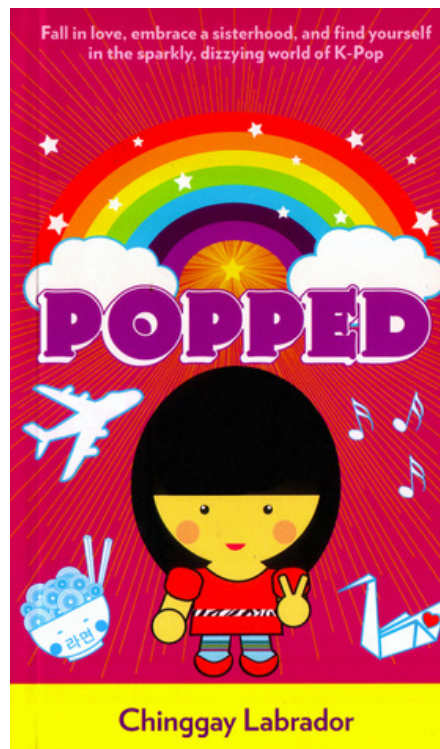




Popped

Chinggay Labrador

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When Andie immerses herself in the crazy, colorful world of K-Pop, she never imagined it would change her life forever and lead her to finding the boy of her dreams.

Popped Details

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Author : Chinggay Labrador

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From Reader Review Popped for online ebook

GM Oreiro says

I was quite reluctant to read this at first, not being a fan of chick lit nor K-Pop per se. However, this book trashed my every idea of chick lit. Not only was it the closest-to-home (being written by a Filipina) chick lit book I've read, it's also the BEST!

I reckon it's the casual girly language and infamous sarcastic humor that got me leafing through the pages with a giddy grin. I liked the friendship formed between the four girls mostly, and among the four I adored Trixie most especially her perceptions on her "shamelust".

Now don't get this wrong, the K-Pop mania did not easily poke itself into my universe after reading Popped. However, Labrador did entice me to want to visit Seoul "where all the cute stuffs are". It was because of this novel that I actually made Seoul a dream destination.

Thank you Chinggay Labrador for "Popped". Will look forward for more Korean craziness in "Popped Too".

annyeongbada says

my friend gave this book to me years ago.

i really liked this book because as a kpop fan i can so relate!!! <3 gosh how i wish this could happen to me too (if i visit korea).. anyways, if you r a kpopper then you should read this book!! <3

Christine Kate says

I was very much excited to read this chick lit. Imagine, a book dedicated to Pinay kpop fans.

Well, I'm not like Andi though. I never had a boyfriend yet but my addiction to kpop started in kdramas as well. I think those are the roots.

When I checked on the checklist, I thought "This book is meant for me".

Every chapter, talagang napapapintig ang puso ko. Nakadagdag pa na ang nageplay na songs ay KPOP at JPOP. Talagang nagpipilit akong tapusin sya in a day. Pero dahil sa acads, naging one week ><.

However, I was disappointed with the ending. I thought "Oh.. That was it?" I mean, super bitin yung kwento. What happened to others? He just welcomed a korean guy?

Anyways, This is really a MUST for every korean fangirl out there.

Grab a copy now!

PS: They are thinking of releasing Popped Too. And I'm very much eager to get a copy.

hwaiting! :)

Pinaywriter Simone says

If you are a fangirl of all things Korean or you are keeping it a secret from all the real people in your first life then you should pick up Popped and Popped 2, along with some other Summit books (just to make it look like you are a chick lit fan and not a fan of kpop including book) and line them up to read. I have been a collector of some of these books and I would recommend No Boyfriend since Birth, No Strings Attached amongst many others. I have a few more than I care to mention.

