



Taylor-Made Favorite

THINK BACK TO those embarrassing and awkward moments that peppered your teenage years — if you can stand it. What if you could do something positive with them, instead of just being glad adolescence is over? That’s just what debut author, and former *RT* reviewer, Taylor Morris has done in this month’s ***Class Favorite*** (Mix).

Channeling some of herself into the novel felt natural. She says, “I think that, inevitably, main characters always have a bit of the writer.”

The author relates how, growing up in Texas, she was “always on the cusp of the cool group, I was friends with the girl who was friends with the cool girl, but I never really knew where I fit.”



It didn’t help when Morris’ friends made the volleyball team and she didn’t. But she turned the disappointment around by becoming the first-ever team manager.

Main character Sara Thurman faces some similar, though more dramatic, problems. Her best friend Arlene has made the softball team, leaving Sara feeling a bit lost. When awkward and awful situa-

tions keep befalling poor Sara — like when her mom sends her period flowers at school, alerting everyone to her menstruation milestone — she decides to make an exclamation point out of that period problem, by making good use of the spotlight once it’s on her.

Morris wanted to put Sara through some embarrassing moments to make her seem more real.

“A lot of the YA books are about these huge go-getter girls, but I wanted to write about someone that had a little bit less coolness, someone who didn’t sparkle quite as much in the beginning, but who found it in herself later on.”

Sounds like what happened to a lot of us, post teen years. — *Elissa Petruzzi*