

"A little raunchy and quite funny." —The New York Times Book Review

Confessions of Georgia Nicolson

By LOUISE RENNISON

A Discussion Guide



HARPER TEEN

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Introducing Georgia Nicolson

Meet Georgia Nicolson, a British teen who confesses all in Louise Rennison's *Confessions of Georgia Nicolson*, a series of outrageously funny, agonizingly honest young-adult novels. Beginning with the Printz Honor Book *Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*, Georgia shares her wry observations and self-deprecating humor through a series of diary entries, chronicling the joie de vivre, the boy tensionosity, and each and every fandango of her life as a teenager in Billy Shakespeare Land.

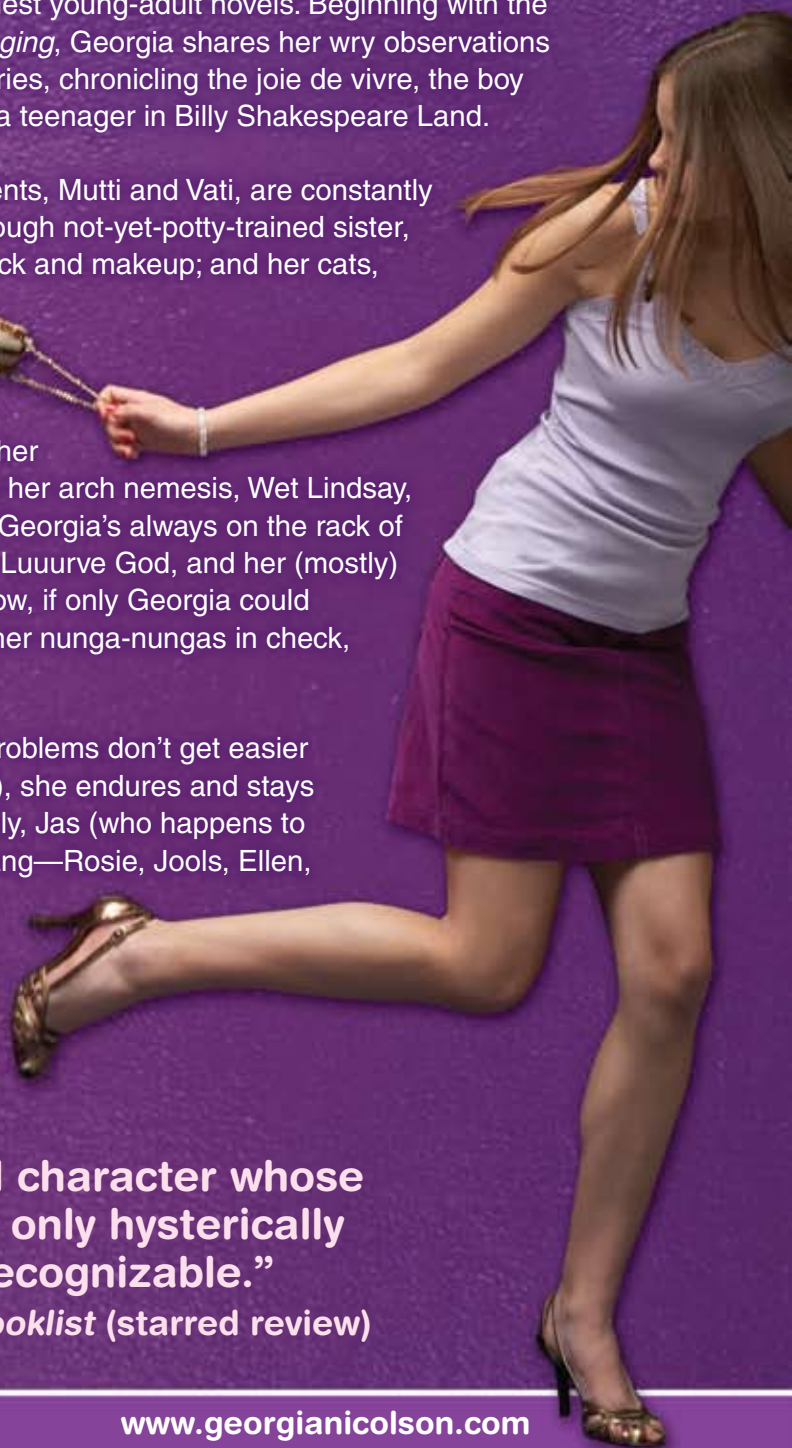
Georgia has a lot to deal with: Her terminally insane parents, Mutti and Vati, are constantly threatening to “get down with the youth”; her adorable though not-yet-potty-trained sister, Libby, carries around a Jesus figure wearing a Barbie frock and makeup; and her cats, Angus and his cross-eyed son, Gordon, are constantly tormenting Mr. Next Door's useless toy poodles—as well as mauling her tights.

