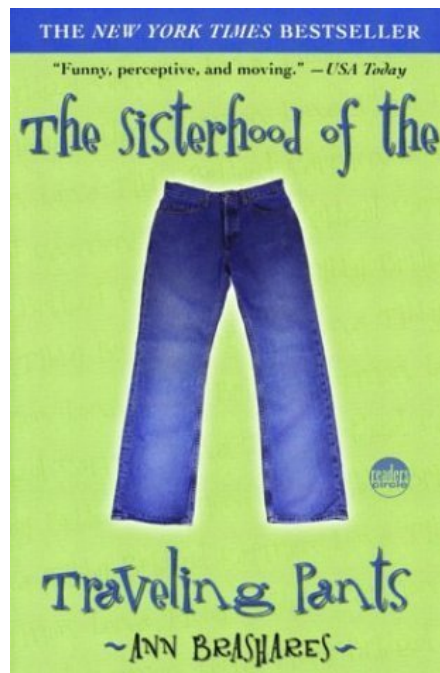




The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants

Ann Brashares

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FOUR VERY DIFFERENT FRIENDS. ONE PAIR OF MAGICAL PANTS. AND A SUMMER APART ...

We, the Sisterhood, hereby instate the following rules to govern the use of the Traveling Pants:

1. You must never wash the Pants.
2. You must never double-cuff the Pants. It's tacky. There will never be a time when this will not be tacky.
3. You must never say the word "phat" while wearing the Pants. You must also never think "I am fat" while wearing the Pants.
4. You must never let a boy take off the Pants (although you may take them off yourself in his presence).
5. You must not pick your nose while wearing the Pants. You may, however, scratch casually at your nostril while really kind of picking.
6. Upon our reunion, you must follow the proper procedures for documenting your time in the Pants.
7. You must write to your Sisters throughout the summer, no matter how much fun you are having without them.
8. You must pass the Pants along to your Sister according to the specifications set down by the Sisterhood. Failures to comply will result in a sever spanking upon our reunion.
9. You must not wear the Pants with a tucked-in shirt and belt. See rule #2.
10. Remember: Pants = love. Love your pals. Love yourself.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants Details

Date : Published September 24th 2002 by Delacorte (first published September 11th 2001)

ISBN : 9780385730587

Author : Ann Brashares

Format : Paperback 294 pages

Genre : Young Adult, Fiction, Womens Fiction, Chick Lit, Contemporary, Romance, Teen, Realistic Fiction, Childrens, Coming Of Age, High School

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From Reader Review The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants for online ebook

Julie says

I saw the movie first and kind of liked it. So, of course I thought "Well the book is always better than the movie" so I decided to read it, even though its written for teens and I wasn't too sure I could relate. I guess I couldn't because this is one time I liked the movie a lot better than the book. I mean really, how many 15/16 year old girls do you know who's parents let them go trapezing all over the world (in Lena's case literally) and don't think twice about it. Come to think of it how many 15/16 year old girls have the money to it even if they're parents really are that totally oblivious. Not to mention Bailey, who is roaming around with Tibby all summer despite a major medical condition that would most certainly keep her slowed down, if not out completely.

The main characters in this book are flat and, frankly, boring and the situations they are in are really not very believable. The adults are almost completely absent, and when they are present they are made out to be selfish, stupid, unaware, or all of the above.

This is a perfect teen angst novel that I'm sure will appeal to teenagers everywhere who will find this a wonderful book about girls their own age who get to do what they want when they want and have really no real consequences. Not to mention the whole "My friends are my life" theme which will also appeal to a younger angrier audience. For those of us who have battled through those misunderstood years and know that life doesn't work quite that way, well...this novel will leave most ADULTS cold.

Elizabeth says

This is the quintessential YA summer read. If all female YA characters were written to be like these girls, YA would be a much better genre.

