



Alterations

Stephanie Scott

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If anyone saw the prom boards Amelia Blanco makes on her favorite fashion app, they'd think Ethan Laurenti was her boyfriend. They wouldn't know that all the plans she's made for them are just dreams, and that she's the girl who watches him from the kitchen while her parents cook for his famous family.

When Amelia's abuelita enrolls her in a month-long fashion internship in NYC, Amelia can't imagine leaving Miami--and Ethan--for that long. As soon as she gets to New York, however, she finds a bigger world and new possibilities. She meets people her own age who can actually carry on a conversation about stitching and design. Her pin boards become less about prom with Ethan and more about creating her own style. By the time she returns to Miami, Amelia feels like she can accomplish anything, and surprises herself by agreeing to help Ethan's awkward, Steve-Jobs-wannabe brother, Liam, create his own fashion app.

As Liam and Amelia grow closer, Ethan realizes that this newly confident, stylish girl may be the one for him after all . . . even though he has a reality TV star girlfriend he conveniently keeps forgetting about. The "new and improved" Amelia soon finds herself in between two brothers, a whole lot of drama, and a choice she never dreamed she'd have to make.

Alterations Details

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Author : Stephanie Scott

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From Reader Review Alterations for online ebook

Alexa says

I really wanted to like this novel, because the concept sounded so cute! And while there were elements that I thought had a ton of potential, overall, this one just wasn't my cup of tea. Underdeveloped in many ways, if I were to say what I thought the issue was.

Stacee says

I was sold at the comparison to Sabrina. I love that movie with a sickness and couldn't wait to see how it translated into a retelling.

I liked Amelia well enough. She's smart and talented and {mostly} focused. Ethan and Liam were great opposites as brothers and their interactions with Amelia were interesting. I could have done with more banter and sweetness, but loved the nerdy references.

My main complaint is that I never saw that burst of confidence from Amelia. After her fashion internship, I wanted her certain of her abilities and she seemed to falter more. Yes, part of it had to do with Ethan, but for me, this aspect came across more as being a people pleaser than being unsure of her future and what she wanted.

Overall, it was a quick and cute read with a great epilogue.

****Huge thanks to Bloomsbury Spark for providing the arc free of charge****

YA Wednesdays says

This is a solid 3.5 rounded up to 4 because of local flavor (MIAMI!) and positive portrayal of the fashion industry and positive, encouraging story to follow your dreams. You can find my full review on YAWednesdays.com.

Shannon (It Starts At Midnight) says

You can find the full review and all the fancy and/or randomness that accompanies it at It Starts at Midnight

3.5*

There are a few things you need to know before we start. First, I almost didn't finish this, and I am super glad that I ended up giving it a chance, because it is quite adorable and *exactly* what I needed in my life at the time. Second, the problems I had with it are 100% Shannon problems, and probably won't be problems for people who are not me. I can admit when I am the problem. Usually. ;)

So anyway. What did I like about this book that made me super glad I read it? Let's discuss!

First off, I loved that Amelia is close to her Abuelita. I really love grandparents in books. Can we have more of this? Great. She is also close to her mom, but they have some strain in their relationship. This feels pretty natural though, as the mother-daughter dynamics shift through the teen years. So I liked that it was realistic, but still, Amelia and Abuelita made me smile so much.

I loved Amelia's drive and hard work ethic. It is super refreshing to see a young woman who has goals and like, really works for what she wants. Amelia didn't have it all figured out, of course, she *is* still a teen after all, but she was exploring, and reaching outside her comfort zone (even if Abuelita did give her a little push). I think it sends a great message.

Females helping and bringing up other females was *such* a win. Not to say there were never hard feelings or altercations, or even a few nastier characters, but these girls had each other's backs for the most part. They looked out for each other, and I thought that was fabulous. Again, another great message for young women to be hearing.

I really enjoyed the romantic aspect. I mean, who among us hasn't pined away for someone for whom we weren't even a blip on their radar? Yeah. I think we can all relate to Amelia's struggles. Not that we'd all be making Pinterest boards, but still. And her coming to the realization that maybe she was romanticizing him, and finding out who he is *beyond* her daydreams is so important. And then throw Liam into the mix and... well, it's just cute and I liked it.

So, what were my Shannon-centered problems, you ask? Okay, here we go:

I realized that fashion bores me. Like, I did not care at all. I was happy she had goals, and was doing awesome, but I did skim a bit through some of the fashion-heavy portions. This is something I should note for the future, hmm?

It reads a little bit on the younger side. Which is *fine*, again, this is absolutely a me problem and *not* a book problem. But worth knowing, I think, hence its spot in my review.

