



Rebel Belle

Rachel Hawkins

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Harper Price, peerless Southern belle, was born ready for a Homecoming tiara. But after a strange run-in at the dance imbues her with incredible abilities, Harper's destiny takes a turn for the seriously weird. She becomes a Paladin, one of an ancient line of guardians with agility, super strength and lethal fighting instincts.

Just when life can't get any more disastrously crazy, Harper finds out who she's charged to protect: David Stark, school reporter, subject of a mysterious prophecy and possibly Harper's least favorite person. But things get complicated when Harper starts falling for him—and discovers that David's own fate could very well be to destroy Earth.

With snappy banter, cotillion dresses, non-stop action and a touch of magic, this new young adult series from bestseller Rachel Hawkins is going to make y'all beg for more.

Rebel Belle Details

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Author : Rachel Hawkins

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From Reader Review Rebel Belle for online ebook

Simona Bartolotta says

I deem it appropriate to start the year with a good laugh, so: welcome 2016. Let's get started.

"I was bringing this by to say sorry for yesterday. To both of you" I added as Saylor moved forward. "You know, for the... the car driving and the recklessness, and the-the grabbing..."
With my free hand I started making this clutching gesture. I was talking about grabbing David's shirt, but it looked like I was milking a cow.
Or worse."

This was *racy*. And yes, I admit it: I laughed like an idiot. Here and in so many other moments that I lost count of them. And I *enjoyed* it. I enjoyed a high school drama.

It's a new year, guys.

In my defense I say there were superpowers. Kind of. Superpowers are always a good excuse. Kind of.

•The **protagonist** of this story, **Harper Price**, is perfect. Homecoming queen, impossibly high grades, owner of the BBE (Best Boyfriend Ever) aka Ryan Bradshaw. It won't take but a decent amount of nastiness to make her the nightmare and the dream of every teenage girl ever existed.

Except she's not.

I was sure I was going to have problems with her -beauty queens are not exactly my prototype of favorite main character- but instead I found myself thinking more than once that she is likeable. More than likeable. She's the kind of girl you'd love to have as a friend. She may seem perfect and good at everything she does, and I won't say she is not, but she's not *only* that: she can get all awkward and ill-at-ease, and if I started to call her names when she almost freaks out for forgetting the lipstick at home, I couldn't help warming to her during the rest of the book. She is **competitive, tough, determinate, and she simply doesn't quit**. She is the girl, or part of the girl, I'd like to be and try to be.

•Of course the **plot** is not really intricate, and there aren't who-knows-what unpredictable plot-twists, but I was expecting none of them. I expected a funny story with easy-going, nice characters, and I got them. Or better, I got more, because this book is also **deliciously written**. I wasn't prepared to that, but I loved Hawkins' storytelling: being told in first person, Harper also plays as narrator, and she is incredibly good at it. Lovable.

► Sure, it's not perfect -there are some really silly moments that spoiled my fun a little, but looking to the story as a whole they appear as minor flaws. I am so thrilled about the sequel -I already miss Harper. See? She's like a good friend, I told you.

And in case you're wondering, yes, I have a thing for David. What? He's *cute*. And smart. Smart *and* cute. Don't try to say you didn't fall for him too, because you don't fool me.

Jessica ❁ ⇨ Silverbow ⇨ ❁ Rabid Reads-no-more says

Reviewed by: Rabid Reads

I was born and raised in the South. My husband was too, but he's not a *real* Southerner—his father is from

San Francisco, and his mother is from Michigan. They moved to Georgia from up north a few years before the hubs was born, bringin' their Northern and West Coast ways with them.

Not that there's anything wrong with Northern or West Coast ways; they just aren't Southern.

Still aren't, b/c even after 30+ years of living in the South, there are times when I'll say or do something, and my husband will be completely bewildered. Or bothered. For example, he particularly dislikes it when I say, "I suwannee." But I do say it. Regularly. Perhaps even more often than I usually would b/c sometimes it's fun to bother your husband.

smiles winsomely

The point is that it is a truth universally acknowledged that your family has to have lived in the South for several generations before you are really and truly Southern, and I have a sneaking suspicion that Ms. Hawkins is really and truly Southern, b/c REBEL BELLE captures that essential Southern-ness better than anything I have read in a long, long time.

It was positively delightful.

I laughed so hard and so often that I was grateful to be reading in the privacy of my own home, AND I read all of it in one sitting. It was that good. Once, I even laughed so hard that I cried. My husband thought I was having a fit. Maybe I was . . .

But if I was, I couldn't help it.

