

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

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Editorial

Welcome to the Pink Special edition for TLM. The original idea for this month's newsletter was to focus solely on services and books for Teen girls in Libraries. Due to the fact that there has been quite a bit going on about Libraries and youth and books this past month the focus has broadened and now includes a look at the Fulfilling their Potential conference and two author events as well as a special look at the Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library Teenage Book Group and a selection of their favourite book choices.

This month's interview is with Lisa Clarke – author of *Think Pink* a self-esteem book aimed at teen and tween girls.

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Manga News

MANGA SHAKESPEARE

Manga Shakespeare is a series of graphic novel adaptations of William Shakespeare's plays. A fusion of classic Shakespeare with manga visuals, these are cutting-edge adaptations that will intrigue and grip readers. Drawing inspiration from trend-setting Japan and using Shakespeare's original texts, this series brings to life the great Bard's words for students, Shakespeare enthusiasts and manga fans.

Romeo and Juliet and Hamlet are the first two titles are being released in March and are illustrated by top UK manga artists Emma Vieceli (Hamlet) and Sonia Leong (Romeo and Juliet).

For more information go to <http://www.selfmadehero.com/> or read the March issue of Neo magazine where you will be able to find an

interesting and informative article about the artists and the forthcoming titles.

Pink is for Girls

Not really a new title as it was released in November last year. *Pink is for Girls* is a collection of manga stories in the shojo style aimed at girls and is published by Sweatdrop Studios. It has a companion book called *Blue is for Boys*. For more information go to: <http://www.sweatdrop.com/products/pinkisforgirls.php>

Avril Lavigne – a manga character

In volume one of MAKE 5 WISHES, introverted teenager Hana stumbles upon a website that will change her life forever. After a demon grants her a series of wishes that go bad, Hana meets her hero Avril Lavigne, who helps her find the courage to conquer her own personal demons once and for all. The concluding volume of MAKE 5 WISHES will release in July 2007. Both volumes will appear in full-colour.

More than simply lending her talents to the creative process, multiple award-winning singer, songwriter, model, and actress Avril Lavigne also appears as a character in the manga. When asked what inspired her to be a part of this project, Avril Lavigne had this to say, "I know that many of my fans read manga, and I'm really excited to be involved in creating stories that I know they will enjoy."

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Event Review 1: *Let's hear it for the girls!*

On Thursday February 1st I was fortunate to attend a 'pink' event hosted in central London by Piccadilly Press to celebrate books for and about girls. The pink theme was reflected in the books on sale and the

refreshments served, and by the attire of many of the audience! The event had a real 'buzz' about it as a diverse range of publishers and librarians, as well as young people, converged upon Foyle's Gallery Space.

The exciting range of authors gathered together by Piccadilly to discuss their novels included; Cathy (Mates, dates...) Hopkins, Sophie (Best Friends) Parkin, Jonny (Venus Springs) Zucker, as well as new author Sophia Acheampong (Growing yams in London). There was a stimulating discussion of how their various backgrounds and experiences have helped to shape their works as well as an opportunity for audience members to ask questions. In short, the evening was highly enjoyable and a wonderful chance to meet the creators of many of these excellent 'pink' titles!



Jonny Zucker, Amanda Lees, Sophia Acheampong, Cathy Hopkins, Liz Elwes & Sophie Parkin

Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library Teenage Book Group

The group started a year ago in response to a request from a customer. We meet every four weeks on a Friday evening at The Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library. The group is run along the lines of a traditional adult reading group, but with no wine – just cookies and Coke.

Ironically, the person who asked for a teenage book group has never come but fortunately others have.

Setting up the programme I used the most popular teenage title here hoping it would draw people in. The start-up title was Noughts and crosses by Malorie Blackman. In some ways the choice of titles does determine the group, teenage books being very sensitive to gender.

Now the choice of titles is in response to the particular passions of the group.

