

Wishing: Diaries of a Teen Pregnancy

Kim McLeod

Victoria, BC: Trafford Publishing, 2007

Reviewed by Nancy Bird LaChance and Sarah LaChance Adams

Wishing: Diaries of a Teen Pregnancy by Kim McLeod is a book of diary entries written over a period of twenty-eight months. Near the end of the book, readers are spirited forward eight months into the next year, which includes twelve entries over five months, followed by an epilogue of sorts. McLeod's pregnancy begins halfway through the book, quite late in a work about expecting a baby. Further, the author does not explain how birth control—she obtains birth control pills at great effort—fails her. Regrettably, the narrative unfolds in bits and pieces, with unwelcome gaps.

Most unsettling is McLeod's transformation from a loving, caring teen mom of deep religious faith into every parent's nightmare. The entries shift abruptly from "She was very quiet in church today she [sic] has been since we first brought her. Praise the Lord for all the beauty of Lana. Love Lana's Mommy" to "I have fallen back into partying. I drank beer and smoked too much, I can hardly remember. I know I had sex with someone, but I don't really know them." What follows are eight pages that describe a wild roller-coaster ride of four months, ending with McLeod "staying at a friend's house near the mall. They have a cot in the basement I can use.... They let Mack stay over a few times. He's been coming into my bed. I wasn't able to say no." As readers, we found ourselves identifying more with McLeod's frustrated parents than with McLeod herself.

The book is marked by poor grammar, misspellings, slang, and profanity. Scrupulous editing would have ensured the book's accessibility to all readers, including students, tweens, teens, and their parents. Readers are left *wishing* for interpretive depth, struggling to find meaning in the mangled pieces of this painful puzzle.

Whatever Floats Your Boat: Perspectives on Motherhood

Maryanne Pope and Shannon Lyons

Calgary, Alberta: Pink Gazelle Productions

Reviewed by Gisela Norat

Sudden widowhood at age 32 leaves Maryanne Pope without her soul mate and husband. At 36, she decides to tackle the nagging "little inner voice"