



Parked at the Mansfields'

Sandy Ward Bell

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Keeping with the heart and spirit of Jane Austen's Mansfield Park, author Sandy Ward Bell tells a parallel story with a modern twist. As a ten year-old, Franny Price is taken from her mother. Forced to live in Pittsburgh with wealthy relatives, who are practically strangers, she learns to nurture herself. While her crazy aunt obsesses about a secret family key, Franny finds the courage to obey her instincts as she falls in love with the boy down the street and searches for her missing father. Ambitious neighbors arrive, resulting in a collision of ideals, jealousy, and a test of friendships.

Parked at the Mansfields' Details

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From Reader Review Parked at the Mansfields' for online ebook

Jess Swann says

Pffff insipide et ennuyeux sont les termes qui conviennent... C'est mon premier roman emprunté via kindlle unlimited et je suis ravie d'avoir gardé mon argent. Les personnages n'ont qu'une vague ressemblance avec ceux de Jane Austen et l'auteure est allée au plus simple pour les relations entre Fanny et Edmund... Au lieu d'introduire un cousin de Fanny, elle a fait d'Edmund un voisin... Elle aurait pu trouver autre chose... Mrs Norris est aussi radicalement différente, là on a une espèce de fanatique d'ésotérisme persuadée d'avoir une mission secrète... La tante Bertram se révèle avoir plus de caractère dans cette version mais ce n'est pas pour le mieux... Les personnages de Maria et Julia (ici Courtney et Julie) sont également nuls... En vérité, la seule qui est réussie c'est Franny (Fanny) mais le reste est loupé pour moi... Mention moins pour la relation entre Franny et son frère qui n'a rien à voir avec ce que Jane Austen a fait. Quand aux diaboliques Crawford... leur background est si ridicule qu'on a du mal à y croire... La fin et la révélation du secret tombe à plat aussi

Ce que j'aime : le personnage de Franny qui, somme toute, est un peu près fidèle à l'original

Ce que j'aime moins : tout le reste, les personnages sont mal caractérisés et le scénario est trop alambiqué pour être crédible

En bref : Une réécriture moderne de Mansfield Park, qui, même si elle est bien écrite ne réussit pas le pari de transposer le roman à l'époque moderne

Ma note

3/10

Sheila Majczan says

3.5 stars

Sorry but this book just did not earn my admiration. It is a modern variation set mostly in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (A city I lived in for 2 years.) 40% of the book has us reading about Franny Price from age 10 to age 16 when she is then to attend Penn State on a full scholarship. She and her brother were place with Aunt Mary and Uncle Tom Mansfield and their three children: Neil, Courtney and Julie. Franny has become best friend with Eddie Ausen but when the Crawfords move into Aunt Wilma's old house where their sister and her husband have taken residence. Sally Crawford decides she can easily seduce him away from Franny who "is a prude".

We skip the college years and find Franny interviewing for jobs. Pittsburgh draws her back.

There are some strange family dynamics in this story. Aunt Wilma Norris is OCD and also burns certain colored candles and speaks in certain patterns to find her next step...hopefully to locating a family key her mother told her about on her death bed. There is also the fact that Wilma hates the youngest sister and makes no bones about that and transfers that hate to the daughter. Disagreements about money, about secret closets, even about where Franny can live are part of the unsettling events in this tale.

Franny has one idiosyncrasy: she loves to learn and use a new word every day.

Franny is not without those who admire and even help her (besides Eddie): cousin Julie is a constant and the family Chef Charlie acts the part of a favorite, protecting and standing up for Franny.

Most of this book seemed to be more aimed at young adults. There are no sex scenes although such is alluded to at times.

The author did a good job of following the outline of Jane Austen's canon but maybe the fact that Mansfield Park is my least favorite book and Fanny Price my least favorite heroine is part of the reason that this story just did not appeal to me. Although I must say that this Franny had more passion in parts of the tale than Jane Austen's Fanny. She even admits to jealousy and unrequited love.

Cherokee Moore says

I really liked this book. It was a good read and I felt the character development was great.

Favorite quote "I always thought her pretty, not strikingly pretty but pretty enough as people say; a sort of beauty that grows on one."

Sandy says

Ms. Bell captures the heart and spirit of Mansfield Park with her updated take on Jane Austen's Fanny Price ("Franny" in Ms. Bell's version) and her life at the manor. She imbues Franny with many qualities that make her a great role model for girls of today - strong morals, a lively intellect, compassion for others, as well as a strong desire to achieve her goals. I think this book would be a great read for teenage girls that need to see that there is more to life than boys!

While Parked at the Mansfields', I enjoyed getting to know the cast of characters that complete Franny's world, familiar from Jane Austen's work, yet made fresh with Ms. Bell's take on them. This is Ms. Bell's sophomore novel, and she has taken on a daunting challenge, and succeeded in making a memorable edition to the Jane Austen catalogue. Well done!

Ruth says

This is a fun read. You become vested in the characters and want to follow them from the start. You don't have to be an Austen fan or have read any Austen to understand this book. If you are an Austen fan and have read her work it adds one more level of interest. You will not be disappointed.

Michael Tucker says

In Parked at the Mansfields' author Sandy Ward Bell abandons the dialect of eighteenth century England in

favor of the language of modern day in the Steel City of Pittsburgh. And yinz is gonna love!

The novel is true to the theme of Jane Austin's Mansfield Park, but with a contemporary slant. Austinites and Pittsburghers will love rooting for Franny as she seeks to find truth, love, and happiness.

Danijela Snyder says

Loved this book. Modern day twist on Mansfield Park. Especially great way to introduce a young reader to Jane Austen! The character development was fabulous.