The two most successful titles prompting the longest discussions interestingly were adult ones. Firstly *My sister's keeper* by Jodi Picoult, which raised many issues and had lots of back-up material on the net and secondly, *The lost art keeping secrets* by Eva Rice, which also addressed lots of issues about the emergence of pop culture, class, what defines people and first impressions.

Early on, we read some of the BBC Big read top titles and I can now proudly say I have read 1984 and understand the term Big Brother.

We have close links with Sarah Skinner at Waterstones Castle St and who support us by supplying proof copies of new books to our group who act as 'consumers' and write reviews for her.

About a 100 yards walking distance and open in the evenings is a branch of Borders, so for some meetings we go over there to scout for new titles.

This Autumn we followed the Teenage Book Trust Prize, the groups top favourites out of that selection were *A swift pure cry* by Siobhan Dowd and *The foreshadowing* by Marcus Sedgewick unfortunately neither of these won, but they enjoyed a heated discussion annihilating the others!

Norfolk recommends..... Recommendations from the Teenage Book Group, Norfolk and Norwich Millennium Library, Norwich

My sister's keeper by Jodi Picoult.

"Very thought provoking, making lots of moral, practical and emotional points."

The virgin suicides by Jeffrey Eugenides.

"Really interesting, and makes you think about families and how families are connected to each other."

His dark materials trilogy consisting of Northern lights, The subtle knife and The amber spyglass by Philip Pullman.

"A phenomally interesting and provocative tale, shame about the weak ending though."

Specials by Scott Westerfeld.

"A possible future if we keep on going as we are. Chilling."

New beauty secrets: your ultimate guide to a flawless face by Laura Mercier.

"Really funky."

A little love song by Michelle Magorian.

"A good romance set in the 1940's"

All books by Louise Rennison about Georgia Nicolson. [*Angus thongs and full frontal snogging* etc.]

"They rock!"

This lullaby by Sarah Dessen.

"Really sweet. A good ending."

Feeling sorry for Celia by Jaclyn Moriarty.

"Totally addictive."

Moving in, moving on etc by Kate Cann.

"Funny and sweet."

Petals in the ashes by Mary Hooper.

"Helps you relate to the plague of London."

A swift pure cry by Siobhan Dowd.

"More people should have heard about this book and read it as it is so thought provoking."

Eragon by Christopher Paolini.

"A different typical fantasy. Less boring than Lord of the Rings."

After eight by Meg Cabot.

"Funny and believable. Doesn't talk so much about being a princess, just other things....."

Elsewhere by Gabrielle Zevin.

"Completely different from anything I have ever read."

The lost art of keeping secrets by Eva Rice.

"A modern version of the lovely classic I capture the castle."

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Think Pink

<http://www.pink-world.co.uk/the-books/>

This is not the first time that Lisa Clark's name has appeared in TLM. There was an article published last year about her website www.pink-world.co.uk (whatever you do when

typing in the address do not forget the dash or you may end up in an adults only website). I mention it again as the site has recently had a facelift and redesign and is now even better and still just as pink.

Lisa has recently had a book (*Think Pink*) published by HarperCollins Children's Books. I received a review copy and read it and thoroughly enjoyed it despite being male.

I felt that I was a bit too old and male to offer an unbiased review of the book so I passed it on to a member of the targeted demographic (a teenage girl) to read and review, unfortunately the review arrived too late to be included in the newsletter but will soon appear on the Teen Librarian website.

