



Welcome to the first issue of the third volume of *Newsapalooza*!

Phew, it's been one heck of a year! I've been so busy with dance, school, and Girl Scouts, that we haven't had time to publish an issue!

It's my first year at high school, which means I'm going to CHHS instead of PVC! The high school... Well, it's a LOT bigger, and you can easily get lost in it. But you actually get study halls! **cheers**

Unfortunately, instead of just hanging around during study halls, we have so much homework to do its just insane. I suppose I'm not used to it yet, but it's a lot different than the middle school!

And in Girl Scouts, I'm trying to earn my Gold Award, which includes a whole bunch of paperwork, and a lot of community service (I'm not even going to go into detail...).

And dance... My show is in about a month (EEP!) and I'm really excited! I've had rehearsals for about 2 hours almost every day of the week except for Sunday. (And Saturday rehearsals? Oy gevalt...)

And we've finally come out with an issue of *Newsapalooza*! YAY!

Inside this issue, we've got interviews, fun facts, autobiographies, book reviews, and advice columns galore! The writers (and artists) of this issue are

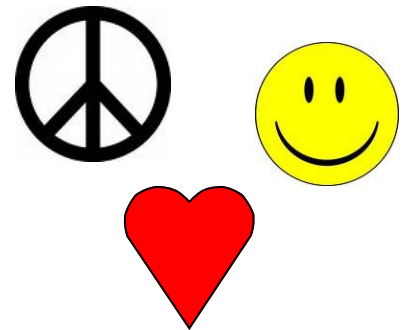
* Kamar Tazi

- * Katie Landau
- * Lucy Stockton
- * Isabel Anzani
- * Emma Cheshire
- * Carly Livingston
- * Maggie Rothberg
- * Charlotte Smith
- * Melanie Lukic
- * And ME! :)

We've been working on these articles for a while, so I hope you enjoy!

Love love love,

Amanda L.



The Time of the Butterflies by Julia Alvarez: A Book Review By Amanda Livingston

I've read Julia Alvarez before, and she usually writes historical fiction about refugees of war, revolutions, and idealists, from a certain person's point of view. Her books are easy to get into, because she throws so many interesting facts, observations, and shocking truths at you from the beginning to the end of the book.

The length of *In the Time of the Butterflies* is around 350 pages,

so it's kind of a lengthy read, but it's completely worth it.

In the Time of the Butterflies was about a group of sisters, (Las Mariposas, the butterflies) during the revolution in the Dominican Republic during the 1940s-1960s. The sisters, Dede, Patria, Maria Theresa, and Minerva believed in a different kind of government, other than the dictator El Jefe was running. They spoke out against the govern-

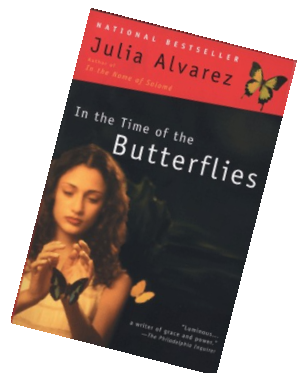
ment, and that's what got them into a lot of trouble.

I think that in order to read this book and not get confused, you need some background information on it. Julia Alvarez includes a short piece about the Dominican Republic revolution at the end of the book. It's recommended that you read that part first, in order to better understand it.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book

this book because it was interesting to learn about the revolution that the Butterflies were a part in. If you like historical fiction, you should try reading it.

Other books by Julia Alvarez include *How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents*, *¡Yo!*, and *Before We Were Free*.



George Eliot: A Mini Biography

By Katie Landau

George Elliot, also known as Marian Evans, also known as Mary Ann Evans, was an English writer in the mid 1800s. Let me tell you a little about her, and why I think she's so cool!

George Eliot was born a devout Christian, and was a complete Linguist. She ended up knowing of French, German, Italian, and Latin! Needless to say, she was really smart. As she grew up, she met some people who introduced her to thinking

about things in a non-religious way. She stopped going to church, and her father got angry. However, she stuck to her beliefs.

Then, in her 30s, she fell in love with a man who was married, but estranged to his wife because she cheated on him. Evans lives with him for basically the rest of her life. He assists her with her writing career.

All of her family shuns her for living with this man, but she doesn't care. The

public also criticizes her. But everything eventually cools down.

Later in her life, Eliot reads a book about Judaism, and she and her lover are reported to have gone to synagogue, and attended Sabbath! She converted to Judaism.

