

A Q&A WITH LUCY B. PARKER (AS INTERVIEWED BY LAUREL MOSES)

Hi, I'm Laurel. A few weeks ago, Lucy taught me how to play Truth or Dare and also The World's Ugliest Outfit, which are both really fun. So now it's my turn to introduce her to a new game called Interview the Star. Since I get interviewed all the time by magazines and stuff, I thought Lucy would like to try it out. Here's an exclusive behind-the-scenes interview with Lucy B. Parker!

LAUREL: We're all excited about your book series. Why is it called *Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker*?

LUCY: Because I send a lot of e-mails to Dr. Maude, the famous advice giver who has that television show called *Come On, People—Get With the Program*. She hasn't written me back yet because she's really busy, but I know that at some point she will and she'll give me the perfect advice. I sign each e-mail that I send Dr. Maude with "Yours truly, Lucy B. Parker" because (1) it is the polite way to do it, and (2) my name is Lucy B. Parker.

LAUREL: It seems like you wear hats a lot. Why is that?

LUCY: Three days before the beginning of sixth grade, I decided I'd look better with straight brown hair instead of frizzy curls, and I put Mom's straightening iron around my entire left pigtail and left it there for the whole half hour of *Animal Police 911*. I ended up burning the hair so badly it just crumbled and fell off and left me lopsided like the papier maché Easter egg I made in first grade that Mom keeps on her "Ugly Things Lucy Has Made in School over the Years but I Love Them Anyway" shelf. So I had to get my hair cut really, really short, which left me looking like a giant egg with ears, which is why I wear hats all the time.

LAUREL: Wow, that must have been embarrassing! Do your friends know the whole story behind this?

LUCY: Well, they do now, but I really didn't want anyone to know. The whole friend situation is complicated. I spend most of my time with Marissa, who thinks she's my best friend but really isn't. Missy Sorento and Rachel Lannon called me up three days before sixth grade started and friend-dumped me. I think it's because I haven't gotten my period yet and they both have—Missy got hers on July 9 and Rachel got hers on August 5. The reason I know that is because I'm the Keeper of the Periods for the entire sixth grade at Jefferson Middle School and can tell you the exact date that every girl got hers.

LAUREL: So you haven't gotten your period yet?

LUCY: No, but I'm pretty sure I'm going to get it any minute now, which is why I never leave the house without a maxipad and a pant liner and Pamprin. Mom doesn't know this because she'd say it was a total waste of money, but when I'm wearing my white pants I actually wear a pad. I'm sorry, but getting your period when you're wearing white pants would be even more embarrassing than having your mom constantly announcing in public that it's time for you to get a bra or having your hat yanked off your head so everyone can see that it looks like a giant egg. And I happen to know how embarrassing those two things are because they happened to me.

LAUREL: Last question: What advice would you give girls who are dealing with the same stuff that you are?

LUCY: That's easy. (1) Just because you're coordination-challenged and your stepsister is the most popular girl in the entire world doesn't mean you're a loser; (2) if you're going to use a straightening iron on your hair, only leave it on for like a minute instead of a half hour; and (3) remember to bring a maxipad with you wherever you go because you never know when you might get your period. Oh, and (4) just be yourself, because it gives you a lot more energy, which is good because that means you can stay up a lot later at night reading under the covers with a flashlight.



A Discussion Guide for the
**Yours Truly,
Lucy B. Parker series**
by Robin Palmer

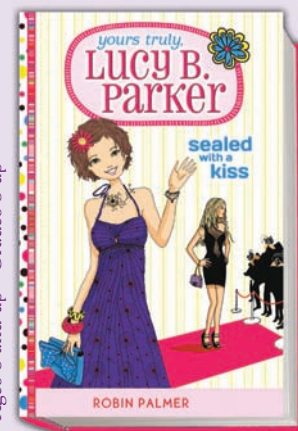


What if your stepsister was the most famous girl in the world?



978-0-399-25489-5 (HC) • \$15.99
978-0-14-241500-9 (PB) • \$6.99
Ages 8 and up • Grades 3 up

When Lucy B. Parker is friend-dumped right before school starts, she figures things can't get much worse. But then her mom announces that she's dating Laurel Moses's dad. THE Laurel Moses—the TV-movie-music star whose face is on the cover of every magazine. Suddenly, Lucy's life is turned sideways! Up until now, her main goal has been to just get through the day without totally embarrassing herself. And now she's going to be the less-pretty, less-talented stepsister of the most famous girl in the world!