And then just some things that maybe are not just Shannon problems:

It *did* start off slow. Hence the whole "I almost didn't finish this" thing. I wasn't getting a good feel on Amelia at the start, and I couldn't really connect to her. But like I said, it really did pick up, especially after about 30-40%, and I was really into it. Still, something to be aware of.

Bottom Line: It is absolutely a cute, feel-good contemporary book. Perfect if you need a pick-me-up, Amelia is a likeable character that you want to root for. The slow start gets made up for by a strong second half and a satisfying conclusion.

*Copy provided by publisher for review

T.J. Burns says

Alterations is an entertaining and refreshing new take on the age-old "Sabrina" story. In the original Sabrina story, Sabrina goes off to learn how to "be a lady" -- I like much more the idea that Amelia is going off to perfect a skill, as is the case in *Alterations*. Amelia already has a knack for sewing and fashion design when the story begins. She also has some self-confidence about this skill, enough to jump in and save the day for the prom-goers.

I also like that the two boys in this story are closer to her own age than in the original, and they are both rather likable, in their own ways. Ethan is charming, and friendly. I can see how Amelia would be charmed... but they are not friends and Amelia doesn't really know him. She doesn't know Liam either. Liam is the computer geek, lacking social skills, but has the honesty to say what he thinks (even if he can't yet quite communicate it effectively).

Amelia's collaboration with Amy and Jimmy when she gets to design school proves to be instrumental toward her recognizing her own skills. It's great that Amelia is forced into a leadership position by default. It could easily have been otherwise. She could have been in a group with two self-confident, worldly, experienced designers, in which case she would have certainly clammed up and floated into the background. Clearly Amelia has something to offer the group, and it is so cool that the other two members recognize this.

I loved the way Amelia grows, recognizes that she has some definite talents. Des's coaching definitely helps, though we discover Des has some issues to be overcome as well. Tess and Avery's praise of Amelia's sewing skills and their admission that they lack these skills gives Amelia a chance to teach them -- and helps Amelia to realize that she actually has something to contribute. It soon becomes clear that even the seemingly self-confident participants in design school all feel a bit insecure, and most seem to be considered a bit strange or eccentric back in their own environments.

At the end, (view spoiler)

The writing is very good. The story flows nicely. The dialogue (except during the last 10%) is fun, clever, and at times refreshingly original. The characters are likable, although I only felt depth with Liam and Amelia. I would have liked more depth with Ethan, Haylo, Amelia's mom, and Maya, for example. Des and Amy (view spoiler)

Alterations is an entertaining and fun read! I liked watching Amelia grow, discover her own talents, develop some self-confidence, and figure out what it is that she really wants, both in matters of career and matters of the heart.

3.5.

I received a copy of this book from Bloomsbury USA Children's Books via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

BUDDY READ: Contemporary/Romance > *Alterations* by Stephanie Scott -- Starting December 4th, 2016
<https://www.goodreads.com/topic/show/...>

Stephanie says

Thank you to everyone who picked up *Alterations* during the recent discount across retailers! As always, HUGE THANKS to everyone who has already left a review.

It is a truth universally acknowledged, leaving a book review births new baby unicorns.

-Stephanie Scott

Nasty Lady MJ says

To see full review [click here](#).

I was really excited for *Alterations* mainly because it was pitched as a *Sabrina* retelling. Which is one of my favorite movie(s). I like the old one for Audrey Hepburn, though I can't stand Bogey and I like the new one for Harrison Ford. The point is, it's a movie I'm always watching when I have a bad day and I was excited to see how a YA adaption would be.

This one...calling it a *Sabrina* retelling was a stretch. Some people will like it better than me, but I really didn't care for this one for multiple reasons.

The first and main one dealt with the lead, Amelia.

Ugh.

Ugh.

Ugh.

While *Sabrina*-the character-was annoying in the beginning of the movie, she quickly finds her own footing. Yet, Amelia flounders for a good chunk of the book AND even though she grows up at the end it's more of a half hearted attempt at growing up than it should've been.

True, we're dealing with a YA protagonist but still this girl...

She does so many bone headed moves, that I just want to slap her. So many freaking times.

Like the whole thing at the fashion camp. The lies, I just-I just couldn't. It was like watching a bad ABC sitcom in the 90's. You know the ones with the lessons of the week whose stars careers ended up into doing just Hallmark movie.

And for that matter, way too much time was spent on the fashion camp stuff if this was supposed to be a *Sabrina* retelling. Most of the movie(s) explored the relationship between *Sabrina* and *Linus*-or here *Amelia* and *Liam*. Yeah, we got that a little bit but the whole set up and wooing surrounding it was completely changed.

