



## Just Your Average Celebrity

*Kristina Springer*

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Livvie Peterson thought taking Interpersonal Communications her junior year would be an easy A. But when the first assignment is given, her world flips upside down. Here's the deal: the class is assigned a six-week project and is split into three groups— Paparazzi, Tabloid, and Celebrities. The Paparazzi follow around the Celebrities taking pictures and grabbing any kind of quotes they can. The Celebrities try to navigate being tailed on a daily basis. And the Tabloid receives all the information collected by the Paparazzi and decides what makes the weekly summary report. Sounds harmless...and it's all just pretend anyway, right?

Livvie is assigned as Paparazzi and when she is matched up with the über-cute Chas Montgomery as her Tabloid boss she's pretty sure things couldn't get much better. Livvie's uncanny ability to capture the Celebrities in compromising photos matched with Chas's skill of exaggerating captions and editing the photos make them an unstoppable team. And the long hours working side by side with Chas aren't a bad bonus.

Livvie simultaneously launches an anonymous blog, leaking the class' photos and stories on the Internet. Her rising follower number quickly becomes addicting and she possibly spills too much information online. Once she finds her own celebrity will she be able to give it back? And will Chas be gone before she ever has the chance to find out?

## Just Your Average Celebrity Details

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## From Reader Review Just Your Average Celebrity for online ebook

### Ashley - Book Labyrinth says

Closer to 3 stars, but definitely falls within the "it was okay" rating. I loved the idea of the book, and the little bit of romance was cute, but everything felt a bit simplistic.

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### Michelle says

Some good messages in this book for the middle schooler in my life.

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### Kar Achondo says

I received a copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review.

This was such a fun read! It is really hard to come up with something new in a genre like YA, where it seems like everything is pretty much already out there. So, I don't know how the author manages it, but this sure wasn't something I've read before.

The Paparazzi Project is the kind of book I wish I could have written. Mostly because it reminds me why I like to read in the first place: because it is fun! While reading this book I forgot to check for grammar mistakes (not that this book has a lot or any from what I know) or little holes in the plot because I was really captivated by the idea behind the whole story.

How awesome would have been if I had a class like Interpersonal Communications and a teacher like Mrs. B back in high school? It would have been amazing! Seriously I don't think there is anything more interesting than human behavior out there. And being able to do a whole project based on tabloids, celebrities and the media in general and getting a grade for it sounds pretty cool to me. Don't take me wrong, I'm not that much into magazines and I don't keep tabs on celebrities, but I do have my celebrity crush just like the next person and I really don't mind taking a look on his whereabouts from time to time.

Our protagonist and from whom point of view the story is narrated, is Livvie, a sixteen-year-old girl in her junior year at high school. She's funny and creative but insecure and with a huge tendency to rambling. She has lived in the shadows of Emma -her little sister and piano prodigy- for too long to think she's anything more than average. Her parents make that clear anyway. So, she's more than fine with watching from the sidelines and tries to stay off the high school radar. Unless until this awesome project come her way. The class is separated in three groups: Celebrities, kids who had to allow others following them and taking pictures of their every move. Paparazzi, the ones that had to follow the celebrities around and try to get the best shot of them. And finally, the Tabloids, the ones that have to take everything the paps manages to get from the celebrities and edit the info in a sort of newspaper for the whole class to enjoy.

Things like that, Livvie ends up being a Paparazzi and the boy who she's starting swooning over, Chas, gets to be her Tabloid and so they start working together, and a sweet relationship begins. You can tell they like each other, but it's not insta-love-forever-and-ever, just that realistic crush type of thing you have in high school.

Through this whole project Livvie has to learn to set her boundaries and would make more than a few mistake in the way, some of them pretty avoidable, but well, teenagers, we all have been one... Could this innocent school project turn into a massive high school chaos? Give it a try if you want to find out :)

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## **Kate McMurry says**

Delightful, YA, chick lit

High school junior, Livvie Peterson, is shocked, then intrigued, when Interpersonal Communications, a class she assumed would bring her an "A" grade with no effort at all, actually has a major first assignment, a social experiment called the Paparazzi Project. Everyone in the class volunteers to play a particular role: 1/3 of the class pretends to be a Celebrity, 1/3 a Paparazzi photographing them, and 1/3 a Tabloid editor creating sensational stories based on the photos. The students initially approach the project as merely an amusing game, but everyone rapidly finds themselves immersed in their roles to a degree that no one, not even their teacher, anticipated. In particular, Livvie and her Tabloid boss, handsome Chas Montgomery, unite as a highly competitive team, continually out-scooping the rest of the class. But the price paid by the unfortunate Celebrities in public embarrassment soon becomes far greater than Livvie and her classmates ever imagined was possible.

