

Letter from the editor(s)

The magazine magazine

With teens seemingly living on on-line social websites and using the library more as a video store than a place to gather reading material - are magazines even popular anymore? I believe this issue answers that with a resounding "Fo' shizzle" (which is teen-speak for "duh"). Now, more than ever, teens are turning to magazines maybe not for the latest celeb drama (gossip blogs have that covered), but for info on fashion, health concerns and of course... embarrassing stories!

This issue of YA Hotline explores all of the great ways librarians can use magazines to reach their teen patrons. Our editors plum the depths of their teen years – humiliating stories and prom tales included! While some of us loved magazines as teens (see our tribute to the late, lamented *Sassy*), others express their “outsider perspective.”

After the months-long process of devouring every teen mag we could lay our hands on, we've gathered up hot info for all youth services librarians. We tackle everything from programming and collections issues to body image and feminism. On a lighter note, we have loads of fun stuff like “Astrology from the stacks” or our quiz in Librarian Style.

This issue is full to the brim with everything magazine... nothing “periodical” about it! (sorry, library humour)

Enjoy!

Contributor Bios:

Life stopped for **Alison Black** in 1993, when Kurt Cobain was still alive, *Sassy* magazine was still being published, and retro “SPAM” t-shirts were the shit. She still sees the world in black and white, argues passionately for causes she doesn't understand, and pretends to be forever-clouded by post- post- teenage angst. Secretly, she loves watching reruns of ANY show, hoards belongings, and only judges people based on their appearance. And she loves loves loves cute boys.

Rebecca Ferrie is an island girl who swears like a sailor. In High School she was always loafing in the art room reading pilfered girls magazines. She harboured a passionate belief that the Pixies and The Clash could change the world.

If **Ann Foster** was a Pussycat Doll, her Doll name would be "Fashion Doll." She enjoys YA books, teen movies, and music performed by teens. Interestingly, she didn't like any of these things when she actually was a teenager.

As a teen **Robin Illsley** could often be found reading her mother's Catherine Cookson and Victoria Holt novels. These days she likes to watch movies, prowl around Facebook, and stalk boys. She judges people on the basis of height.

Debra Mann is a fun-loving tomboy with no fashion sense. She enjoys hiking, canoeing, drinking overpriced teas, and organized social activities. Her pet peeves are jazz flute and mean people.

Kate Sichky is a fashion magazine addict in a new age tree huggers body. She enjoys camping, reading, astrology and dancing like a crazy person at social functions. She recently discovered a deep and abiding hatred for people who spit.