



Twenty Pageants Later

Caroline B. Cooney

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Scottie-Anne's older sister is a 'professional' participant in beauty contests, and after watching so many of them, Scottie-Anne's conclusion is that brains don't count much. she wants nothing to do with what she considers the shallow, egotistical world of pageants-until her school holds one. Scottie-Anne is shocked to realize that she wants to win! After all, no one wants to be a runner -up.

Twenty Pageants Later Details

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Author : Caroline B. Cooney

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From Reader Review Twenty Pageants Later for online ebook

Alexis says

The story of Scottie-Anne trying to beat her sister in something! Great book!!!

Pamela Tracy says

There were many things to like about this book, mainly that struggling to fit in doesn't matter whether you're on the top or the bottom.

I did love Dane usurping the MC.

I did like how the girls turned snippy when in competition.

A bit dated but still real.

Brandyn says

I read this about a decade ago, but it just crossed my mind and decided if I still remember it so fondly after that long I should add it.

Gracie says

an easy read

Christi Flagg says

One of my favorite young adult novels...a younger sister of a beauty pageant pro gets talked into participating in a beauty pageant herself. Hilarity ensues.

Hannah Kline says

I finished this book a few minutes ago for the first time even though I have owned it for years. As I was reading it I don't think I was even 40 pages in before I started to almost cry. By page 50 I was crying and I started to cry periodically throughout this book. I really connected with Scottie-Anne and her struggles to feel good enough.

Deborah says

One of my favorite books from childhood - probably because I felt like I could identify with Scottie-Anne.

Karijean31 says

It was a fluffy book but fun.

Kimberly Polanco says

This book is about a girl named Scottie-Anne who has a sister who knows everything about pageants because she has been in a lot of them. Scottie-Anne learns a lesson that even if you aren't beautiful or perfect there's always something for you. I recommend this book to anyone.

Arminzerella says

Caroline B. Cooney has been a big name in young adult fiction for many years (even back when I, *gasp*, was a teenager), but I had never read one of her books. She has always been paired in my head with names like Lois Duncan and RL Stine – who also write suspense/thriller/horror stories for teens. I read a few books by RL Stine and Lois Duncan as a teen, before moving on to more adult suspense/horror stories (Stephen King, Dean Koontz, etc.). They were enjoyable in a sort of series fiction way (which means that I enjoyed the first few, discovered they were formulaic, and then lost interest).

Twenty Pageants Later is a standalone title - it's not part of a series and it's definitely a departure from the suspense/horror genre, so I can't say how it compares to Cooney's other works. It's about beauty pageants. It's got a girly cover. I was totally prepared to hate it, or at least to mock it. And I couldn't. Because it was actually pretty good – way better, in fact, than a lot of things that are being published for teens today.

Scottie-Anne has been mostly tolerant of her older sister's (Dane) obsession with beauty pageants. Dane has been competing for years and her family has invested serious time and money in her interest. Scottie-Anne, on the other hand, has been waiting for her moment to do something important. When she gets tricked into entering her middle school's beauty pageant (to raise money for a new set of encyclopedias), Scottie-Anne entertains fantasies of winning and upstaging Dane. She's realistic about it, however, and realizes that her looks are nothing special. She decides to apply for (and receives!) a scholarship to study Russian at Yale University. It seems like nothing special to anyone else, but Scottie-Anne's classmates (all older) like her for who she is (funny, sarcastic, smart) and everyone comes out to support her when she competes in the pageant. Instead of being the worst experience of her life, it ends up being one of the best.

SPOILER!

Scottie doesn't win. But that's ok. Scottie-Anne finds out just how appreciated and loved she really is. She even emerges at the end with her sense of humor intact. One of the things I really liked about this book was

that the characters weren't just cookie-cutter stereotypes. They were realistic (not completely good or evil), and they sometimes did surprising things. There was lots of snappy dialogue, and Dane has some excellent comebacks. It was funny, smart, and it never ever made me cringe or roll my eyes. That's saying something. I'd even recommend it. Best news, though? I'm not going to weed it!

Jaachim says

Possibly the only Caroline Cooney book that I've enjoyed.

Miranda ♥? says

I read this book back in Middle School and remember loving it! The perfect book for Tweens and younger Teens, this book packs a powerful message about body image!

Sarah Tilatitsky says

I pretty much like Scottie-Anne. She seems like a practical person that likes frills from time to time, but doesn't like doing it all the time. Actually, this book is great. It is perfect for people that are practical, but would like some special things. I would love to reread this book. The title isn't what it seems to be, so just read and enjoy. ?

Callista Hunter says

Twenty Pageants Later had a huge impact on me when I first read it as a kid, and I've re-read it more times than I can count. Among so many fairy-tale wish fulfillment stories of the-girl-gets-the-guy, this book stood out for its honesty and its realism. It also raised a lot of questions about what it means to be beautiful, and whether there might be something wrong with our perception of beauty as a society ("blonde and skinny always wins"). Common themes now, but when I was a kid, this book was eye-opening. A must-read if you love YA.

Oh, and you've gotta love the prom dresses on the cover.

M says

I don;t know what made me think of this book, which I read and loved in sixth grade, but I felt I had to add it here as all those years later I still remember it fondly. A well done tale of the plain sister to the glamorous beauty queen and an honest discussion of how much looks do and do not count for.
