



Going Green, Family Style

GLOBAL WARMING. CARBON FOOTPRINTS. Fossil fuels. These can be confusing and scary terms for adults, much less kids. That's where **The Down-to-Earth Guide to Global Warming**, out now from Scholastic, comes in.

"Laurie [David] was obsessed with making this book fun and never boring or wonky," says co-author Cambria Gordon, who suggests reading the book with your family to help understand a complicated issue and generate ideas about how to help.

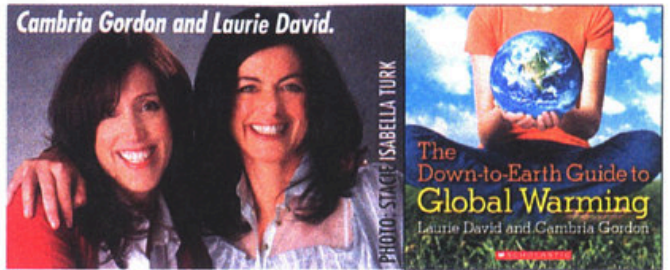
Gordon offers some easy things to do as a family: "Change five light bulbs to compact florescent bulbs. Unplug any chargers not being used. Recycle as much as possible. Once a month, take the bus together to do errands instead of using a car. And bring a canvas bag when you go!"

Ideas like these and an in-depth but easy-to-understand explanation of global warming are in the book, which the women dedicated in part to their children.

"We hope that people read this and realize that although global warming is upon us, it is not a formal decree. There is so much we can do to stop it."

In fact it was her first pregnancy, 15 years ago, that started Gordon's interest in the environment. "I began drinking organic milk and thinking about what went into my body," says the author, whose involvement grew from there.

Thinking back to her own childhood, which was less filled with



activism than her adult life, she says, "I wish I had had a book like this to motivate me."

Today, she's optimistic about making a difference, starting with this book, printed with soy ink on recycled paper. "I hope everybody takes up the challenge. I know we can succeed."

— Elissa Petruzzi

Reviewed by Taylor Morris

IN THE SPACE LEFT BEHIND

Joan Ackermann ★★★★★

In her young-adult debut, Ackermann takes her time telling the story of a quiet kid and his dramatic family life. Colm spends most of his time alone, but the story stays interesting and cerebral.

SUMMARY: Colm's mom and sister are off to Las Vegas as his mom celebrates her recent marriage. Even his dog, Chester, has departed. As his mom extends her honeymoon, Colm's estranged father contacts him with a proposition. All Colm has to do is drive cross-country with the man he's never heard a decent thing about. The road trip begins with the usual tension but ends surprisingly. (HARPERTEEN, Oct., 400 pp., \$16.99, ISBN: 9780060722555, 12&Up, HC)

REVENGE OF THE CHEERLEADERS

Janette Rallison ★★★

Rallison has a knack for writing familiar stories with a humorous twist, and this is another delightful story that readers will rush through. The sisters' stormy relationship is especially touch-

ing, and characters from All's Fair in Love, War and High School are back.

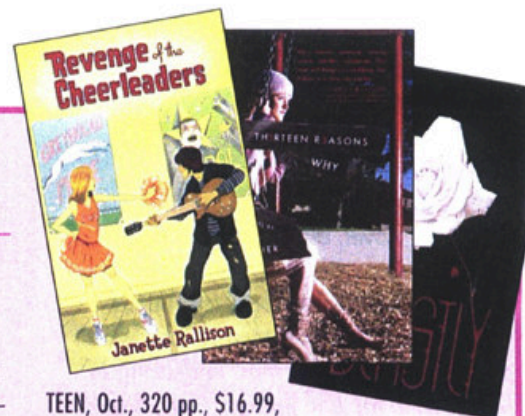
SUMMARY: Chelsea's surly sister has an even more annoying boyfriend, Rick, who has it in for Chelsea. He thinks she's stuck-up, so he writes a killer song about her and the other cheerleaders — and it's a big hit at school. Chelsea and friends plan on getting back at Rick, but will revenge be sweet? (WALKER, Oct., 256 pp., \$16.95, ISBN: 9780802789990, 12&Up, HC)

BEASTLY

Alex Flinn ★★★

Flinn does another solid job of giving a fresh perspective to what could have been a preachy story. She keeps the drama and intrigue high and constantly challenges the reader in this twist on Beauty and the Beast.

SUMMARY: Kyle is popular, rich, good-looking, selfish and just plain mean. Then he meets a new classmate who chides him about being so blatantly superficial and tells him he needs to change his ways. When she literally turns him into a beast — covered in hair, with claws and all — he must discover what true beauty is. (HARPER-



TEEN, Oct., 320 pp., \$16.99, ISBN: 9780060874162, 12&Up, HC)

Reviewed by Elissa Petruzzi

THIRTEEN REASONS WHY

Jay Asher ★★★★★

Debut author Asher takes a sensitive topic — teen suicide — and doesn't back down. Her tale is engaging and the payoff's worth it, though terribly sad.

SUMMARY: Clay Jensen's an all-around good guy. So why did he receive a box full of audiotapes recorded by Hannah Baker, his classmate and crush who committed suicide two weeks earlier, naming him as one of the 13 people responsible for her death? Clay will have to find the courage, and a Walkman, to listen to Hannah's story and try to understand. (RAZORBILL, Oct., 304 pp., \$16.99, ISBN: 9781595141712, 12&Up, HC)