



## The Debutante

*Kathryn Williams*

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## **The Debutante** Kathryn Williams

Annie McRae has her whole senior year planned out. Early acceptance to Brown University, a field hockey scholarship to pay the bills, and days spent with her best friend Jamie and her boyfriend Jake. It is going to be perfect. Then her parents ruin it all by moving--to Alabama. Now, Annie finds herself in an unfamiliar world where she isn't even sure she speaks the same language. To top it off, she discovers that if she ever wants to escape back to her comfortable Yankee life, she will have to become a debutante. As in white-dress-wearing, perfect-manners-practicing, curtsying girly-girl. Fighting every step of the way, Annie spends the year learning to be a lady. Along the way, she discovers that friends can come from the most unlikely of places and that change is not always a bad thing...

## **The Debutante Details**

Date : Published May 1st 2008 by Hyperion Books for Children

ISBN : 9781423100454

Author : Kathryn Williams

Format : Hardcover 248 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit

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## From Reader Review The Debutante for online ebook

### Lisa says

Anne Gordon MacRae is upset and with a very justifiable cause. It is mid-summer before her Senior year at high school and her parents decide to pack up and move from Connecticut to Alabama. She is forced to adapt to an entirely different lifestyle and deal with an overbearing "Gram". Overall I found this an enjoyable, quick read that was cutesy but still serious. However, I still have a few complaints. After a while, I found Anne to be a whiney, tomboy who is extremely judgmental and is not at all open minded. The references to underage drinking and smoking were brief, but still I did not appreciate them being there at all.

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### Jessica | Booked J says

Full review: <http://bookgirl.co.vu/post/8406157147...>

Revised review; originally posted in 2008. The Debutante has the perfect formula down when it comes to its target audience. Kathryn Williams is charming as always in her writing as she presents to us a lovely coming of age story that appears in a young girls life when her family decides to up and move to a new location and home during her senior year of high school.

Although The Debutante isn't a groundbreaking novel by any means, it is surely enough to keep you entertained when you're in the need of something light and fluffy to read in your free time. It manages to take a familiar formula of writing and turns it into something that still remains refreshing and often hilarious. This is something that Williams manages to do with ease and for that, I love her.

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### Felisa Rosa says

Annie, who has spent the first 17 years of her life in Connecticut and thus enjoys listening to The String Cheese Incident, is dismayed to learn that she will be spending her senior year in Beuford, Alabama. She is even more dismayed to learn that her conservative grandmother will not pay for college (Brown, of course) unless she comes out as a debutante. Based on this description, those of you who know me may be surprised to hear that I actually liked this book (except for the part where Annie reveals that she thinks of herself as a 'prippie' or 'preppy hippy'). I was pleasantly surprised by the casual/realistic portrayal of teenage drinking and smoking. I guess I was expecting something a little more Sweet Valley 'Ohmygod she tried Coors Light for the first time and now she's in a coma!' High. Instead the teenagers in this book drive around drinking and smoking and hang out 'raising hell' in church parking lots, which seemed fairly realistic to me. Silly and light but pleasant. Recommended for those of you who like chick lit and/or young adult books.

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### Selena (Life of a Random) says

A good light read. There was some language and a lot of what I guess you would call misconceptions or exaggerated ones anyway about the South and Southern people, but I totally agreed with Annie's opinion of big fluffy white dresses and etiquette.

I understand her extreme dislike for her grandmother. And there was a cute Southern like/love interest. But the book was mostly about change and how it can be a positive influence on your life if you let it. That being said, Annie (the MC) complained a lot. Seriously, lots of complaining. I think that's the part I like the least.

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### **BookChic Club says**

Williams' debut novel is a sassy, sarcastic romp through the traditions of Southern life and an absolute joy to read. Annie's journey through this new world she had very little knowledge of before is very realistic and, as a Northerner (well, not TECHNICALLY since I am from Virginia, but it is the northern part!), I don't know much about the whole debutante world, and Williams teaches the reader without hitting them over the head with it. Her writing is fresh and funny, and Annie's voice rings so true; also, I absolutely loved the romance in the book- it was just so adorable! Keep an eye out for this book!

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### **Rebecca says**

This was a pretty silly book. It reminded me of Gilmore Girls in some ways, with the rich, overbearing grandmother and the whole debutante thing (I enjoyed that episode, ah the good old days). Except this heroine just moved from Connecticut to Alabama and apparently thinks that the deb only happens in the South. (As Gilmore Girls is set in Connecticut, I'm quite sure this is not true). I would have liked this book more without the underage drinking. It also seemed to skip around quiet randomly. Overall, it was just ok.

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### **Sami Sheronas says**

The Debutante

The Debutante, by Kathryn Williams is a story about a girl named Anne Gordon McRae who moves from Connecticut to Beaufort, Alabama just in time for her senior year of high school. She is forced to choose between her personal interests and her academic career. To make matters worse, she finds out that her ex-boyfriend has been dating her best friend! Annie makes new friends (and even a new boyfriend) at Beaufort Country Day School. Annie learns that it doesn't matter where you are, as much as who you're with.

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### **Rachael says**

Annie McRae is upset, and not without good reason. It's her senior year of high school, and her parents are forcing her to move with them from Connecticut, the state where she grew up, to not-so-sweet-home-Alabama. To make matters worse, her boyfriend dumped her, her supposed best friend is hooking up with her now ex-boyfriend, and her grandmother is forcing her to "deb" in order to pay for college. At first, Annie refuses, thinking that she can just get a scholarship, but when she doesn't get it, it seems that she will have to deb after all.

