

TEEN LIBRARIAN

Monthly

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July 2007

Editorial

We are just over halfway through the year and things seem to be going well in teen Library land. The number of courses concerning Teen Librarianship that have happened and are happening bodes well for the service.

This month's newsletter is as mixed as ever; we have an interesting request from Nancy Lockett (an American Librarian I recently met at the British Library) as well as notification of a new website for YA readers. Another excellent event has been held in Slough – I would urge all Librarians that run teen events to let me and everyone that reads TLM know about them – nothing inspires interesting events and ideas more than reading about what others are doing! Two more movies based on Teen/YA books are coming up with more on the way!

This month there is also a competition to win one of five signed copies of Tim Lott's new book *Fearless*.

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TRG@Britwell Library – Britfest '07

Summer is upon us even if the sunny weather isn't so I decided it was time to scrub up those wellies and do a festival themed TRG session. What makes a festival I thought...hmmm.... MUD. Oh my yes mud.... but we can't bring mud in the library – what can we bring instead? Melted chocolate! Same colour, similar consistency, minimally H&S concerning, oh yes and also very very very tasty. And to get the healthy eating brigade off our backs I made sure that chopped fruit pieces were also on offer along with the regular marshmallows on sticks.

Dusting off my brand new (Christmas present) electric fondue machine the stage was set. Add in a themed quiz, some crazy attempts at making model tents out of paper, string and straws and what you get is one fun session. Amazingly we even spent a fair amount of time talking about books we've read....

Originally the plans had also called for cocktails (non alcoholic) but time ran out on us so this idea has been shelved for the time being.

If anyone would like more details of the activities, I would be happy to share them.

Contact Gabrielle Koenig at Slough Library.



E. Lockhart author of DRAMARAMA, is coming to BookDivas to discuss her novel and answer questions.

She will be on the site from July 15-21 and you can personally interact with her by leaving comments, asking questions and participating in our virtual author visit with her. To talk to E. you must be a member of Book Divas, don't worry though signing up is absolutely free and only takes seconds! www.bookdivas.com

Request from Nancy Lockett

I am an American student in London working on a paper for a graduate class in Library and Information Services and looking for information. I hope to compare and contrast the teen library services in the UK and the US. I would appreciate any thoughts or information anyone might be willing to share.

I am interested in just general thoughts, philosophies, and experiences.

Why do you think teen library services are important?

What are your biggest challenges?

What would you like to see change in the UK about teen library services?

What advice would you offer me in the US in regards to teen services?

What are some of your teens favourite authors?

Do they read any American authors?

What do you see as the key to successful teen programming?

Do you like working with teens? If so, why or why not?

Anything else you can provide will be much appreciated!

Please let me know if I can ever return the favour.

Thanks so much in advance for any information and best wishes to you all.

Nancy is contactable via e-mail at: nancy.lockett@yahoo.com

Piccadilly Teen Readers

The Piccadilly Teen Panel is a selection of teens around the UK to whom we send books throughout the year to review. After a certain number of books have been sent, another teen is selected to join the panel in their place.

Becoming a Piccadilly Reader is simple. Just write a review of a Piccadilly book (three paragraphs, include any aspects of the book you think is relevant) and e-mail it to Piccadilly Press

If the reviewing skills are good enough, then you will be told you are on a waiting list to join our panel. At the moment, the list isn't very long, so you won't have long to wait!

<http://www.piccadillypress.co.uk/pages/panel-questionnaire.html>

Cosmogirl!

Natmag has closed *Cosmogirl!*, in another blow to the collapsing teen market.

The decision follows the closure of *Smash Hits!* and *Sneak* by Emap, as well as the sale of *Bliss* to Panini in the last year. BBC Magazines recently closed *It's Hot!* but retains Top of the Pops magazine.

In a statement Natmag said it had undertaken a complete review of its portfolio and decided that the August edition of *Cosmogirl!* will be its last. The company said it would hope to find the editorial team alternative roles within the business.

The *Cosmogirl!* offshoot – digimag *Jellyfish* – has been granted an extended test period by the company. Significantly, it will now focus on targeting a much older age group than its original 12-to-16-year-old audience. The new test period, running until September, will move the online title into parent brand, *Cosmopolitan's* territory, targeting 18-to-25-year-olds.

<http://www.jellyfishmag.co.uk/>

Who writes invisible books?
A ghost writer!

Manga News

Simon & Schuster Manga Deal with Viz (taken from the Book Standard)

Simon & Schuster has forged a book distribution arrangement with the US-based VIZ Media to distribute manga titles in the UK and Ireland, including best-sellers like NARUTO and BLEACH. The list will be launched in September.

Since June 2004, Simon & Schuster's US division has distributed VIZ Media manga titles throughout North America. This latest agreement expands the relationship through a sales, marketing and distribution arrangement with Simon & Schuster's UK-based operation.

"The UK has a long established love of graphic novels and we are pleased to forge this agreement with VIZ Media to bring the hottest manga properties to a fast growing fan base hungry for the best in entertainment content," says Jonathan Atkins, international publishing and sales director at S&S. "We look forward to bringing what is seen as the strongest manga title list to the UK."

