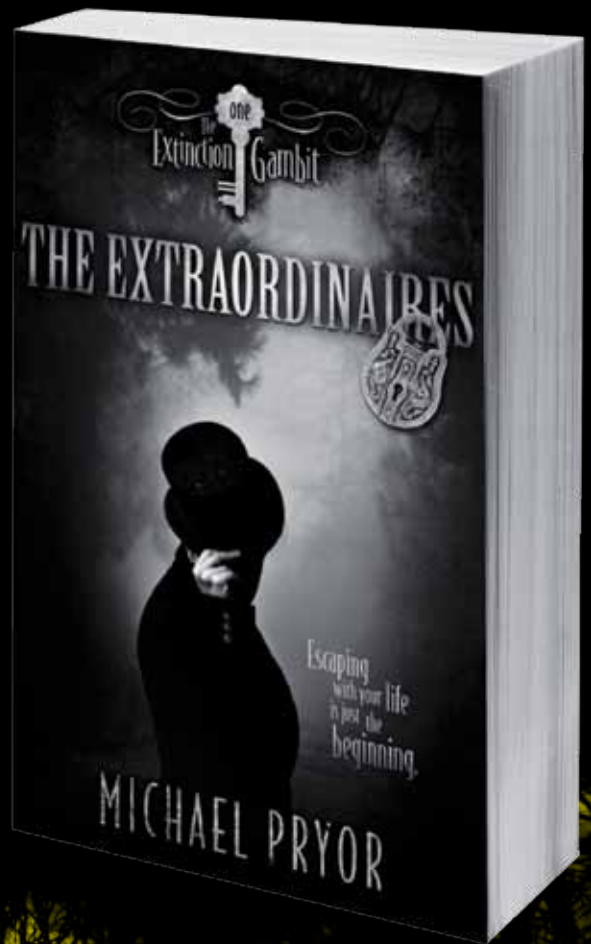


# viewpoint

on books for young adults

vol 19 no 4

summer 2011



Escaping  
with your life  
is just the  
beginning.

# Viewpoint on books for young adults

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**Editorial Committee:** Pam Macintyre, Editor, Stella Lees, Bernadette Welch, Susan La Marca, Pam Horsey, Pauline Meaney, Associate Editors.

**Subscriptions Officer:** Rosemary Nairn

**Enquiries:** *Viewpoint: on books for young adults* PO Box 422 Carlton South 3053

Telephone (03) 8344 8617 email: education-viewpoint@unimelb.edu.au; Website: <http://extranet.edfac.unimelb.edu.au/LLAE/viewpoint/>

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***Rockoholic***

by C J Skuse

(Chicken House, 2011

9781906427528 \$16.99pb)

Heartbreak, anguish, hard truths, love, passion, under-age drinking, hallucinations and yes, even rock stars: this book has it all. So all you star-crossed, vampire-angel loving book people like myself, don't be deterred by the colourful cover because this is a surprisingly good book.

When Jody kidnaps her drugged-up idol, Jackson Gatlin, from his own concert she learns an ugly truth. Rock stars don't care about the fans at all. The fans are irritating, and delusional, and they will never stand a chance at being Jackson Gatlin's one and only. Severely pissed that the love of her life is a complete and total asshole, Jody struggles to keep his behaviour in check whilst mourning the loss of her granddad; her crazy best friend.

With the help of her life-long buddy, Mac, Jody comes to the final realisation that show-biz is a cruel and hard world that chews up pop stars and spits them out into a faux-media image to please the public. So after gruelling interrogations by a seedy reporter, hiding a recovering pop-star in her garage, and slipping into the friend zone with him, will the man of her dreams have the balls to stand up and tell her how he feels in his Rocky-Horror stilettos before everything is gone?

*Rockoholic* was an awesome book because it was so different to what I expected. It incorporates many themes; it opened my eyes further to the difficulty of love and loss, as well as how hard it is to get by when your mum's gambling ex-husband has pulled you into some serious debt. *Rockoholic* gets to the point of life, and takes a stab at the media's interpretation of celebrities. (And I'm a real sucker for a happy ending, in a roundabout sort of way.) So lock your druggie rock-star in the sound-proof garage and bunker down for a good read because it's worth your while.

**Emily King, Penleigh and Essendon Grammar School, Melbourne**

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