

LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS:

Charlotte Anderson

Charlotte Anderson was born and raised in Campbellton, NB. She has a BA in English and Sociology from Dalhousie University. Her hobbies include reading, writing fiction, watching scifi/fantasy TV shows, and the Internet. When she grows up, she plans to be published and have her books on the shelf of the library she manages. Her definition of a strong female character is one who can think for herself (or learns to in the process of the novel) and is clever about it. She also stands up for herself, maybe has a bit of an attitude, and doesn't rely on anyone to get things done. Her favourite female character is Kerry Nowicki from *Companions of the Night*. Secondary favourites are Suze Simon from Meg Cabot's *Mediator Series* and Relena Peacecraft from *Gundam Wing*.

Mellissa Forget

Mellissa Forget is a self proclaimed bibliophile who hopes to work as a children's librarian someday! Her definition of a strong female character can be summed up as: "When I think of strong female characters, I think of girls who can hold their own, who face their fears, and who manage to inspire others to do better themselves.

Her favourite strong female character is Gertie Yorkes from *Marvel Comics' Runaways*. "A little bit unsure of herself, a little bit scared, but ready to stand up to what life throws at her."

Erin Mercer

Erin is in her first year of her MLIS degree at Dalhousie University. She received her BA with honours in History from St. Thomas University in Fredericton New Brunswick. She is a compulsive reader and her favourite female character of all

time is Elizabeth Bennet from *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen. To her a strong female character is someone that is real, not perfect, will stand up for their own beliefs and values others. However, this female character must learn from their mistakes and is ready to admit that they are wrong. Essentially, a character that is real enough that one can see their own faults and good is desired for a strong female character. Ultimately, the idea of strong is relative to the reader and how one interprets character and plot.

Diane Zerr

Diane Zerr is an avid reader and a librarian at heart. She continues her never ending quest for knowledge. Her definition of a strong female character is someone who is determined, who isn't afraid to make mistakes and who learns from the journey. Her favourite strong female character is Lyra Belacqua from Philip Pullman's *His Dark Materials* series because she is determined to do what's right, she is very strong-willed and she is independent. She also has a really cool name.

Jaime Griffis

Jaime Griffis is an aspiring public services librarian who works to provide accurate and accessible information for all ages. She is also the biggest *Star Trek Original Series* fan ever. Her definition of a strong female character is a young woman who seeks to know herself, who exhibits bravery in the face of fear and one who always follows her intuitions. Jaime's favourite strong female character is Jane Eyre from Charlotte Brontë's 1860 masterpiece of fiction. Jane is a survivor: from the neglect of her family; of Lowood boarding school and of Mr. Rochester's love and deception. Jane Eyre is independent, feisty, brave and most importantly always follows her heart.