978-0-399-25538-0 (HC) • \$15.99
978-0-14-241501-6 (PB) • \$6.99
Ages 8 and up • Grades 3 up

Lucy B. Parker is finally feeling settled in her new life in New York City with frister (friend-sister) and teen superstar Laurel Moses. That is, until her new BFF Beatrice explains that every sixth-grade girl has to have THREE crushes—local, long-distance, and celebrity—and Lucy doesn't have any! Lucy thinks she might finally have the "local" part covered, but when she heads out to L.A. to join Laurel on the set of her new movie, Lucy discovers that instead of being the person *crushing*, she might be the one being *crushed on*!



978-0-399-25629-5 (HC) • \$15.99
978-0-14-241502-3 (PB) • \$6.99
Ages 10 and up • Grades 5 up

Lucy B. Parker is running for class president! Sure, Lucy could let her frister (friend-sister), teen superstar Laurel Moses, campaign for her, but Lucy wants to win as Lucy, not as Laurel Moses' less-pretty, less-talented stepsister. To make matters worse, Lucy's feeling totally ignored by her dad and his girlfriend, who are preparing for their new baby. How is Lucy going to manage her famous frister, a soon-to-exist baby, and the campaign of the year all at once?



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A DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR THE YOURS TRULY, LUCY B. PARKER SERIES

BY ROBIN PALMER



#1 girl vs. superstar

1. Each chapter begins with Lucy writing an e-mail to her favorite television advice columnist. Have you ever written somebody for advice? Would you?
2. Right before sixth grade started, Lucy got friend-dumped. Why did this happen? Have you ever gotten friend-dumped? What would you have done in Lucy's situation?
3. Lucy spends a great deal of time worrying about getting her period. Do you think she spends too much time worrying about this?
4. When Lucy's mom starts dating Laurel's dad, she feels betrayed in part because of the Hat Incident with Laurel. What may be some other reasons for Lucy's feelings? Have you ever experienced similar feelings when someone close to you has started dating?
5. Lucy and Laurel are shocked to find they have many things in common. How do their similarities help them to become friends?
6. Lots of embarrassing things happen to Lucy. How does she manage to recover each time? What would you do if you were in her shoes?



#2 sealed with a kiss

1. Beatrice tells Lucy that she needs a local, long-distance, and celebrity crush. Lucy isn't even sure she knows what it's like to have a crush and feels left out. Have you ever felt pressured into something you weren't sure you were ready for? What did you do?
2. When Lucy and Laurel get to Los Angeles, Lucy is surprised to see Laurel acting like a superstar instead of her usual self. Why do you think Laurel feels the need to act this way?
3. Lady A tells Lucy that fighting with a loved one means "you really care about the person." Do you think what Lady A says is true? Have you ever gotten into a fight with a friend or a sibling?
4. Both Mrs. Parker and Laurel tell Lucy that she's a strong person. What do they mean by this? Do you think they're right? Why does Lucy have such a difficult time believing them?
5. Lucy can't quite believe that Connor Forrester, a movie star, has a crush on her. Why do you think he likes her more than the "Bikini Butt Blondes"? How does her realization of his crush relate back to what Pete the Doorman always says about being yourself?



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#3 vote for me

1. Lucy stands up to Rachel and Missy when they pretend to want to be her friend again because they want to meet Laurel and think that Connor Forrester is Lucy's boyfriend. Why does Lucy choose this moment to stand up to them? Have you ever stood up to people who were bullies or who tried to abuse your friendship?
2. Lucy tells Dr. Maude that no one listens to her because she is the youngest. Do you think that this is true in Lucy's case? Has this kind of younger child discrimination ever happened to you?
3. Lucy believes that her mom sides with Laurel more often because Laurel is not her birth child and Lucy's mom wants Laurel to like her. Does this make sense? Is this fair? What can Lucy's mom do to make both Lucy and Laurel feel loved and appreciated equally?
4. Lucy felt that her dad had got a new family and did not care about his old one. What did Lucy's dad do to make Lucy feel better?
5. Throughout the book, Lucy was not happy about the fact that she was going to get a little brother, but she changes her mind when she realizes that she was participating in baby discrimination. Have you ever felt this way about a new sibling? Did you change your mind like Lucy did? If so, when and why?



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

After a decade as an executive in Hollywood, ROBIN PALMER regained her sanity and moved to New York City, where she lives in a much smaller apartment but doesn't complain about it because that's the price one pays for living in the center of the universe. In addition to the Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker series, she is also the author of the YA novels *Cindy Ella*, *Geek Charming*, and *Little Miss Red*.

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Learn more about the Yours Truly, Lucy B. Parker series at www.lucybyparker.com.