Meanwhile, Georgia has to contend with the daily ordeals of attending school (Stalag 14) and dealing with her teachers (the fascist regime), while also doing battle with her arch nemesis, Wet Lindsay, and her faithful sidekick, Astonishingly Dim Monica. And Georgia's always on the rack of love with her three potential snoggees: the Sex God, the Luuurve God, and her (mostly) mate, Dave the Laugh. How's a proper girl to choose? Now, if only Georgia could prevent her nose from spreading all over her face, keep her nunga-nungas in check, and never again shave off both her eyebrows. . . .

Sacré bloody bleu and merde! While Georgia's real-life problems don't get easier (and keeping her nose sucked in gets harder and harder), she endures and stays sane(ish), thanks in part to her good friends: her best pally, Jas (who happens to wear enormous pantaloones), and the rest of the ace gang—Rosie, Jools, Ellen, and Mabs. Though life can be full of boynosity woes, there's nothing that a meeting of the ace gang, a new lip gloss, or a round of the world-renowned Viking bison disco inferno dance (or all three at once!) can't fix. Blimey O'Reilly's trousers, being as fab as Georgia is tough work!

★ **“Georgia is a wonderful character whose misadventures are not only hysterically funny but universally recognizable.”**

—ALA Booklist (starred review)



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Fabbity Fab Fab Discussion Prompts

- 1 Do you share Georgia's opinion that boys are truly, truly weird? Why or why not? Do you think that most boys view girls as being truly, truly weird? Explain.
- 2 How do Georgia's family members irritate and embarrass her? How can you tell that she loves them anyway? How do the people in your family irritate and embarrass you? Why do you still love them?
- 3 Despite being constantly embarrassed by the elderly mad (aka her parents), Georgia is very clearly their daughter. How is Georgia similar to her mother? Which of her father's qualities does she share?
- 4 How does Libby bring out the softer, more caring side of Georgia? Why does Libby have this effect on her sister?
- 5 Why do Georgia and Jas suit each other so well as friends? How do they support each other? How do Georgia's jokes at Jas's expense actually reveal her affection for her friend?
- 6 Georgia swoons every time Robbie and Masimo step onto the stage at their gigs. Rosie is bonkers for snogging (and dancing in furry pants!) with Sven. Jas is fond of nature walks and owl-spotting with Tom. What does each girl's relationship say about the kind of personality she has? Would any of them ever fall for a friend's crush? Why or why not?
- 7 Georgia has more fun and acts more like herself with Dave the Laugh than with any other boy, so why does she date Robbie and Masimo instead of Dave? How does Dave being "a laugh" make Georgia confused about whether to think of him as a matey-type mate or a potential boyfriend?
- 8 Which couples from the series do you think are well matched? Consider Mutti and Vati, Grandad and Maisie, Georgia and Robbie, Georgia and Masimo, Georgia and Dave, Jas and Tom, Rosie and Sven, Jools and Rollo, Ellen and Dave, Ellen and Declan, Lindsay and Robbie, and Lindsay and Masimo.
- 9 Do you think Wet Lindsay is as awful as Georgia portrays her? Why or why not?
- 10 How are the unkind things that Georgia sometimes writes in her diary different from the unkind things that the Bummer Twins say and do to Nauseating P. Green? Why does Georgia stick up for Pamela Green? Why do we like Georgia but hate the Bummer Twins?
- 11 Does Georgia love Angus and Gordy in spite of their bonkerosity or because of it? Why is Georgia better able to express her love for her cats than for her family or friends?
- 12 What is the confusion over the common boyspeak phrase "See you later"? What other boyspeak phrases confuse Georgia and her friends? Why does the ace gang feel that there is such disconnect between what boys say and what they mean?
- 13 Why does Georgia often have spazattacks over relatively minor things? Why do small incidents often feel majorly embarrassing? Does the feeling of mortification fade over time? Explain.
- 14 How do Georgia's unique way of speaking and her use of British slang add to the amusingness of the series? Are you ever confused by what Georgia says? Do you think Georgia would be baffled by slang that American teens use? Do American teens have similar problems, concerns, and interests as British teens, or not? Explain.

