**Dress Codes for Small Towns**

**By Courtney Stevens**

**About the Book**

As the tomboy daughter of the town’s preacher, Billie McCaffrey has always struggled with fitting the mold of what everyone says she should be. She’d rather wear sweats, build furniture, and get into trouble with her solid group of friends: Woods, Mash, Davey, Fifty, and Janie Lee.

But when Janie Lee confesses to Billie that she’s in love with Woods, Billie’s filled with a nagging sadness as she realizes that she is also in love with Woods…and maybe with Janie Lee, too.

Always considered “one of the guys,” Billie doesn’t want anyone slapping a label on her sexuality before she can understand it herself. So she keeps her conflicting feelings to herself, for fear of ruining the group dynamic.

Except it’s not just about keeping the peace, it’s about understanding love on her terms—this thing that has always been defined as a boy and a girl falling in love and living happily ever after. For Billie—a box-defying dynamo—it’s not that simple.

**About the Author**

Courtney C. Stevens grew up in Kentucky and lives in Nashville, Tennessee. She is an adjunct professor and a former youth minister. Her other skills include playing hide-and-seek, climbing trees, and being an Olympic torch bearer.

**If you enjoyed this book*:***

* The Summer of Jordi Perez (And the Best Burger in Los Angeles) by Amy Spalding
* Little & Lion by Brandy Colbert
* You Know Me Well by David Levithan
* It’s Not Like It’s a Secret by Misa Sugiura
* Nice Try, Jane Sinner by Lianne Oelke

**Discussion Questions**

1. What did you like about the book? Dislike?
2. Discuss the different characters in the book. Who was your favorite? Least favorite? Explain why.
3. The book is set in rural Kentucky, but Otters Holt could be interchanged for many small towns. Did you grow up in a small town? If so, how was your home similar or different to Otters Holt?
4. Did any passage or quote stand out to you while reading?
5. The Corn Dolly is a huge part of this story, but characters claim it’s not just an item. What did you think of this tradition and its significance? Do you know of traditions that are important to your community that could be compared?
6. Billie makes a distinction between her religious beliefs and how the congregation members act. How did you feel about the contrast between her ideas of “church” and “church people?”
7. Billie has a rocky relationship with her father, for the most part. What caused the tension? Is there a way they could have handled things differently?
8. What do you think of the book’s title? How does it relate to the book’s contents? What other title might you choose?
9. How did you feel about the ending? Was it too ambiguous, or did you think it suited the rest of the story?
10. If you could ask the author anything, what would it be?