

The Little Black Book for Guys: Guys Talk About Sex

St. Stephen's
Community House
Annick Press
Softcover \$9.95 (176pp)
978-1-55037-962-4

"Talking honestly about sex is a GOOD thing... And bro, feeling less nervous and more confident is going to help you make smarter decisions," the authors write. It's easy to be smart with *The Little Black Book for Guys* at hand.

The book offers a collection of articles, poems, personal anecdotes, illustrations, and medical facts, all pertaining to relationships and sex. There's material about being gay, and detailed but readable information on sexually transmitted infections: "Yeah, STIs are some scary shit, but in this chapter we're gonna try to cut through the fears and the lies to give you the facts..." Other topics include *Sex. Do Ya Really Need It?*, *First Time*, and *Risky Business: AIDS*. Mindful of the brief concentration span of their teenaged male audience, the authors keep each piece short and to the point.

This helpful collection was mostly created by a group of young men from a Toronto drop-in center. One piece, on quantity versus quality, offers a woman's perspective. The contributors don't claim to be sex experts, instead, "What we did have was our experiences, and we've tried to write about them honestly." The text has been reviewed by experts, however, so it's accurate as well as teen-friendly. Naturally the quality of the contributions varies somewhat. One particularly effective piece is about the constraints of living with HIV: "I take up to 10 different pills every day...I ALWAYS need my meds with me."

Few teens have the patience to read anything from cover to cover, and the glossary and index will come in handy for readers with specific questions. There's also a rather extensive list of resource Web sites, both in Canada and the U.S.

The Little Black Book for Guys is a light-hearted and down-to-earth guide to a topic of vital importance to most male teens, written in language that they can relate to. The potentially dry medical facts are presented with concise wit: "If fallopian tubes are like the subway for eggs, semen is like the bus for sperm. Millions of sperm can ride in just a teaspoon of the stuff." Best of all, the advice offered never fails to emphasize the importance of communication and respect. Purchasing this book would indeed be a smart decision. (March) *Julie Falkner*

MUSIC



Whole Lotta Led Zeppelin: The Illustrated History of the Heaviest Band of All Times

Jon Bream
Voyageur Press
Hardcover \$40.00 (288pp)
978-0-7603-3507-9

In 2007 and 2008 Robert Plant toured with bluegrass darling Alison Krauss, supporting the Grammy-winning album of duets, *Raising Sand*. But he used to run with another band who did pretty well for themselves. John Bream, music guru for the Minneapolis *Star-Tribune*, is the guiding force behind this aesthetically beautiful and factually complete record of Led Zeppelin, the only artists to score in the top ten in the United States on all their studio albums. Beginning with the prolific session work of guitarist, producer, and primary songwriter Jimmy Page in the early 1960s, then coming quickly to the rise of the new band from the Yardbirds' remnants, the coverage is thorough. Though the tone vacillates between criticism and hero worship, Bream should please the populace with his refusal to grind any particular ax.

Among the contributors are music writers like Chicago-based Greg Kot and *Rolling Stone's* David Fricke and Cameron Crowe. Rock icons Ann and Nancy Wilson, Paul Rodgers, and numerous other peers or disciples specify exactly what each group member did. The most amusing pieces present points of view from individuals including supreme groupie Pamela Des Barres and beat novelist William S. Burroughs, who showed up at a Zeppelin concert when far from young, and found intellectual common ground with Jimmy Page.

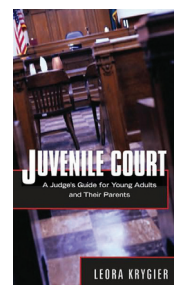
Page, Plant, Bonham, and Jones were debauchers who launched televisions from hotel balconies and evicted few groupies untouched during their astonishingly successful early years. When the group's manager Peter Grant proudly told Bob Dylan who he was responsible for, Dylan quipped back, "Hey I don't come to you with my problems, do I?" Also true: they were technically skilled musicians who set the bar for blues-rock and hard-rock innovation. Led Zeppelin changed the balance of payments between bands and concert promoters for the benefit of artists who followed.

This attractive coffee table book reflects good graphic design decisions. The easiest quibble is a weak one—Bream was too generous with full-color ink; he doesn't seem to miss one poster or concert stub that ever bore the band's name. The account rings truer than many earlier books, because of the broad approach and the lack of a grudge (fired tour manager Richard Cole is especially maligned on that account, yet he's also a contributor). Dirt seekers may be disappointed that unflattering incidents related by Bream

and associates only confirm accounts of events already reported in the media.

By the book's end, after Zeppelin has played a successful reunion concert in 2007, the old friends and occasional rivals are just happy to be together, but the greatest satisfaction belongs to Jason Bonham, the forty-something drummer who stepped in for his deceased father, practiced endlessly, and came through when it counted, earning the respect of the familiar legends he's been chasing all his life, the men he calls his uncles. (October) *Todd Mercer*

SELF-HELP



Juvenile Court: A Judge's Guide for Young Adults and Their Parents

Leora Krygier
Scarecrow Press
Hardcover \$29.95 (176pp)
978-0-8108-6127-5

"I feel bad because I let my parents down. I've seen a lot of people on the street because of drugs. They ask for money to buy food, or even pick up food from the trash. I don't want to end up like them," laments one of the thousands of youthful offenders who have appeared in the Los Angeles County Juvenile Court.

For fifteen years, Judge Leora Krygier has watched wayward youth become enmeshed in the criminal justice system, charged with offenses ranging from seatbelt citations and loud music violations to carjackings and drive-by shootings. She has seen every imaginable type of teenager, from a boy who got into a fight at school while receiving chemotherapy treatments to fourteen-year-olds who come to court with their own infants. Some are remorseful, others are defiant; all are in trouble, and this book offers help to those who need guidance when they suddenly find themselves in "Juvie" court.

The juvenile criminal justice system can be bewildering to minors and their caregivers; most people have little or no experience with the court system and can be overwhelmed by the frightening and complicated process. This guidebook does not replace the advice and counsel of an experienced lawyer, but it can help ease the anxiety of teens and their parents.

Krygier provides an overview of the entire juvenile criminal justice process, from the initial police detention through court appearances and sentencing. She gives specific advice on how to best make one's case to the court. For example, bringing certain documents to your hearing, such as character references, can help the judge be favorably disposed. The book even features a glossary of legal terms and an appendix of the types of documents the reader can expect to encounter in the juvenile court process. Tips on preparing for court hearings and eye-opening