



Sovay

Celia Rees

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Sovay

Celia Rees

Sovay Celia Rees

It's England, 1783. When the rich and beautiful Sovay isn't sitting for portraits, she's donning a man's cloak and robbing travelers—in broad daylight. But in a time when political allegiances between France and England are strained, a rogue bandit is not the only thing travelers fear. Spies abound, and rumors of sedition can quickly lead to disappearances. So when Sovay lifts the wallet of one of England's most powerful and dangerous men, it's not just her own identity she must hide, but that of her father. A dazzling historical saga in which the roles of thieves and gentry, good and bad, and men and women are interchanged to riveting effect.

Sovay Details

Date : Published August 19th 2008 by Bloomsbury USA Childrens

ISBN : 9781599902036

Author : Celia Rees

Format : Hardcover 404 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Young Adult, Romance, Fiction

 [Download Sovay ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Sovay ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Sovay Celia Rees

From Reader Review Sovay for online ebook

Arlene says

Sovay by Celia Rees is an ambitious novel with such a disappointing execution. There were too many characters introduced into the storyline to keep them straight. It was more work than what I wanted to commit into figuring out a book that was a hodge-podge of romance, suspense, intrigue, and historical recount of England and the French Revolution.

Sovay is an 18th century highwayman... err... woman in England. Her first armed robbery was motivated by revenge on her fiancé that was supposedly unfaithful to her, but then led to a cause to uncover the reasons for why her family was being sought out for sedition and treason. The book attempts to provide some back story to English history and the French Revolution, but it's simply too messy and confusing to enjoy as a novel or historical recount.

This novel was so frustrating for me because it fell completely flat and at times was a huge borefest. Such a disappointment because I had high hopes for it at the beginning of the novel. I can't say I recommend this novel. There are better books out there to enjoy. Fail! :(

Josie says

This book felt like the author had three ideas for three separate stories, but tried to mash them all into one.

First idea: Girl highwayman gallivanting around the English countryside.

Second idea: Creepy mystery surrounding equally creepy and mysterious cult/secret society.

Third idea: English noblewoman gets caught up in revolutionary France.

WHY? The first part is similar in type to Rees' *Pirates!*; take an idea that appeals to people for the dashing, romantic, adventure of it all (girl highwayman, girl pirates), but is unlikely to have ever happened (much less been at all romantic). She sets us up to believe that Sovay and the suave robber Captain Greenwood will get together with many a spark, never to deliver.

The second part (which is thankfully the shortest), was just plain weird in comparison to the rest of the story, and didn't fit at all; a huge, towering mansion with millions of rooms, dungeons, science labs where sickening experiments take place, and where sadistic, murderous parties often play out. It felt like something out of a gothic-type fantasy novel.

And the final part sees Sovay in France during the end of the Reign of Terror, and saved from the guillotine at the last moment. Here is where the rushed romance of the novel actually occurs too, to a man not introduced 'til the last third of the story, and who sports a delightfully attractive *monobrow*. The evil antagonist from the second part of the story is dealt a hasty, 'oh-and-by-the-way' comeuppance (death by guillotine) that is only mentioned in the final 'tying up of loose ends' summary.

Oh, and another thing (because I haven't complained enough), Sovay spends considerable time disguised as a boy, and despite her 'beautiful face' and 'magnificent figure', *no one notices...* I mean *honestly!*

Rachael says

Young Sovay Middleton's privileged life has been disappointingly lacking of adventure of late, so she does what any bold girl would to—she dons a man's attire and poses as a highwayman. But what starts as a clever test of love soon turns deadly, especially after Sovay steals the wallet of one of the most powerful and

dangerous men in all of England. But the information she also uncovers may be worth risking the law and her personal safety for—her father has been accused to treason. And now, with her family missing, it's up to Sovay to set things right, but the odds are stacked up against her everywhere she goes. She is but a powerless woman in a male-dominated society, unsure of who she can trust because with the revolutionary fever catching from nearby France, London's spy network reaches farther than ever. In this suspenseful and romantic historical novel comes an unforgettable tale of danger and love.

Obviously well researched and well referenced, historical drama Sovay takes readers back to the romantic era of Dickens' *A Tale of Two Cities*. The novel starts energetically and continues to pick up pace as mere adventure morphs into the real threat of death, keeping readers on the edge of their seat. I was so excited to be taken back to the turbulent times during the French Revolution, having enjoyed studying that period and reading one of the few classics I loved, *A Tale of Two Cities*; there was just so much mischief to be made during that time as Rees accurately portrayed. There is something so satisfying about reading a story in which all the pieces fit together so perfectly, as I felt happened in Sovay. Sovay's character is so bold and independent in a Robin Hood-esque kind of way that readers are drawn to her spunky attitude and determination. There were some conflicting times when Sovay let her fear show through, but otherwise, I felt the character development to be sufficient, even if I wished some of the characters played larger roles than they did. Sovay's tale of romance and suspense with a historical edge was a thrill to read.

