

'Traveling Pants' makes you feel part of the sisterhood

By JESSICA DENNY

Once upon a time there was a pair of pants. They were an essential kind of pants - jeans, naturally, blue but not that stiff, new blue that you see so often on the first day of school. They were a soft changeable blue with a little extra fading at the knees and the seat and white wavelets at the cuffs.

There is no one hero in Anne Brashare's *Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*. In this 294 page novel, four girls discover how to survive when, after a lifetime of being together, they face their first summer apart.

Each of the girls prepares to leave for the summer, but just on the night before they are to separate, they unite around a single pair of pants. But not just any pair of pants. These are magic pants. How can a pair of pants be magic? Amazingly, the pants fit each girl perfectly, even though each has a distinctly different build. They comfort themselves in the thought of the magic within the pants and vow to each take turns wearing the pants that summer, mailing them to the next girl in line. They even go so far as to actually make rules for the wearing of the pants.

As the story of these four girls unfolds you meet four teenage girls that sound very much like the girl sitting next to you as you read this, or even yourself.

First is Carmen, who bought the pants and is responsible for the unification of the girls on their last day together. Her parents are divorced, which could be the reason she is a selfish brat. She is destined for South Carolina, where she'll be spending the summer with her dad. Carmen is a Daddy's Girl, and she's in for a big shock. When

she arrives at her father's she finds he has a new home and a soon-to-be new family. She isn't all her father has anymore and the result isn't pretty.

Bridgette (also known as Bee), a strong-willed athlete, is headed to a Baja, California soccer camp. Bee has her own problems. Her mother committed suicide and Bee responds with willful, rash behavior. When she decides she wants something she takes it. Her strong will, her athletic abilities, and her beauty don't always come through for her in the end. When Bee goes to camp she finds that all of her traits have helped her into a big problem.

Lena is shy and lives through her art, and keeps herself in the shadows of life. She and her sister visit her grandparents in Greece, and Lena attempts to get back to her roots. Greece is a very romantic place, and Lena is sucked in by the beauty of the land and into a relationship she is unsure of.

Tibby stays at home in Washington, D.C. and holds down the fort. She doesn't want her friends to leave for two reasons: 1. she will miss them, and 2. she doesn't get to go any where

exciting. She is the life line everyone writes to keep in touch with the events at home. In the meantime, Tibby gets her first job which takes her into a direction she didn't quite expect, and she makes a new, unlikely friend who gets her through her summer alone.

At the beginning of the book the girls laid out the rules of the pants. The girls were childish as they giggled about the various rules, but as they go through the summer they are faced with various obstacles that make them more mature. They are faced with their first serious romances, family problems, and death. Reading is not a top priority for me, but I had to make it one after I started reading this book. I enjoyed the reality of the problems the girls faced and the comfort they took in something as simple as a pair of pants.

The Sisterhood of the



Traveling Pants
~ ANN BRASHARE ~

Eclipse breath strips outshines Listerine

By MARIA HENSELY & INDI RUHE

Do you have bad breath from drinking the Mountain Holler that we recommended you in our last review? Well then, we have just the remedy for it! This time around we decided to test a product that almost everyone in the entire school uses or would like to know more about - breath strips.

There is a variety of these little strips. Whether your favorite breath-freshening flavor is cinnamon or peppermint, more than likely, the breath strip manufacturers have you covered.

Why do so many opt for breath strips over gums and mints? It is simple - convenience! Each pack of breath strips comes in a nifty little container that can easily slide into anyone's pocket or purse.

Still need convincing that breath strips are right for you? How about this? They dissolve instantly, contain ZERO calories, (yeah!) and are diabetic and vegetarian/vegan friendly.

In our test we decided to try out a peppermint type of flavor in the strips. We chose Wrigley's Eclipse

strips against Listerine's Cool Mint Pocket Paks breath strips.

The strips came in different amounts in the packs, but the size of the strips were identical. We found that 75% percent of the people we tested preferred the Eclipse strips over Listerine's. So, truly what is the difference?

Although it would appear that the Listerine strip cost more, the truth is that since there are more in the pack, the cost is slightly higher than that of the Eclipse brand.

Those 75% that enjoyed the Eclipse most of all said that the Listerine strips were slightly bitter, while the 25% that enjoyed the Listerine agreed that the Eclipse strips were somewhat hot when they first placed the strip on their tongues.

The majority in our experiment ruled, but as always, the choice is up to you. The two different brands were extremely similar. Although they were both great in their own ways, our experiment has shown that most of our consumers favored Eclipse Strips!!



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