★ "Teens will identify with Georgia's competing emotions even as they laugh their way through every situation." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



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Double Cool with Knobs Activities

- 1 **Sadnosity versus Fabulosity.** At the beginning of *Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*, Georgia provides a list of six things that are very wrong with her life. Reread Georgia's list and think about which things from your own life are making it full of bonkerosity. Make a list of six of your own very wrong things. What things about your life are fabbity fab fab right now? Create a second list of six very right things.
- 2 **Vair Vair Groovy Glossary.** Georgia includes a glossary at the back of each of her books to explain some of her more unique terms and references, as well as to help her American readers understand British slang. Create your own glossary of original words that you use, references that you and your friends make, and Americanisms that people from other countries might not recognize.
- 3 **The Stiff Dylans and Other Marvy Tunes.** Make a list of songs that you imagine might be on Georgia's iPod. Which band do you think the Stiff Dylans would most resemble in real life? Taking inspiration from Georgia's highs and lows throughout the series, create your own Confessions of Georgia Nicolson playlist.
- 4 **Confessions of the Ace Gang.** If the other members of the ace gang kept diaries, what would they write about? How would their entries differ from Georgia's? Whose diary would you most want to read? Would you be able to read even a page written by dithering Ellen? Choose a favorite moment from the series and rewrite it from the perspective of one of the other ace gang girls.
- 5 **Rewriting History.** The titles of the Confessions of Georgia Nicolson books represent the height of literary sophistication. But what if you could create new titles for the books based on the things you find most *amusant* in each? Are Angus, thongs, and full-frontal snogging your favorite parts of Georgia's first book? Or are there other things that give you more enjoymentosity? Is "Stop in the name of pants!" your favorite line from Georgia's ninth escapade? Or is there another part of the book that you luuurve more? Rewrite history by creating new titles for all the books in Louise Rennison's series.
- 6 **The Viking Bison Disco Inferno.** As you well know, the ace gang has created some of the grooviest dance moves of all time. With your own ace gang, practice and perform one of the dances described in Confessions of Georgia Nicolson, such as the Viking bison disco inferno or the Viking disco hornpipe extravaganza. Don't forget costumes and props—for example, you'll need Viking horns, earmuffs, mittens, and small paddles to do justice to the Viking disco hornpipe extravaganza. *Hooooooooooooooooooooorn!*

"A celebration of the awkwardness of life and of the profundity of profoundly funny books." —*Chicago Tribune*



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Photo by Jerry Bauer

Helloooooooo, Louise!

Louise Rennison, author of the bestselling Confessions of Georgia Nicolson series, lives in Brighton, the San Francisco of England—well, apart from the sun, Americans, the Golden Gate Bridge, and earthquakes. Louise's first Confessions of Georgia Nicolson novel, *Angus, Thongs and Full-Frontal Snogging*, received a prestigious Michael L. Printz Honor for exemplifying literary excellence in young adult literature. She based several episodes in the series on her own childhood in Leeds, where she was brought up in a three-bedroom council house with her mum, dad, grandparents, aunt, uncle, and cousin.

When Louise was fifteen, her parents decided to immigrate to Wairakei in New Zealand. Its main claim to fame is that it had some of the most violent geothermal activity in the world. "When we had Sunday lunch in the back garden, the table heaved and lurched around, the trees were going backwards and forwards, and sheep were going up and down. That was because underneath the table, underneath the earth's surface, thousands of cubic feet of molten steam was trying to get out . . . and kill us!"

In her twenties, Louise lived in Notting Hill Gate, "in a one-bedroom flat owned by Roxy Music that was quite cheap . . . because five of us were sharing it." After an assortment of jobs (play leader, dental nurse, etc.) and traveling, Louise rekindled a childhood dream and enrolled in a performing arts course in Brighton. After an audition in which Louise was asked to be an embryo, her tutor remarked, "You are obviously a very intelligent girl, Louise, but you must never go on stage again. Your performance made me feel physically sick." Displaying astonishing Northern grit, Louise continued to perform.

Her first one-woman autobiographical show, *Stevie Wonder Felt My Face*, won great acclaim and awards at the Edinburgh Festival, and millions watched the subsequent TV special. Since then, Louise has continued to perform her own shows. She has also written for and with many well-known comedians.

Louise's research for her books requires many hours hanging around with fourteen-year-olds, which is, as she says, "Brilliant—the best fun known to humanity. It's all boys, makeup, laughing, and, er, that's it."

★ **"Rennison exquisitely captures the fine art of the adolescent ability to turn chaos into stand-up comedy."**

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

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