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'CUPCAKE' SERVES UP FUN TALE OF BREAK-UPS AND NEW BEGINNINGS

March 22, 2007 12:35 am

BY GILLAN LUDLOW

With a book like "Cupcake" by Rachel Cohn, you'll learn the true meanings of life and sarcasm.

When I first picked up this book, I didn't realize that it was the third book in a series. "Cupcake" is one of those books that you can begin to read and immediately catch on to.

The plot follows Cyd Charisse, who has just moved into an apartment in Greenwich Village with her gay half brother, Danny, leaving the rest of her family in good old San Francisco. The same goes for the love of her life, Shrimp, whom she had previously sent packing after they encountered some problems. Following the break-up, Shrimp left for the waves of New Zealand.

This book makes me feel much better, because I know that the problems Cyd has are problems that actually exist. Cohn cuts straight to the chase and presents everyday problems in an interesting new light.

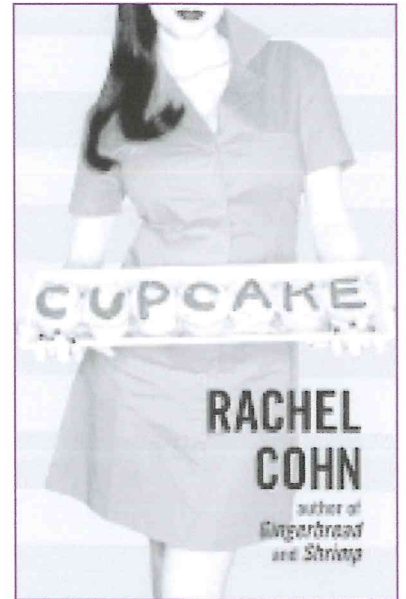
This book is something that most teenage girls can relate to, and the best part is that it's not just some made up fairy-tale stuff. Throughout the book, Cyd struggles with life, going to culinary school and feeling controlled by her protective brother. She stumbles over obstacles and is doing OK until an unexpected person shows up.

I really recommend this book, but make sure you also read Rachel Cohn's other books, "Gingerbread" and "Shrimp."

"Cupcake" is a book of ups and downs, surprises and disappointments, and that is how a real book should be.

Gillan Ludlow is a junior at Stafford High School.

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