At the end of her life, her lover dies, which is extremely saddening for her. She then marries a friend 20 years younger than herself, and dies later on in the same year at the age of 61.



The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins: A Book Review

By Isabel Anzani

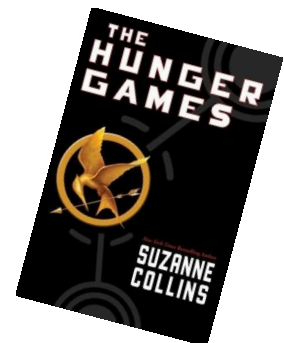
The book The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins is a fantastic book! It takes place in the future, on a deteriorated version of our Earth. It is about a girl named Katniss Everdeen. Katniss's sister is chosen to partake in the Hunger Games, a sick and twisted game where the partici-

pants are forced to battle to the death against each other. Katniss, instead, volunteers to go in the games instead of her sister.

This book is captivating. Every chapter leaves you at the point where you don't have a choice, but to read more. I personally stayed up in bed, reading this

book (past my bedtime!).

If I could rate this book, I would rate it five stars. This is because it was written so well, and includes many cliff hangers. It has a sequel that came out recently in September, and that is called Catching Fire.



Top Five Romantic Things to Do on Valentine's Day

By Kamar Tazi

Do you struggle with deciding what to get your valentine for Valentine's Day? Check out these tips!

1. Send flowers, heart balloons, and chocolate! It sends the message that you care. Anyone will appreciate your thoughtfulness.
2. Take your special someone out to eat. Taking him/her out to eat is really romantic, especially if the restaurant is fancy!
3. Give them a valentine's card that has a cheesy saying. Your valentine will think it's cute!
4. Leave them a note from their 'secret admirer.' Listing their great qualities in a note is a sweet thing to do!
5. Tell your valentine how much you like them.

If sending gifts, going out to eat, and giving cards is not your thing, then you should be upfront and honest .

Tell your valentine you like them. You never know, they might feel the same way about you!



Fun Facts

Collected by Emma Cheshire



1. Bamboo can grow up to 3 feet in a 24 hour period.
2. A dime has 118 ridges around the edge, a quarter has 119.
3. The average human scalp has 100,000 hairs.
4. Elephants can't jump. Every other mammal can.
5. No one knows why people blush.
6. A healthy, non-color blind human eye can distinguish more than 500 shades of gray.
7. There are no clocks in Las Vegas casinos.
8. Rice paper does not have any rice in it.
9. Ancient Egyptians slept on pillows made of stone.
10. A healthy, non-color blind human eye can distinguish more than 500 shades of gray.
11. There are no clocks in Las Vegas casinos.
12. Rice paper does not have any rice in it.
13. Ancient Egyptians slept on pillows made of stone.
14. There is about 200 times more gold in the world's oceans than has been mined in our entire history.
15. About 20% of bird species have become extinct in the past 200 years, almost all of them because of human activity.
16. Amish men shave until they marry, then they grow a beard.
17. Gorillas sleep as much as 14 hours per day.
18. A healthy, non-color blind human eye can distinguish more than 500 shades of gray.
19. There are no clocks in Las Vegas casinos.

23. There is about 200 times more gold in the world's oceans than has been mined in our entire history.
26. 18% to 20% of twins are left handed, compared with under 10% for non-twins.
27. In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by rope. When you pulled on the ropes the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. That's where the phrase, "goodnight, sleep tight," came from.
28. Cockroaches can live for 9 days after their heads have been chopped off.
29. The world's largest amphibian is the giant salamander. It can grow up to 5 feet long!
30. In Cleveland, Ohio it is illegal to catch mice without a hunting license.
31. A sneeze travels out of your mouth at over 100 miles per hour.
32. Alaska has over 5,000 earthquakes a year.
33. A slug has four noses.
34. The average person falls asleep in 7 minutes.
35. The average person has a dream that lasts 7 minutes.
36. A duck's quack doesn't echo.
37. Starfish don't have brains.
38. We are born with 350 bones, but die with 206.
39. Starfish are one of the few animals who can turn its stomach inside out.
40. 40% of women have hurled footwear at men.
41. Donkeys are used in Iraq to launch rockets.



Dear Desdemona Quack

Dear Desdemona Quack,
I received a turtle for my birthday last week. Now when my friends come to my house, they get so wrapped up in playing with the turtle, they forget they're supposed to be playing with *me*. Quite frankly, I find it insulting that I am being rejected for a reptile. But I don't know what to do about it. Any ideas?

