as some notes on Jewish family life in 1914. This will help in making the book appropriate for classroom use. The Lexile measure is 750 L.

Sarah Crawford says

This is a very light-hearted book in the series. Rebecca goes to the movie set with Max and ends up getting to act in a movie that is being filmed. She believes her parents would be very much against her doing that (since actors and actresses were looked down upon by many people at the time), so she knows she cannot tell them.

It's also very interesting when the story gets into how the movies were being made since this was the time before sound and before good cameras, so the people in the movie had to basically over-react to make things come out looking right. This even extended to the makeup which was very thick and very light in order to make the person look normal under the lights being used.

As usual, there is a historical section added after the story.

Miri says

Rebecca is turning ten years old, but her birthday falls during Passover, an important Jewish holiday so Rebecca doesn't think she'll be getting a big party, so when her family surprises her, Rebecca is thrilled, but the best gift of all is that her Uncle Max is taking her to the set of the movie he's starring in and Rebecca will get to see how the movie is made! Could this be her big chance to be discovered?

Ciara says

rebecca is obsessed with the new moving pictures that are showing up at theatres around town, even though her parents & grandparents are a bit wary. rebecca hasn't worked up the courage to tell them that she wants to be an actress when she grows up, & not a teacher, like her father expects. rebecca's uncle max is an actor, & the family is not the most supportive of his choice of career. but rebecca thinks it's fascinating.

for rebecca's tenth birthday, max brings her a very fancy hat covered in flowers & takes her to spend the day with him at the movie studio he works for. rebecca gets to visit the prop room & meet the prop master. she meets lily amrstrong, a glamorous actress rebecca had admired on the movie poster for "celopatra". lily is the star of the movie they are shooting that day, "the suitor". rebecca watches lily put on her make-up, which sounds really intense & made me think about the racism of the early days of cinema. but that's neither here nor there, i guess. max is another star of "the suitor," playing the gardener that lily's character is in love with, of which her family doesn't approve. rebecca thinks this sounds like real life--her life, in which movies are the thing she's in love with, of which her family doesn't approve.

the director decides he needs a child to play lily's younger sister, to warn the titular suitors that they have been spotted & are about to be ratted out. rebecca volunteers & gets outfitted & made up & fed some stage directions on the spot (it's a silent movie, so she doesn't have lines, per se). she is surprised at how difficult

acting is, but she keeps it together & gets praise from the director. everyone sticks around to watch the dailies & see how it all came out. rebecca can hardly believe it when she sees herself on the screen, all made up & wearing a costume. she's proud, but also sad that she can never tell her family she was in a movie. the prop master gives rebecca a phonograph as payment. (didn't they have child labor laws in 1914? no? okay, then.)

that's pretty much the whole story. there's not much to it. but i enjoyed it anyway.
