



Designs By Isabelle

Laurence Yep , Anna Kmet (Illustrations)

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As Isabelle rehearses her ballet routine for The Nutcracker, she wonders if she'll ever master her pirouettes, especially with her classmate Renata pointing out her every mistake. She tries focusing on the other parts of the production she enjoys: exploring the costume and props room and helping out with costumes for some of the younger dancers. But when Jade, her big sister who also attends Anna Hart School of the Arts, becomes moody and withdrawn, Isabelle taps into her design skills to try to find a solution for Jade. In the meantime, can Isabelle find the confidence to tune out Renata and perfect her own performance, too?

Designs By Isabelle Details

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Author : Laurence Yep , Anna Kmet (Illustrations)

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From Reader Review Designs By Isabelle for online ebook

runningwithschisms says

These books just do not sit right with me. The dolls and movies from American Girl are great, but the books? Meh. The characters are stereotypical, the story lines are overused and the writing is at times choppy. I understand that the authors were instructed to write at a 3rd-5th grade level, but some have done better at this than others. And then of, course there are the happily-ever-after type endings. Everyone ends up loving Isabelle's designs, and not one person disagrees that Isabelle is the best designer ever! Yay! Anyway, this book is just not my favorite, and I doubt I'll read it again.

Stephanie says

Designs by Isabelle by Laurence Yep is a book about a girl named Isabelle that likes to dance and design. The book is about Isabelle designing the costumes for the play that shes in. I did like this book because is really interesting and it inspired me. I would recommend this book to all the people that like american girls book and people that like to dance or design.

Toryn says

Great book!

Ty Baker says

this book is so good I have read it like three times

Laura says

Isabelle learns to use her talents.

Jennifer says

An entertaining little book, which as a stand alone rates 4 stars, but as part of the series, perhaps only 3 -- the plot, as far as our main character is concerned, is almost identical to the first book.

And a quibble: Five more minutes spent with a map of the D.C. metropolitan area would have benefited Yep. In book one, he misstates Georgetown's location within the city; in book two, he calls Silver Spring, Maryland, "Silver Springs", an error a local like Isabelle would never make. For a publisher that strives for

realism and factual accuracy in its books, these errors of geography, small as they are, are nonetheless embarrassing (and uncharacteristic).

Cara says

I read this book entirely while waiting for my computer to generate PDFs of a children's book that I was working for a client--somewhat inspired by this series. I was surprised at how very much I enjoyed this book. I guess I should read more kid-lit! This book had a clear story arc, likable characters that I wanted to succeed, challenges to overcome, useful tips on overcoming adversity, and a positive, inspiring vibe. It's short and very simple, but maybe that's the beauty of it. I can't remember the last time I read an adult book that was so crisp. This book didn't have anything that didn't need to be there, and reading it made me very happy. I assumed this series was purely a money-maker, but this book was good! Even though the client project is over now, I actually went back to the library and got a bunch more in the series, just to read for fun.

storystereo says

3/20/18 Quick Review:

I think if I could do half stars, I may put 3.5. I think it's good, and quite a well told story. But I'm not sure how special it is. As I said, it's good.

Xyra says

I liked this one better than the first. Here the self doubt and nervousness sounded more genuine and was better placed. Detractors will note a few of the plot points to be unlikely or unrealistic, but there are cases where true talent in young people is recognized and appreciated by adults so I feel they were okay. If you have read the book and are not sure what I mean, then those plot points set well with you too.

At the end of the first book, Jade and Isabelle (and many of Isabelle's friends or classmates) are cast in The Nutcracker. This book focuses on the rehearsals and time leading up to the big day as well as the first big performance of the holiday season. We get to see Isabelle battle her inner demons with help from the adults involved with the performance.

It is interesting that the first book focuses on daily life at school and here (except for a math quiz) we only see the rehearsals for the Nutcracker. Are they working on this at school? Instead of school? In addition to regular school classes and dance classes?

The secondary and tertiary characters are very flat. I really want more from and of the best friend, Luisa. She is a best friend and could be very well rounded and more present than she is.

The trickle down advice is really great. Isabelle is not afraid to take advice from the other people in her life including the adults. She takes their help to heart and even uses it to help others. Very impressive and very mature. Like Jackie...I give Isabelle a thumbs up.

Isabelle's love of dance and design provide a depth of skill and interest that will help her later in life. She is very talented and if something should happen to her dance career, she has a great fallback option.

Good book two. On to book Three.

Brylee Ure says

I love this book

Anna Grace says

It reminds it of myself. #dancer4ever

Balletprincess says

Four stars because everyone likes her designs which isn't realistic I would love to have seen her deal with constructive criticism from adults and maybe a not so nice comment from a kid. Seriously American girl in real life you don't always get what you want or worked so hard for McKenna got on the competitive team it would have been nice to see her deal with not getting a place on the team since there were so few spots. I'm going to write my own books that are more realistic so girls can lean how to deal with disappointment and criticism that you get in real life. It's a good book but it would have been better see above comment.

In the real girls real stories the knitter is Phoenix Bess she has a book it girl knits published in 2008 and patterns on raverly just search her name.

Galion Public Library Teens says

Review by M.T. : "I liked when Jackie asked Isabelle to be in her show and dance with her. Girls would like this."

Emily says

I liked this one better than the last one because it followed the story of the progression of the nutcracker show and I liked imagining it and thinking about the holidays. I felt like the story was more pointed than the last one and I liked seeing her improve in her dancing and in her accomplishments with design.

Aliza Heslop says

I love how you get to see the design side and dance side of Isabelle. She was so thoughtful with Jade and Addison.
