



Braving the Brontes

Katherine Rue

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Carly Keene is a twelve-year-old from Alaska who has always longed for adventure. She gets her wish when she is transported back to 1846 and finds herself living with the Bronte family in England. There is a mystery surrounding the Bronte sisters, and until she solves it Carly is stuck in the past. Will adventure be what she thought it would be? Will she ever get home?

Braving the Brontes Details

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Author : Katherine Rue

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From Reader Review Braving the Brontes for online ebook

Meredith Bollinger says

Carly Keene has succeeded where English teachers and dear friends alike have failed: she has left me curious enough about Jane Eyre to add it to my reading list! Katherine Rue has created a rich view of the Brontë family that allows the reader to become immersed in the world. Her modern-day heroine allows that world to be accessible to those who somehow managed to get to adulthood without reading any of the Brontës' work or having much knowledge of the historical period. It does this all in a compelling story that also provides insight into life in 19th century Yorkshire. For an advanced young reader this could easily be a "gateway book" for many years of quality literature.

Where the book struggled for me was the present day sections. I imagine the reader is supposed to feel like the third member of the friendship, but I was left feeling more like the third wheel. Perhaps more time spent exploring the dynamics of the friendship would help to bring the reader in.

I'm looking forward to Carly's future adventures!

Steven says

I received a copy of this book for an honest review.

Carly Keene, Literary Detective was a fun and imaginative story. The book's description alone was enough to hook me, throw in a bit of nostalgia and I had to read it! The main character, Carly, is very likable and easy to relate to, especially for those who have a vivid imagination and thirst for adventure.

I loved the plot, but initially was hoping for a bit more. For instance, after reading the description I imagined Carly falling into a book filled with fantasy and action. Yet, despite not meeting my expectations, I'm not at all dissatisfied. The thought of falling back in time to meet the Bronte sisters is both unique and creative. Additionally, younger audiences will find this book has plenty of action. After all, there are ghosts, time travel, mystery, and let's not forget adventure --Carly almost died--. Thinking back to the books that I used to read when I was in elementary school, I can definitely see me picking this up off the library shelf.

Hannah says

I had high expectation for Braving the Brontes, and I was not disappointed. This is a darling book that brought me right back to some of my childhood favourites.

Although there is time-travel, adventure, ghosts and adversity aplenty, in so many ways this is really a book about loving books, and I thought it did a really great job of being modern and self-aware and old-fashioned and classic at the same time. The characters are beautifully drawn. What I admired most about this book was the juggling of the Bronte sisters – their world, their sensibilities and their dialogue – with Carly's point of view. One of the aims of this book, according to the publishers, is to create and celebrate strong female characters, and Carly really is a wonderful example of this. She is outdoorsy as well as bookish, competent as well as emotional, and even when she is frustrated or scared, she never loses a sense of discovery and delight in the things around her.

I would highly recommend *Braving the Brontes* not only for boys and girls between 9 and 13, but also for anyone who grew up reading the classics and loving books.

[Received from NetGalley for review.]

Michelle Kidwell says

Carly Keene is looking for adventure adventure she often finds in books what she does not expect is to go back in time to be a guest of the Bronte sisters after she looks at a first edition Jane Eyre book...

Carly finds that in 1846 she is believed to be a cousin name Caroline and she finds that her life there is very different than it is in modern day Alaska.

Carly often finds that she gets herself in trouble with her outspoken ways. When she tries to stand up to Bramwell about his drinking she is the one who gets in trouble.

In order to go back home she must encourage Charlotte Bronte to write Jane Eyre the way her heart has it not just the way society expects it.

Carly Keene Literary detective is a wonderful book one I highly recommend to middle grade to high school readers or anyone who enjoys a good adventure...

Beyond the Pages says

What a wonderfully enchanting book this was! I absolutely loved it. Everything about this book was a draw for me. The writing was superb and the storyline was brilliant. The characters were unique; they had their own voices and noteworthy personalities. The scenes were descriptive and clear. The underlying and obvious conflicts added precious layers to the story. The spook factor was perfect.

I appreciated how the author weaved academics and literary mentions into this book. I thought it was divine...and so very creative.

I cannot wait to learn more about young Carly and her adventures.

Outstanding all the way around!

Rating: 5/5

Recommend: Yes

Reading Appeal: Middle grades to high school+

I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review. The words I have expressed are my own.

Rohan says

This book is about a young girl named Carly Keene from Alaska who has always wanted to go on an adventure. One day she goes into a strange bookstore, where an old man tells her she should read *Jane Eyre*. After she falls asleep, she wakes up in 1846 England with Charlotte, Emily, and Anne Bronte.