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Event Review 2: *The Raven Queen*

"You are invited to meet Pauline Francis, author of *The Raven Queen* – a stylish invitation and a stylish venue. To celebrate the launch of this first novel from their new author, Pauline Francis, Usborne had chosen the Globe Theatre for the party. This was not a whim – since the novel is about Lady Jane Grey, the tragic Nine Days Queen, the setting could not have been more appropriate; nor could the weather – cold and wet! Though this did mean that some could not make it, nevertheless the turn out was impressive. Usborne were impeccable hosts, laying on wine and delicious "bites" in abundance. Then we were able to hear Pauline discuss her book with Nicolette Jones of the Sunday Times. This was fascinating, giving the audience an insight into themes, ideas, and symbols that had fired the author's imagination, leading her to see this "biography" as no mere retelling of events recorded in history, but as a human story out of which she has fashioned a teenage romance. It was a lively session in which the audience was invited to be involved through questions from the floor. Then back to the party and a further opportunity to meet the author, the editors and colleagues as well as purchase a copy of this stylish and very readable book. A good time was had by all!

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Fulfilling their Potential Conference 2007

The FtP Conference held on Monday 5th February was well-attended by Librarians from all over the UK and representatives from the various agencies that provide Youth Services in conjunction with UK Library Services.

The speakers were extremely passionate and knowledgeable on the topics on which they spoke and it was interesting to hear what is happening on a national level. One of the talks that sparked a lot of interest was the presentation by the youth delegates from the Derbyshire Book Pushers as it is sometimes hard to encourage young library users to share their experiences.

I will refrain from giving a blow-by-blow account of all the presentations as the full text of the speeches are available on the Reading Agency website (link at the end of the report) and anyone that is interested but was unable to attend the conference can read them and draw their own conclusions.

While the conference left people feeling fired-up and enthusiastic about what is happening on a national level I (and several people I have spoken to since) felt that there was very little offered that could be implemented practically on a local level. There were several table displays: Manga Mania, Reading Champions, Young Roots and others) that offered information on viable projects and practices.

Apart from the one criticism I felt that the Conference was worthwhile as it gave all present a short history of developments and projects that they are in the process of testing and mainstreaming as well as giving Librarians a chance to catch up with colleagues from other authorities.

The presentations from the Conference are available on:
<http://www.readingagency.org/projects/children/FTPConference.html>

Discuss the Conference in the Teen Librarian Forum here:
http://www.teenlibrarian.co.uk/forum/comments.php?DiscussionID=16&page=1#item_1

YLG London One-Day School

Meet the editor of Teen Librarian at London YLG's One Day School, "The Teen Library Code: Reaching, connecting with and attracting young people in to libraries". A full day of speakers, authors and librarians working with teenagers will look at how we engage, consult with and promote books to young people. Look out for Tokyopop's talk on Manga, Alan Durant, Sherry Ashworth, Sam Enthoven and up-and-coming talent Sharon Dogar. Friday April 20th, Cilip HQ, London. For more information, or to book a place, please contact Cathy Myers at cathy.myers@lewisham.gov.uk - special discount for individual Cilip members and students/unwaged.

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An offer from Mary Byrne

Mary Byrne (freelance publicist) is interested in hearing from anybody that runs teen reading groups that would like to be added to her review mailing lists. You can contact her via email on: mary.byrne@virgin.net. You will be able to receive review copies of Piccadilly Press titles, and also, from time to time, Chicken House titles of suitable age range.

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Competition

Win a signed advance reader's copy of Cathy Hopkins' newest book *Cinnamon Girl: this way to paradise* by answering this simple question: What is the real name of the main character known to her friends and family as Cinnamon Girl?

Answers to editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk as a change the third correct answer mailed in will win the book.

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Submissions

If anyone would like to submit an article or idea for inclusion in the newsletter, please send it to editor@teenlibrarian.co.uk

Editor: Matthew Imrie

Articles by: Ferelith Hordon, Sue Prior, Cathy Myers, Matthew Imrie, Elaine Simpson & the Norfolk Teenage Book Group, Mary Byrne.

Special thanks: goes to Lisa Clark for giving up her time to answer the Eight Questions

Eight Questions with... Lisa Clark, author of Think Pink

Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?

