



Hattie Ever After

Kirby Larson

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After leaving Uncle Chester's homestead claim, orphan Hattie Brooks throws a lasso around a new dream, even bigger than the Montana sky. She wants to be a reporter, knowing full well that a few pieces published in the *Arlington News* will not suffice. Real reporters must go to Grand Places, and do Grand Things, like Hattie's hero Nellie Bly. Another girl might be stymied by this, but Hattie has faced down a hungry wolf and stood up to a mob of angry men. Nothing can squash her desire to write for a big city newspaper. A letter and love token from Uncle Chester's old flame in San Francisco fuels that desire and Hattie jumps at the opportunity to get there by working as a seamstress for a traveling acting troupe. This could be her chance to solve the mystery of her "scoundrel" uncle and, in the process, help her learn more about herself. But Hattie must first tell Charlie that she will not join him in Seattle. Even though her heart approves of Charlie's plan for their marriage, her mind fears that saying yes to him would be saying no to herself. Hattie holds her own in the big city, literally pitching her way to a byline, and a career that could be even bigger than Nellie Bly's. But can making headlines compensate for the pain of betrayal and lost love? Hattie must dig deep to find her own true place in the world. Kirby Larson once again creates a lovingly written novel about the remarkable and resilient young orphan, Hattie Inez Brooks.

Hattie Ever After Details

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From Reader Review Hattie Ever After for online ebook

Ann says

A good book, and one that will be enjoyed by the many fans of the first Hattie book. I don't think it's as good as the first one, however.

Hattie seemed too young, too naive for her eighteen, especially when after having survived and thrived on the homestead for so long. Yes, that was country life and the city brings with it a different circumstance, and it's not like she wasn't a go-getter who took things into her own hands on multiple occasions, but still. Something I can't quite put my finger on made her seem younger than she was.

This book lacked some of the complexity of the first one. Unlike the previous title, pretty much everything Hattie wanted out of life came true. I loved the ending of the first book for its stark disappointment so deftly tempered by hope. Here everything is wrapped up neatly in a bow. The characters are less complex as well. Traft Martin in the first book was unlikeable, but he was also a fully rounded character with multiple motivations and occasional flashes of niceness. Here the villains are just plain mean. Both of the "villains" shown are quite nice before their betrayals, but afterwards there is no sense of regret or an attempt to understand why s/he made his/her decision. They're simply bad people.

I also found the many coincidences at the beginning of the book offputting. Hattie finishes paying her IOU on the same day that the acting troupe shows up, which is the same day that Charlie drops by unexpectedly? That's a little much. The feathers seemed a bit much as well.

So all in all, a good book, but not one that held up to the high expectations I had after reading the first one.

Sue says

3.5 stars. I liked this book but not as much as "Hattie Big Sky" which I think had more emotional depth and stronger surrounding characters. This book begins where the first one leaves off with Hattie working in Great Falls. She wants to be a reporter and eventually gets her chance in San Francisco, where she is challenged by misogyny and a puzzle involving her Uncle Chester. This story of Chester and Ruby Danvers was pretty easy to figure out from the beginning so I found no suspense there, although younger readers probably won't clue in as soon as I did. Hattie is also torn between her ambition and a possible marriage to Charlie and although this tension was ostensibly caused by the time period, I thought a teen girl who had tried to homestead on her own could have easily figured out much earlier the solution that is finally come to in the end. Having said all that, the book is once again filled with Kirby Larson's trademark attention to period detail and good research which made it interesting and fun to read. Hattie is an authentic character with an original voice, who retains her faith in humanity when faced with the perils of the big city. She learns that people aren't always nice, but she remains good and forgiving. An overall enjoyable read.

