

## Reader's Advisory for the Magazine Inclined

by Robin Illsley

Have you ever tried recommending a good book to a teen, only to see her sigh, roll her eyes, and then head for the magazine rack? Here are some book suggestions for teen girls who love their magazines.

If you like *Teen Vogue*, try...

- the **Gossip Girl** series by Cecily von Ziegesar
- the **It Girl** series by Cecily von Ziegesar
- the **A-List** series by Zoey Dean
- *The Truth about Diamonds* by Nicole Richie
- *The Devil Wears Prada* by Lauren Weisberger

If you like *Seventeen* or *Teen*, try...

- **The Dating Game** series by Natalie Standiford
- the **Princess Diaries** series by Meg Cabot
- the **Clique** series by Lisi Harrison
- authors Megan McCafferty & Carolyn Mackler

If you like *Sugar* or *J-17*, try...

- the **Mates & Dates** series by Cathy Hopkins
- *Angus, Thongs, and Full-frontal Snogging* (& subsequent books) by Louise Rennison
- the **Shopaholic** series by Sophie Kinsella

If you like *Bust* or *Bitch*...

- authors Francesca Lia Block, Carol Ann Duffy, & Carolyn Mackler
- *Stitch 'n' bitch* or *The Happy Hooker* by Debbie Stoller

## MAGAZINES FOR GRRRIZ!

By Deb Mann

Most magazines for teen girls are pink and frilly and plastered liberally with the faces of Zac and Vanessa from *High School Musical*. Isn't there any place a feminist can find solace on the magazine rack?

Thankfully, yes. There are a number of good magazines aimed at the female teen population that take a more feminist approach. Here are two to get you started.

The tagline of *Bust* magazine is "for women with something to get off their chests". I picked up the recent Love edition (just in time for Valentine's Day) and found it full of hilarious, thought-provoking and frank pieces. It doesn't sacrifice fun, celebrity content or great fashion layouts, but manages to inject a fair bit of critical thought into its content – witness "The Guide", a typical 'what's hot' list of music and movies, but with a five-page-long section devoted to books. Articles include an examination of the Bush Administration's abstinence program, the HPV vaccine, middle-age pregnancy, and using statistics to debunk popular myths about single women. There's a bit of adult content in *Bust* – the erotica segment entitled "One-Handed Read", for example – but in terms of women's magazines with something to offer teens, this is pretty good.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, *Shameless* is directly marketed to teen girls. The tagline "News! Views! Music! Culture! Style! For Girls Who Get It" says it all. I took a look through the Second Anniversary issue of this publication, based out of Toronto. *Shameless* is in black and white, and definitely conveys a less glossy, more realistic image. The content reflects a focus on activism and action, with articles on alternative spaces, the inequities of the international chocolate trade, and the Dove Campaign for Real Beauty. Interview subjects are all young women - a slam poet, a singer, a fringe culture icon, and boxers. In lieu of makeup and hair tips, there are articles on making your own stencil for decorating your clothing/spray-painting messages on buildings, and podcasting. The fashion content is represented by an article on a co-op store that sells clothing made by women from around the world.