Annie struggles to accept the move throughout the whole book. She also has difficulty forgetting her best

friend's betrayal. But despite the fact that Annie is unwilling to make an effort to accept her new life, she does make new friends among the other debs. And there's nothing like a new crush to make you forget about that cheating ex-boyfriend.

The Debutante was a short and sweet read. I thoroughly enjoyed reading from Annie's perspective, because she is very witty. I especially enjoyed reading about Annie's stereotypes and watching her learn to accept that her life wasn't so bad after all. My only complaint was that the time span seemed a little awkward. There would be one event, a little jump in time, and then another event. It did eliminate awkward slow spots in the novel, but it also made Annie's senior year in high school pass rather quickly.

The Debutante is a slight twist on the classic tale of girl is forced to move and boyfriend dumps her, but I loved it nonetheless. I recommend this novel for fans of How Not to Be Popular by Jennifer Ziegler.

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

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### **Cory says**

Is it just me or are there a million "It's my last year of high school and my parents just moved me away from everything I love" books out right now? At any rate, this one was interesting enough and I did get a bit misty-eyed at parts (although I'm a sap, so you might not want to pay attention to that).

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### **Kathy \* Bookworm Nation says**

So this was a fun read that totally sucks you into the Southern charm of Alabama. Annie goes through quite the change as the book progresses. At first she is very upset with her parents for dragging her away from her friends and life in Connecticut to the slower paced lifestyle and demanding Grandmother in Alabama. I imagine it would be rather hard to move your senior year in high school and I felt bad for Annie when I put myself in her shoes. I'm glad she made friends and started to make the best of the situation. There were a couple loose ends I wish would have been tied up. First, at the beginning of the story Annie receives a box from her best-friend Jamie, to open in a time of crisis. The box is soon forgotten and I'm curious what was inside! Second, I wanted there to be some resolution between Annie and her Connecticut friends, maybe open the box and bring back old memories and reconciliation ensues? Anyway, it was a cute read and I enjoyed learning a little etiquette along the way (something I'm probably in need of). It reminded me of a Tina Ferraro or Janette Rallison novel, with a little less romantic comedy.

It does contain underage smoking/drinking, but otherwise very clean.

Bookworm Rating: 3.5

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### **Katy says**

I actually liked this book quite a bit. I went to it expecting to be disappointed... I'm a fan of YA literature, but I, as bad as it is, judge books by their covers.. and it's a rare case when I can find a book I like in a PINK

cover. Typically, pink covers signal extremely adolescent, completely cheesy, and thoroughly annoying characters. But I found myself relating to the main character. I did not move my senior year, but I moved into high school my freshman year and I went through the same transition. At times her whininess annoyed me, but I could understand it. I liked that it wasn't just a romance book.. but a friendship and family book. It teaches the principle to NOT judge a book by its cover (maybe that's why it has a pink sleeve).

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### **Dannielle says**

So this was a pretty perfect book for me, considering my move to Alabama was like a living hell. I have a feeling that if I had been Annie's age when we moved, I would have reacted just as she did in this wonderful book. It's super sweet and totally hilarious. I dare you not to laugh when you read this, even if you are a 'southern belle.'

I identified so well with Annie that I think that may be why I enjoyed reading it so much. I laughed and giggled so much, because I knew what she was feeling at certain times, and how crazy Alabama can be. I was really satisfied with the ending, which granted it five stars, rather than four.

If you want something short and silly to read, here's your book!

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### **Cheryl says**

I enjoyed this book as a light read. However, as a person who was born in (and has lived her entire life in) Alabama--it read a bit like alternate universe fiction. I have never attended a debutante ball. I've never known anyone who has come out in society that way. I haven't even seen any coverage in the newspapers where the rich girls in town have done so. Is this still a thing? Do people still do this? Strange...

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### **Kelli says**

This book...was very boring. VERY boring. Perhaps it is because it is usually for younger kids, though there is cussing...anyways, I just really didn't enjoy this book. I mean, the first thing I said when I finished was "well...that was dumb." It just seemed a bit useless. It reminded me of a book that a teacher would read to a class (without the swear words) in 5th grade.

I just saw that there was no point to it, if that makes any sense. It was, in my opinion, a "cute" book, but not enjoyable. Like I said earlier, perhaps for 5th graders.

It took me so long to read this book because I just could not get into it. I spent about 3 of the 5 days doing other things instead of reading.

I also read this book after an amazing series, Eragon, so that just made it look all the worse. I'm sorry, this is just my opinion, but I just could NOT get into it at all. Some books leave me smiling at the end of it, even if it is a childish book, thinking "aw, that was a cute book!" not "well...that was dumb."

Anyways, I really can't say anything else other than I rate this book 1 star out of 5. I mean, it wasn't so terrible that I regret reading it, I just did not like it, and nothing sparked me into that "story" world I get into while reading a good book...nothing interested me. With that being said, I would recommend this to mature 5th-6th graders, perhaps.

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## Liviana says

Annie McRae's family moves to Alabama at the start of her senior year. Not only does she have to make friends all over again, but she probably won't get a field hockey scholarship and be able to attend Brown University. Her grandmother will help out - if she becomes a debutante.

I understood how much the move upset Annie. It's tough at any time, much less in a year when you were just expecting to coast. I was exasperated with her at points. Yes, being a deb is a little silly and way expensive, but there are a ton of girls (including one of her friends) who would really enjoy doing it. She makes it out to be the end of the world when all her grandmother wants her to do is learn manners and attend parties in a pretty dress.

Though my sympathy for Annie varies, it's still a cute, fun book. There's a romance (of course) and any romance is improved by a Southern gentleman.

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