



2009

The Vinyl Princess

Alison Canar

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Prinz, Yvonne. *The Vinyl Princess*. HarperCollins, 2010. ISBN 9780061715839. \$16.99. 313 p.

Reviewer: Alison Canar

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Contemporary realistic fiction;

Subject: Sound recordings--Juvenile fiction; Music--Juvenile fiction; Blogs--Juvenile fiction;

Books--Reviews;

In a downloading generation, Allie remains part of a dying breed. The self-proclaimed "Vinyl Princess" spends most of her summer working full-time at Bob & Bob records. In her spare time she publishes an anonymous blog highlighting some of her favorite LPs. Like most high school girls, Allie and her best friend Kit also spend time looking for love. Allie becomes infatuated with a particular customer, whom she nicknames "M." She is thrilled when her mysterious crush finally asks her out for coffee. Unfortunately, her dream relationship ends abruptly when the two armed robbers who have been burglarizing Telegraph Avenue strike Bob & Bob records. Allie recognizes the voice of one of the robbers--her date. In spite of her humiliation, everything works out when Allie finally realizes she has a true secret admirer who can challenge her for the title of the ultimate vinyl junkie.

Although the plot gets off to a slow start, the narrator's snarky attitude makes for a fun read. The interaction between Allie and her friend Kit feels authentic and should appeal to young adults. In addition to Allie and Kit's relationship issues, Allie's mother tries to find her way in the dating world as well, adding more complexity to the story. Excellent characterization adds to the quirky narrative voice and style. Many of the music references are obscure, but readers can find connections to the text whether or not they share in Allie's fanaticism.