Librarian: Knock knock.

Kid: Who's there?

Librarian: Winnie Thupp.

Kid: Winnie Thupp who?

Librarian: He's in the juvenile fiction, and so is Piglet!

Movie News

The Dark is Rising



In October The Dark will Rise – based on Susan Cooper's best-selling fantasy series about Arthurian myth. The Dark is Rising stars Christopher Ecclestone as the Rider and Alexander Ludwig as Will Stanton.

The film has moved the action from the UK to the US and it sounds a bit like the plot line to Highlander. On the plus side Jim Henson's Creature Shop is involved so the effects should be excellent. I will wait until I see the film before I make any more comments.

Nancy Drew

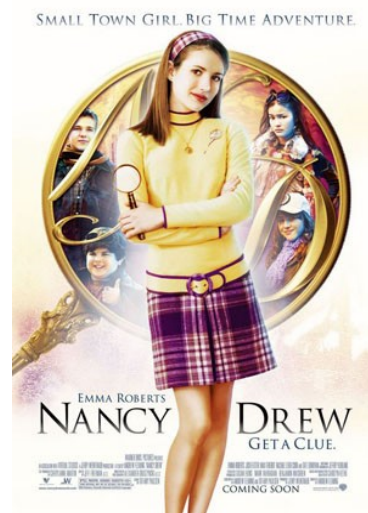
"Nancy Drew" brings the timeless heroine to Los Angeles, where she is faced with a fresh set of challenges and her most baffling case yet.

EMMA ROBERTS stars as the resourceful teen detective, who leaves her friendly hometown of River Heights for the West Coast and enrolls at Hollywood High. There, her unique personal style immediately sets her apart from her self-absorbed, fast-living peers, especially reigning mean-girl fashionistas Inga and Trish, who can't quite figure her out but know that everything about her is different - from her super-smarts and retro manners to her perfect picnic lunches and penny loafers.

Their less-than-warm reception might bother the average new girl in town, but not Nancy. She has more important things to think about - namely, a brand new mystery.

Even though she promised her worried Dad (TATE DONOVAN as Carson Drew) that she'd quit the "sleuthing" business, it isn't long before Nancy gets a lead on one of the greatest unsolved cases of all time: the mysterious circumstances surrounding the death of famous actress Dehlia Draycott. It happens that the Drews are staying in the former Draycott mansion, long reputed to be haunted and now a site where some very strange things have been happening.

How could she resist?...



Website news

I would like to remind all newsletter subscribers and users of the website that the forum is working.

<http://teenlibrarian.co.uk/smf/index.php>

Competition

Win one of five signed copies of Tim Lott's new book *Fearless*.

To enter the competition send your name and address to teenlib@teenlibrarian.co.uk. The competition will close on Friday 20th July and the winners names will be drawn out of a hat (or bag).

Submissions

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

Editor: Matthew Imrie

Contributors: Gabrielle Koenig, Nancy Lockett, Matthew Bernstein & Matthew Imrie

Special thanks to Tim Lott for giving up his time to answer the eight questions.

Q1. What made you decide to write for Teenagers?

It was an accident. I told my goddaughter a story, started to write it down, and couldn't stop.

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

With great difficulty. For the first six months they're just cardboard cutouts.

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

No, I just write what I feel like writing.

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

Finishing.

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

David Almond, Carl Hiaason, JD Salinger.

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

Most of my adult novels, yes.

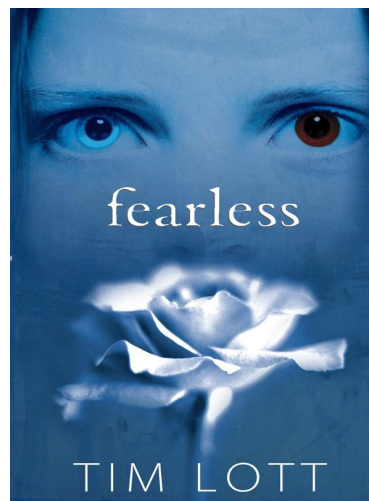
Q7. What are you working on at the moment?

Possibly a follow up to 'Fearless'. But I haven't decided yet.

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

I never have. Best way of getting in touch with me is through my website, www.timlott.co.uk or via my myspace page www.myspace.com/littlefearless.

Fearless: a review



Reading Fearless was (for me) a lot like revisiting 1984 by George Orwell, but instead of the unremitting bleakness that ran through that novel this holds a message of hope.

Little Fearless is a courageous and likeable heroine who will gain the readers pity, respect and admiration. She epitomises all that is good in humanity in her battle against oppression and desire for freedom. The lessons are subtly woven into the story as are the warnings against totalitarianism and xenophobia.

Tim Lott is an excellent writer and his descriptions and characters are beautifully written. Fearless is a gripping and thought-provoking book about belief in humanity and will hopefully have a follow-up.

I give it eight out of ten on my personal enjoyment scale and recommend it most highly!