Sincerely,
Envy is Green

Dear Envy is Green,

New pets, as fun as they seem, can be a nuisance. They're new. They're different. Naturally people get a little overexcited. But don't worry. Once your turtle has been around for a few months, the excitement will wear off. In the meantime, there are ways you can try and distract your friends. If they ask to play with the turtle immediately once they get there, suggest something else to do, like having a snack or working on your

homework. If the friend insists, play with the turtle or a bit but then ask politely if you can play another game. You could also experiment with having him out while you're doing other things, such as playing a board game. No matter what works out, this will blow over before long, and then you won't have to share your turtle or your friends!

Have fun with your new pet,
Desdemona Quack

Dear Desdemona Quack,

This year, everyone is going nuts over Valentine's Day, and who they should send their valentine's to. But I don't like anyone, and I don't want to send anyone some gooey, mushy, gross valentine. Am I immature?

Am I weird?

Sincerely,
Out of Love

Dear Out of Love,

It is often true that as you get older, Valentine's Day evolves completely. When you're young, you give some cartoon character card to everyone in your class and eat chocolate. But now it probably means something more. However, that's only if you want it to. Plenty of people aren't comfortable with all the crushes and dating. You're not alone. And Valentine's Day doesn't have to be about that kind of love. It's a great time to show friends and family how much you love them. Mainly, though, just enjoy the fun parts of the holiday, like the candy!

Sincerely,
Desdemona Quack

Dear Desdemona Quack,

How can I get people to notice me? Popular people ignore me and I always get picked last in sports. What should I do?

Sincerely,
Nearly Invisible

Dear Nearly Invisible,

Everyone has a different persona. Some people are more likely to be noticed more than others. It all depends on two things: confidence and individuality. The more confident you are about yourself, the more inclined people will be to talk to you. And if you act just like everybody else, of course you'll just blend in. Try creating something that makes you an individual, something special and different than the rest. Maybe a couple new outfit, or a new haircut. And lastly, don't worry so much about what others think of you. It's what you think of yourself that counts.

Sincerely,

Desdemona
Quack



Howl's Moving Castle by Diane Wynne Jones: A Book Review By Katie Landau

Some of you may find this title familiar, because it was made into an anime movie. Honestly, I have no idea why this book was chosen for the CHHS book club.

This book is about a girl named Sophie who is turned old by an evil witch. As an old woman she runs away, and while doing so, she stumbles upon a dark, menacing, moving castle owned

by the evil wizard Howl who eats young girls. She is headstrong, so she goes inside the castle and meets a harmless fire demo and Howl's apprentice, Michael. Sophie stays at the castle for a long time and learns that things aren't always as they seem, especially when it comes to herself.

This book is totally and completely predictable. You know exactly how it is going

to end by the time you get to the 5th chapter. The magic is continuing and everywhere, unlike some of the other fantasy books I've read. The evil characters aren't very well done, and for some reason, it randomly brings up some character that you feel were hardly developed in the first place, which makes you even more confused.

Nevertheless, if you are

looking for a feel-good, happy ending type book, then read this one. It is completely silly but it seems to hit that part of you that makes you smile. So, I would only recommend this book if this is what you're looking for, and if you can handle the confusion. If not, please run the other way.

Ginger Pye By Eleanor Estes: A Book Review

By Isabel Anzani

The Pye family gets a dog named Ginger. Suddenly, Ginger goes missing! The Pye family must set out on a search to find her. Many things wouldn't be expected in this book, and a discovery actually ends up being the biggest clue to finding Ginger!

My favorite part of *Ginger Pye* is when the Pye family finds Ginger. I liked that part because it is the happiest part of the book. (I enjoy happy books!)

I think the main idea of *Ginger Pye* is that if you search for something, and if you keep trying, you will succeed. I think that because the Pye family kept on

searching and trying to find Ginger but not thinking it was impossible, they found her!

I think that it was a good book because it was written with clarity which made a lot of the things clear to the reader. This kept me interested.

Finally, if you like good, happy books with animals,

then this book is definitely for you!



Diary of a Wimpy Kid– The Last Straw By Jeff Kinney: A Book Review by Kamar Tazi

Jeff Kinney is the author of this book, and he is hilarious. I've read other books in the series about a boy named Greg Heffley.

I love his books because some of the problems that Greg gets into are real, and some are things that not every kid gets into.