This YA, chick lit novel is a fast, fun read, with loads of humor, but some important insights, as well, about privacy and integrity in our fast-paced, media-driven, high-tech society.

I read the Kindle edition of this book. It is well-designed and well-edited, making it a pleasure to read.

I had previously read and very much enjoyed another YA chick lit novel by this author, *The Espressologist*, and I strongly recommend it to fans of this book.

I rate this book as follows:

Heroine: 5

Subcharacters: 5

Writing: 5

Chick-Lit Plot: 5

Romantic Subplot: 4

Overall: 5

Reviewer disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book directly from the author, who contacted me through my profile page on Amazon.

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## **Sara Bennett says**

This is a fun book to read. Definitely a summer beach-y read (although there was nothing in it to do with beaches at all). It's the drama you would usually find in a high school...only done a little more Hollywood style. Or paparazzi style haha. I liked Livvie, she was a great main character...a little quiet in her bestie's shadow but underneath is really funny and sarcastic. Chas, her tabloid partner and growing crush is really sweet too. I liked him okay. The others didn't really stand out to me though. I was interesting in a couple but it wasn't like I really liked them. There's some mystery surrounding the "celebrities" as you and Livvie try to

figure out what they're up to and as Livvie tries to catch them in embarrassing photos :) If you're looking for a bit of Hollywood drama in a high school setting that comes out with a good message in the end then pick up this fun read and enjoy it!

There were however, a couple of annoying characters, I didn't like Livvie's best friend all that much (maybe you don't know as much as you think you do huh??? \* smack down face \*) and the affair and cheating (see content section below) is a bit sad and taking away from the fun attitude of the book. But it does help you consider things in real life. Do the paparazzi ever have second thoughts about those they're capturing? Embarrassing photos that are TOO embarrassing? Underneath the lighthearted fun there is a little bit of a question and deeper meaning.

Content: Language wise there was a slight bit of minor cussing (suck/crap) throughout the book and a few other "bigger words". An affair mentioned and seen (the mom making out with a teacher, rather gross), cheating seen briefly as well, gossip, "paparazzi" and "celebrity" drama.

While I did enjoy this book I'd only give it about 2.5 stars as the plot was slow sometimes and it just didn't make me love it all that much. Still, it was a nice, one time read though :)

I was given a copy to review :) Thanks Montana!

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### **Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

3.5 Stars!

Every once in a while I really like reading something that I know will just be a fun read. Nothing hard core with too much going on or hard issues and drama.

I got that in The Paparazzi Project but I also got an unexpected look into gossip and the cause and affect on not only the ones being talked about, but the ones that helped fuel the rumors.

I really wasn't expecting this one to have life lessons that we could all probably benefit from and I really liked that about this read. It was subtle about the messages that it was trying to convey without being so subtle that the message wasn't clear.

Livvie was a good girl that made some bad choices but thankfully she had some very understanding friends and a teacher that helped her see the wrongs she had committed and help set them right.

I loved Lizzie's personality. She was a funny character with a slightly less than normal sense of humor. She was a little sarcastic and a whole lot quirky and I really enjoyed the way her mind worked. She really wasn't a confrontational person and didn't like the idea of the whole project to begin with. She really didn't start out wanting to hurt anyone but of course things happen and people get hurt along the way.

I really enjoyed the slight romance in this and the way the author handled everything. This really was a fun read that really does have some great life lessons in it that I think anyone can appreciate.

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## **Gia says**

Seemed like a fun project.  
This book was.. okaaaaay.

I liked this basic moral:

*"I think teens today put entirely too much information about themselves online. You're Facebooking, you're Tweeting, you're telling people where you are and what you're doing throughout the day. It's just too much."*

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## **Dizneeee says**

View this review and more at my blog, Dizneeee's World of Books

Let me just start by saying that I found this book to be refreshing. The plot was 100% completely relative to our lives today. Whether it's a pre-teens, teenagers, young adults, or even older adults. The Paparazzi Project focuses on capturing certain people in situations and how pictures can be misconstrued and lies and rumors can spread. Quickly!