With Harper tossing out one-liners left and right, and her crazy great aunts being . . . well, crazy great aunts (and also the source of the longest and loudest laughter), I don't see how I could possibly be blamed for the perceived hysteria that this book induced.

So stop looking at me like I've lost my mind, m'kay?

And this book has more to offer than just humor. Harper is a character that is easy to connect with whether you're from the South or not. I'm sure that many of you know someone that deals with grief by making herself too busy to think (or you may even be that kind of person yourself), and that is exactly what Harper is struggling with. She's the Head Cheerleader, the President of Future Business Leaders of America and the Student Council, Captain of the Debate team, etc.

So the last thing she needs is to have superhero-like abilities unceremoniously thrust upon her and the accompanying biological imperative to protect her archnemesis David Stark (a HIPSTER *gasp of horror*).

Unfortunately for Harper, that is precisely what happens . . .

There weren't many problems with this book, and the problems I did have weren't huge. The Big Bad was a little flat; I didn't understand her or her motivations. She just kind of showed up, this megalomaniac, narcissistic teenager, wrecking havoc wherever she went. And aside from David, who can't really be considered a secondary, and Harper's best friend Bee, the other secondaries were also a little bit underdeveloped. Based on the ending, however, I'm hopeful that we'll learn more about them in the future.

But overall REBEL BELLE is sheer perfection for what it is—yummy good brain candy. There are still real

problems and obstacles to face, but you don't become bogged down with trials and tribulations. Harper is a clever girl, capable of thinking on her feet, and if those feet happen to be wearing a pair of fantastic heels—what of it? I highly recommend this book to anyone in need of something lighter and fluffier than the standard Urban Fantasy, YA or otherwise, and I can't wait to see what the next installment brings.

Aqsa says

4 stars.

I loved it! But man, Hex Hall was waaaay better!

THAT COVER IS QUITE FABULOUS. Its like the girly version of Macbeth. (Knife/Crown)

Wendy Darling says

Goes down like a cool glass of sweet tea on a hot summer's day. SO much fun! If you love Hex Hall or other lighthearted, funny paranormal books, you'll certainly enjoy this.

Full review, ARC giveaway, and hummingbird cake recipe posted to the blog!
<http://www.themidnightgarden.net/2014...>

Vanessa J. says

Looking back, none of this would have happened if I'd brought lip gloss the night of the Homecoming Dance.

That is the first line of the book. With just that, I already started having bad feels about it. My interest even died with that simple first line. The ironic thing is... what Harper the perfect Belle says is true: If she hadn't forgotten her goddamned lip-freaking-gloss, there would have been no story.

But really, was there a story? If I remember well, the book started with Harper and her friends at Homecoming party, she forgot her stupid lip gloss, went to the bathroom to put it on, and things started getting weird for fuckery's sake - meaning, everything that happened screamed that the author was trying too hard to make you laugh. All she got from me was:

And my expression only varied from that to this:

...in a very short span of time.

You already know how slim my patience is when it comes to immature or stupid heroines. Since this book was narrated by someone who possessed both traits, it's no surprise that I ended up despising her. Her way of talking (exactly like Anna from *Anna and the French Kiss*) was enough of a reason to hate her, but what really put me off was her taboo towards strong words. Let me show you some examples of what she said:

“Oh, this is some bullshit,” I whispered. That's when I knew I was seriously freaked out. I never curse out loud, not even in private. It's just not ladylike.

She said the actual word. Saylor Stark said the F-word.

There is everything wrong with the first quote. If it contained an ounce of truth, what do you dumb-ass think all women are? Please, even if not all teenagers swear, they're not scandalized by it, and less even diminish others for doing so. The worst part of that, though, is that she has the stereotyped idea that ladies must not swear because that makes them not-ladies.

Speaking of stereotypes... Why did all the teenagers here felt formulaic? All the girls obsessed over clothes, make-up, and boys, and all the boys were the typical non-caring. Jesus, not all teenagers are like that! where I studied, it's true that some people were like that, but it's never okay to generalize. As a matter of fact, it was a minority the ones who gave more importance to those things than studies.

Furthermore, the plot (if you consider it a plot) was beyond ridiculous. Let's say... After what happened with the lip gloss, the janitor came with a sword to Harper, then the History teacher came, she defended herself by killing him and she got superpowers out of the blue. Wtf? What irked me is, as I said, that it tries so hard to be all funny. Harper even jokes about the death of that teacher. Because that's right: She kills him, and she does not feel shocked, guilty, or pleased or anything about it – she just shrugs it off and jokes about it, and that's just so unrealistic and enraging.