Chloe Millar/Angelica Hamilton says

I thought about not writing this review, then remembered that Emily hates getting "Goodreads notification emails" so figured I better make it happen despite my incredibly busy schedule of doing nothing. This book was perhaps one of the best sequels that I have ever read, simply because it was as equal value to me as the

first. I was flying through this book ever so quickly, that is until my English teacher told us to apply our books to the adolescent brain development. As Hattie grew into a young woman, she decided that despite her longing to settle down with her beloved Charlie, she longed for something more. Something better. She quit her "steady job" as a motel cleaning woman and moves to San Francisco in undisclosed desire to become a big-city-reporter. Hattie "isn't facing the problems of her seeds blowing away in a windstorm" but perhaps even more difficult she is facing the sharp cold winds of the worlds prevalent heinous society. Hattie has to give it her all to work her way up in an industry secluded to men at the time, mostly given the "latest faux fur coat to wear in your automobile assignments" I couldn't help relate to Hattie in some of her moments of feeling desperate and lost in a big world, wondering what she is ever to accomplish, if anything. Back on the prairie, Hattie's synapses were pruned to trust people and learn her own strong independence. However, in the city, she has to grow a pair. (Of synapses of course) She is tricked, her feeling are toyed with like that of a stringed doll, and Larson even touches on some sexually manipulated workplace atmospheres, which are still present in today's society. She is forced to MOLD HER BRAIN, this being especially easy due to her young age, to understand that not everyone is who they say they are and are not afraid to tear her down to build themselves up to the top. Hattie is constantly faced with situations in which she uses her limbic system to solve, instead of her only so partially developed prefrontal cortex, especially when it comes to young naive love. I may have only finished this book to read Tina Fey's Bossypants, or the 8 AR points, or the fact that it was "no electronics Saturday" however I am so glad that I finished this, as I now have a new perspective on the true independence and rigor faced to climb their way to the top in the workplace, along with that being successful in life should not be the most important, finding what made Hattie happy is what she was looking for, the missing peice one could say, not to be known. The sappy ending to review: check.

Alyson (Kid Lit Frenzy) says

I loved, loved, loved Hattie Big Sky. By the time, I finished the book, I felt like Hattie was one of my best friends. I was so proud of her and all that she attempted and all that she learned. And then she leaves Vida to start a new chapter.

When I heard that there was going to be a sequel, I was thrilled. A little nervous. What would happen to Hattie now? Would our "friendship" still be there? Well, I should never have doubted Hattie or author, Kirby Larson.

Hattie's voice rang clear and true in this sequel. It felt a bit like connecting up with a dear, dear friend after too much time apart but what is so special is that you immediately pick up where you left off. There is a comfortableness in the relationship. Hattie still has the same spirit of adventure and learning but now in a whole other location and challenge.

I don't want to spoil this one for others and a real review will go up closer to the release date, but I couldn't leave this section blank.

Fans of Hattie's will love the sequel and I hope others will read Hattie Big Sky before February 2013 so they will fall in love with her too.

Zora says

I wanted to love this. I was predisposed to love this. The first book, if you haven't read it, was a historical YA book about a young woman trying to homestead, alone, at the beginning of WWI. It won the Newberry,

and I found it charming and educational, having no idea homesteading lasted that long in the lower 48.

Vague spoilers ahead:

This book follows the same character, older now, to San Francisco after the war, where she tries to start a career as a reporter. The problem with the book is that she is utterly perfect, nothing goes wrong for her, and it feels unrealistic and cloying. Her charming naivete that worked so well in a rural setting seems not so charming in a city and I kept thinking she was going to get ax-murdered any time, acting as foolishly as she does. Instead of brave, she seems a little dim. And she doesn't suffer more than one tiny stumble in her road to happiness, and her unhappiness about that event lasted less than five hours and had zero consequences. Everyone loves her. All her dreams come true and, in many cases, because someone else advocates for her. During a time when most women neither had their cake nor ate it, Hattie gets it all without half-trying. So while Hattie is a young woman now, the intended audience has slipped in age, for only small children could believe this sort of fairy-tale perfection in a story.

Faye says

The sequel to Kirby Larson's highly acclaimed *Hattie Big Sky*, delivers with another terrific coming of age tale of chasing dreams.

