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Vintage Veronica



Synopsis

Veronica Walsh is 15, fashion-minded, fat, and friendless. Her summer job in the Consignment Corner section (Employees Only!) of a vintage clothing store is a dream come true. There Veronica can spend her days separating the one-of-a-kind gem garments from the Dollar-a-Pound duds, without having to deal with people. But when two outrageous yet charismatic salesgirls befriend her and urge her to spy on and follow the mysterious and awkward stock boy Veronica has nicknamed the Nail, Veronica's summer takes a turn for the weird. Suddenly, what began as a prank turns into something else entirely. Which means Veronica may have to come out of hiding and follow something even riskier for the first time: her heart.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.3 out of 5 stars 11 customer reviews

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Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

Customer Reviews

Almost 16, Veronica has lied about her age to get a job at the largest used-clothing store in the Northeast ("The Original Dollar-a-Pound"). Veronica separates the wheat from the chaff, marking the true vintage for the "Real Deal" floor. Despite her weight, Veronica has an eye for fashion, which manifests itself in crinolines and bowling shirts (together) and sketching. She catches the eye of several of her coworkers, including mean girls Zoe and Ginger and a thin, twitchy guy she thinks of as the Nail. In her first novel, Perl masterfully sets her

scene. The store, with its giant chute dumping clothes into "the pile" for the customers (aka "the pickers"), is almost a character in itself. But the author is also quite adept at writing people, especially the reptile-loving Nail, whose rejections and longings match Veronica's. With her pigtails, bulk, and hybrid outfits, it's hard to envision Veronica as the fashion icon others admire. But her story is filled with emotions (and language!) that are both earthy and real, and a romance that's as complicated as it is sweet. Grades 9-12.
--Ilene Cooper

Review, School Library Journal, February 2010:"The protagonist is a self-described "fat girl" who is not obsessed with losing weight—a much-needed character in young adult fiction. An enjoyable read filled with quirky characters."Review, Booklist, February 2010:"In her first novel, Perl masterfully sets her scene."

Don't you just love it when a book surprises you in such a way that it blows you away? I know I do, so I was so glad when I discovered this was the case for *Vintage Veronica*, Erica S. Perl's debut YA novel. *Vintage Veronica* has a lot going for it, in my opinion, since it contains funny, adorable, and relatable main characters, a setting that's catchy, leaving it to be a place that not only Erica brought to life with her writing but one I would love to visit if was real, and a plot that ended up surprising me in more than one aspect, a trait I wasn't expecting to find in this. I've read in other reviews that some found Veronica hard to relate to, but I found it to be the opposite case between me and her, since I felt that her issues were universal. Because who hasn't felt a lack of trust towards others? Or have been hurt badly with past friendships? Or felt they can never live up to the mold their parent(s) want them to fit? I know I can relate to a least one of those, and I have feeling many others can as well. Further more, her relationship with Len, called Dead Boy Walking or The Nail, was something I really enjoyed about *Vintage Veronica*. Since not only was it another one of those cutesy type romances but he, along with Bill (a character who surprised me), taught her some valuable life lessons, one's that she truly needed to hear. Lastly, I liked how her friendships with the floorines, Ginger and Zoe, explored toxic friendships and how even while you may think someone may be perfect, in all truth, they probably aren't, far from it actually. The plot of this was fun as well. I always adored seeing the bits and bolts of how a vintage clothing store runs and the crazy world that ensues inside of it all, along with Veronica's friendship/romantic relationship with the infamous Len. Also, as I've mentioned before, the setting of this one was nearly my favorite part of the book, and I have to say I'm majorly impressed of Erica for being able to describe and pull it off so

efficiently. Though I did have a couple problem with Vintage Veronica. One was the constant use of the f word, among other words in that genre. For the most part, I have no problem with swearing in YA books if it's done tastefully and doesn't feel awkward, but for this one it felt out of place to the point were I always winced when the f-bomb was dropped. Also, I felt the ending of this book was a wrapped up a little too quickly and nicely. But overall? Not the biggest of problems. In all, Vintage Veronica proves to be a load of fun with some substance mixed in as well. So my suggestion to all of my readers out there? Read it because I'm sure you'll love it as much as I did! Grade: A-

I know I was in deep trouble when I saw this cover - loved it! I am a huge fan of covers and I kept thinking that if the cover was any indication, this book was going to be a winner and I was right. Of course, Veronica, the main character who is shy, somewhat fat and doesn't feel as though she really fits in anywhere broke and captured my heart - being a former fat girl myself. If you have never been fat, then you can't really, truly understand just how much of your self confidence and ego gets battered by this. So, it was with a heavy heart that I started reading this story and absolutely fell in love with Veronica and her spirit. Yes, she is shy and yes, she has issues, but the courage this girl has - to make her own statement through her clothing - representing her own sense of style (deep inside) was truly wonderful and touching. Some people find themselves through art, Veronica does it through her own sense of artistic style. The relationship between Veronica and Nail is touching and felt honest to me - as did the relationship between the "other" girls and Veronica - although this one was a lot more predictable in some ways. The author does a great job of writing about a teenager girl who is growing mentally and emotionally each and every day - and doing it with class and dignity. I loved this book.

When I first read the plot summary for VINTAGE VERONICA, I classified it as a cute and didn't really expect it to have any depth, but that first impression was entirely off! Erica Perl has written a novel full of quirky characters that captured my heart and has managed to tell a story that the Veronica in all of us can relate to. The setting and characters of VV were colorful and utterly unforgettable. The only way that I can really describe the feel of the book as is off beat. The easiest way I can describe the novel is by referencing Ellen Page films, like JUNO and WHIP IT. The characters in those films are quirky and seem to stick in your mind as if held there by superglue. Veronica is the star of the novel, but I was most drawn to Len, the mysterious and awkward stock boy. He is so much more than what he seems when the reader is briefly introduced to him at the beginning of the novel. I loved discovering the magic of Len as Veronica spends more time with him.

I really liked that he isn't the normal hearthrob character or the tortured bad boy; he's just Len - and that's all he needs to be. Given that I adore Len, it is understandable that I'm a fan of the romance between him and Veronica. However, it wasn't simply my feelings about Len's character that pulled me into their love story, it was the truthfulness. Len and Veronica's relationship is not perfect, but it is awkward, painful, and so, so tender. There are some romances that take you by storm and you are so totally enraptured in one another that there really isn't very much awkwardness. This is not the case in VV, partly because Veronica tries so hard to keep a cool head about the whole situation and doesn't allow herself to be overwhelmed by her feelings, in the beginning at least. And when one overanalyzes as much as Veronica, there is always going to be some uncomfortable moments. I think that in real life, people generally fit into that second category, so I found this love story particularly touching.

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