Oh, but things get worse. There's a love triangle, and it takes over the book. And to make it more cliched, it's between Harper, her boyfriend, and a guy with whom there was mutual hatred. It's even more annoying because she says things like this:

I had not almost kissed him, I reminded myself. He had almost kissed me, and if he had, I would have pushed him away and made all sorts of shocked sounds, and not kissed him back, even a little bit. I was positive of that.

She sounds as if she's trying to convince herself there are no feelings, when we, non-idiotic readers, already know she will end up blushing at everything said boy says or does. Much predictable, huh?

Now, as final words, picture what I said in my pre-review: Your mother baked a delicious cake on Sunday, but not all of it was eaten that day so they put it in the fridge. Some days after, there's only one slice left, and you remember how delicious the cake was. You go open the door, pick it, and when you're going to take the first bite you notice there's mold in it. That feeling you get at that moment – that utter underwhelming sensation and the anger because why didn't we eat it before? – *that* is how I feel about this book.

And Harper, I have some final words for you:

Pre-review (November 9th, 2015):

What a goddamn awful book. Do you know how I feel? Picture this: Your mother baked a delicious cake on Sunday, but not all of it was eaten that day so they put it in the fridge. Some days after, there's only one slice left, and you remember how delicious the cake was. You go open the door, pick it, and when you're going to take the first bite you notice there's mold in it. That feeling you get at that moment - that utter underwhelming sensation and the anger because why didn't we eat it before? - *that* is how I feel about this book.

More detailed review to come.

Ariel says

This is, quite frankly, the best book I've read this year! (Not including when I reread one of my favourite books :P)

It's funny (I laughed out loud a number of times), it's heartfelt (I felt so bad for our main character quite a few times), it's adorable (so many cute moments between our love interests!), it's aggravating (WHY?!?!), it's surprising (I didn't see a bunch of those plot twists coming!) and it's exciting (WHAT A RIDE!!)

At the heart of a book like this, when you have a heroine who's narrating the story from the first person, it's important that you have some type of connection with the lead character, and I so did. I loved Harper! She was bossy and judgemental, but that was okay because she was being Harper and I knew that she wasn't being malicious, she just had a different personality to my own and I appreciated that.

Excitingly, I'm going to be doing a full review for this book because while I was reading I kept thinking "I want to talk to my subscribers about this part! And this part! And this part!" So I'm going to! :D

Link to review: Coming soon!

Khanh, first of her name, mother of bunnies says

Once again, my chest tightened, and there was that weird fluttering sensation that was like butterflies. But it couldn't be butterflies. I did not have butterflies over David Stark.

25% of the way in, I was sure I would give this book a 4, but I ended up wanting to fling this book at Harper's head. This book may be really, really cute, **but overall, it's just an overextended love triangle without much of a plot.** Nothing of importance happens in this book.

This was not a bad book by any means. I absolutely adored the main character, the relationships and the friendships were wonderfully written, the high school kids were just plain cute. But seriously, **there was no fucking point to the love triangle**, and I wanted to bash my head in every time the WONDERFUL BESTEST BOYFRIEND EVER **Ryan** clashed with BROODING HIPSTER ASSHOLE (with a heart of gold) **David**.

Not since *Unearthly* has a love triangle been so **dragged out to agonizing nonresolution** until the very fucking end. There was no fucking point to this love triangle. Why did it need a love triangle? Why could she not protect one guy and be his friend while remaining with her current boyfriend?! Why?!

If you don't mind the love triangle, I would recommend this book, because it was seriously sweet, as in the "I just ate a half pound of French chocolate truffles, but who cares, bitches, they're TRUFFLES!" sort of sweet. It was the good kind of sweetness. This book is so lighthearted and cute. But *that love triangle*, man!

The Summary:

"So, Harper Jane Price. Are you ready to accept your destiny?"

It's silly, but if Harper hadn't forgotten her lip gloss, this never would have happened.

Harper Jane Price, Southern Belle extraordinaire, is perfect. She has a great life (let's not talk about her dead sister), a loving, wonderful boyfriend **Ryan**, fantastic friends, adoring parents, and a bright future.

Southern Belles are beautiful on the surface, sure, but what you might fail to notice upon first glance is that they have a backbone made of steel. Harper is one of those "I don't know how she does it" type of gal. Great grades, school president, popular, admired. Until the night it all starts to unravel. Until the night she forgot her lipgloss at the homecoming dance. Because then she had to borrow her friend's lip gloss. Because she stepped into the bathroom, only to encounter her school janitor, Mr. Hall, bloody and battered.