Yes, that's going to happen with with retelling. Plot elements are going to be change and such, but this was one of those cases where really the only resemblance I saw to *Sabrina* was that there was a working class girl who fell in love with her parents' employer's two sons. It really didn't do it for me.

The crux of *Sabrina* the whole *David* (or in this instance *Ethan*) notices *Sabrina* (*Amelia*) was completely missing. The whole *Linus* has to seduce *Sabrina* but finds himself falling in love with her was missing. Again, I was like WTF why are we even calling this a *Sabrina* retelling. Anyway, besides the very disappointing blurb comparison-seriously, I feel like there needs to be some sort of DTPA-Deceptive Trade Practices Act-for false blurbs and the annoying YA protagonist who falls for the wrong person, this one is okay.

Yeah, there are some things that really bother me besides the two major cruxes that I pointed out. Like, the fact that the book seemed to try to make itself sound “hip” Writing that sounds so weird because it’s trying to ID with it’s intended audience not realizing that hey younger people aren’t so different than older people. FYI, it’s probably not the smartest thing to have fifty some odd references to Project Runway and Tim Gunn. Just saying.

So, Alterations, do I recommend it...not really. It has more than it’s fair share of issues. But I could see people liking this one and that’s totally okay. It just has a heinous blurb comparison.

Erica Chapman says

Loved this story! Totally got the Sabrina comparison too! Great representation of empowerment and owning your own style. Amelia is likable and I enjoyed following her through her adventures. I really liked the incorporation of social media and technology too. Such a fun read!! I'm a fan! Add this one to your TBR

Melissa (The Reader & The Chef) says

This review can also be found on YA Books Central. Huge thanks to the publisher for the review copy in exchange of my honest opinion.

3.7 stars! (YABC rating)

I cannot stand the cuteness! Alterations by Stephanie Scott is the YA contemporary read that everyone needs in their life. It's a quick, feel-good read about a girl who loves fashion, Pinterest, and is crushing hard for one of the boys next door.

What I Liked:

First of all, I loved how the main character is Latina. It felt nice to be able to relate to her since I am also Hispanic and her life was one I could understand to a certain level of familiarity. The terms of endearment, love for soap operas or telenovelas, and the close-knit relationship between the main character and her grandmother made me smile throughout the novel. It's been a long time since I read a book without the general and cliché representation we always get in literature, so it was comforting to read a book where it was handled well.

Besides the Latina main character, I also found Alterations to be extremely relatable since Amelia has a passion for Pinterest and Instagram, something that any book lover will definitely see themselves in if they use these social media platforms. A year ago I might have not understood the call of Instagram and interacting with your followers, but now I do and I enjoyed the references in this book.

It wasn't until after I finished Alterations that I learned that this book is a retelling of Audrey Hepburn's movie Sabrina, so curious to learn more about the inspiration behind this book, I immediately went to see it and ended up finding a new classic to love! What's more, I found myself loving the characters from Alterations even more since I couldn't help myself from imagining them when I watched the movie. This truly made my reading experience even better and would recommend anyone to do this too when they read

Alterations!

And I cannot not mention the cute romance in this book. Amelia is torn between two dashing Laurenti boys who couldn't be more opposites from each other. Ethan is the striking popular guy who Amelia has had a crush for ages, and then there's Liam, the nerdy cute guy who loves tech. I always knew who I was vying for from the start, but I still enjoyed reading about this sweet love triangle.

What Didn't Do It For Me:

While Amelia and her Abuelita have a great relationship, I was a bit let down with the relationship she has with her mother (and her mother's personality). Amelia loves her mother and respects her, but I don't think her mother deserves a daughter like Amelia. She's supposed to be a good role model for Amelia, but she lies about a few things that didn't sit well with me. She also has some feeble excuses for not pursuing her dreams and it's a bit hard to believe that Amelia's Abuelita would have let her get sidetracked for that long. It kind of goes against their values, and to be honest, I wanted a good mother for the main character for once. It's starting to be something unheard of in YA literature.

I was also expecting more from the first half of the story, when Amelia goes to her internship to New York. She spends her time working hard with her project (which I admired!) but not much happens besides her spinning an impressive web of lies. This is where I wanted to feel the beginning of many butterflies in my stomach, but I didn't until much later.

Final Verdict:

Alterations is a great contemporary read where you will not only get a hard-driven Latina main character with a love for fashion, but also a great spin to Audrey Hepburn's movie, *Sabrina*. Definitely recommend!

Patty says

WHAT?!?!?!?!?