Four best friends will be spending the summer apart for the first time since birth. Carmen is going to visit her dad (and - unbeknownst to her - his new family); Lena (along with her sister Effie) are meeting their grandparents for the first time in Greece; Bridget is flying to Los Angeles for soccer camp (and a lesson in love); and Tibby is staying behind to work at a department store where she makes a new friend that will change her life.

I love the way everything is handled in this book. The girls each have unique and complex personalities. They all discover that they are flawed and they all work to understand why they behave the way they do. They support each other, they love each other, but they also confront each other (in the most beautiful, patient, loving manner).

The romance that occurs is much less about the guys, and much more about Bridget and Lena learning something about themselves. It's freaking brilliant and such a healthy way of depicting first love to teenagers. Also the male characters are lovely!! But also not the be-all, end-all or centre of the girls' worlds!

What I especially liked was the portrayal of Bailey's leukemia. Most books like *The Fault in Our Stars* or *My Sister's Keeper* make cancer out to be horribly grotesque and macabre, leaving you with a terribly bleak

feeling in the pit of your stomach. I have long since wished the media would paint cancer in a different light, such as this book does. It's a part of life and it's something that has to be dealt with! The light-hearted, candid way that Bailey and Tibby address Bailey's illness and mortality is so refreshing.

Ultimately I think this is a must-read for any young teen that has started consuming YA novels. Nearly 20 years later and *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* still holds its own.

Erin says

We, the Sisterhood, hereby instate the following rules to govern the use of the Traveling Pants.

1.) *You must never wash the Pants.*

2.) *You must never double-cuff the Pants. It's tacky. There will never be a time when this will not be tacky.*

3.) *You must never say the word "phat" while wearing the Pants. You must also never think "I am fat" while wearing the Pants...*

So begins the first summer apart for four friends: Lena, who is going to visit her grandparents in Greece with her sister; Carmen, heading south to see her father; Bridget, going to a soccer camp in Mexico; and Tibbie, the only one of the four to be stuck at home with a summer job. In order to feel a bit closer despite the distance, the friends find a pair of pants they profess to be "magical" -- it fits all four of them perfectly -- and form a "Sisterhood" around the pants. They are mailed back and forth from girl to girl as needed; they are all wearing the pants during a significant moment of theirs from that summer.

Lena bonds with her grandparents and learns that not every guy who is attracted to her is shallow. Carmen finds out that her father is living with his fiancée and her two children, and must cope with the shock and find a way to fit in. Bridget crushes on a coach from the soccer camp, and finds the forbidden relationship yet another challenge. Tibbie meets a younger girl who, despite her young age, teaches Tibbie that there is more to a person than outward appearance.

Ann Brashares has written four Sisterhood books, this being the first in the series. It is definitely a must-read for teen girls.

Briynne says

This is beginning to feel a little too familiar, but here's yet another disappointment from my YA Lit class. First, I should state that I have never liked the whole "girl power" thing. I guess I always felt intelligent/empowered enough as a teenager to not have to rely on books like this to show me how fantastic it is to be female. Also, generally speaking, I find large groups of girls terrifying, especially at the high school age. So lots of pre-existing strikes against this book.

As for the story itself: blah.

Complaint the first: I dislike the formulaic "four girls with four neat, distinctive personalities" thing. I mean come on - all my friends in high school were pretty much the exact same as me, but with different colors of hair and varying degrees of niceness.

Complaint the second: I was unconvinced by every single one of the characters. Lena I liked the best, but I still didn't buy the whole "I don't want people to like me 'cause I'm pretty" thing. Realistically, most pretty

teenagers seem fairly psyched by their good fortune and run with it. Maybe if she was in her twenties (still a maybe), but at fifteen?

Similarly, the one who played soccer and her aggressive hitting on the coach scenario. Maybe it was realistic, but if it is, I didn't grow up with girls like that. It all seemed a little contrived to me. Even at fifteen we all had a pretty good handle on the word "skank", and the lack of it being thrown around by anyone made this seem less real-world. Girls aren't nice - if one person has the nerve to flirt with the camp idol (especially if she is successful), she isn't cheered on and adored for it. She is hated, whispered about, and called lots of fun names for it. Or, at least where I came from.