His breath was coming out in short gasps, and there was a dark red stain spreading across his expansive belly. There was no doubt in my mind that he was dying.

Before dying, Mr. Hall breathes an ice-cold breath of air into Harper's lungs (ew), and whispers to her...

"Look after him, okay?" he said, his eyes looking glazed again. "Make sure he's...he's safe."

WTF?! So there's Harper, in her Homecoming outfit (which cost over \$1k), hovering over a dead man. SHIT. And to make it worse, at that moment, her history teacher barges in. Not only does he insult her...

“I really can’t think of a worse choice,” he said, still smiling, “than the bimbo who wrote a paper on the history of shoes for my class.”

But he tries to kill her!! He doesn't exactly succeed, because somehow Harper finds the strength in herself to kick his ass.

The sword was still poised in the air when I came to an abrupt stop and sunk the heel into his throat, right under his jaw.

He really shouldn't have called her a bimbo.

So crap, what the fuck is all this?! Before he died, Mr. Hall muttered something about a "Pal," and some vague shit about protection. After Googling this shit, Harper theorizes that the "Pal" means Paladin (Thank you, World of Warcraft, really!). So the only thing Harper has to figure out now is *who* she's meant to protect.

*Mr. Hall hadn't been a superhero. He'd been a Paladin, and that was . . . different, right? And what—or who—had been his noble cause?
What was mine?*

She'll figure it out eventually. Meanwhile, there's school to deal with. Not to mention asshole hipster extraordinaire **David Stark**. Everyone has a thorn in their life, and David Stark is Harper's pain in the ass. He's the only skinny-jean wearing hipster in the entire school, and **ever since childhood, David's mission has been to take Harper down**. Currently, he's on the school paper, writing vicious articles about her, and this latest one is the last fucking straw.

Under the picture of me and Bee, there was a smaller caption: Homecoming Queen misses crowning under mysterious circumstances. My eyes darted over the rest of the article as my heart started pounding. “...hiding in the boys’ room...violently ill...tension between the ‘Queen Bee’ and her underling, Bee Franklin...this reporter...”

Harper Price is PISSED, and she's going to murder that asshole. Except she can't.

Whatever the reason, my right hand shot up to slap David Stark across the face. Half an inch from David's cheek, my hand stopped in midair. And it wasn't because I had some crisis of conscience, either. It was like my hand hit an invisible wall right by his head.

Well, fuck. **It turns out that Harper is a Paladin chosen to protect David**. And as much as she hates him, she can't hurt him. In fact, she has to protect him with her life. What will become of Harper's life? Her relationship with her friends, her wonderful boyfriend? Is she prepared to give it all up to protect David?

*I withdrew my hand. “No, thank you.”
Saylor and David both stared.
“I appreciate your offer very much,” I continued. “But I’m afraid I have to refuse.”*

Well, we all know that it's not that simple. But Harper already has so much on her plate. How is she going to deal with David...while trying to maintain her relationship with Ryan?!

“But you’re always arguing with him. Or talking about him. Or competing with him. And sometimes I wonder how you can be so obsessed with someone you supposedly hate.”

And Ryan is so understanding. He's trying to understand WHY she's spending so much time away from him. Harper is so busy sneaking around with David **talking about being a Paladin** that she just doesn't have any time for the perfect Ryan anymore. And Ryan really is perfect.

"I love you," he said at last. "You know that. But it's...it's like we're speaking two different languages most of the time. Harper." He tugged on my hand. "If there's something going on with you, you can tell me, okay?"

Even as he suspects something's going on between David and his girlfriend...

*"You guys seemed pretty...intense yesterday," Ryan said, dropping my hand.
"Yeah, we were intensely arguing over him writing that stupid article," I said even as I had a sudden vision of me and David, laughing in his car. Hugging. God, we had hugged.*

THAT'S THE ENTIRE FUCKING BOOK.

The Premise: The Paladin thing is just...strange. This is pretty original, in that I've rarely seen the concept of **the Paladin** used, and to be honest...it doesn't quite work. It's just a protector, nothing more. Someone assigned to protect a person, and the concept was not convincing. The mythology behind it wasn't well-drawn enough to be truly attractive, and overall, I just found the concept rather baffling. This book completely lacks *Hex Hall's* magic in that sense. **It is an urban fantasy that's too light on the fantasy, with almost no relevant action at all.**

Harper: She is just a fabulous narrator.

