

*Alex and the Ironic Gentleman*

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Reviewed by: Enzo Takagi, 15

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This novel written by Adrienne Kress is about a 10 and a half year-old girl named Alexandra Morningside. She goes by "Alex" and does not like to wear "girl clothes", and therefore is often mistaken for a boy. She lives with her uncle, who is a doorknob store owner.

On the first day of school in sixth grade, she meets the new teacher, Mr. Underwood, and becomes acquainted with him. After a few days of school, she learns how to fence from Mr. Underwood, and decides that he is a very nice person and teacher. Her uncle also becomes friends with Mr. Underwood, and he becomes a family friend. After a few weeks, Mr. Underwood's house is burned down by three people, so he comes to live with Alex and her uncle. She then learns about Mr. Underwood's family history, that he is the relative of a dead pirate captain known as the Infamous Wigpowder who buried a huge amount of treasure.

Then, as Alex is away at an old house looking for the map leading to the Wigpowder treasure, Mr. Underwood is kidnapped by pirates. So to find him at a port called Port Cullis, she goes on an adventure.

On the adventure, Alex meets various interesting people, and her travel is delayed. After she reaches Port Cullis, she is told that Mr. Underwood was taken to another port, so she goes on the *HMS Valiant* to go to sea.

I would consider this book to be an adventure book. I did not like this book very much because I felt like the book was corny, especially the end. The whole book can be summarized as someone's friend is kidnapped, she goes on an adventure to find him, she finds friends to help her, and in the end, the two friends are reunited. Since this book does not feel very unique, I would not recommend this book.

A book that I would recommend that is very similar to this one is *Alice in Wonderland*, because it is practically the same thing. I would also recommend *Peter Pan* because it is similar as well.