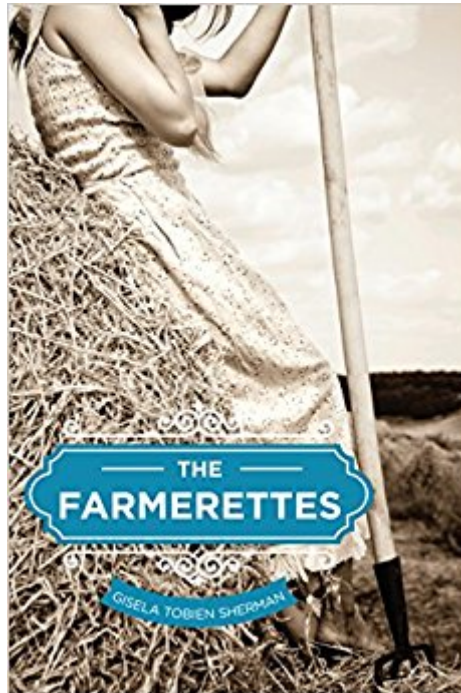




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The Farmerettes



Synopsis

Six girls just out of high school live together during the summer of 1943 on a farm as part of the Farm Service Force, doing the work of the men who are off fighting the war in Europe. We follow the stories of Helene, who sends her wages home to support her single mother; Peggy, a flirt who spends her time writing to her soldier beau; Binxie, whose rich family doesn't approve of her; Isabel, who pines over her fiancé, who is off fighting; Jean, whose family farm has been taken over by the "farmerettes," as they became known; and the mysterious X, who of all the girls feels the most out of place. Friendship, romance, hardship and heartbreak shape their summer, all against the backdrop of the World War II.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"Romance, mystery, and self-discovery blend in this view of a more innocent time...Older teens and young women will embrace this read and hope for sequels." (VOYA 2015-12-01)

While the men are at war, six young women are thrown together by duty and circumstance.

The Farmerettes by Gisela Tobien Sherman brings together a group of girls with different backgrounds as they assist farmers (doing what was traditionally men's work) in Southwestern Ontario during World War II. The role of the farm, sans men, is something I never pondered and it provided an effective context to explore the war's impact on lives

of young women. Even though there are six points of view, each girl is a well-developed complex character. Finding themselves on the farm in completely new setting, the girls develop deep friendships (along with sunburns and inner strength). Throughout the novel the attention to detail made it clear that the author values everyone's story making me want to invest in those stories too. The multiple storylines emerge with elements of romance, mystery and self-discovery.

I'd never heard of these women who volunteered to work on the farms during World War II. The characters are very interesting, and I never got bored.

I enjoyed this new look into WWII as teen girls come together to work the land as farmerettes. I really enjoyed this novel as it opened up my world to what some teens did to help the war efforts and I enjoyed the relationships that were built inside these pages. Coming from all walks of life and for all different types of reasons, these girls signed up to work the fields to help the war effort in 1942. Some arriving in white dresses and others arrive in pants and t-shirts, some of these girls have no idea what they were walking into. From their first day there, new adventures and discoveries await them. A bond is formed between a group of six of these girls which tightens as the days grow longer and this is the story the novel captures. Each of the girls has a story to tell and some of them were more vocal than others but by the time the novel is over, you know their story and you don't want the season to end and have the girls go their separate ways. Romance is in the air as the girls step away from their mother's drawstrings and they are now surrounded by their peers. Excitement about a new romance with the boys near the farm or fear of what could evolve from the war and their beaux bring these girls even closer together. It's war and it is affecting everyone. Their bond is close but yet they're still teens and they feel vulnerable for failure as they want to project a perfect life, it's a hard standard to live by. Their stories are captivating, such honesty and strength they pulled from within and from each other. Finding free time, they are able to escape their farm life and live, leaving me laughing and glad that they had found each other and found friendship in the least likely place. 4.5 stars I received this novel from NetGalley and Second Story Press in exchange for an honest review.

Overall I enjoyed this book. I tend to like historical fiction. I liked how the characters' stories intertwined with each other and the strong bonds that were formed. One character I wished her story

was either eliminated or expounded upon. It didn't seem to fit to me and was just thrown in to have a different type of lifestyle character in the book. Lastly, I like a book with short chapters so it is easy to start and stop quickly and this fits the bill on that personal preference.

This book is listed as a book for young people but I an adult and enjoyed it very much. I enjoy reading books about the land girls in England and how they helped feed their country but had never heard of the farmerettes in Canada. I found this book very interesting and informative.

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The Farmerettes

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