After losing her Montana farm Hattie moves to San Francisco to pursue her dream of being a reporter like her hero, Nellie Bly. But leaving for the big city means putting off her best friend, Charlie's marriage proposal. Will Hattie find a home for her heart in the big city?

It isn't everyday that I find a gem such as *Hattie Ever After* in the Young Adult section these days, with its strong, sensible, and sincere heroine. I have loved *Hattie* ever since I read *Hattie Big Sky* a few years, and she has remained one of my favorite, most memorable heroine throughout the last few years.

I loved how Hattie, had a strong sense of who she was, even as she was finding out, and becoming the person she would be--if that makes any sense! She always believed the best about others, and I greatly admired her spunk and grit.

While you may not have to read its prequel to enjoy this book, I would strongly recommend reading *Hattie Big Sky* before reading this book, because Hattie's references to the past will make more sense, and who would want to miss such a fabulous book!

Overall, this book was well written, with a well rounded heroine. I loved how Hattie had an honest faith in God, and how she was always remembering things that her aunt, or Perilee, Charlie or her other friends had said, I felt that it really gave me a sense of those she held dear to her heart, and I loved them because she did. Plus there was plenty going on, never a dull moment to slow my steady flipping of the pages. A fantastic book that I heartily recommend!

I received this ebook from the publisher in exchange for an honest review. Thank you!

Audrey says

At first I really loved this; I actually think the beginning of the book was my favorite part. I found the boarding house setting to be really interesting, and I almost wish the plot would've stayed there—although the San Francisco setting was pretty neat as well. As the story continued, though, many of the plot points hinged on too-neat coincidences. The several chance encounters with famous people seemed especially improbable.

I also felt like the girl power message was shoved down my throat a little too much. I have nothing against a little old-fashioned girl power, but I thought it was layered on a bit thick, and it bothered me just how it was handled. Hattie feels like she has this one last chance to prove herself, as if she can never be herself if she marries. Marriage shouldn't feel like that. It's about unconditional and self-sacrificial love, not a mutually beneficial partnership. Plus, it's not like she'll never have a chance to be a journalist again. By the end of the book she figures this last part out, but she wasn't able to do it herself. It took someone to practically push her to realize that. She needed to decide what she wanted, and what she was looking for. The ambiguous search for self-actualization seemed pointless if she didn't have a goal. While realizing you aren't ready to get married is fine, I think she should've been upfront about this with Charlie. She shouldn't have kept him dangling for so long, as if a husband was merely an accessory she could pick up when it fit into her plans.

I did love the time period and "feel" of the story, as well as Hattie's authentic and often humorous voice, her hardworking and practical attitude, and the fact that she often prayed. There is also a nice little message about trust and forgiveness. I liked the old-fashioned sayings that were sprinkled through the book, such as "opportunity doesn't nibble twice at the same hook" or "well-begun was half done." All the little period details were fun, and the author gives some interesting information about her research and writing process in the Author's Note at the end of the book.

I thought Ruby was an odd villain. I have a bit of a hard time believing she did all that stuff with Hattie—shopping, quilting bees, responding to her letters—just to cultivate her for cash. But I suppose criminals have done lower things.

Random questions: Why does Hattie think of Pearl as her cousin? Who was it that told Mr. Monson about the 49ers article? (And why did she call them "49ers" anyway? They clearly weren't 49ers.) Ned stealing her story *was* really rotten, but—although this fact doesn't excuse what he did—would she ever have gotten her break without him? Why did Ruby have some of Chester's books? Why did Charlie and Hattie wait four years before getting married? What did they do in the meantime? Why was there no explanation given for this?

In conclusion, while the book is squeaky clean (a kiss that "tasted of peppermint" is pretty much the extent of it) and has a fun setting and a likable heroine, everything just seemed to happen a little too neatly. I have a feeling I would've loved this a lot more as a kid, though, so take my review with a grain of salt.

Syuhada says

I have no idea I started reading this book on the second one. But still i can fathom everything about the story. It was historical fiction book and guess what i really like the language.