Readers who enjoy the historical fiction and action genres will want to check out Sovay. Fans of *A Great and Terrible Beauty* by Libba Bray and most especially, *A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens will also fall in love with this exciting tale.

reposted from <http://thebookmuncher.blogspot.com>

Jessica says

I find it interesting that descriptions of this book focus mainly on her dressing as a highwayman, making it sound like she was a bored thrill-seeker. Not hardly! This is a grand, sprawling work of historical fiction, something you don't normally see in YA. Young Sovay does indeed dress as a man in the first part of the book to rob a stage . . . several, actually, but she has good reason to do so. Across the Channel, in France, the Revolution has degenerated into an unstoppable horror of violence and suspicion, where even thinking un-revolutionary thoughts can get you killed, and the mania is spreading to England. King George III is just beginning to suffer bouts of madness, and rumors of a regency or a revolution are in the air. There are spies everywhere, and Sovay's father has always been a champion of equality and human rights. In an effort to protect her family, Sovay, her brother Hugh, and various friends are dragged across the country and eventually to France, encountering spies, prostitutes, thieves, highwaymen, democratic aristocrats (both French and English), Americans, and all kinds of people, giving the reader a rich look at what made this era so fascinating and frightening.

Lady Delacour says

Picked this book because of
Bianca Amato the narrator.
She did a fabulous job!
Found the story very entertaining.
Did I mind that it was a teen book?

Not at all.
For me it means no fillers...
more content.
Will listen to this author again.

Books and Literature for Teens says

The year is 1794 and it seems the world is yearning for revolution, even the British. For Sovay Middleton, life as the daughter of a kind, wise landlord is not very adventurous at all. When her father and brother's lives are threatened by the scent of uprising against the King, Sovay is suddenly thrown into a thrilling ride of a lifetime. From posing as a highwayman, dodging a spymaster's evil and intricate schemes, to facing the sideways traps of the French Revolution, Sovay will do whatever it takes to find her father and bring justice to light. From the author of *Witch Child* and *Pirates!* comes the epic story of one heroine's quest for freedom and love amidst a fierce battle between revolution and power.

.....
Sovay is not just a tale of a highway robbery nor a daring story of villainous spies, but a tale more intricate than any reader would suspect. Many reviews of *Sovay* include disappointment. While the plot is very long and the characters many, *Sovay* is one of the best reads I've read this year. It is not only a heroic story of how justice is sought, but it also opened up a door to history, the history of both our own country and of the civil unrest that both England and France experienced as they too struggled for a People's Independence. This book has robbers, spymasters, Patriots, and suave Frenchmen all combined in a daring race for freedom. The book jacket has everyone fooled into thinking it is just about a girl who "robbed for love", when in fact this synopsis does not in any way do it justice. *Sovay* is a much grander story than that and its plot and scenery changes three times during the course of *Sovay's* tale.

The first part is indeed about her escapades and highway robberies; the second takes places in London, where the evil spymaster Sir Dysart lurks in every alley. London is also where we meet some of the best characters and where we leave some of them behind. The third and final chapter in this story takes places in the heart of the Revolution—Paris, France. The characters are all very detailed in their own way and even though there are quite a few of them to remember, each one is unique in their own way. Besides all the adventures and historical aspects, we have the romantic side. Some reviewers and readers were not satisfied with *Sovay's* final decision. I, on the other hand, was glad the "romantic" part turned out the way it did—very surprising; I like to be kept guessing. Overall, I thought it was an excellent story. Perhaps a bit too much going on in the story all at once sometimes, but a historical masterpiece for young adults nonetheless. I was very sad when, at the end, everyone parted ways and the adventure was over. I do still wonder what happened to a few character that were never mentioned in the epilogue.... then again, you might could already guess.

Recommendation: I really enjoyed the historical detail throughout the novel. It was very surprising to me that Rees mentioned some of the things that were main points in the story. I'm very glad she did though; I believe Rees is speaking to her readers through many of the characters in *Sovay*. Keep her eyes peeled for great speeches from Gabriel, the Middleton's estate manager's son, and Virgil Bennett, "the American". I highly recommend reading *Sovay* for not only the exciting historical adventure, but for understanding why people fought for Independence and Freedom. I think many teens are not aware at how important history is. I hope that by reading *Sovay*, it will bring to life a history that shouldn't be left in the past. Ages 14+.