I liked this book because of the references to 1840's English life and the description of England and the Brontes. The reason it didn't earn 5 stars was that most 13-year-olds don't know who the Brontes are, so it was very confusing.

Frank says

I know the author, Katherine Rue, and was not surprised that this book is, like her, exciting, funny and fast paced. The heroine, Carly Keene, is a fun, imaginative and determined young woman. Readers will identify with her and want to find out what happens to her as she ventures back in time to the 1840's.

As an historian and writer Katherine brings an accurate and interesting sense of the times and the role of women when Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte were writing. After reading "Braving The Brontes" I think a lot of young readers will not only be inspired to read and enjoy *Jane Eyre*, but will also have a much greater understanding of why the book is such an important work.

Ramesh says

Carly Keene finds herself in England in the 19th century with Charlotte Bronte as a governess. She finds that until *Jane Eyre* gets written, she's stuck, a fish out of water in a place and time that doesn't look kindly on outspoken young girls. After encouraging and cajoling her governess into writing again, we all have to thank Carly for some of our best loved novels.

Our Middleschoolers Book Club loved the story of Carly Keene's rendezvous with the Brontes. I loved that the story had them asking about classic English literature & getting them out of their fantasy series comfort zone. It's an accessible novel for young readers and we're looking for more to come from this debut author.

Andria says

Carly Keene starts out with very descriptive language in the first paragraph and continues throughout the book. The reader can almost see, feel, and touch the elements of Alaska and the 1846 time period. I love the fact that the main character, Carly, supports the fact of a girl being interested in a science camp, books, and literature. Carly is a strong character but she also has flaws. She works hard to overcome her flaws. (Ex. Languages). She is outspoken for the time of 1846 but the author makes it work on behalf of the plot moving forward. Carly and her best friend are voracious readers with plenty of imagination to support the plot of traveling in time and fiction. The book is well written, with the time travel plot worked out completely. The ending left you with the inkling that Carly and, maybe, Francesca would be returning to the literary past. Many other literary connections are made throughout the book, which provides the reader with many books to possibly read next. I am curious as to how the "watching feeling" fits in with the overall series. The one

concern that I have is that this book might be for a limited audience and the publisher would have to do a bit of marketing work to open this book up to a wider audience. The limited audience would be the voracious reader, who reads any and everything. I think that it is possible that those who don't know and love the classics would probably not choose this book without some assistance. This book was provided to me through netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Erica says

This book got off to a bit of a slow start, but once the adventure starts, it picks up.

Carly and her friend Francesca are book worms, and I enjoyed the very fact that they had imaginations and weren't afraid to use them. When Carly is transported in time while reading Jane Eyre at a bookshop, she awakens to find herself in the care of Charlotte Bronte and family. To get home, Carly must inspire the Bronte sister's to write their famous books.

I am familiar with Jane Eyre, but I did not know much about the Bronte's. Because of this book, I ended up researching the family.

I received a copy from NetGalley for an honest review.

Lori Day says

With clever literary devices and intelligent storytelling that takes the young reader seriously, Katherine Rue weaves a page-turning mystery that sends Carly Keene "into a book" while reading Jane Eyre, transporting her from 21st century Alaska to 19th century England. Carly is an adventurous, outspoken and gutsy heroine, sure to inspire you as she does the Bronte sisters. The moors have never been so inviting! A captivating debut YA novel, and a great pick for mother-daughter book clubs.

Jennifer says

Mystery novel and literary-historical? What could be better? *Braving the Brontes* is just the sort of thing literary mothers and daughters might enjoy together. With engaging characters and just enough suspense, the book is hard to put down.

With the well-read pre-teen reader in mind, Katherine Rue keeps the self-conscious references to classics coming. She mentions, among others, Nancy Drew, Sherlock Holmes, Caddie Woodlawn, Laura Ingalls, *Little Women*, *The Secret Garden*, Harry Potter, Narnia, and, with a suggestion of criticism (for a lack of "passion in her characters"), Jane Austen.

The whole project of the book, in fact, seems to be to give young readers an extra nudge to move them from junior fiction into the heavier, grown-up literature of the English master novelists, especially, of course, the Bronte sisters, and the novel of *Jane Eyre* in particular.

Rue does a fantastic job of raising interest in the historical lives of the Brontes. In fact, for a reader who hasn't yet read the Brontes' novels, it seems that Rue's fictionalization of the sisters' lives via Carly Keene might color the reading experience, and perhaps not insignificantly.