The book is 217 pages long and you'll wish it was longer because of how good it is.

The book is about Greg,

His two brothers Roderick and Manny and everything they get into. IT goes from things likes New Years resolutions, to boys wearing robes, to trying to jump out of giant holes. You'll laugh a lot when you read this book.

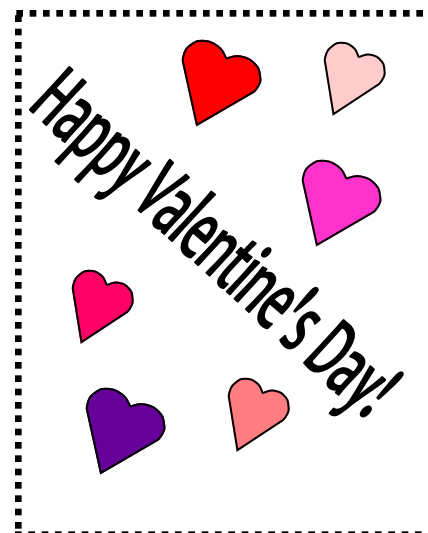
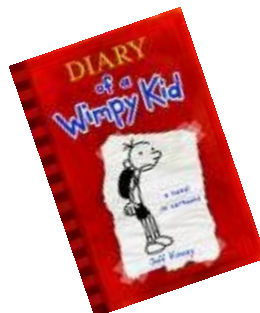
If you like to laugh, then this book is for you.

You wont want to put it down.

The other books in the series are *Diary of a*

Wimpy Kid, Diary of a Wimpy Kid-Roderick Rules, Diary of a Wimpy Kid-Do it Yourself Book, and the next in the series is *Diary of a Wimpy Kid 4*.

Read this book!



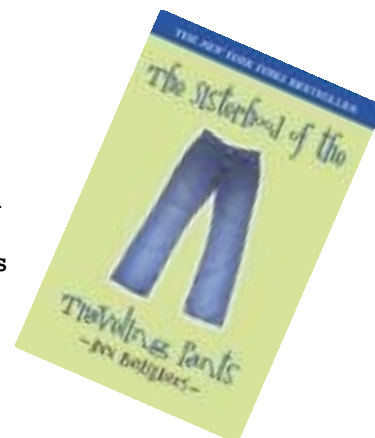
The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants by Ann Brashares: A Book Review By Melanie Lukic

Have you ever heard about a book that had a pair of pants that fit all four girls? Well this is that book! The main characters include: a tall, gorgeous and blonde, a curvy and cultured girl, an artistic and quiet sweetie, and a wild

and different teenager. I loved how the pants in this book brought all the girls together, when they discovered the magic of the pants. My least favorite part was where another of the characters, a little girl named Bailey, had can-

cer.

I recommend this book to tweens and teens in middle school and high school. I recommend this book because it has sentimental value.



The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm by Nancy Farmer: A Book Review

By Maggie Rothberg

I'll admit it: I had been avoiding this book for a while. It had been recommended to me by several different people, but it just didn't appeal to me. It is not really my favorite genre, and I wasn't sure I wanted to force myself through it. But finally this year I decided I was going to pick it up. And I was pleasantly surprised.

The Ear, the Eye, and the Arm, is the story of three children, Tendai, Rita, and Kuda, living in Zimbabwe in the Year 2194. They are the children of an important general, but they are kept cooped up in their house all the time. The three kids decide to take an adven-

ture but get kidnapped along the way, and their parents hire three highly unusual superhuman detectives to get them back: The Ear (super hearing,) the Eye (super vision,) and the Arm (super feeling.)

The beginning of the book was not especially gripping, but as the plot advances it slowly lures you in. By the end I couldn't stop reading because it was so intense, with both the detectives and the children inches away from death.

The interesting thing about this book is it explores a totally different world than our own, not just because it is over a hundred years into the future,

but also because it takes place in an African country very different from the U.S. Mostly it projects the Author's idea of what Zimbabwe will look like in 2194: crime-filled and scary, but also very technologically advanced.

But it also shows us a glimpse of traditional African Village life. Some of their customs might seem strange to us, but they are a part of the culture. They live very differently than us, and I think they might not like living in our world as much as we might not like living in theirs.

I would give this book, on a scale of 1-10, an 8. It addresses some very serious topics, but

crazy characters like the Ear, the Eye, and the Arm made it funny a lot of the time. I thought it was interesting to discover the Village Life through the eyes of a kid (Tendai) who lives more modern lifestyle closer to ours.

