

11-1-2023

My Own Private Library

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Recommended Citation

Hynson, C. (2023). My Own Private Library. *Georgia Library Quarterly*, 60(4). Retrieved from <https://digitalcommons.kennesaw.edu/glq/vol60/iss4/6>

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Chamyre Hynson's Private Library

Having your own personal library is both comforting and sentimental. The idea of it being your own makes it unique because you, as an individual, have many different traits, hobbies, and interests that make up who you are as a person, which lays the foundation of your very

own book collection. Even if you don't currently have a private library, it's never too late to explore new things through books. Maybe one day, you are in the mood for suspense, or maybe you wake up one Sunday morning and decide to read something lighthearted. That's what makes

one's private library so unique; you're in your own little personal story world.

I enjoy a multitude of different genres. When I was younger, I was fascinated with anything involving animation, so I gravitated toward illustrated books or graphic novels. I'm the type of reader who visualizes everything down to the character's hair color, what kind of accent they speak in, or how they would portray themselves if it were real life. My absolute favorite TV show growing up was *Lizzie McGuire*. There used to be a part in the show where an animated version of Lizzie would appear several times throughout each episode to mimic her inner dialogue. While watching, I often said to myself, "Imagine if she had a book created just for the animated part!" So common with those who become librarians, I had a



The author's bookshelves

teacher, Ms. Guessner, who realized my love of reading and gifted me the Lizzie McGuire book set in the third grade. What made it even better is the fact that the book centered around the *animated* version of Lizzie that I had imagined! I will never forget the glow on Ms. Guessner's face as I unwrapped my gift. I couldn't wait to go home and add my newly gifted set to the rest of my book collection.

Lizzie McGuire was not the only set I collected; I also enjoyed reading the Junie B Jones collection along with more thrilling and spooky books such as *Scary Stories to Tell in The Dark* by Alvin Schwartz, which was later adapted into a film in 2019. Of course, I started getting a little older and, with time, my reading tastes changed. Sometimes you end up moving and have to get rid of things. Sadly, I donated many of my childhood books to thrift stores. Luckily, my love of thrifting means that I often find copies of my childhood favorites and can take a stroll down memory lane!

Most of the books in my private library today range from graphic novel memoirs to fashion catalogs to home décor books to anything that may spark my interest while browsing the aisles of Barnes & Noble or the book section of Goodwill. Sometimes when I'm out shopping for clothes, I would see a blouse or pants and say to myself, "I think I saw this type of fabric in the fashion catalog I have back home!" Or even better, if I'm out thrifting for home décor, there may be antique or vintage items that were mentioned in a book I was reading. I would say



One of the author's favorite books

approximately 75% of the items I own were inspired by all the style books and catalogs I have lying around in my apartment. If interior design librarians were a thing, it would be me!

I encourage anyone to start their own private and personal library. It's a fun way to not only build a collection of things that interest you but to discover new things about yourself.

Chamyre Hynson is a reference and instruction librarian at Oglethorpe University Library