Because I suffer from a severe case of re-teen-itis. No, don't feel sorry for me, it's really rather fabulous. The symptoms include: listening to teen-loved music like Greenday and Mcfly on repeat, wearing cute and kitsch matching accessories and spending endless hours blogging and commenting on Myspace.com. As I'm unwilling to accept treatment for this (basically, it involves watching the news, reading grown-up newspapers and attending dinner parties – yawnsville!) I really don't think I'm able to do anything BUT write for teens. How lucky am I?

Q2. How do you get into the heads of your characters?

It's simple, Lola and her Pink Ladies – Bella, Sadie and Angel - are all superhero versions of who I would love to have been as a teen girl, Lola has the cool hair that I wish I dared to dye, Bella has killer guitar playing ability and this real go-for-it girl attitude, Sadie is just so likeable and has a natural ability to make people feel like they're super special and Angel is totally knowledgeable about all things fashion – who wouldn't want to be a combination of all those people? So getting to hang out with them in my head is by far the coolest way to spend a day...

Q3. Do you know instinctively what will appeal to Teens or is it more a hit or miss process?

I've been a teen, that helps. I work with teens, again, that helps. Teens are incredibly savvy and know exactly when they're being duped, that's why so many big brand companies now employ teens to tell them what will work when trying to reach their peers. Ultimately though, I think the most important thing is not to patronise them, I have over 8,000 subscribers on the book's website: www.pink-world.co.uk who email me daily telling me how great they think Lola and her fabulous world of pink is, which I tend to take as a good sign that I'm doing it right, they'll be the first to tell me when I don't!

Q4. What is the most satisfying part of the writing process for you?

Getting to hang out in my PJ's with the coolest girl gang on a daily basis is pretty fabulous, but with this being my first book, everything from meeting with publishers and illustrators, receiving your first proofs,

seeing the cover for the first time is all incredibly satisfying just as I'm sure seeing the book in a bookstore and meeting people that have actually read it will be too...It's the best adventure!

Q5. Do you ever read the works of other Teen/YA authors? If yes what can you recommend?

I do! I especially love authors who can create well-developed characters that you totally fall head over kitten-heels in love with. So, based on my favourite fictitious book girls, I deffo recommend the following: the lovely Cathy Cassidy, author of Dizzy and Scarlett, Rachel Cohn, author of Gingerbread and Francesca Lia Block author of Weetzie Bat, who is my fave fictitious girl, like, ever.

Q6. Are any of your novels based on personal experiences?

Think Pink is not exactly a novel, it's the first in a series of feel-good, go-for-it guides for tween and teen girls and they're definitely based on what I wish I'd known as a teen girl – life was kinda sucky for me so this is the antidote for other girls who think their life is sucky too, it really doesn't have to be and Lola and the pink ladies can show them how!

Q7. What are you working on at the moment?

Besides spreading a whole lot of pink glitter sparkles in a quest for a more sparkly-gorgeous world of pink fabulousness?

Well, hot on the heels of Think Pink, the next book, Beauty*licious is out in March 2007, and Lola and the pink ladies will provide everything a girl needs to feel, think and look great without resorting to fad diets or unhealthy regimes, it's really rather gorgeous, even if I say so myself. I'm planning on running Think Pink workshops across the country to meet as many Pink Ladies as possible and long term, I want to host a kick-ass Think Pink summer camp. Yes really. We all know about the summer camps like what those crazy cool Americans have, where they learn how to swim and make sparkly things and play Thundercats on the recorder, right?

Well, I want Think Pink summer camp for girls - bringing the books to life with book clubs, rock-girl guitar lessons, makeup seminars, expression sessions...In fact, can we wrap this up, so I can get on with it right now please?!!!

Q8 Do you ever do Library visits to Teen Reading Groups? If yes, what is the best way to get into contact with you or your agent about it?

I would most deffo do Library visits if I'm invited! You would have to speak to the lovely Catherine Holmes Catherine.holmes@harpercollins.co.uk about such things as she makes all those important kinda decisions, I'm not too good at decisions, I have a hard enough time deciding what to wear in the morning!