The class project itself was a great idea! You could kind of tell immediately that bad things would happen. I mean, c'mon! You're giving high school students permission to photograph other students and interpret those pictures and story-line into a class tabloid.

Through the project, we meet the "celebrity" students: one who has an eating disorder, people secretly dating so they don't hurt a best friend, a totally nice guy who does a reading program at the Library with little kids, a student's mother having an affair, a guy with a crush on Livvie's best friend, a klutzy boy who spills his lunch on him all of the time, and a girl being busted for creeping around with another girl's boyfriend. That's a whole lot going on! The emotions and feelings going on for the students who volunteered to be the "celebrities" were way out of control.

With all of this going on, Livvie does start the blog. She honestly began the blog without meaning to harm anyone. She was also fed more rumors from an anonymous source and didn't fact check. Therefore, making more rumors and causing more problems.

Blogging and Social Media are huge parts of peoples lives now. Some people, no matter the age, just can't handle the "power" they may feel they have over people. As a blogger and social networker, I know the consequences that can stem from things that are said or done. Heck! We all do, especially with the latest scandal going on. People seem to lose their conscience when it's time to type what you're thinking. It's easy to forget that you may be hurting someone in the process when you think you're just blabbing or doing something that you don't feel is wrong.

### **Some of my favorite quotes and situations in the book:**

*"Kids are checking in every day just to read the stuff I put up there. I'm kinda like the Perez Hilton of Thompson High. Though thankfully no one knows it's me. I don't need a Jennifer Aniston confrontation*

*"moment like Perez had. And I really don't want Chas to find out either."* 47%

*"But there is a part of this job that I do wonder how the real paparazzi handle. And that's conscience. Is there ever a time where the real paparazzi feel weird or invasive when they're taking pictures of celebrities? Or is it all a game that everyone agrees to play?"* 48%

*"Let's get some ground rules down here. Olivia must be home by ten o'clock. There is to be no drinking, smoking, or drugs of any kind. That includes cough syrup, glue, paint chips, or prescription medication."* 52%

*"Bad behavior is always rewarded these days."* - 79%

*"I ran the blog just for fun at first. But as I kept it up, more and more people came to read what I was posting. And I got caught up in it. I was exploiting people's personal business to gain followers and get more hits. To get people to listen to me. To pay attention to what I had to say. It got away from me, and I wish I could take it all back. But I can't. All I can do is tell you that I'm deeply sorry to those whom I've hurt and I hope you can one day forgive me."* 98%

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The Paparazzi Project is a completely relevant story in our day and age. The story fits so many situations with students and adults. If you love fun, quick, and relevant stories, this is really one to read!

## **Books says**

Looking at the gorgeous cover of The Paparazzi Project, I could just tell this was going to be an excellent read. And yes, it certainly was! Not only is this a fun read, but it also uses the lives of celebrities as an analogy to show how easily lives can be ruined by the misuse of social media, and how we utilize these mediums in our quest for validation. Sounds like heavy reading material, right? Nope, not at all. This is actually just one of those books where you'll discover layer after layer of truths which will make you think: "ah, yes, I never thought about it that way".

The Paparazzi Project starts off with MC, Livvie, having to do an assignment for her Interpersonal Communications class as part of her final grade. This project involves extensive role-playing where students are divided into three groups; one group being the paparazzi, another group the tabloid, and the last group the celebrities. Livvie chooses to be in the paparazzi group. Although she dreads it at first, stalking her fellow students who were selected as the group of celebrities turns out to be a lot of fun and she gets so caught up in all of it she decides to start a gossip blog titled the Thompson Tattler in which she posts pictures and stories from her class project for all the world to see. The gossip blog she intended for her own entertainment exploiting her classmates personal lives rapidly gains hits and followers, and before she realizes it, quickly becomes a medium through which she'll learn first-hand how stressful and exhausting it can be to follow people and track their every move, not to mention how her thoughtless acts would affect their lives and those of their families.