“If trusting others was foolish, well, much better to be a fool. If you didn’t trust, didn’t open your heart up to people, to one special person, that was what made you a failure. Not a summer hailstorm. Not a homestead left behind. Not a huckster in the form of a false friend.”

Kayla says

I thought I'd like this book, but I didn't expect to love it this much. In my opinion, it was better than the first book even. Also, I really liked the setting, as I didn't know much about it, plus it was just cool to begin with. Also, the characters were great. One of the highlights of this book was that we finally got to meet Charlie in person, which I loved. One of my new favorites.

Christopher says

Hattie Big Sky was one of those books that truly surprised me with how much it enveloped me in its world. Historical fiction is truly not my bag (especially middle grade HF) and it blew me away. I started reading Hattie Ever After with high expectations and found myself pleasantly satisfied with the first two thirds of the story, and then it goes downhill quite fast from there. Hattie's accomplishments come off as wild coincidences. Her encounter in the elevator with a very important man made my eyes roll out of my head, in particular. There are so many events crammed into the last thirty pages that are screaming to be elaborated on. I like Hattie and her voice, but I just wish she was given a better book to showcase that strong authoritative modern female voice. A bit of a disappointment.

Andrea Cox says

This second adventure in the fictional life of Hattie Brooks was an intriguing journey with lots of twists and surprises along the way. This book is sure to keep you guessing with nearly every chapter. I really enjoyed the mystery and nods to the early 1920s (fashion in particular). The sweet author's note, read by the author herself, was interesting and eye-opening about her research and why she wrote this second book in the Hattie series.

Content: profanity (English and French), tobacco products

Afton Nelson says

Bravo Kirby Larson! A first class read with a very authentic feel. You can tell she did her research on early 1900's San Francisco, airplanes, fashion and the newspaper business. And women! Hattie is so fresh and spunky and honestly believes she can do anything. And she does! Despite having her big heart and her trust violated in "Big Sky" and this book, she doesn't lose her pluck and determination. Way to go Hattie. And way to go Kirby Larson for a fantastic sequel to the Newbery Medal winning "Hattie Big Sky."

Shelby says

5 Stars!

Such a great book. I enjoyed reading this series. I have learned somethings that I did not know about the struggles that had happened in America. I like it when I read books and then after finishing it I learn this that I did not know before. It is always great to learn new things that you never learned before. I did like this one a little bit better because it was more interesting than the first book I thought. I loved the writing and the Historical Fiction story. This is one Historical Fiction that I really liked. I wish there was more books in the series than just two books, that is one down side of the series.

Brichimt says

In this long awaited sequel to the award winning Hattie Big Sky (Delacorte, 2006) the story picks up Hattie after she lost her Montana homestead and arrives in San Francisco with hopes of making it as a newspaper reporter. To pay the bills, she takes on several jobs to survive. One of the jobs is as a cleaning lady at the San Francisco Chronicle. This particular job get her inside the building where she discovers the newspaper's stock of back issues and began looking through them for news on her late Uncle Chester. What she develops as she searches the back issues are all the skills one needs to perform basic research, which is definitely what a good reporter needs to be equipped with. Hattie is not alone in the big city for long. Charlie, a friend from her childhood, in back from the war and shows up. He has taken a job in Seattle with the Boeing company and comes to the city for an air show and runs into Hattie. Perilee, one of Hattie's neighbors from Montana has also moved to Seattle and keeps up a busy letter exchange. The story is a quick read and has left room for a possible third installment.

Phoebe says

This novel felt so rushed and lacked the appeal of the first book. Everything seems to come a little too easily for Hattie, who turns her back on Charlie to head out to San Francisco in hopes of pursuing a career as a reporter. She manages this goal in a relatively short time despite having no formal schooling, no secretarial skills, and no resources. Her romance with Charlie is the most genuine part of the book, and her tug of war with herself regarding career versus marriage is one many women of her time must have experienced. In the end, Hattie gets it all, and are we surprised? Not really, because Kirby Larson makes everything easy for her heroine. Stick with the true adventure, and real plot, of the first book. Upper junior high, older.