The quintessential Steel Magnolia. She reminds me a little bit of **Mac in the Fever** series. Before you go running away, I have to make a case for Harper. She is young, she is 17, and she is so utterly competent. **Think of Harper as Mac 4.0.** Harper has none of Mac's immaturity, on the contrary, Harper is **astoundingly capable.** She is cheerleader, class president, Homecoming organizer, she's in the Future Business Leaders of America, she's got great grades, she's got a gentle nature, she holds it all together. Most of it had to do with the fact that she's trying to get over her sister's death. Harper organizes away her grief with perfection. So much that her parents worry about her.

And the next time I did school stuff in the middle of the night, I just did it in my closet with the door locked. Honestly, what is wrong with this country when striving for excellence means you need antidepressants?

I absolutely loved Harper. She is never judgmental, she is a Southern Belle with none of the annoying characteristics, and honestly, I hate to generalize, but **if you've got an Y chromosome, you're probably not going to like this book because Harper is so adorably girly.**

THE MOTHEREFFING LOVE TRIANGLE:

Ryan was a good guy. He always had been.

Harper has a boyfriend, Ryan, and he is absolutely perfect. Handsome, smart, he has supported her throughout her family tragedy. He has stood by her while she joins 1000000 school committees, waiting

patiently for her to make time for him. She's been in love with Ryan since 3rd grade, and it took her 6 years to get him. They've been dating for a couple of years, and **Ryan is an absolute darling**. He is an utter gentleman.

He lowered his head and kissed me, albeit pretty chastely. PDA is vile, and Ryan, being my Perfect Boyfriend, knows how I feel about it.

He gets along with her friends.

"Ladies," Ryan said, nodding at Amanda, Abigail, and Mary Beth. "Let me guess. Y'all are...plotting world domination?"

"No," Amanda told him, deadly serious. "We're talking about Cotillion."

"Ah, world domination, Cotillion. Same difference," Ryan replied with an easy grin, and this time, all three girls giggled, even Amanda.

Her parents adore him. He truly is a wonderful guy. He's concerned about her, about all the pressures Harper places on herself.

And Harper adores him. Until David Stark steps into the picture.

She and David have known each other since they were children, too, it's a small Southern town, y'all. **Harper and David have been each others' nemesis their entire lives, since the cradle, almost.**

He and I had loathed each other since kindergarten. Heck, even before that. Mom says he's the only baby I ever bit in daycare.

It followed through to middle school.

"I'm sure you'd hate to miss everyone's felicitations."

David had beaten me in the final round of our sixth-grade spelling bee with that word and now, all these years later, he still tried to drop it into conversation whenever he could.

He's taken to writing vicious articles attacking her leadership in school, and implying that she was pregnant. But the instant Harper gets "assigned" to protect him...suddenly, something fucking changes!

For one horrifying second, I thought he was going to kiss me. I wasn't really sure how I'd react if he did.

But it was only a hug. And if I maybe spent a second or two thinking that he actually smelled really nice, or that he was much more solid than he appeared, so what?

AND SO THE APOCALYPSE BEGINS. Who will it be? Will it be Ryan, lovely boyfriend Ryan who's waiting patiently on the side while Harper gets all her school shit and secret Paladin shit together? Or will it be David?!

Still, I had to admit, yellow was a good color on him. It brought out the gold in his hair, and—I stopped myself. The gold in his hair? Since when did I care about David.

SO WHO WILL SHE MOTHERFUCKING CHOOSE?! Wonderful, neglected Ryan, or asshole-with-a-heart David? And will she ever stop being a motherfucking terrible girlfriend?!

"But, God, Harper, sometimes I feel like your whole life is a checklist, and I am way down at

*the bottom. And, you know, every once in awhile, you throw me a bone to keep me happy.”
I flinched at that, hard. Not only because it was insulting, but because it was way too close to
the truth.*

Emily May says

[(hide spoiler)]

Lia Bonnibel (pidgey) says

*"When you die in a hundred years, they'll probably write on your gravestone, 'Here Lies
Harper Price - Damn It, She Still Had Stuff to Do!'"*

First of all,

Second,

This book was probably the hugest disappointment I've had since when I was 3 and found out you don't get a candy tree if you plant gummy bears.

I decided to read it because I've been told the main character is both girly and a badass and, in all honesty, I'm soooo done with authors shoving down our throats the same kickass female characters who despise dresses and everything pink-ish.

As if wearing make-up or adoring ballet flats makes you less of a modern woman.

Anywhoooo...

The point is, I've had my reasons to dive into this book feeling like I was about to get some quality girl power action, and instead I found myself with a fistful of cringey moments and the urge to snort some chili pepper in order to feel something.

Let me be clear.

