

Fort Collins Regional Library District
Escape Artists: Fun, Absorbing Reads

Brugman. **Being Bindy.** Bindy finds it hard to cope when her best friend of many years suddenly finds other friends and interests, and her divorced parents present her with choices that could change everything about her way of life.

De Oliveira. **Johnny Hazzard.** Johnny Hazzard is an American boy living in London for the summer. He's not used to being a foreigner, and even less used to fending for himself. Then he meets an older girl named January and suddenly his quest for experience is taking some unexpected turns.

Griffin. **My Almost Epic Summer.** Irene loves hair and plans to open a salon someday. In the meantime, she combines her stylist yearnings with her love of literature, drawing hairdos from great novels in her ever-present sketchpad. It's at the beach, where she takes the kids she is babysitting to swim, that she first observes lifeguard Starla, a beautiful drama queen on whom she gets a girl crush. Soon Irene is checking out Starla's blog, and she realizes that Starla has noticed her--and appointed her as a witness who will observe her vengeance against D., the boyfriend who dumped her.

Horowitz. **Ark Angel.** Alex Rider is giving it up. Being a teenage secret agent is just too danger-ous. He wants his old life back. As he lies in the hospital bed recovering from a gunshot wound, he contemplates the end of his career with MI6, the British secret service. But then he saves the life of Paul Drevin, son of multibillionaire Nikolei Drevin, and once again he is pulled into service. This time his mission involves eco-terrorists, rockets to space, maniacal killers, and a less-than-idyllic tropical island. Is it all in a day's work, or will this truly be Alex Rider's last mission?

Lowry. **Things You Either Hate or Love.** A cynical, overweight, and lonely Australian teen spends her summer vacation making lists, eating comfort foods, and trying to earn enough money to attend a big rock concert.

Myracle. **TTFN.** High school juniors, Zoe, Maddie, and Angela continue to instant message one another as one of them hangs out with some slacker friends, another gets her first boyfriend, and the third moves three thousand miles away.

Partridge. **John Lennon: All I Want is the Truth.** Nonfiction 782.42166092 This is the story of one of rock's biggest legends, from his birth during a 1940 World War II air raid on Liverpool, through his turbulent childhood and teen years, to his celebrated life writing, recording, and performing with the Beatles and beyond.

Pinder. **But I Don't Want to Be a Movie Star.** Katriona, a 15-year-old English grunge queen, is sent to stay with her grandmother, Noni, in Palm Desert. Shortly after Kat's arrival, Noni, primed with a few cocktails, attempts to ride a skateboard and breaks her ankle. Unfortunately, she has a meet-ing with a producer about a part that will rekindle her acting career. Kat is manipulated into impersonating Noni, a transformation that not only changes her appearance and behavior but also her relationship with her grandmother.

Portman. **King Dork.** Frustrated songwriter and high school student Tom Henderson finds his dead father's copy of *The Catcher in the Rye*, and his life changes forever.

Price. **Dead Connection.** Murray, a loner who communes with the dead in the town cemetery, hears the voice of a murdered cheerleader and tries to convince the adults that he knows what happened to her. But who will believe him? Pearl, the daughter of the cemetery caretaker, befriends Murray and tries to help him.

Reinhardt. **A Brief Chapter in My Impossible Life.** Simone, 16, has always known she was adopted but has never had any real desire to meet her birth mother. Her family is perfect the way it is. She looks different and has different talents but that has never mattered. Things change when Rivka, her birth mother, calls. What began as a normal year changes as Simone must come to terms with how she fits into both families.

Sitomer. **Hip-Hop High School.** Theresa, known as Tee-Ay at her "hip-hop high school," also plays by the social rules, rapping in ghetto slang and trying hard not to act white. Covering Tee-Ay's ex-periences from the start of tenth grade through graduation, the primary focus here is on Tee-Ay's academic life and on her friendships with an interest-ing group of characters.

Tashjian. **Gospel According to Larry.** Seventeen -year-old Josh, a loner-philosopher who wants to make a difference in the world, tries to maintain his secret identity as the author of a web site that is receiving national attention.

Wilkins. **So Super Stylish.** The privileged only child of a director and actress, Octavia has aban-doned her posh private school in favor of regular folk at the local public school. Then who should appear but her arch enemy, gorgeous actress India Withers, who has chosen to attend Jethro Park to help her prepare for an upcoming film.