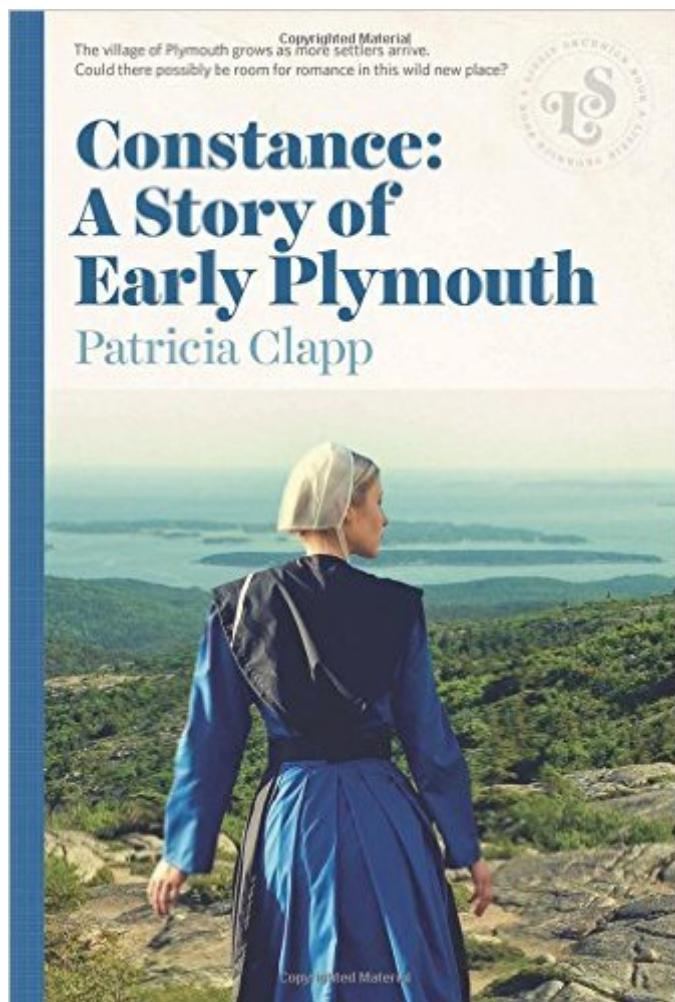


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Constance: A Story Of Early Plymouth



Synopsis

"An absorbing historical romance.""Booklist" Constance is an engaging, high-spirited heroine . . . A fine historical novel written with verve and fresh imagination.""Horn Book" Runner-up for the National Book Award for Children's Literature in 1969, Constance is a classic of historical young adult fiction, recounting the daily life, hardships, romances, and marriage of a young girl during the early years of the Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth.

Book Information

Paperback: 232 pages

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Product Dimensions: 5 x 0.8 x 7.4 inches

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Age Range: 12 - 14 years

Grade Level: 8 and up

Customer Reviews

This was one of my favoritest books as a preteen. I read it over and over again, and even got my mother to buy a copy for a present for one of my second-cousins. There were so many wonderful historical fiction books for young people when I was still reading preteen and teen lit, before graduating to adult novels at about 14. I knew it was kind of an older book, but it didn't matter to me. Lately I've been revisiting some of my favorite books from my younger years, and this was one of them. I was rather disappointed that it wasn't as awesome as I remembered it, and even more disappointed to realize that a fair amount of historical liberties had been taken, probably to try to make the story more appealing to young people. I still love the idea of a book in journal form, from the POV of one of the younger Pilgrims, but Constance's story should've been interesting enough without trying to turn her into some silly 20th century flirt. Her coquettish behavior is also a

juxtaposition to the heavy real history interspersed throughout. I honestly feel there were a bit too many historical liberties taken for the sake of the story. For example, we don't know exactly when Oceanus or Damaris Hopkins died, but we do know that it was before 1627. Ms. Clapp has little Oceanus dying in 1623 and Damaris dying during that terrible first Winter in Plymouth. I always believed Damaris was one of the victims of that first Winter, yet she's not on the list of victims. And while it's a historical fact that the Hopkins' servants Edward Dotey and Edward Leister, "the Two Teds," fought the first duel in Plymouth, the reason isn't recorded. Ms. Clapp portrays it as them fighting over Constance, who's led both of them on. I somehow feel that's a bit of a stretch.

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