Popped is almost like reading a part of you, yes you, the working drone who got hooked into Autumn in my Heart, Boys over Flowers and Coffee Prince. My secret shame is books and korean dramas. Then I got into Big Bang because at my job, as a former video English teacher for Koreans, I HAD to learn about Big Bang since there were a group of girls in my avalor class (of evil 15 year old Korean middle school students) who used their name (BigBang's stage name) as their English names. And the only way those girls would pay attention in class was if the sample sentences were made about Big Bang. So before I knew it was already in love with TOP rapping, GD's songwriting, YB's moves, D-Lite's smile and Victory's antics.

So Popped was perfect for me. Ten out of five gold stars for it. It was so difficult not to finish the book en route from Megamall to Makati. But I was able to stop myself from reading it all in one sitting. I loved Mac in all of his personas. It was almost like it was happening to me. Though I am a big fan of Korean actors and performers, I had my own encounter with a Korean guy in college, several actually and the fact that he said Koreans hated Japanese (I was an otaku then) stopped me from ever dating any Korean guy. If I had to choose between the two, Japan would still win. Korea is like my husband and Japan was my hostess or geisha. Let's go for geisha.

Still, I woke up Saturday morning at two in the morning. (not unusual since I work on the a.m. Shift and my mind auto-wakes around that time) I wake up this early even on Saturdays since my brain is now unable to adjust to the fact that it's a non-working day.

I was not in full control of my faculties yet and my hand grabbed my brown Nine West bag and took the holy grail, I mean Popped, out of it. And no less than an hour later, I was having a tummy ache from all the laughing and spazzing. I was, in kerfag heaven. I reminded myself that I would go to Market!Market! later to buy books at Chapters & Pages and that Popped 2 could wait. (or I could borrow it from my own fangirl support group co-spazzer Nina. (Yes, I notice that that odd closeness to the name of Nica is apparent. But her real name is Janina. Mine is actually Niña so mine is ACTUALLY closer to Nica or Nicole. But I'll let her be Nica since she is prettier than me. I have my own Cesca, Jans who is a singer kinda close right? And well we don't have a Trixie and an Andie so they can just be me. Since I seem to share the mad Googling skills of those two and I write.)

I loved the small almost OC details in this book about describing the experience like you were actually there. And the many culture shocks they experienced made me want to spazz out completely. I also dream of going to Korea and meeting some real Korean friends. I have some students I would want to meet with if I ever go there to visit. I have a couple of them that I can meet up with (I think) if I ever go there. But that would require me to get out of my actual job now and work for a company that would pay me twice or thrice than this so I could afford tickets, accommodations and what not. By that time, Big Bang would be in their thirties. And some other group would be gunning for the Worldwide Act award. But they would always be the first in my heart.

Popped wrote down what many of us would love to have. Encounters of the K-pop kind. But the fact that in the story, the real happiness that they found isn't all the merchandise, Korean lovelife, chance encounters with the hottest men in their fanfic dreams, but the friendship that was formed between four seemingly cut from my own first life kind of people. Nica, Trixie, Cesca and Andie reminded me of my friends and I realized that sometimes the sailormoon fandom, kpop addiction or Mig Ayesa stalking are just means to an even great story.

Someday I would write about my Elbi life and it would make college girls who remember their close friends want to call em up and say, "Let's go out for coffee."

And if by then those cute Coffee Prince cups and lattes would already have a branch in the Philippines, then that would be super awesome. Till then, we can hit Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf.

Mikha ? says

IT SOO CUUUTE. :">

Everything reminds me of my older sister . She kinda a kind of girl you would find in this book. Yes, those kind who's obsessing about those korean dramas and kpop. Well, I've got to admit that I was hooked to korean dramas last year (for I was too bored). :D

Anyway, I ALSO WANT TO MEET MY OWN SEOUL MATE. haha. :)

Ronmaes says

awww... Popped reminds me too much of my Kpop obsession that I can't help but relate to the characters.

Andie and her friends are so fun you think you're reading about high school girls when in fact they are all working women. This book is about 4 bestfriends who are soo caught up in their kpop world (mostly Movement-fictional kpop band) that they found themselves in Korea and meeting their idols no less!!! whooo! thumbs up for them! sooo jealous...

anyway, its such a fun read that I took my time reading it. I love fangirling and for all other fangirls out there, you rock! Let's keep loving kpop...