Complaint the third: the kid with cancer. Not to be cold (or, perhaps "colder" would be more accurate), but dying does not make you self-aware, wise, and interesting all by itself so far as I know. Yet somehow books/movies just can't resist the wise-beyond-her-years dying kid. It would make a lot more sense and be a lot more authentic if she were just mad, not a slightly rebellious Yoda.

Complaint the fourth: The stupid pants. I hated the completely idiotic premise of the book. Seriously. Magic pants that fit everyone? That's the best that could be thought up? Not good. Not good at all.

Fuzaila ~ is on hiatus says

This book was supposed to be about friendship and female bonding. It was supposed to be a beautiful summer read that would give me friendship goals. **But of course it is not.** Of course it is about teenage girls doing teenage stuff. Of course it is about 15-yos swooning over older guys and thinking about sex. Of course it is about girls apparently falling in love with guys they've never talked to. Of course it features 15 yo-s travelling from country to country like that costs nothing. And of course on the other hand, it features teenage girl fretting over not having money.

The only character I remotely loved was Bailey. And Of course (view spoiler). Not even the dirty pants could save this book for me.

Frankly, I expected to love this. I should've known. Who was I kidding?

Charlotte says

What an *annoying* book.

I was going to write snarky, individual letters to each of the characters in succession, but then I realized that it was a pointless endeavour since all the letters would end up the same, anyway. Why, you ask? Because all the characters are the same.

Would you like to know some personality traits? It's like the author picked one or two for each of the characters and then relied on either one or the other to simply parasail each of the girls through the book.

There was Lena, who was beautiful and shy. But we all know that shy girls have a bevy of passion hidden up inside, right?

There was Bridget, who was a flirtatious athlete. Her plotline involves flirting with a guy, I don't know, ten years older than her? More?

There was Carmen, who was either angry or passive through the book and is the least interesting character in

the whole series. I'm glad, however, for this. In the second book she morphs into a semi-interesting absolute *brat*.

And then there was Tibby. Thank goodness for Tibby. She was absolutely the only character with a personality or an interesting story in the whole book. Tibby, get better friends. Or none at all. Considering Tibby, she'd probably go with *none at all*.

In fact, the only storyline I enjoyed was Tibby and Bailey's, and I found myself flipping through Carmen's, Lena's and Bridget's chapters to get to hers.

Although I did stop at Bridget's a couple of times to see if she actually did hook up with Mr. Coach Man. Which is illegal, since she's 16 and he's... uh. 26?

And here we get to what bothered me. Why didn't someone arrest Eric? And why are Bridget's friends so irresponsible? When Bridget basically tells them that she slept with a guy over 18, the only reaction she gets are some wide eyes. Don't you want to, you know, *report the rapist to the police?*

Oh, I know it was Bridget's choice, and all that. And I would semi-understand if he was an interesting character or she was an interesting character and they had semi-interesting chemistry together. But they didn't. They had mutual attraction based on mutual sexiness, and didn't really bother to get to know each other much more, even in the next three books. Not that there's anything to know.

Dull. Dull, dull, dull. If it had been a novella featuring only Tibby, I might have found it a lot better, maybe even given it four stars. But with the rest of the ~~baggage~~ characters tagging along for the ride... no, thanks.

Jeff says

This book was probably one of the first that got me into the YA genre!!

So, obviously, with my terrible memory, I'd say I probably remember 30% of it.

And that 30% is basically: THIS WAS A REALLY GOOD BOOK. READ IT.....NOW. XD

This story is about 4 friends who travel all over the world with this mysterious pair of magical pants. I mean, pants that can make everyone look good?!!

I NEED A PAIR, PRONTO.