This Book is For: Young Adults who enjoy historical fiction or fans of Celia Rees

This Book is Not For: Those who get easily scared by 400 pages or those you don't like history (but you should!)

Content: Some graphic violence (PG) | Cover: I don't like faces on covers!

Courtesy of booksandliteratureforteens.blogspot.com

Amy Bethke says

I loved the way this book was written because I truly felt like I was transported back to the 1700's during the French Revolution. Sovay, the main character was very fun and free spirited, though she did bother me sometimes when she just went off doing something crazy without thinking. I found it super cool that the premise of her character came from an old traditional ballad. All of the random characters that cross her path are unique and bring to light a different aspect of what was occurring to the majority during the French Revolution. Historically it does not go into major details about a certain event. What this book does is incorporate normal circumstances of the French Revolution and certain occurrences time wise and write about it. Basically, this book gives you the feeling of the French Revolution, without the full on history lesson.

Things to be aware of on a Scale of 1-10

Sex 4- Sovay offers herself over to Captain Greenwood, though nothing happen. Then, when she meets Leon they kiss a lot.

Violence 6- It is the French Revolution, there is violence all over the place, people dying and such.

Drugs 2- They drink wine a lot, and occasionally Hugh, Virgil and Greenwood get a bit drunk.

Language 1- Mild if any, there may be some swearing in French, though I wouldn't know.

Oksana *Bookaholic* says

This can be summed up in one word... No, two... No, a fricken' SYMBOL = ♥

♥♥♥♥♥ A 5-star, definitely! I don't know why, or how, but as soon as I started reading this book, I was sucked into Sovay's world, and couldn't put the book down. Which isn't an easy feat to accomplish since it's not your usual 200-page novel. I sincerely enjoyed this book. I thought it was fantastic, and frankly, I'm surprised at the awful reviews I see here. Of course, it's all a matter of opinion. I read this in one night, and stayed up so late, that my mom had to come into my room and make me turn my light off. But low-and-behold, that's why flashlights were invented, right?? Anyhoo, I love, with a capital OVE, this book, and recommend it to everyone.

Sinai C. says

Woot...what is there to say about this baby?

Not much to the positive side.

A-- The love interests. OMG! I didn't know who to ship with who! There was Toby and Sovay, but they ended up as friends. Greenwood would have been the most likely choice--but obviously he couldn't marry her because of status and his criminal status although he starts working HONESTLY by the end, there's Gabriel who's a perfect hottie devoted to her well-being except of course he has no space for a wife and kids in his life because he's so devoted to the revolution, and then there's the American who ALSO had a good chance and he seemed interested in her, but wow...he already has someone as they mentioned in ONE line at the end of the book. And so...who does that leave... >> OH RIGHT! The French dude who shows up in the last fifty pages of the book!!! OBVIOUSLY! He's the least attractive but he and Sovay after sharing a romantic lunch start making out in the middle of somewhere and voila--*read in overly-dramatic voice* she is HIS, body and soul. Dude...like...NO. Like...NO! You don't do that to people! We barely got anything from him and already he claimed our heroine? -.-

B- Wow...nice way to end Dysart. Instead of our heroine defeating him, they go through a pointless scene with a forger who betrays them...and for what? For Dysart to get arrested and die anyway in something that had nothing to do with Sovay...she was SOME help. Spent most of that time being useless in prison.

C-- The way the story is told/writing style. Now, I don't mind descriptive language--but there comes a time...when you have to put story and not pointless detail to every.single.little.thing.that.exists. It slowed everything down.

D-- The characters. Talk...about...shallow, over-crowding, forgetful...

E-- Good-grief. I regret picking it up. I thought it would be full of action and adventure...but geez, it went so many places and did so many things and Sovay...I was just dissapointed.

I'm so sorry for not liking this book Ms. Rees :(

Sarah says

This book was a bit of a hot mess. The first 50 pages (and the back and the cover blurbs) promise you one thing, but what you get is a book so chocked full of discordant things that nothing is ever consistent. Is Sovay a scorned rich bitch, a heroic highwayman, a politically shrewd proto-feminist, or an absolute moron? Well it depends on what page you are on. The antagonist that is introduced in the first 50 pages is not the real villain, he is not actually introduced until almost halfway through the book. The first third is a love/adventure story, the second third is a spy story, and the third is some kind of wacky occult Frankenstein. Then there is a sloppy tacked on ending, which answers none of the real questions you have about what happens to the characters and bizarrely marries her off to some guy who only shows up at the very end after you have spent almost 300 pages reading about how every guy is in love with her. Gabriel is the best developed character and he is mysteriously dropped halfway through the book!