But *Braving the Brontes* is more than a pointer to other works. It carries a valuable message that every girl needs to hear, namely, that, in Carly's words, it is okay to feel "angry and sad about bad things that happened to you," and that "talking about those emotions helps get rid of them." Since Carly has space-time-traveled "from a time when it is possible for a lady to 'express herself,'" we are given to understand that she is uniquely well-suited to her assigned task of helping draw out the Bronte sisters' pent up emotions about their troubling life experiences.

As eager as I am for every girl (and boy) to discover the freedom of emotional maturity, I am disappointed in the gap between Carly's stated emotional sagacity and her actual behavior. Instead of "talking about her emotions," Carly tells people off, has tantrums, and panics.

I am afraid that the unintended lesson of the story might be that young people can manipulate others into doing what they want by letting surges of anger and fear drive them to react impulsively even to the point of endangering their own lives. Rather than being in control of her emotions, Carly seems to be controlled by them. And she controls everyone else with her emotional outbursts.

I find it hard to celebrate with Carly's completion of the mission because of the manner in which it is accomplished. As I was reading I kept hoping for a conclusion that would show some change in the protagonist's character development, some indication that perhaps she, reciprocally, had learned something from the Brontes' self-discipline or experienced a growth or transformation in some way. The hint of change for Carly seems to be that she is overcoming some of her insecurity about her ability to make progress in her one weak academic subject in school. With such potent themes and passionate characters, I was hoping for more.

There is a lot of potential here, and I look forward to seeing how Rue develops Carly as the series builds.

I received a copy from NetGalley for an honest review.

Diana says

review on : booknerdloleotodo.blogspot.com

*ARC received for an honest review

Loved this story. What a fantastic book! As the mother of a young daughter I would love for her to read about these types of stories. This book is 109 pages which I think is pretty lengthy for a young reader. I loved the idea of Carly Keene's time travel and the different scenarios that she lived out. I also loved that it takes place in Alaska. This story provides a great mixture of history and mystery. It's also a great way to introduce the Bronte family to literary minds. I love the idea of a young girl as a detective! Worthwhile read for young girls.

Melissa says

I absolutely loved this story from the moment I opened the cover. As a librarian and a voracious reader, you had me at "literary detective". I loved that Carly was as big a reader as I and that we've shared so many good childhood reads: Anne of Green Gables, the Little House series, and Little Women (although I'm a latecomer to that one - just reading it now!). After being transported back in time to live with the Brontes, I learned so much: having never read any of their novels, I knew little about the family. It was fascinating - and such a great way to learn of the times too. I bet today's children will get a lot out of this book, since they can relate to modern Carly while learning together about the 1840s. This was a captivating read, especially for a debut author, and I can wait to read the next installments of this series! And I will get reading "Jane Eyre" and "Wuthering Heights" just as soon as I finish "Little Women"!

Jackie says

Carly is a 12 year old girl who lives in Alaska and dreams about having adventures with her best friend, Francesca. The story starts with with a very short-lived family camping trip which is ended by a combination of too much success with the salmon fishing and signs of a nasty storm coming their way. Once home the girls want to write up the stories that had invented while camping but they are given an errand to perform before they can have free time. While heading home from the store the girls notice an alley, which they had never seen before. They would not have noticed the alley if they had not read the right type of books. This alley was definitely the path to adventure. They find a bookstore and get separated while browsing through the stacks. Carly meets the store owner who starts talking to her about Jane Eyre and the copy in his hands has all the signs of being a rare first edition but the color of the book seems wrong. He insists that Carly sit on a sofa and read the book. Carly falls asleep and when she wakes up she is a member of the Bronte household. Her name is Caroline and she is to study with Miss Charlotte Bronte while her parents are traveling to India. The ghost of a dead Bronte sister, Maria, appears to Carly and tells her that she will not be able to return home until certain conditions are met. Carly is to convince the Bronte sisters that they must write their novels and when they write the novels they must let their emotions be seen & felt by the reader. Carly must also read Jane Eyre before she will be allowed to return to Alaska. This is an intriguing book and it could be a startling experience for anyone who has not read Jane Eyre or some books by Dickens. The 19th century is very realistically portrayed and Carly is both stunned and frightened by the living conditions. As Carly learns to live in a time when patients are bled to cure their fevers and diseases that are rarely seen in the 21st century are common she begins to appreciate the advantages she has left behind. Carly accomplishes her mission and returns to the bookstore at the same moment she left it, in true fictional style. She shares the details with Francesca and the girls go home with plans for more adventures being made. The book ends with an author's note with reference sources about the Brontes and their lives and a list of questions for use by book clubs.