Even if I'm not going to spend any word on the matter, the book itself is not even that bad.

The writing is sort of nice and funny in its own frilly way, and I could easily bypass the teenage angst, the plot holes, the cheesy romance and the inaccuracy of the facts.

Heck, I could even momentarily forget about how rushed and anticlimactic (and flipping absurd, jesus fries) the ending was...

But I could never, ever, ever forgive the author for failing what could have been a pleasant book with one of the worse main characters I've read about in the last two years.

Since it's only fair to give credit where credit is due, I'll start this rant by saying that I firmly hate double-standards, and I recognize that Harper has some flaws (things like being so confident and inconsiderate to the point it gets annoying, for example) that could be seen as positive or charming traits if she were a male character.

I don't hate her for these things.

I hate her because Harper Jane Price is an uptight, selfish and immature kid who's the farthest there is from the *Badass & Girly* hero she's supposed to represent.

I get it, we have to deal with the homecoming queen who comes from a wealthy family, the perfectionist who's got nothing but straight A+ on her school curriculum, the southern belle who dreams a white wedding with flowers and butterflies, who magically has the chance to turn her life upside down and do

I promise, I get it.

But still, her nauseating holier-than-thou attitude and inclination to thinking her farts smell like Chanel n. 5, made her almost insufferable to the point I considered dropping the book halfway through it.

I don't care if you're a princess or a peasant, I don't care if you wear pearls or kombat boots, just don't be a stupid prick about it.

I was so happy to read about a girl who stands out for herself, so happy to relate to someone who shamelessly likes all her girly things and is able to throw powerkicks at the same time, but the case here was different.

Harper changed her behavior way too suddenly.

She was (almost) cool as long as she was fighting and embracing her destiny as a Paladin, but as soon as boyfriends (plural intended), friends, shoes and school duties were involved, she became the spoiled kid that made me roll my eyes forever (yes, they're still rolling).

I can't help but think it would have been better to mix these two aspects of her personality together, rather than separating them clearly in two different sides.

Also, with fact is that, with characters like this one, you'd usually expect a development of some kind, at some point. Our dear Miss Price, on the other hand, has the special ability to become more and more hateful, childish and exasperating as the story goes on.

Now, I have no idea what southern belle actually are or how they should behave, but according to my beloved Wikipedia, they should be judgy binches who treat people outside of their clique like absolute shit.
Exhibit 1: (view spoiler)

Exhibit 2 (and this was probably the final nail in the coffin):

"In fact, if I decided to do something so low-class as get a tattoo, [...]"

Well, fuck you, too.

I mean, it's totally okay if you don't like them, but by saying this is basically like affirming that every single person who has a tattoo is a bag of shit.

Ugh, so darn shallow!

So yeah, lasses and lads.

This is what kept this book from gaining more than those two miserable stars.

I also feel incredibly frustrated about that cover, because it's incredibly pretty, but this book doesn't deserve it.

At all.

As I said before, it makes me a bit sad to give Rebel Belle such low ratings, because the story in general isn't even destined for the dump, but I swear I'd rather roll on glowing embers than reading this book once again.

Farewell, Rachel Hawkins.

May our path cross again.

Possibly, under luckier and better bookish circumstances.

Until then, me and my tattoos will be more than happy to avoid *Harpy*, erm, Harper Jane Price and her inner ugliness like the plague.

Lol

Saniya says

I need a doctor...

COVER!

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

This book exceeded my expectations! It's such a fun and thrilling ride. If you're interested in hearing more of my thoughts check out my video review here: <http://youtu.be/NnE1bM57JK0>

Um... I DID NOT SEE THAT PLOT TWIST COMING. I'm going to have to do a book talk for this one! So much to talk about.

Navessa says

4.5 STARS

Well, that was fucking awesome. Er, sorry. I mean, *effing* awesome. Not sure the MC of this novel would approve of my swearing in a review.

You see, Harper Price is a southern belle, raised on good manners and tradition. Sure, she might be a little vain, and more than a little self-centered, but that doesn't necessarily make her a bad person. In fact, she has a sort of self-deprecating sense of humor that makes it pretty hard to hate the girl, regardless of her snobbery.

She reminds me a lot of one of my all-time favorite female leads: Mac, from the *Fever* series. She's exactly what I imagine Mac to have been like in high school. She's your classic over-achiever. Top of her class, head of innumerable school clubs, charity volunteer extraordinaire, you name it.

Her life is the high school dream your parents tried to get you to believe in. She's popular, has an incredibly loyal best friend, a dreamy boyfriend, is a shoe-in for prom queen, and will most likely be valedictorian to boot.