To be honest, I wouldn't recommend this book to anyone unless you love YA historical fiction and you are stranded on a desert island with nothing but this. If you want better historical fiction, read Celia Rees "Pirates!". If you want a story set in the French Revolution, pick up "The Red Necklace".

Tara Chevrestt says

I read over a hundred pages of this before the heroine began to grate on my nerves so bad, I could go no further. It's a GREAT idea, a young woman in 1794 England decides to dress as a highway robber to get revenge on a cheating fiance and gets a thrill out of it enough to do it again.. BUT she is TSTL. (too stupid to live)

Come on. Seriously. Your dad and brother are wanted for treason against the King of England and you dress up as a boy, rob stagecoaches, and tell about 5 people your true identity, one of them your jilted fiance? Um, how dumb can you get? You then proceed to hook up with a strange highway man and travel with him to London and rob more stagecoaches just for the fun of it? Let's not forget this is 1700s England and you are a young WOMAN. Ever heard the word rape?

The book is most def aimed at the younger people. I enjoyed this author's Pirates and I love a little bit of preposterousness (pardon my spelling, not even sure that's a word but you get my gist) but this particular tale crosses the line into ridiculousness.

Anne Osterlund says

Within the first 15 pages, Sovay hijacks a carriage, threatens her fiance, and steals back the ring she gave to him. Fabulous beginning! Like all of Celia Reese's novels, Sovay is full of rich, wonderful description that seems to flow so easily by despite the density of the language. The ending was not all I had hoped for, though this may be my own fault for imagining far too early on how the tale should go. Still, the book is full of wonderful hooks and fun drama, though Pirates remains my favorite by the author.

Sarah says

Didn't like this. Totally agree with what others have said about there being three ideas/stories crammed into one book when they didn't really seem to fit together. Plus, I thought Sovay was a nitwit and couldn't warm to her at all (perhaps it was the repeated descriptions of her amazing beauty, boundless courage, dazzling figure, silken hair etc ad nauseum) and the tacked-on romance at the end with Mr Monobrow was the last straw.

I couldn't really understand why she decided to become a highwayman. Testing your fiancee is one thing (although personally I feel it's a little unfair to pull out a gun on your guy to see if he REALLY MEANT what he said about never parting with the ring you gave him, maybe that's just me). After that incident I thought her motives for going back to a life of crime were unclear. Seemed to me it was kind of just for the thrill of it, she chucked all the stuff she stole on the ground in the hope that poor people would find it anyway so it's not like she did it for the money. Maybe there was an explanation in one of the boring political bits that I skipped. And it irritated me that everyone kept admiring her behaviour and calling it brave and corageous instead of reckless and stupid.

Linda says

Read this based on a review by blogger named Random Jottings of Book and Opera Lover. Disappointing. Too many characters led to early confusion. Too much silly occult stuff added when the era and the real issues are more than absorbing. We don't need to worry if she will pull off her rescues and raids, this is YA fiction so we know how it will end. However, all along it appears our heroine (who's masquerading as a highwayman in 18th C. England) will end up with one of two gentlemen. At the last minute someone new is introduced and I found it very annoying as was the update/addendum at the end.

Megan says

Sovay had the potential to be a great novel, but turned out to be an overly ambitious project that sadly misses it's mark. This book is full of wonderful plot devices, too full in fact; therein lies the problem. The story contains elements of Ann Radcliff's gothic suspense, Frances Burney's mannerly romance, and Baroness Orczy's mystery-laden intrigue; but the author seems unable to decide which of these themes demand dominance in the story, and the result is a confusing mess. Too many false stops and starts to the action, too many possible romantic leads that fizzle off into nothing. The ending is abrupt and unsatisfying, and left me wholly disappointed that I spent over two weeks forcing myself to finish it, hoping against hope that the rough spots would even out. They didn't.

I think this story could have been the basis for a respectable trilogy: *Sovay's* adventures as a highwayman, *Sovay's* adventures in the gothic abbey, *Sovay's* adventures in Revolutionary France; but cramming all of these story lines into one novel stifles the chance of allowing any one of them have the chance to develop fully. Further frustrating this reader (and I suspect, others), few of the numerous supporting characters introduced into the various subplots receive anything approaching resolution at the end of the story. The heroine gets a very contrived happy ending in the epilogue, and everyone else apparently disappears into inconsequence, including the family members she spends the better part of the book trying to rescue.

On the other hand, I must give credit for the good aspects of the book that kept me reading despite the meandering storyline--well developed characters, spot-on historical research, and very fine writing style from the author. Ms. Rees clearly knows *how* to tell a story, but in this case it would seem she couldn't quite decide on *what* story she wanted to tell. I'm sure if I were directed to another of her novels with a more clearly defined plot I may find her work most enjoyable.