I would recommend this book to people who like science fiction and maybe even to people who usually don't. It is pretty interesting, and worth a read. You don't even need superhuman senses. Just go to the library.

The Twenty-One Balloons By William Pène du Bois: A Book Review

By Carly Livingston

I bet nobody who is reading this book review has ever read a book about a 60-year-old man flying over most of the world in a hot air balloon. Well you should try and read one! In the book, a man wants to fly around the world to get away from his life as a teacher, but he hits a de-

tour on the way. He lands on a small island called Kracatoa. He stays on the island and gets to know the people. He learns that the people on this island have a very different government, a different culture, different types of activities and technology.

My favorite part is when

one of the men on the island was telling the main character how the island's government works.

This book is fantasy/realistic fiction, and if you like those genres then this book is for you.

This book is a great book for everyone to read, be-

cause it is fun and creative. So go to your local library and check out *The Twenty-One Balloons* by William Pène du Bois!



A Series of Unfortunate Events By Lemony Snicket: A Series Review

By Edith Neidhart

If you like the Harry Potter series, then you'll love the *Series of Unfortunate Events*! If you've ever read the series, you'll know what I mean. This series is by Lemony Snicket, a great author who knows how to catch you in a book in the first sentence. I'm going to focus on the fourth book, my personal favorite. It's called *The Miserable Mill* and is very exciting from beginning to end.

The Baudelaire children's par-

ents leave the Baudelaire children a large fortune. At the beginning of the series, the Baudelaire children find out that their parents perished in a fire. So the Baudelaire children become the Baudelaire orphans. They first get sent to Count Olaf, but after attempting to marry Violet to get the fortune, the orphans are sent from family member to family member. Count Olaf always shows up in various disguises and

always just misses stealing their fortune. You can always tell its Count Olaf by his tattoo of an eye on his ankle.

In *The Miserable Mill*, the Baudelaire orphans get sent to a lumber mill. They live in a small cell with no windows. Their 'parent' is just a man who always has smoke around his face, so you can never tell what he looks like. They get nothing for breakfast and a piece of gum for lunch and a casserole for dinner. When

one of the children breaks his glasses, they have to go visit an eye doctor, and the doctor's office building is in the shape of Count Olaf's tattoo! With all that and much more, the Baudelaire orphans just can seem to get a break.

I highly recommend this book. Not only is it somewhat humorous, it is very intense and it keeps you on the edge of your seat. You should definitely read this book!

An Interview with Mrs. Dillon

Conducted by Maggie Rothberg and Carly Livingston

Carly and Maggie headed down to the fifth grade wing to ask Mrs. Dillon a little bit about her job. Here's what they discovered.

Carly: When did you start teaching?

Mrs. Dillon: I started about 30 years ago, but I stopped for a while, so really I have been teaching for 20 years.

Maggie: What inspired you to start teaching?

Mrs. Dillon: Well, it's a little confusing. Initially, I wanted to be a writer. I had my degree in writing. But I really love to learn, and I started

out teaching English. When I have more time, I still want to write.

Carly: What is your favorite subject to teach?

Mrs. Dillon: Well, I love to teach reading and writing, but I'm also a real math geek. And I LOVE science. And I think social studies is really interesting.

Carly and Maggie: That's a lot of favorites.

Mrs. Dillon: That's why I teach fifth grade! One thing I really love is doing Drama and reenactments in the

classroom. And debates and public speaking!

Carly: What gave you the idea for a couch and a bench in your classroom?

Mrs. Dillon: That's actually an interesting story. My son had a couch in his classroom in kindergarten, and when I started teaching he said, "Mom, you have to get a couch." So I have this couch that my husband built. And the bench-

Maggie: I love that bench.

Mrs. Dillon: My brother-in-law built it.

Maggie: How has teaching changed for you over the years?

Mrs. Dillon: Well, any teacher will tell you it doesn't get easier. The more you know, the harder it gets because you feel obligated to do more and more.



An Interview with Mr. Large

Conducted by Edith Neidhart and Charlotte Smith

Q: How do you balance fun with strictness?

A: I think that if the lesson is fun and interesting I don't have to be strict. So I try and make my lessons fun and interesting.

Q: When did you begin to teach?

A: I began to teach 14 years ago. That would be 1995.

Q: What is your favorite part about teaching?

A: My favorite part about teaching is being with kids all day. Adults are boring. They talk about boring things.

