



Girl, (Nearly) 16: Absolute Torture (Readers Circle)

By Sue Limb

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Just when things were going so well.

Jess had the perfect summer planned: She and Fred, lounging in the park, gazing into one another's eyes and engaging in witty repartee. It was going to be so romantic. And then her maddening mum stepped in: She suddenly announced a two-week "road trip" to Cornwall to visit Jess's dad, something Jess might have enjoyed, actually, were it not for the monstrously bad timing. Not only will this force Jess and Fred apart for two whole weeks, it will also leave the darling and handsome Fred in the clutches of Jess's blindingly beautiful best friend, Flora—who, you might recall, expressed an interest in Fred not too long ago. As if all this weren't enough, Jess's mum seems to expect her to weep at the grave of every departed literary hero in Britain's long history. *It's absolute torture.* And little does Jess know, a huge surprise awaits her when she visits her dad at his home for the first time in years.

From the Hardcover edition.

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Girl, (Nearly) 16: Absolute Torture (Readers Circle) By Sue Limb Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #4847406 in Books
- Published on: 2006-07-25
- Released on: 2006-07-25
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.02" h x .64" w x 5.23" l, .55 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 240 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 7-10—A thoroughly welcome, laugh-out-loud addition to British chick lit told in Jess's comedienne-to-be voice. At the end of *Girl, 15, Charming but Insane* (Delacorte, 2004), the teen realized that she was crazy about her clever pal, Fred, and that he shared her affection. As they're about to settle into a perfect summer, Jess's mom announces a two-week vacation visiting historical and literary landmarks—just what a teen relishes most—that will end with a trip to the beach where her artist dad lives. Along the way, her grandmother plans to scatter her grandfather's ashes in the sea near their honeymoon village. Although Jess longs to visit her dad, she despairs at the timing, especially since Fred has bought tickets to a music fest. As in its predecessor, this story relies on Jess's misconceptions, emotional dips and heights, and on characters and situations that are both sweet and wacky. In a fit of spontaneity, she boards a bus to her father's a day early and learns that he broke up with her mother because he's gay. She meets his partner, a boutique-owner and boatsman, who offers to take Granny out to sea for a private ash-scattering ceremony. Although readers will savor this novel on its own, reading *Girl, 15* first makes it even funnier.—*Tina Zubak, Carnegie Library of Pittsburgh, PA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-10. In the on-going tradition of Louise Rennison and her heroine, Georgia Nicholson, comes the story of Jess, who is in the first throes of love with her boyfriend Fred. Then her mother has to go and ruin it all by planning a vacation—just Jess, Mum, and Gran, motoring down to Cornwall to visit Jess' long-absent dad and throw Grandpa's ashes in the sea. Readers will have to have an affinity for the English countryside because this is as much travelogue as it is romance. Between haunted castles and quaint B & Bs, Jess spends much of her time on her "mobile" trying to find out if Fred is spending time with her friend Flora. Fred turns out to be true blue, and Jess' dad turns out to be gay, which is fine with Jess, but alters her plan to have her parents remarry. Fewer Briticisms than in other books of this sort help speed this light romance on to its happy ending. *Ilene Cooper*

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About the Author

Sue Limb's children's books include *Big and Little*, *China Lee*, *Me Jane*, *Big Trouble*, and *Mr Loopy and Mrs Snoopy*. *Come Back Grandma* is published by Random House U.K. and was shortlisted for the Smarties Prize. She lives in England.

From the Hardcover edition.

Users Review

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Ethel Orr:

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