

UNDERAGE PAGE

Elephants, pooches and clowns, oh my

• Circus Gatti will bring out all the bells, whistles, elephants and more to the Bell County Expo Center in four shows on Saturday and Sunday.
— Please see story, Page 1D



Where the story never ends

BY NOOR AL-AHMADI
BELTON HIGH SCHOOL

The Web site www.fanfiction.net is where undiscovered writers can “unleash their imagination.”

Many people have disagreements about how books have ended or how movies turned out. They may have wanted the main character to die. Or may not have wanted the damsel in distress to be so annoying. Well, you can do something about that.

For example, “Harry Potter,” a very popular book among teens and young adults, has had more than 387,000 stories written for it. Anything can be changed about it. A writer can claim the characters as their own and change the plot, by making the characters non-magical, or killing off everyone, or even making it into a crack fic (a story making fun of the genre you decided to write about.) Or let’s say they’re fed up with the emotional roller coaster that is “Harry Potter” — they would do a mercy killing and have him fall gracefully off a really high cliff.

A story can be written about anything. Bands, music, movies, TV shows, cartoons, anime/manga. The sky is the limit. New characters are put in. Or writers even do a crossover fic (a fic where you take two different topics and join them together, making the characters of different books or movies meet).

There are also rules. When something is published it is purely for the readers’ entertainment, not your own personal blog. There is what is called an author’s note, something that can be used in one of their stories that has nothing to do with the genre they are writing about (which otherwise is against the rules). Many authors use an author’s note to let the reader know they couldn’t update the story anytime soon for whatever reason. This is mostly overlooked, seeing as it doesn’t talk about their personal lives. But many fanfiction writers have abused this rule and have had their account deleted.



Illustrations by Jonathan McGinnis

Fanfiction.net is a Web site for writers, not a personal blog.

This Web site, although safe for young readers, can also sometimes be too mature. There are stories with lemons/limes (sexual scenes) and should be monitored by adults.

When logging into www.fanfiction.net there are steps taken to get to the type of stories desired. First, choose a genre — movie, manga, cartoon, book, etc. Then, choose the topic you feel in the mood for. For example, under the movie genre you could choose

“Batman Begins/Dark Knight” for the very popular movies.

Then you can choose the rating from G to M, G being suitable for children of all ages, M for mature readers only. And the main characters of the story can be chosen and the genre between those characters. Whether it be romance, action or humor, there are so many to choose from.

To make an account is easy and free. Just use your e-mail, choose a story and voila! It is not always easy to write the actual story, and you will not always be praised. There will

be readers who don’t always agree with your style of writing or where you’ve taken your story, and will leave you very rude comments. These are called flames or flammers. But flammers don’t call it that; they prefer the words “constructive criticism.” But if you try hard enough there will be people who love your stories and won’t be able to wait for you to update.

Many people who write for fanfiction.net have been said to write better than most of the writers who have been published. The writers who

are good enough to get positive reviews and who are added to readers “favorites” list, are the writers who work really hard and put a lot of thought into their stories. For example a writer who goes by the name of CGarman has written three stories for “Twilight.” Her stories are “Coffee makes the heart grow fonder,” which has gotten more than 1,000 reviews. There are more than 400 reviews for “New American Classic” and “Hard to Concentrate,” a sequel to “Coffee makes the heart grow

fonder.”

Examples of reviews are: “I just finished reading your story and I loved it...great job!” Or “Aww the end of that chapter was really cute. It makes me sad to know that this story is over already. :(I can’t wait for you to start the sequel. So please hurry :)” And “Yay! I luv luv love love love LOVE LOVE this fanfic! it is hilarious and so cute! I also read cmthgf and its sequel ... I am one of your most dedicated fans. :] please update soon! Or should I say, as Isadora does, PWEASE?]

The closest thing this writer has had to a flame is an impatient fan waiting: “Update plz its been almost one month!”