That is until the night of the homecoming dance, when a school janitor locks himself in a bathroom with her and then kisses her before bleeding to death in her arms. As if this isn't weird enough, immediately afterward, one of her teachers breaks down the bathroom door and tries to kill her. With a scimitar.

DAFUQ?

Er, sorry, Harper.

I mean, DAEFF?

From that point on her life gets a little crazy. Turns out that janitor was some kind of legendary soldier charged with protecting one of her fellow classmates, and he managed to pass his powers onto Harper through that kiss.

Oh, and the boy he was charged with protecting, David, happens to be her biggest rival. They've competed against each other since they were in diapers. Literally.

"...he and I had loathed each other since kindergarten. Heck, even before that. Mom says he's the only baby I ever bit in daycare."

Regardless of their animosity, I loved them together. It was obvious from the get-go that these two had chemistry. And passion. And I especially loved that David was anything but your typical, brooding YA "hero".

"The door swung open, and David stood there, dressed in a yellow sweater and his green corduroy pants. He looked like he should be on PBS, talking to a puppet about the alphabet."

falls over laughing

I spent most of this book cackling like a loon and hoping that these two would get over their loathing and realized they were perfect for each other.

What follows after homecoming is a hilarious tale of the two of them coming to terms with what they both are. This book was filled with fantastic world building, imaginative yet believable lore, and a cast of characters that you can really root for.

I just...GAH.

I loved it. I truly did. These kids aren't idiots. Sure, they're a little naïve, but they learn from their mistakes, and where a lot of authors would add drama and angst into this storyline (because Harper has a boyfriend that SERIOUSLY factors into the ending of this book), THIS author did not. For which I am eternally thankful.

This was so good that Hawkins is now on my auto-buy list.

You should give this book a chance. It might just restore some of your faith in the YA category.

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Katerina says

“I had just killed a teacher. With my shoe.”

Buffy the Vampire Slayer meets **Hart of Dixie** and **ancient Greece**. Katerina approves.

So, Harper is a perfect southern lady, waiting to be crowned Homecoming Queen, when she finds the school janitor dying in the girls' bathrooms and said janitor passes her some weird mojo by kissing her and her History teacher attacks her and she goes ninja. Not your typical Homecoming night, right? Confused and panicked, Harper finds out that she became a Paladin, a warrior and protector, and every bizarre thing that happens in her life evolves around David. freaking. Stark.

“He and I had loathed each other since kindergarten. Heck, even before that. Mom says he's the only baby I ever bit in daycare.”

I have to be honest, I loved this book! It was super **funny** and **sweet**, combining **kickass action** with **high school drama** and some major **aww** and **ohh** and **what??** and **go girl!** moments! Rachel Hawkins definitely knows how to keep you glued to Harper's story, it's fast paced and makes you smile!

Rebel Belle is a refreshing YA novel because for once, the girl doesn't depend on the boy to save her or guide her through the crazy stuff she experiences. On the contrary, David is the one who needs saving and is equally lost and scared (but he gallantly tries to hide it) and so, so **cute**. I want to hug him.

If you're looking for **prophecies and crazy teenage witches and greek mythology woven with southern charm and likable characters**, do not hesitate to read Rebel Belle!

Regan says

Super fun and funny read

Kat O'Keeffe says

I LOVED THIS! It was so fun and hilarious and just overall an awesome read! The story was surprisingly action-packed and the characters were all wonderful--especially Harper, who was a fantastic protagonist. She was the perfect blend of girly and kick-ass and I just loved spending time with her! AND THAT ENDING! I can't wait to see how this story unfolds in the next book. I WANT THE SEQUEL NOW PLEASE!

(Full video review coming soon!)

Christine Riccio says

I LOVED THIS. Here's my full review!: <http://youtu.be/kZ-woVqnwkQ>

Maureen says

A lot of people raved about this book and recommended it to me, but for some reason I still wasn't expecting much out of this book.

SO GLAD IT SURPRISED ME. It was seriously SO much better than I was expecting.

I loved Harper's voice in this. She wasn't over-the-top southern like in some books i've read

*cough*BEAUTIFUL CREATURES*cough* but she was the perfect mixture of sassy and awesome and hilarious and southern.

The story was really original too! I mean there were some typical YA novel cliches, but the overall storyline is pretty fantastically original. I definitely haven't read anything like this book!

OVERALL. SO GOOD. EVERYONE READ IT NOW BECAUSE SO GOOD AND ENJOYABLE AND FANTASTIC.

