



I thought I loved you, David Cassidy

BOOK
I Think I Love You
By Allison Pearson

By Susan Salter Reynolds

LOS ANGELES TIMES

Poor little Petra, just 13 and growing up in South Wales, is one of thousands of girls smitten with David Cassidy. The year is 1974, and Cassidy is the creation

of a brilliant marketing campaign that preys on the hearts of teenage girls.

Cassidy was the star of the TV series "The Partridge Family." He went on to bubble-gum rock stardom before his career fizzled and died in a series of media scandals, including a nude spread in Rolling Stone and admitted drug and alcohol problems. Worst of all, in 1974, at a Cassidy concert in London's White City Stadium, a 14-year-old girl was crushed to death and nearly 1,000 fans were injured.

When the novel "I Think I Love You" opens, Petra and her friends are blissfully ignorant of these eventualities. Petra aces all the Cassidy quizzes and so enters into a mega-contest. First prize: a trip to California to meet her heartthrob in person.

Petra writes letters to her true love—and she receives replies! Little does she know that these replies come from Bill, who is hired to write replies to the thousands of girls who bare their souls each day. It pays the rent.

In this delightful, giddy novel, there can be no doubt that their lives will one day collide.

They meet twice. Once in 1974, when Bill is sent to the concert at White City Stadium, and again in 1998. Back in 1974, Petra was too disillusioned after the White City debacle to collect her prize for the great Cassidy quiz. In 1998, after a series of personal tragedies, she makes a drunken call to the magazine demanding the prize from long ago—a trip to America to meet Cassidy.

The magazine's editors—including Bill, who has graduated to editorial director—sense a golden opportunity. They will fly the 38-year-old woman to meet the aging superstar in Vegas. Imagine Petra's surprise when she learns that Bill, who goes along for the ride, was the literary hand of David Cassidy.

It's a fantastic, unbelievable plot, spun by a very funny writer from the impossibility of celebrity adoration and the gorgeous naivete of young love.

LOVE IT



ALBUM
Wounded Rhymes
Lykke Li

Lykke Li's debut "Youth Novels" was a dance album brimming with childlike exuberance, from the charming "Dance, Dance, Dance" to the innocent "Little Bit." Um, something happened. On "Wounded Rhymes," Li grows into her dark side, unleashing the empty country-tinged echo of "Unrequited Love" and the defiant "Silent My Song." "Sadness Is a Blessing" revives '60s girl groups, while "Rich Kids Blues" could be her Swedish interpretation of Arcade Fire. Luckily, Li handles heartache as well as she handled happiness. **GLENN GAMBOA, NEWSDAY**



VIDEO
All of the Lights
Kanye West

Watch at vevo.com

Kanye West continues his big-thinking ways in his video work with another mini-movie from the videomeister, Hype Williams. Rihanna and Kid Cudi make appearances in the video and the tune itself features vocals from a veritable who's who of pop music, including Elton John, Alicia Keys and John Legend. This is West's fourth single from the critically heralded "My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy." **SARAH ZUPKO, POPMATTERS.COM**

LIKE IT

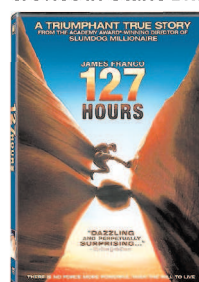


VIDEO GAME
Mario Sports Mix
Nintendo Wii

It'd be easy to write off "Mario Sports Mix" as a tired "Wii Sports" rehash with a quick coat of Mario Brothers-themed paint splashed over it. But if you game with a few friends, this is a fun, casual game to play—in short doses. You can craft teams from the franchise's many characters before taking on your opponents at hockey, basketball, volleyball and dodgeball. Offering 2-on-2 or 3-on-3 matches, each game plays out like the original sport it's based on, with the addition of cleverly implemented power-ups and unique level designs. **RYAN SMITH FOR REDEYE (READ CHICAGONOW.COM/GAMESMITH)**

DVD
127 Hours
Available now

Mountain climber Aron Ralston became world famous after escaping death by cutting off his own arm after being trapped for 127 hours in a crevice in Utah's Blue John Canyon.



In the film, James Franco plays Ralston. Because 90 percent of the film takes place with the main character trapped by a large stone, director Danny Boyle had to find a way to keep what's essentially a one-man play—where his actor is confined to a space the size of a coffin—interesting. He accomplishes this through Franco's Oscar-worthy performance. **RICK BENTLEY, THE FRESNO BEE**

LOATHE IT



TV
Breakout Kings
9 p.m. Sunday, A&E

"White Collar" fans will recognize the "It takes a con to catch a con" theme of this predictable drama in which the U.S. Marshals service springs inmates to help catch escaped convicts. The show claims the freed cons bring unique skills, but they offer no special insights I can see. (I, too, would know to question people the escapee once knew.) There's only one reason to watch: Jimmi Simpson, who has delighted as Mary on "Psych" and Liam McPoyle on "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia." Simpson is the only actor who gives his con-turned-good guy character more than one dimension. **CURT WAGNER, REDEYE**