

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Melodee Pedersen, Friends of the Library President

Rainbow Rowell to Visit CPL

Sunday, July 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the Columbus Public Library lower level Art Gallery, Rainbow Rowell of the Omaha World Herald will be here to discuss her new novel and sign her book. A limited amount of books will be available for purchase at this event.

Have you ever had a best friend? Someone you could tell anything to or share anything with? In Rainbow Rowell's new book, "Attachments," Beth and Jennifer are just that type of friends. Ms. Rowell has a fresh take on showing us that friendship, however, because we get a glimpse of it through their emails to each other. Enter Lincoln, whose job as internet security requires him to read those emails, and others at the newspaper where they all work. Lincoln finds the two women so charming (as do we) that he can't reprimand them for sending personal emails at work, as he should. Instead, he allows them to continue and goes from enjoying their repartee to falling in love with one of them, without even knowing what she looks like.

To whet your appetite, I recently asked Rainbow some questions via email. Here they are: Another author who spoke in Columbus said that he writes because he has to, that it isn't really a choice for him. Do you feel the same way?

I didn't used to feel that way. Until I started "Attachments," I'd never really written anything for myself. I'd written for school or for the newspaper -- I'd written bad love letters -- but I'd never written anything for me.

A friend of mine who writes plays challenged me to start something, and for a long time, I just sort of dithered. It was hard to make myself write. I didn't make significant progress for YEARS.

But once I really got into it, once I had a draft of the novel, it started to feel addictive. Now, I crave it. I work fulltime and have kids, so I have to budget time for fiction. When I'm not working on a book, I crave it. I really miss it.

I just turned in the manuscript for my next book, by the way. It's called "Eleanor & Park," and it's a misfit love story. Sort of "Juno" meets "Romeo and Juliet."

What gave you the idea for Attachments?

Well, I was working at a newspaper that had been very cautious about e-mail and the Internet. In the newsroom, we knew that someone was monitoring our e-mail. I started to think of that person as a silent third party in every conversation. I think I turned it into a love story -- guy falls in love reading girl's e-mail -- because that's how my brain works. I want everything to be a love story.

Are there any characters in your book that you particularly identify with?

All of them! Beth probably talks/writes most like me and has my sense of humor. But I really identified with Jennifer's terror over getting pregnant. And Lincoln's ennui. I'm not sure if all authors

do this, but I felt like I was channeling myself into every character.

Attachments has received a lot of positive attention, including a mention in USA Today, Entertainment Weekly magazine's Best of Summer issue, and being chosen for the Barnes and Noble Summer 2011 Discover Great New Writers program.

To hear more from Rainbow in person, come see her Sunday, July 17th at 2:00 p.m. at the library!

This event is sponsored by the Friends of the Columbus Public Library.