So besides everyone trying to squeeze into these pants, these 'sisters' experience so much crazy shit, like love (duh), boy cooties ;), and friendship problem drama. :)

So is this a typical story of life??

Sort of.....JUST READ IT.

Lola says

I am extremely surprised. This book should not have moved me as much as it did. It is true that I *adore* stories in which friendship plays a humongous part, but I have read hundreds of them in the past.

So what makes *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* so special?

The pants, obviously, have a lot to do with my enjoying the story. They symbolize strength, love and courage.

Lena, Carmen, Bridget and Tibby are four teenagers with distinct personalities, wants and needs. Despite all that sets them apart from one another, they share the strongest of friendships.

They are a sisterhood.

The pants are first known to be incredible because it fits all four girls, who are also different in size and shape as well as in personality. Later in the story, the pants start to represent something more.

The girls thought the pants would connect them in a spiritual way, while being apart from one another, but it's more than that: they draw their strength from it. It comforts them and helps them in dire situations.

The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants tackles multiple subjects and explores various important themes, such as sexuality, coming-of-age, love, life, family and, of course, friendship.

The girls are not perfect: they are likeable, but flawed in a way that is almost tangible. They make mistakes, want the wrong things, lie, cower in front of unwanted situations and make more mistakes.

But that's okay. Because that's what they should be doing. They're young, therefore making mistakes is normal and, frankly, expected from them. But they're learning. Constantly. And that's makes this book fairly authentic and touching.

As I am writing this review, I have already begun my reading of the second book. These girls—Lena, Tibby, Bridget and Carmen—have become, in such a short amount of time, quite dear to me. I need to know more about them and their future life-changing adventures.

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Hannah G. says

Wow! If you are a teen girl looking for some love stories between friends and their SUPER-HOT boyfriends, well look no further then the Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants series! This book is about the 4 best friends Bridget, Carmen, Tibby, and Lena when they split up for the summer. With the Pants binding them together wherever they go, their summers are no longer lonely. The Pants witness all break - ups and get together and are often shipped with hysterical letters that will make you laugh out loud! I think my favorite is the love - hate relationship between Eric and Bridget, but I can't tell you, so read to find out!

Trina (Between Chapters) says

I'm glad I finally read this! I'd seen the movie before so this story wasn't new but I still enjoyed it. Brashares did a great job of creating real teenage emotions. The turmoil and depression these girls all went through during this summer jumped off the pages and felt very true to how I remember myself feeling at that time in my life. Each of the girls is so different, but I can see a bit of myself in most of them so there were many different moments in each story line that I related to.

However, while the characters were the star of the show, I wasn't a big fan of the format or writing rhythm. There was no real rhyme or reason to when chapter breaks or POV changes occurred and I guess I've just been spoiled by how books like *Pretty Little Liars* have handled 4 character POVs. Additionally, I felt that most sentences were similar in length and very straightforward. Could have used a little more description or development of some of the themes. The character reactions were amazing, but I would have liked a little more time spent on WHY they were reacting the way they were. Things seemed to come on very suddenly

and then be over.

That didn't take away from my overall enjoyment very much though! I recognize that I'm just nitpicking.

Lisa says

This book took me completely by surprise. I wasn't planning on reading it but the movie was coming on and I decided I should read the book first before watching the film. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* is a story with an awful premise that was surprisingly well-executed.

Going into it, I expected some silly, shallow book about four teenage girls falling in love over one summer, but instead this book focused on the exploration of family dysfunction, death, and the bonds of friendship. *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants* is not a romance, although there are romantic elements of varying degrees in three of the girl's stories. It was refreshing to find the romance taking a backseat to other important issues in a contemporary young adult novel. The four main characters, as well as many of the side characters, were fleshed out and very distinct from one another. I found myself coming to care about all of them.