I am so glad this is going to be a series. YAAAAS.

Nasom says

Rating: 4.5

Full Review

This book is like legally blonde but instead of the main character, Harper, realizing she's smart, she realizes she's got superpowers.

Plot : 17-year-old Harper Price was in school for homecoming, where she was to be crowned queen. She goes to the bathroom to apply some lip gloss (I think) and as she's in the bathroom, the school's janitor comes in and before you know it, he passed his powers to her. Apparently, he was something called "Paladin" which Harper is now. Now Harper finds that she has all this power and what's worse? She now has to protect the boy she's hated since she was little.

Thoughts!

- I found the plot interesting and unique. I don't think I've read many books with a male damsel in distress (a woman being the protector of a guy who has zero fighting skills). I think the only other one I can think of is Vin/Elend from the Mistborn Series. So it was cool seeing the girl being the sole protector
- I also enjoyed the southern belle-turned-superhero plot. Harper goes from worrying about dresses, school functions and the perfect boyfriend to worrying about protecting her archenemies from being killed.
- I loved the comedy aspect of it. I laughed quite a lot of times, especially during Harper's inner monologues. She reminded me of all the girls in the high school shows/movies I loved
- There was a love triangle which made me weary but I respected how it was handled. I expected a "Current-boyfriend-turns-A-hole-to-make-way-for-new-love-interest" situation but it was not like that at all and I really appreciate that.
- Harper doesn't like people swearing/cursing which I related to bc same lol

If you're looking for a fun, no-stress read, I recommend this.

Initial Thoughts

This was such a fun easy read and I laughed so much. Who knew a book about a southern belle with superpowers could be this enjoyable?

RTC

Lola says

♥ 4 "Loved it!" stars ♥

This book was so much fun! **A breath of fresh air!** I actually read this book while eating popcorn. No kidding. If you're looking for something entertaining and purely enjoyable, I highly recommend you *Rebel Belle*. It also contains a little bit of creepy and/or strange scenes that are only going to make you want to read more and more of it.

Harper might seem to you, at the beginning of the story, a little too girly and vain, but she's actually not that way. She has her reasons why Homecoming is very important to her that you'll learn eventually in the story. I must admit that her one thousand dollars or more dress made me cringe my teeth. That excepted, Harper is mostly a normal **seventeen-year-old** teenager dating and loving a nice boy and expecting to pass a great evening at the Homecoming event accompanied by her boyfriend and best friends. Unfortunately, when the school janitor transmits her some weird thing while unexpectedly kissing her, everything changes. And that's when she becomes a **kick-ass girl with new superpowers**.

The writing isn't impressive but nice instead. Standard but efficient since a book like this one is better off complicated words and long sentences. It could've been prettier though. This book has a cool atmosphere that'll get you at ease and make the reading comfortable. The story might very likely seem to you either very

interesting or fun. Or both. Either way, you'll enjoy it and found it adorable. I thought it was amazing and well done. **It felt like watching a comedy/supernatural/drama/action movie.** I loved it!

The romance was pretty clean. It was cute and sometimes sigh-worthy. And sometimes frustrating indeed. Previsible by moments but also enchanting. Sweet and rightly accompanying the story.

If you liked/loved **Rachel Hawkins'** other books, there are many chances you'll appreciate *Rebel Belle* too.

Happy reading! (And don't forget the popcorn and/or candy!)

Angela says

THIS IS COMING FROM A TRUE SOUTHERN GIRL! PLEASE GO READ REBEL BELLE!

This book is the definition of a GNI (girls night in) book! I wanted a good rom com book to read for a lazy night in..... SO I decided on rebel belle to be my date for the evening, so of course I had to set the mood.... I poured myself a glass of sweet tea, lit some pumpkin candles, and threw on a light blanket and got right into reading it..... and lets just say that **Rachel Hawkins didn't disappoint me on this book date.**

There was an amazing balance between action, comedy, and romance (come on how can you not love a guy wearing a dr. who shirt).

I know at this point in time I would normally make some kind of comment about how the book kind of just started... no real build up, background story, or long drawn out family history etc. etc., but I can't. For this story having it just start worked out so well.

I loved the way Rachel Hawkins found a kind of comical way of Harper get her powers because its not very often in ya books does a girl get ninja skills from a janitor planting a kiss on her! I loved all the characters, every action scene, and plot twist was perfect!

I will not lie though I thought this book looked a little to cheese for me, bc of the cover being head to to pink and pearls, BUT NO IT WAS AWESOME!!! I can't wait to read what I'm hoping will be a trilogy.
