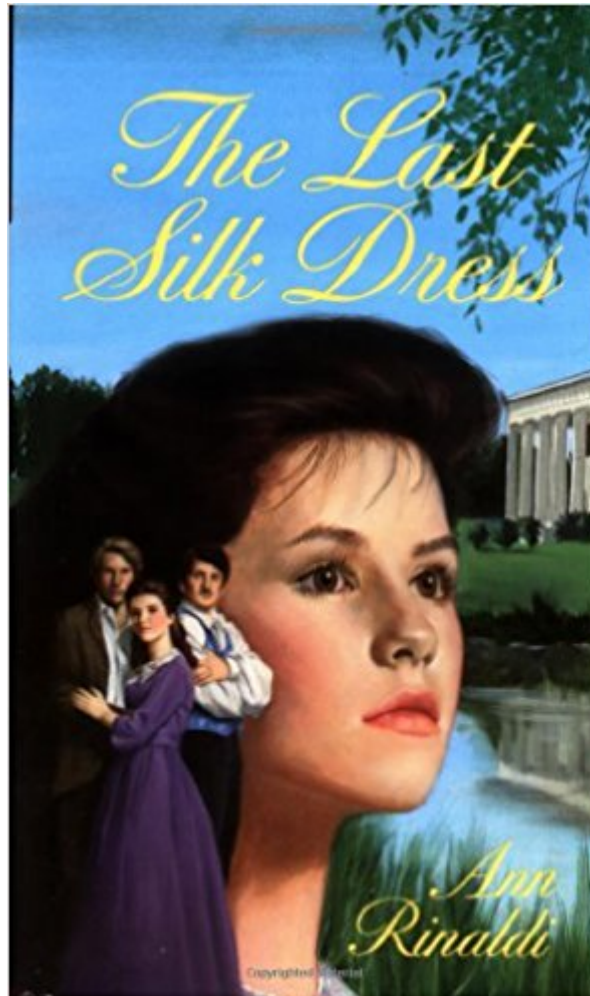




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The Last Silk Dress



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

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

The theme of loyalty to friends, family, country and one's beliefs are an involving integral part of this Civil War story. Susan, 14, of Richmond, helps the Southern cause by sewing and nursing the wounded, missing her father and trying not to rile her "half-mad" mother, who beats her and calls her a Yankee brat. In one exquisite scene, a troop of soldiers bound for the front pass by Susan's house and salute her for making their flag. After collecting silk dresses from ladies and prostitutes alike to be patched together for a reconnaissance balloon, Susan's view of the war changes; through her charismatic brother Lucien, she begins to see how slavery (and adultery) has undermined and all but destroyed her family. The setting of Rinaldi's rich story has been carefully

researched; the writing has an irresistible pull. Ages 12-up. Copyright 1988 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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 of 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? --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

This is the best young adult book I've read. The author is historically accurate and paints a beautiful picture. I give this to many of my students to read!

love it

I enjoyed the book. It gave some interesting background on southern cultural thinking at that time. It had a twist on the ending and was age appropriate for the main character. Good writing.

The Last Silk Dress is an excellent book. The main character is very well written. Ann Rinaldi does a great job in describing the struggles the main character goes through as she learns to be true to herself even if others get hurt. If you love historical novels this is a must read.

great book about unknown part of the War.

It was in fair condition as described. Unfortunately, my daughter already had a copy of this book....but we were pleased with the quick service. Thank you.

The description on the back of the book said this was a story about a girl who was using silk dresses to make a balloon. However, the story was more about illegitimate children and affairs.

I originally read this book sometime during middle school (I'm 25 now) and it is still one of my

favorite books of all time. Up until college I would continually take it out and re-read different parts of it. I am in love with the brother/sister relationship here, and everything is so smartly written. The dialogue is perfect and the details of the war are amazing. This book will make you feel all of the emotions. It's a war book, a friendship book, a family drama book, and a love story. Highly, highly, recommend to anyone of any age.

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