There are also many slang, or code words, for the readers and writers of fan fiction, such as “OOC,” which means Out Of Character. A writer can make his or her character OOC by making them speak or act differently than how they would normally act or speak in the book or movie they were borrowed from.

“OC” is usually used to define an Original Character, in which a writer stays loyal to the original character’s actions. OC also is known to stand for Other Character, which is used to describe a situation when a character that is not in the original story is brought in for the purposes of the author to further manipulate his or her fanfiction as he or she sees fit.

A fluff fic is a genre in the story that is devoid of angst and takes on a mood of light-hearted romance. A Mary-sue is a character who is always perfect, beautiful, kind, giving, etc. — an obvious made-up character.

A very popular genre is a song-fic, which takes a popular song and puts it into the story, making the story relate to the song or using the lyrics of the song as a script to the characters.

With the motivation from their fans, and the “constructive” criticism from the flammers of the fanfiction world, hopefully our undiscovered writers will make something of their talent.



Name: Rebecca Victoria Dias
Age: 18
School: Holy Trinity
Grade: 12
Parents: Ronald and Sandra Dias
Grandparents: Dionysia Dias, Merlyn Rebello



SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

Goals in Life:

“As of now, I plan to attend a private Texas university with a major in mathematics and a minor in music.”

What’s important to her?

“Though my life has just taken off, I have found three important factors that influence me: God, family and service. Through service, I can share my talents and gifts with others. My family loves and supports me every step of the way. Finally, with God, everything is possible.”

P.S. There’s a new book in The Clique series

BY SAMANTHA STAPPER
BELTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

EHMAGAWD! Lisi Harrison has once again written an amazing young adult book in her award-winning The Clique series. “P.S. I Loathe You,” her newest book, was just released last week.

This book is about an eighth grade Alpha whose clique, The Pretty Committee — after ending their boy fast — is once again struggling to stay together!

With new crushes, Kristen, Massie and Dylan will have to fight to win their crushes’ hearts! Will they honor their pact to support each other day and night?

Or will they choose boys before their best friends?

Or are their best friends even really their friends?

Find out what all the gossip is about in the 10th book in The Clique series, “P.S. I Loathe You.” Also, when you buy the book in stores, you will receive your own sheet of Pretty Committee conversation heart stickers! So go to your local bookstore for fun, drama and AH-MAZING gossip!

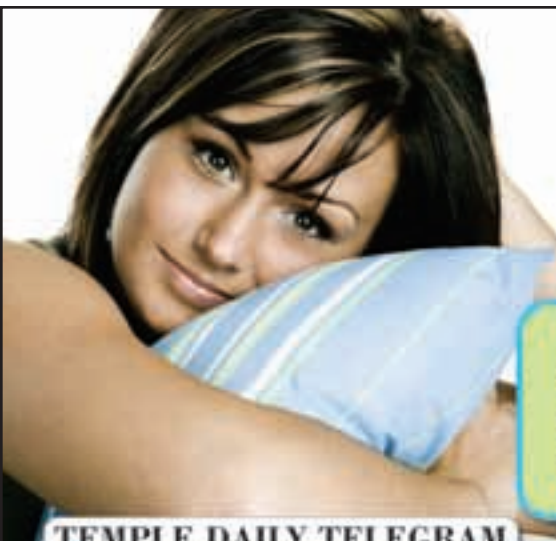
ABOUT THE SERIES

In all, Lisi Harrison has penned 15 books as part of the tween series The Clique. The series chronicles the lives of five teen-girls: Massie, Dylan, Alicia, Kristen and Claire.

The first book, “The Clique” was published in 2004.

Harrison’s brand of tween drama leads the girls through a series of melodramatic events that presumably shake every teen’s world at one point or another.

The series spawned a movie-version of the first book, released in November 2008.



Bored much? Get involved!

This page is all about teenagers – their interests, their activities and what they want to read. We accept stories, photos, graphics and ideas from any area teenager.

Submit your stuff to telegramteens@yahoo.com
or call Jerry Prickett at 778.4444 x225
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