

Des Moines, Iowa

Dear Ms. Holm,

When my mom and I finished your book, Our Only May Amelia, we went to the library to check out another one of your books. It was called Boston Jane-An Adventure. My mom began reading it and liked it so much she had me read it. I hated it. All the words were too long and confusing, and everybody had weird names. I kept on reading it though because my mom thought it was a great book. After a little while (though I didn't like to admit it), the book began growing on me. It started when I drew a picture of Jane Peck. She wore a green dress, and her unruly red hair was tied up in a green ribbon. Even though her waist was about two inches across and her head five inches across, I thought it looked superb. For the book, I guess, I was hooked.

It started as the "dreaded book I was required to read for school". Now, I can say that I haven't only read the whole series six times, but I know exactly what happens, in which book, off the top of my head. I know which chapter Jane goes to Miss Hepplewhite's Young Ladies Academy for the first time in Boston Jane-An Adventure. I know when Mrs. Frink, the "lady at last", comes to the rough and tumble wilderness in Boston Jane-Wilderness Days. I know when Sally Biddle, her childhood tormentor, invades the vast and beautiful Shoalwater Bay in Boston Jane-The Claim.

So, why have I read each book in the series six times? The answer is simple. You sucked me from the couch in the living room to a "hard, flea-ridden" bunk in the middle of absolutely nowhere. There, I tagged along right behind Jane wherever she went, whatever she did, and however she felt. I could feel the excitement at the Fourth of July celebration, and the weariness of Jane when she was caring for the Indians with small pox. I could imagine how Jane felt when Jehu, the man who stole both Jane's heart and mine, proposed to her in front of hundreds of people. (I can't help but absentmindedly smile as I read that part.) Adventure, humor, and some romance made this a worthwhile and enjoyable series to read.

After writing this letter, I'm beginning to think I should read the series for the seventh time.

Sincerely,

Rachel Menzel