Dianne says

To all the Kpop fangirls out there, you'll love this book, promise! ~ I will definitely read the 2 epic sequels! Yieeee, lots of love! Thank you for making my fangirl heart so kilig! <3

Ronald Lim says

“Popped” tells the story of Andie Bautista and her friends, Trixie, Nica, and Cesca. The four of them have been brought together by what they initially call their “secret shame” — a fondness for Korean dramas and KPop.

That secret shame soon blows up into a full blown obsession, as Andie and the guys end up not just collecting any available merchandise on their Korean idols, but going on trips to Tokyo and Korea just to watch them perform and hopefully bump into them and be their friend, in real life.

As I’ve been through some of these things myself — with Hanson, though, and not KPop — I found the first few pages of the book to be really hilarious and engaging. I could relate to the need to know everything about your favorite group and to have everything even peripherally connected to them be in your possession. I couldn’t help but find the giddiness contagious.

However, somewhere around page 28, I started getting a terrible feeling down in the pit of my stomach. At a fictional KPop concert, Andie and the girls encounter someone who they eventually dub “Munchkin Oppa”, who as it turns out is part of a fan club. The girls act all snotty and superior, mostly because “Munchkin Oppa” has “orange-toned, badly-rebonded, chin length hair” and designs crappy fan shirts.

I mostly dismissed this feeling as irrational, but when “Munchkin Oppa” reappears again on page 56 and the girls were equally dismissive, I started feeling like I had something stuck in between my teeth and I couldn’t get it out.

This unnecessary meanness continued to grate even more when Andie goes on a trip to Tokyo and is faced with nothing but absolutely model fans who don’t scream and shout and whatnot.

The same goes when Andie and the gang head to Korea to hunt down their KPop dream boyfriends. The foreign fans are such models of great behavior while the Filipino fans are dubbed as either “Orcs from Mordor” or “dementors” because they were noisy and got in the four heroines’ personal space. I just couldn’t let it go.

What made these four girls so much better than the other local fans? What makes them any less crazy? If those “Orc” kids were in line — just like these girls were — what would make them Orcs? Is it because they invaded your personal space and just made your waiting experience uncomfortable? That’s de rigeur for concerts, Andie and co. Maybe you were those girls that were at the Kris Allen concert I went to. I would understand if Munchkin Oppa was a constant thorn in the girls’ side, preventing them from fulfilling their KPop dreams, but the only crime he’s committed is just not being the right kind of fan for Andie and her oh-so-special crew.

And even if we set that aside, I just found it hard to suspend my disbelief in the face of Andie’s international adventures. It might amuse guys to know that Andie is a freelancer who hasn’t taken a job in weeks because her obsession with all things Korean has taken over her life, while Trixie is unemployed. And yet they can afford to splurge on trips to Tokyo and Seoul within the space of a week, coupled with goddess knows how many bags of overpriced fan merchandise! What is this magical world they live in?!?

At around 100 pages in, Andie does this:

“I could tell the four of us were going to lose our voices over the next couple of days. I was just glad that I had the chance to finally get out of my head and talk to people. Another week of traveling all by myself and I would have spontaneously combusted.”

Of course, Andie. How can anything compare to the absolute AGONY of traveling by yourself to Tokyo on a FREELANCER'S BUDGET, buying BAGS OF OVERPRICED FAN MERCHANDISE on a FREELANCER'S BUDGET? MY HEART BLEEDS FOR YOU. I am SO HAPPY that you can now talk to your friends. One of whom is still able to travel INTERNATIONALLY even if she is UNEMPLOYED. I AM SO HAPPY YOU ARE NOW IN THE COMPANY OF YOUR FRIENDS. MOTHERFUCKING BITCH.

By page 120+, I was already having a nervous breakdown.

