

BOOK ARTICLE

## Teen Plays

EW takes a closer look at young adult titles -- New teen novels tackle topics such as cross-dressing, drug use, and beer pong

By [Gilbert Cruz](#) | Mar 07

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Judy Blume, meet MTV's *The Real World*. Where once the protagonists of young-adult fiction simply pondered the prospect of sex, many of today's teen characters are actually doin'it! Though outlets like Wal-Mart may decline to stock some of the racier titles in their stores, there's a growing market for teen fiction (Barnes & Noble reports double-digit growth in YA sales in the past six years). And that's led to more envelope pushing for an easily jaded audience. "These are the kids watching *The O.C.* on [Thursday] nights," notes FSG editor Wesley Adams. "That's going to inform what they want to read." Here are four upcoming titles that teens might choose over a night with Seth and Summer.

Terence Blacker's *Boy2Girl*, for kids 12 and up, finds an American teen in London involved in a prank in which he must dress up as a girl. He's very convincing. **Suggestive Content** Hello? We're talking cross-dressing here. Sadly, not much else happens. (There are no *Crying Game* revelations.)

Jeremy Ivers's *21*, for ages 16 and up, chronicles the 21st birthday party of frat boy Bret, during which he must consume 21 units of alcohol. Lessons might be learned along the way. **Suggestive Content** Heavy drinking (duh!), drug use, beer pong, girls making out for cash, a Pimps 'n' Hos party.

In John Green's *Looking for Alaska*, for ages 14 and up, a teen guy who likes to memorize the last words of famous dead people attends boarding school in Alabama and falls for a girl named Alaska. **Suggestive Content** Booze, porn, and a scene Green describes as "a very bad, very unentertaining [oral sex act]."

Paul Ruditis' *Rainbow Party*, for ages 14 and up and due out in June, features a phenomenon famously explained on an episode of *Oprah* last year: Teenage girls + different-colored lipsticks + oral sex = rainbow! **Suggestive Content** Gay and straight oral sex, a teen flashing two older women in a pharmacy.

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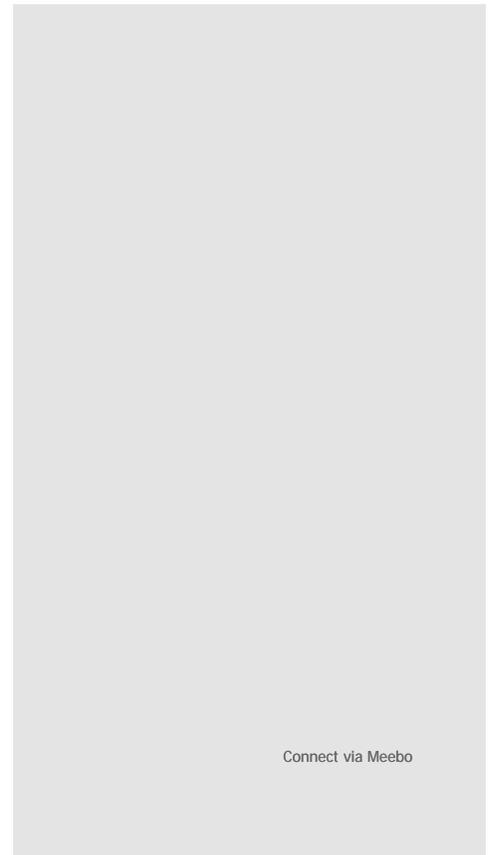
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