I'm sorry.....**DID YOU SAY A SABRINA RETELLING?!?!?!?**

Sabrina is one of my favourite movies. I LOVE Audrey Hepburn, and while yes I love Harrison Ford and Greg Kinnear the 1954 version is THE BEST.

Kids, if you haven't seen *Sabrina* (and no, not *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*) you need to go watch it!!!

I'm looking forward to some cuteness like this

and more cuteness

I NEED THIS BOOK ASAP!! This is going to be good, I know it will!! Anyone else looking forward to Alterations?!

Rê says

3.5 “SABRINA meets PROJECT RUNWAY” Stars

ARC via NetGalley.

Thank you, Bloomsbury Spark!!

When I read somewhere this book was supposed to be a mix of Sabrina (the movie) and Project Runway, I knew I had to have it. I absolutely adore the movie (I’ve watched the 1995 version a hundred times) and the fashion reality TV show is one of my favorites (it only loses to ANTM and its many versions worldwide). Plus, who doesn’t like Tim Gunn? It’s impossible not to love the “Make it Work” fashion expert.

So I’m only happy to say that Alterations delivers on what it promises.

The first part of the book is a heavily inspired on Project Runway. With Amelia (yay for Latina MC!!!) going to NYC to take part on a fashion summer program, we get to see her go to Mood, design her own clothes, meet fashion-lovers and even make a gown that is presented on the runway! I kept having flashbacks to all my favorite episodes of the show.

(I love Elena & Dmitry and the baby challenge episode was one of my favorites EVER)...

Anyway... going back to this review.

Amelia’s time in NYC allows her to take a good look at herself and her life choices. Girlfriend had an unhealthy obsession with Ethan Laurenti, a boy who wouldn’t even know she existed if her family didn’t work for his. With distance comes perspective, and with good new friends comes her decision to focus more on her and less on her long-time crush.

This almost felt like two books into one, because that first part I just mentioned had its own conflict and resolution: Amelia going to NYC, learning more about herself and her passion, creating trouble because of lies and making the decision to get over Ethan.

While I did enjoy the Project Runway part of the story, I had a few problems with Amelia’s choices when she was in NYC, especially the ones involving her new friends and her lies. They felt unnecessary, and I couldn’t really understand her motivation. But, like I said, Amelia had an arc and she showed growth, maybe not as much as I would’ve liked, but it was still progress.

Then the second book within the book comes when Amelia returns home and needs to face Ethan, and his brother Liam. That's when the romance aspect of the story kicks in. In my opinion, it takes too long to get here, and if it had not been for the whole Project Runway similarity, I would've have waited as patiently for this moment. In fact, the book has a lot less romance than I thought it would.

This is also when we get the Sabrina feels!

Amelia likes Ethan, who didn't pay attention to her until she returned. Ethan's brother, Liam, liked Amelia since... ever (which is pretty clear from the start, but Amelia somehow doesn't see). Amelia starts to hang out with Liam while she helps him develop a fashion app (I totally need it, BTW) and learns that Liam might be a lot more interesting than his brother.

While I did enjoy seeing Liam and Amelia together, I wasn't a big fan of how long it took Amelia to develop feelings for Liam. We were 80% in and Amelia was still struggling to let go of her crush on Ethan and see Liam as the true love interest. I felt robbed of truly experiencing the chemistry between Liam and Amelia, because she was still comparing him to his brother the whole time. I needed her realization to come a little earlier. I'd even take hints that she was interested in him at some point before the 90% mark.

I also wasn't a fan of how Amelia often referred to Liam's lack of fashion sense. Sure, we got that he doesn't know how to dress to impress, but she didn't need to keep pointing that out every few pages. Every time she did, she grew a little more unlikable to me. And Amelia has all the traits to make her extremely likable in my book. She's hard-working, creative, funny, loves her family...She didn't need the lies from the first part or the way she talked about Liam's clothes in the second.

The ending followed the Sabrina theme, which I super approve, because there was no way I'd be happy with a different outcome. Yay for picking the right guy, Amelia, and making money on an app I need ASAP!

Overall, this book had a really interesting concept and made good use of the comparative titles, which is always a plus. There were a few things I wish had been handled differently, but this was a fun and fast read, and fans of Project Runway and Sabrina will probably really enjoy it.

OMG GUESS WHO HAS AN ARC!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!
SABRINA <3 <3 <3

Kristy Mauna says

Alterations was the perfect weekend read!

This book is full of everything we love about contemporaries; young love, self discovery, family, and a little drama. Our main character, Amelia, comes full circle as she goes on a journey to discover who and what she truly wants in her life.. And I loved every minute of reading her story!