It's not like I can't handle a book with a Mary Sue in it. For fuck's sake, I finished Becca Fitzgerald's "Hush, Hush" and Alexandra Adornetto's "Halo". But the unnecessary meanness coupled with the Mary Sue characters was just too much for me to handle. It has none of the charm, the tenderness, and the intelligence of "Between Dinner and the Morning After". Joseph Gordon-Levitt would definitely disapprove of this book.

Tonimoli says

I shelved this book because it felt like a memoir when it's not supposed to be one. While fan girls might find it entertaining, it'll probably be hard for one to appreciate it if one isn't familiar or interested with the Korean wave, or anything Korean maybe. I myself had a phase of fangirling but this just didn't work for me.

louise !! says

'Popped' is a light-hearted novel about a girl named Andie and her *barkada* (her group of friends), and Andie's adventure into becoming a fangirl for Korean culture (which I can heavily relate to.)

It is a fast-paced and quick read - but beyond the surface you can find that it is quite shallow. There is no depth and while it is easy to relate to the characters you can quickly see how shallow they are themselves (judging and making fun of a fan-boy for designing what they deemed were 'crappy' fan shirts. Futher, even, naming him 'Munchkin Oppa' for his "orange-toned, badly-rebonded, chin length hair".)

While it was fun to read there was nothing much more to it than that.

Bossing Blesi says

My rating is actually 3.5. This is the chick-lit for K-Pop fanatics. It was really funny most of the time. A K-Pop male idol group was featured and they are a combination of Big Bang and 2PM. wahaha! The grown-up women who are secretly K-Pop fanatic surpassed my expectations of a K-Pop fanatic. (>.<) I can't see myself doing half the things they did. It was just crazy! But then again, if I will end up with a Korean Prince Charming, it will be worth it! :))

Bookbed says

This book is one of our Recommended Reads! Read our post [here](#).

Please note: We don't use ratings but for this purpose, we tag books with three stars by default.

Would like to be a reviewer/contributor to Bookbed? Sign up here!
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Isabel Camus says

Fluffy, fluffy, fun. I enjoyed reading it mainly because I could really put myself in the girls' shoes. I've seen lots of the scenarios and I've probably even felt what they were feeling at one point or another. Sometimes they freaked me out with their over-the-top antics and I'd make faces at the book much as I'd make faces at crazy fangirls in real life. The ending was a little too surreal, but if that's what's coming to all fangirls, then I say bring it on! haha just kidding. Cotton Candy Fluff. But that's really what I was expecting anyways. All in all, a fun-filled glimpse into the life of a K-pop fangirl. As AndieBau says "Welcome to the fantastic world."

Twila Bergania says

I'm a big fan of Chinggay Labrador ever since she began writing for Seventeen magazine and Candy. I bought this book on a whim because I found out she was at the book fair and I really wanted to meet her. I am not a big fan of k-pop or Korean dramas so I wasn't able to connect with a book on a much deeper level but I'm big in fangirl-ism and pop culture, friendship and love which is probably why I still enjoyed reading it. It's a very light read and can be finished in one sitting. The plot line reminded me a lot of the Shopaholic series in a sense that I had so much hate for the protagonist at first (because of her impulsiveness and borderline stupidity) but the character grows on you and somehow, at some point, you get to love her inspite of everything. All in all, I recommend reading this for long train rides as it is not so heavy (literally and figuratively) and it's interesting enough to keep you preoccupied.

UPDATE: Read it again this year and CRAP. I loved it because I finally got the hang of K-Pop. I cannot help but imagine Movement as GOT7's members.

Kizia says

"Just welcome," I smiled. "Welcome to the fantastic world" -- Gosh! This book is just a fun, light read. It soooooo reminds me of the thrill and craziness I felt at the beginning of my love story with Seoul. This book made me miss Seoul and fangirling even more. Oh, the memories when life was exciting and had so much meaning. I miss it dearly.