Two things kept this from being a five star read. One was the premise. The idea of magical jeans that fit all four girls perfectly was a bit too silly for me, and I feel that the story could have stood on its own without it. The pants weren't necessary or even integral to the plot. The other reason for the missing star was the writing. I thought it was a bit clunky with adverbs and adjectives galore, and excessive use of dialogue tags when they weren't really needed. It was distracting enough to take me out of the story at times. Otherwise, this was a fantastic read, and I will certainly be reading the sequels.

Namratha says

A sparkling breath of fresh air, this book captures the spirit of friendship in the most charming and sauciest manner possible.

The book is a far cry from the regular breed of YA novels which seem to dwell on the fixed notions that young girls basically fall into two main groups: One, the hatefully pretty, perpetually scheming Prom Queens with their nastier than "week-ol' milk" cliques! And at the other end of the rainbow, the brave under-dog...not much to look at, the general do-gooder, the faithful confidante and to nicely round it off, more often than not, armed with an IQ formidable enough to gain entry into MENSA.

Breaking the age-old mould with insouciance, **Ann Brashares** creates a world where it is possible for four friends, as different as chalk and cheese to form a deeply satisfying friendship. They care for each other, love each other, put aside fights and misunderstandings with a careless shrug and offer unstinted, non-judgmental support any time, everytime.

Lena, the reluctant beauty; feisty, big-tushied **Carmen**; the anti-everything, mad-at-the-world **Tibby** and the over-achieving, statuesque athlete **Bridget** are friends; literally since birth (*their mums shared a preggers-aerobics class*). Having grown up in each other's pockets, along comes a summer when the four are parted for the first time. Lena is off to Greece to meet her grandparents; Carmen to spend some quality time with her divorced dad in South Carolina; Bridget to Baja, California for summer camp and Tibby, the impotent rebel is stuck at home, cutting a minimum wage at Wallman's.

A well-worn pair of soft jeans bought at a thrift-shop by Carmen but never-tried becomes an unexpected bond to hold the four pals together. Despite their vastly different body proportions, the seemingly-magical pair of jeans fits each of them like a dream.....hugging the right curves, resting gracefully on the varying waistlines, making each teen feel sexy and infusing them with much-needed confidence.

They make a pact (*complete with a set of serious-cum-nonsensical rules*) to circulate the pants amongst themselves throughout their vacation, passing it on when the time is right. Thus begins the saga of the Sisterhood.....

As the long, glorious summer unravels, the pants become a source and symbol of the generous support which the sisterhood provides to each of the four buddies as they face unwieldy situations. Sucker-punched by new emotions, the friends absorb confidence from their ever-reliable 'magical pants'. For each, the pants seem to be infused with the strength and support of their fellow friends.

Brimming with energy and vitality, the book effortlessly hops between the four friends as they deal with life, love and all-things 'teen-achy'. One of the best coming-of-age books in a long time, it's a must read for everyone who is-a-teen, was-a-teen and will soon be-a-quakin' in your boots-teen.

It's a tough world out there, but when you got your SIST –AHS, life's just a wee bit more bearable.

Anne says

**Such a beautiful portrayal of love and friendship-sisterhood.
Seeing this image after reading the book just made me smile so much.**

Review to come.

Kayla Rayne says

Oh man. This book brings me back to the days of high school, summer camp, and having little crushes. Seriously, this embodies adolescence through the eyes of four teenage girls that are best friends. I found that this book still stands up to everything I love about a book today. Please, if you have not read this book, give it a chance. It is witty, heartbreaking, and insightful.

Tanya (Girl Plus Books) says

Third Read: August 2016

Second Read: 2009

Original Read: 2002

3.5 STARS

I *still* have not read Sisterhood Everlasting so I'm going to reread the first four books (yet again) so I can

finally finish off this series. I'm going the audio route this time around and the thing that I keep noticing is how different the movie was from the book. It's been so long since I read the books that I forgot how much they condensed into the first movie and how many changes they made.

This is still an enjoyable read after all these years and it's fun to revisit the four friends.