*"When did we become so obsessed with what other people were doing instead of just being happy doing our own thing?"*

Unbeknownst to Livvie, an anonymous source was doing a little social experiment on her in an attempt to

teach her not to regurgitate gossip without factual proof or mercy. When all's said and done, by the end of this book Livvie was schooled in many of life's hardest lessons, and we readers walk away with lots to ponder, rethinking our status updates on various social platforms and understanding the importance of weighing information first and getting proof than just blindly trusting whatever information we're fed.

The dynamics of Livvie and her best friend's relationship are a little odd, but not unpleasantly so. I didn't feel fully invested in the characters, but the whole idea behind this story fascinated me, and though I found the characters to be wholly likeable, it was essentially the narrative that held my interest. There's a little romance thrown in for good measure, but not what I'd regard as the main focus of this story. Even so, the romance is sweet and charming, and is a welcome addition to this novel.

I was satisfied with how the book ended on a positive note, and how Livvie took responsibility for the mistakes she made. This is an extremely fun, clean read with a refreshingly unique storyline, and easy to finish in a matter of hours. The pacing is really great and in every chapter there's a ton of things going on. To conclude, *The Paparazzi Project* is a novel with substance and heart, and thus I recommend it to anyone in the mood for a feel-good weekend read!

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### **Mary Anne says**

Fun book!

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### **Sophie Rigsby / allthingsequilateral says**

*\*Published on Mundie Moms on 3/10/13\**

I can't remember a time when I read a book that focused on a class assignment, and in the case of *The Paparazzi Project* this plot device was definitely an element that kept me reading. Interpersonal Communications -- what a fascinating class. We are so very obsessed with celebrities these days that we even make celebrities out of people who really shouldn't be ones (i.e. celebutantes). But before this turns into a thesis on "Kardashians, Why Do We Care", let me just say that Kristina picked an excellent topic. My daughters and I spent a few days in Los Angeles this summer and our hotel had news crews and paparazzi camped out in front of it. It was a small boutique hotel in West Hollywood and they were very discreet. We had no idea who was staying there, but that didn't make us any less curious.

I liked Livvie from the start. She was very much an average student, not the usual kind of smartypants girl I'd expect in this type of plot. This made her more refreshing, especially in her perspective of wanting to try something new. I loved the way she noticed little things in people -- like the style of shoes Chas wore. It's what made her a good photographer. I also liked how she struggled with doing the right thing like when it came to continuing the blog. Boy, did that stir up a lot of controversy and once again, it reflected right back on our own celeb curious society.

My favorite part of the story was the unfolding romance between Chas and Livvie. Those moments of awkward firsts were captured beautifully as was the sting of betrayal when people began to suspect and uncover things. The story made me think back to high school and all the drama and gossip. What if it was documented and blown out of proportion? What if it was blogged about, and everyone in the world could see

it? This story accurately reflects all those what ifs.

While the book looks like a fast, light, fun read, it has an unexpected depth in its comment on our culture. Don't get me wrong, it was definitely well paced and parts of it contained a sweetness that was fun to read. But, there was also more to it (which I loved). It played with the very question I asked my daughters as we walked past the paparazzi outside that hotel -- "Why do we care who they're waiting to photograph?"

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### **Taylor Watkins says**

I was actually pretty excited to start reading Paparazzi Project by author Kristina Springer when I first decided on it. I hadn't read a chick-flick YA romance in some time, and I was ready for an easy read to connect to my younger days. Unfortunately, though, I found Paparazzi Project to be incredibly disappointing.

See the full review here: <http://bittybooknook.blogspot.com/201...>

All in all, I'd say if you're a teenager looking for a fun read, go for it! I'm sure you'll thoroughly enjoy Kristina Springer's Paparazzi Project. However, I do not recommend it to older teens or adults, as I feel that they would either get bored with the story or share my concerns about the novel.

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### **Valerie Waters says**

Cute. Cute. Cute book!! I wasn't loving this book at the beginning but it redeemed its self towards the middle and end. I did go into the book reading it to see if my daughter would like it. Once I realized it probably wasn't for her I was able to enjoy it a little more. There were some pretty inappropriate things talked about in it.

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### **Shauna Hruby says**

Sometimes I wonder why I keep reading these free kindle downloads, so books like this one are the reward. It was well written, enjoyable to read, and clean too. I also found it to be a thoughtful topic.

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### **Sophia Browne says**

#### **Cute**

I got this book as a free download. I thought it was cute and perfect for young adults or high school aged people. Definitely took me back to my high school days.

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