

## **Speed Dating Through the Genres**

RA in a Half Day

*Hosted by the BCLA Readers Advisory Interest Group*

*October 30, 2013 – VPL Central, Alice McKay Room*

**Genre Title:** Chick Lit

**Developed/presented by:** Heidi

### **Description of Genre:**

Chick lit is genre fiction that addresses issues of modern womanhood, often humorously and lightheartedly. Although it sometimes includes romantic elements, chick lit is generally not considered a direct subcategory of the romance genre because the heroine's relationship with her family or friends is often just as important as her romantic relationships. Most chick lit novels are set in the contemporary world, in a big city, and include details about fashion and trendy restaurants/bars/hotspots.

The term gained traction in the 90s and was originally used by a *New Yorker* reporter to describe the trend of "girlishness" evident in the writing of female newspaper columnists, and has since been adopted by the publishing industry. Some argue the term is now dead, despite there still being a large audience for the genre. Publishers now use the term "women's commercial fiction" or "contemporary romance".

Covers are highly identifiable with bright colors and a cartoonish feminine pop art sensibility.

### **Important titles and authors:**

*Sex and the City* (1996) by Candace Bushnell, *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing* (1998) by Melissa Bank, *Bridget Jones's Diary* (1999) by Helen Fielding, *The Nanny Diaries* (2002) by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus, *The Devil Wears Prada* (2003) by Lauren Weisenberger, Sophie Kinsella's Shopoholic series, Marian Keys, Jane Green, Jennifer Weiner, Emily Giffin, Plum Sykes

More Recent Titles: *Bond Girl* by Erin Duffy, *Size 12 and Ready to Rock* by Meg Cabot, *Someday, Someday, Maybe* by Lauren Graham (2013), *The List* by Karin Tanabe (2013),

### **Helpful resources (print & online):**

- Novelist: Search for Chick Lit and click on "Lists and Articles."
- Popular Chick Lit booklist on Goodreads
- Chicklitbooks.com: blog with reviews
- Chicklitclub.com: blog with news and reviews