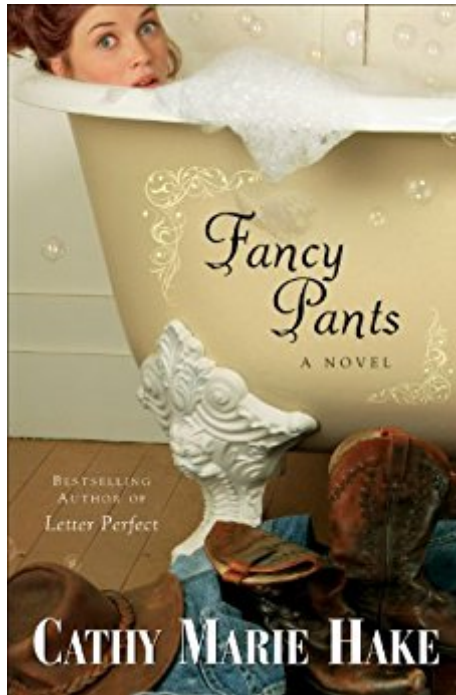




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Fancy Pants (Only In Gooding Book #1)



Synopsis

Humorous Romance From a Bestselling Author When Britisher Lady Sydney Hathwell's father dies, the American who planned to wed her suddenly reneges. Stranded in America and penniless, Sydney contacts a relative in Texas who, mistaking her male-sounding name, invites his "nephew" to join him on his ranch. "Big Tim" Creighton, however, is appalled when this mincing fop arrives at Forsaken. He determines he'll turn Fancy Pants Hathwell into a man before the boss returns home. From the get-go, he has "the kid" mucking stalls, clearing and plowing a field, and assisting with a difficult calving. But when Sydney's true identity is uncovered, Tim resents being deceived. Yet in time, he also finds that he doesn't like all the attention Sydney garners now that she's wearing pretty gowns... Together Sydney and Tim will discover the importance of family and what it means to be a man--and a woman--of God.

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Customer Reviews

Sydney Hathwell travels to America accompanied by her Aunt Serena Hathwell. Her father had

arranged a possible marriage for Sydney & on his deathbed Sydney promises him that she will meet Rexall Hume. Meet him...not marry him! She soon realizes that there is no possibility that a marriage between them would work & tries to convey this to Hume but the man is so involved with his business dealings that he gives very little attention to his intended bride...he can't even get her name right, for heaven's sake...he address' her as Cindy. She convinces her aunt to return to England & assures her that she will be fine as she intends to sneak out while Hume is away on business & go to her mother's brother, Uncle Fuller Johnson. She makes plans to dress as a young boy because after contacting her Uncle Fuller, he assumes because of her name that she is a nephew, not a niece & along with the money he sends a note telling her that there is no place for a women on his Texas cattle ranch. As she sneaks out she picks up an unwelcome friend...Hume's Whippet, Oscar is trotting along with her. After trying unsuccessfully to get him to return to the house she finally gives up thinking it's still dark outside so she welcomes the company, Pretty soon she picks up another run-away, a terrier, and then another dog joins the procession & as she rounds the corner a fourth dog adds to the procession. It finally dawns on her what the attraction is...it's the sandwich she has tucked into her pocket. After each dog scarfs up the offering she is once again left with only Oscar but her troubles are not over. A carriage stops & out hops Hume. He has recognized his dog but in her disguise, not her. That's probably because the stupid man never really looked at her to begin with. So now Sydney is on her way to an education into a man's world that she will not soon forget & an adventure the reader will totally enjoy. I totally enjoyed this book even though it did have a few places that were a little slow. It was well worth reading.

I absolutely loved, loved, loved this book. I stayed up way too late finishing it, but I just couldn't put it down. The book has a lot of humor in it and that really added to the enjoyment. Sydney is running from an ill-advised engagement. She is a well-brought-up member of the English peerage, but both her parents died within a short time and a distant cousin inherited. So she comes to New York to meet the man her father had selected. But he is totally unsuitable and doesn't even get her name right. So she flees to her uncle in Texas who thinks she's a boy. Hilarity ensues. Her uncle's partner is appalled at her weak physique and her fancy ways. He sets himself to whip "him" into shape before the uncle gets back. I enjoyed this book so much. The story was fun and the romance was sweet. The comparisons between English upper class propriety and life on a ranch were spot on. Sydney was amazed at the different way men conduct themselves when women are not around. She became somewhat of a feminist. I am going to look for more books from this author. I highly recommend this book. Try it. You won't be sorry.

This was a really cute read. The story line wasn't my favorite to begin with, but once I just suspended my belief for a bit, it was good. There were a lot of hilarious moments, and the romance ended up being really sweet. The Texas ranch setting was very well done. I really liked reading about the details of ranch life. I was intrigued by the discussions of women's role versus men's roles. Since Sydney "proves" herself as a man, Tim can't say that she is relegated strictly to "women's work," and I liked the struggle they had in this regard. It was the most realistic part, and the feminist in me was really happy that this issue was discussed and not merely glossed over by Sydney returning meekly to her "correct" role. I didn't buy that none of the men would have recognized that she was a girl, especially since she was 17, not say, 13 or 14. I enjoyed the story a lot more once the secret was out, and I thought it took too long to get there. The suspense element fell a little flat too, and some of the plot felt like devices rather than a natural flow to the story. The villain of the story was extremely anti-climatic, and I don't think it added anything to the story. The spiritual aspect was a bit forced as well. I didn't care for the way that Tim handled Sydney's questions. To me, he sometimes came across as condescending, or more like a father-figure. Sydney's questions were worded oddly sometimes, thought that could have just been my perception of the dialogue in general. I've read a couple of other books by Hake, and perhaps this is just an author that I don't always "mesh" with, and that's okay. I know she has a lot of fans here on Goodreads and elsewhere. I did like this one, and recommend it if you're looking for something light and fluffy in a historical setting.

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