Q: Do you ever miss being a comedian?

A: No, I don't. It was a hard life. I had to stay up 'til 2 am per-

forming.

Q: What other grades have you taught?

A: Kindergarten, 4th grade, 7th grade, 6th grade, and 5th grade.

Q: What other schools have you taught at?

A: I have taught at Roaring

Brooke Middle school in the Bronx, and Brooke Side Elementary School.

Q: What is your favorite time of year?

A: Oh, um, I like December. The play is starting and its around Christmas and holidays.

An Interview with Marc Cheshire

Conducted by Emma Cheshire

My dad, Marc Cheshire, is a designer and editor for children's books. I interviewed him to get the inside scoop!

Emma: What kinds of books have you designed?

Marc Cheshire: Mostly books for young kids like board books, picture books, lift-the-flap books, and sticker books.

Emma: out of all the books that you have edited and designed, which one do you like the best?

Marc : I liked the book I Like Cats because the story is great, the pictures are funny and because there is a picture of me as a cat on the title page.

Emma: What is one of your most recent books?

Marc: I produced a book called Micro Mania that is full of all these pictures of germs and bugs.

Emma: How many books have you designed?

Marc: I never tried to count all of them, but I've been working as an editor/designer for 30 years, so probably over 500 books.

Emma: Have you ever edited and designed a book for adults?

Marc Cheshire: Yes, I did an encyclopedia on baseball that was 2,304 pages long!



Peacocks

By Carly Livingston



Ever heard of the saying 'proud as a peacock?' If this is your first time hearing that, and you have seen a peacock in a zoo or a peacock kept as a pet, then you would understand that the peacock is a proud bird that struts his stuff.

Peacocks are the male peafowl. A peahen is the female peafowl. The baby peafowl is the peachick. The peacock is the bird with the beautiful trail of feathers, as the female has nothing but brown feathers on her back.

The feathers of the peacock are used to attract the peahen. These feathers are pushed up in the back of the peacock by flight feathers. The trail of feathers is usually 5-6 feet long. At the end of each feather there is the eye. The eye is called the 'occelli.' The occelli changes color when the peacock moves, and has an iridescent hue.

The peafowl is a member of the pheasant family. They are the largest bird in this family. There are two regularly known peafowl species. The Indian blue peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) and the

Indian blue peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*).

A peacock can live for 20 years. It usually weighs about 9-13 pounds. They are ground feeders and eat insects, plants and small animals. They are the largest birds that can fly!

The peafowl are usually born in colors such as blue, green, brown, white, or purple. The most common colors of a peacock though are blue and green.

If you have ever seen or heard a peacock you would automatically know that it is a unique animal. The peafowl makes a noise to attract the female peafowl. They use it to achieve the peahen's attention. Along with his beautiful feathers and loud screech, I don't know how the peahens will miss him!

The peafowl is a unique bird. They are my favorite animal and I take much interest in them. They are very beautiful! They are proud birds.

Some last minute lyrics....

They made a statue of us and it put it on a mountain top now tourists come and stare at us blow bubbles with their gum take photographs for fun, for fun. Do you know what's worth fighting for? When it's not worth dying for? Does it take your breath away? And you feel yourself suffocating? I'll watch the night turn light-blue but it's not the same without you because it takes two to whisper quietly. Gave me those pearls and I thought they were ugly though you try to tell me that you never loved me I know that you did 'cause you said it and you wrote it down. And so I'm sailing through the sea to an island where we'll meet you'll hear the music fill the air I'll put a flower in your hair. And here we go again with all the things we did and now I'm wondering, just who would I have been to be the one attached at all time to your hip forget the things we swore, we meant. Cause a face without freckles is like a sky without stars why waste a second not loving who you are those little imperfections make you beautiful, lovable, valuable, they show your personality ...

See ya later!

Well, guys it's the end of *Newsapalooza*, Volume III Issue II!

If you would like to include an article in *Newsapalooza*, be my guest! Send your article to me (Word documents are always easiest to work with).

I'm so glad we've finally come out with an issue! We've been working really hard this year during meetings, focusing mostly on writing interviews and book reviews, and the formats of those, and editing and revising.

As usual, I'm proud of my *Newsapalooza* family! Great job girls. (And Griffin!)

Until next time,

Amanda L.



**COMPLETELY
AND TOTALLY
FORMATTED
BY AMANDA
LIVINGSTON**


Newsapalooza!

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