As soon as the book begins we learn that Amelia's grandmother has enrolled her in a fashion internship,

which Amelia had always planned on applying to but never did. Learning that made me feel as if I knew Amelia a little better. She's shy and insecure, and like most teenagers she's a little unsure of what she wants out of life. She's extremely passionate though. It was inspiring to see her passion for every aspect of her life, from her family to becoming someone in the fashion industry.

Amelia decides to leave behind the comfort of her home and attend the internship at NYFI. This part of the story was incredibly interesting! I loved reading how hard she worked to achieve her goals. There were also a lot of strong girl friendships, guys! I love when any strong friendships are represented and I'm happy this book didn't disappoint me. Amelia gains a lot of new friends at NYFI and they each brought something to Amelia's life. All of her friendships felt genuine and relatable, especially as they continued to encourage one another to reach their goals.

As the story progresses, we start to see more of Amelia outside of the shy and insecure girl we first met. New York changed her, in a good way, and as she's feeling more confident she heads back home to Miami. There's a lot of changes in Amelia's everyday life and with her relationships. Which the drama brought something to the story while managing not to be so dramatic or cheesy, and I appreciated that.

The Laurenti brothers, I should probably talk about Ethan and Liam.. I actually didn't really care for Ethan's character, to be honest. Liam on the other hand, he was definitely dorky and swoon-worthy! I love a good slow-burn relationship because they are always sweet and adorable in every way. The story always stays focused on Amelia though, and how she learns to stop living in her daydreams and appreciate what's right in front of her.. And that is very much present in her love life as well.

I really enjoyed all of the characters though! This is a perfect book to pick up if you're looking for a diverse read. The characters each develop in a natural way as the story wraps up. Amelia had the biggest transformation, going from being an insecure girl who was too afraid to live in the present to a confident girl who did nothing but appreciate all that she had in that moment.

The epilogue was perfection! Stephanie Scott is a fantastic writer and did a wonderful job showing the importance of loving yourself first and allowing that love to help you appreciate the people in your life. I highly recommend *Alterations*!

/ Originally Published on Simply Nicollette /

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INITIAL THOUGHTS 11/6:

This book was so inspiring! The main character's growth throughout the story was something special. The romance was sweet!! So many great friendships also.

Proper RTC, but if you're looking for a light and sweet contemporary this holiday season then add this to your TBR list!

Kara Isaac says

A sweet and adorable YA that I adored from beginning to end. Can't wait for more from this author!

Forever Young Adult says

Graded By: Stephanie

Cover Story: Keeping Me In Stitches

BFF Charm: Maybe

Swoonworthy Scale: 5

Talky Talk: Project Runway: Miami

Bonus Factors: Fashion, Sabrina Retelling, Diversity

Relationship Status: Little Sibling

Read the full book report here.

C.M. McCoy says

*This is a first pages review for North of Normal Book Reviews *

Amelia has spent her 16th birthday in bed with the flu, staring at a slice of cake she can't really eat, but her day seems on the cusp of a a turn-around.

Amelia is a character I'm not sure I like yet, but she's enough of an entertaining teenage basket-case that I want to find out. She's either delirious with fever and teen-drama-brain with short bursts of humor poking through, or she's simply a vain and overly dramatic crybaby ("even in sickness, I accessorize"). I suspect the former, I suspect I'll like her, and that suspicion is the element in this first page that makes me want to read on.

This first page does a lot:

Readership: YA. This girl just fever-snotted through her 16th birthday.

Genre: It's not so clear in the first page. And honestly, I didn't notice the heart on the cover until just now. (I know, I'm blind.) With the angst of a 16-year-old girl, the mere fact that she's thinking about a boy doesn't scream romance--they ALL think of boys, even the thriller girls. But now that I "see" the heart on the cover, it's clearly romance.

Mood and voice: Here's where this first page excels. Nothing is over done, and the angsty woe-is-me teen drama mixed with subtle humor rings true to me. This made me laugh:

"You're the loser!" I shot back.

I buried my face in the pillow—I just yelled at cake.

Setting: Not as clear. It threw me off that she calls her grandma abuelita, and I don't know if she lives with her gran or if maybe gran is just visiting. "Prom" says USA, but I've no idea where in the US this is set--city

or farm, east or west.

“Tell me more” factor: I'm turning the page at this point, but not from suspense. The mood is decidedly disappointed and full of mucus. It's the voice that's hooked me--that fun sort of wonder, which plants a seed of curiosity in my head that whispers, "what will come out of this girl's brain next." Getting a chuckle out of a first page is magic. I love this opening!

This first page earns 4 North of Normal stars!

5 Stars on Amazon / Goodreads
