# The Amelia Peabody Series:
## From England to Egypt

**Rebecca Kissinger**
Copy Editor

Elizabeth Peters is one of the most acclaimed writers of our time. She has been writing an eighteen book series of phenomenal proportions for almost three decades. Peters has accomplished what few series writers have been able to do, create an exciting and informational story that combines Peters' love of writing and Egyptology. Peters sets before us a wonderful world beginning in the late nineteenth century and continuing well into the industrial revolution.

Peters' first book, "Crocodile on the Sandbank," is set in England and Egypt in 1884. This begins the journal of Amelia Peabody, a forward thinking European women who seeks a life of adventure after her father passes away leaving her an inheritance that allows her to travel to her heart's content. Throughout the series Peters leads you through a civilization buried in the sand and the developing culture at its surface. Peters' love of Egypt is shown as deeply as Amelia's

With her husband Radcliffe Emerson, son Ramses and countless friends, family and foes, Amelia braves perilous dangers fighting crime and discovering secrets under the sands of Egypt, all while maintaining a wealthy English women's persona.

"If Indiana Jones were female, a wife, and a mother who lived in Victorian times, he would be Amelia Peabody Emerson," said Publishers Weekly.

Peter's most recent book is, "Tomb of the Golden Bird," which is set in 1923 and takes place during the infamous discovery of King Tut's tomb. Amelia is now a grandmother and happily living out her life in Egypt with her husband, exploring the mysteries of Egypt's world.

For the next thirty years of Amelia's life you read about murders, mysteries and some of the most important world changing events. With the women's movement in England, World War I, and some of the most amazing archeological digs in Egypt, Amelia's life is never boring. Peters has created an amazing family and has brought a new generation of readers to an old world.

**Since the 70's Peters has written a total of eighteen books in the Amelia Peabody collection and incorporates over three thousand years of Egyptian history within the pages of her books-.**

# "Boy Meets Boy"
## Offers a Fun, Quick Beach Read

**Christina Pillsbury**
Opinion Editor

Paul is in love. He's not quite sure that the object of his affection even knows he's alive, and it seems that Paul's friends are drifting away from him, and his ex is ever present. The only thing that separates David Levithan's novel "Boy Meets Boy" from any other teen romance is the culture by which Paul is surrounded. Paul's high school is a utopia in terms of sexuality acceptance. The drag queen clique decides who is "in" and who is "out," the homecoming queen and the star quarterback are one in the same; a girl named Infinite Darlene who used to be Daryl, and the gay-straight-alliance was formed to teach the straight kids how to dance.

Levithan's novel does not, however, focus on gay issues. The story is about love, friendship, and all the other painfully awkward elements of high school. The story is about a boy who seems to have it all together, and compared to his peers he probably does but of course he does not think that he does. Because the story is placed in a fantasy town free from prejudices, issues between gays and straights virtually do not exist.

The failing point of the novel does not exist in relationships between the characters, which are carefully and wittily crafted by Levithan, but in the characters themselves.

If Levithan's intent is to promote gay rights and equality, he falls short in his character development. Instead of creating rounded, easily accessible characters, who just happen to be gay, transgender, bisexual, or straight, Paul, Infinite Darlene, and the rest of the gang are all defined almost exclusively by their sexuality.

Whatever your Spring Break plans are, whether you'll be relaxing on hot beach sands, rebuilding New Orleans, or sticking around in the polar icecaps, a good, quick read is in order. "Boy Meets Boy" is most certainly that fun beach read you've been looking for, that doesn't make you feel stupid for reading it.

# The War on Video Games

**Mateo Hernandez**
Staff Writer

Since 1972, when video games came out, there have been people trying to dispose of the violent video games such as "Mortal Kombat" or "Doom." Controversial video games started on the PC. The Entertainment Software Rating Board (ESRB) was created to rate games on a scale from Early Childhood (EC) to Adults Only (AO). The first couple of controversial video games were primarily controversial because of sexual content. As the video game franchise has evolved to console gaming, games have become more and more violent.

When violent or controversial video games are mentioned, the first game some may think of is "Grand Theft Auto III" (GTA3). Although this was not the first of its kind, it was the first popular one. In some countries this game has even been banned! Violent games similar to "Grand Theft Auto III" and "Doom" made some parents furious. Parents felt that this senseless violence was corrupting their children by exposing them to violence.

On March 6, 2005 Correspondent Ed Bradley from CBS aired that 18-year-old Devin Moore who had played GTA day and night for months murdered 3 men. This gave people such as Attorney Jack Thompson, a long-time crusader against violent video games, the upper hand on the war on violent games. Since then, others have done the same, blaming violent acts on violent video games claiming, "I was just reenacting something from a videogame."

A study done by the American Psychological Association concluded in their "Journal of Personality and social Psychology" that:

"Playing violent video games like Doom, Wildenstein 3D or mortal Kombat can increase a person's aggressive thoughts, feelings and behavior both in laboratory settings and actually life . . . violent video games can be more harmful than violent television and movies because they are interactive, very engrossing and require the player to identify with the aggressor."

My own mother hates all the blood in a Mature rated game I play called "Straglehold," a fun but senselessly violent game.

USC sociologist Karen Sternheimer says "we need to look beyond video games for the roots of youth violence." www.Physorg.com held it's own study. They took a group people and had them play "Asheron's Call 2" for a month, adding up to a total of 56 hours, and found no psychological difference between the people who played the game and people who don't generally play games at all.

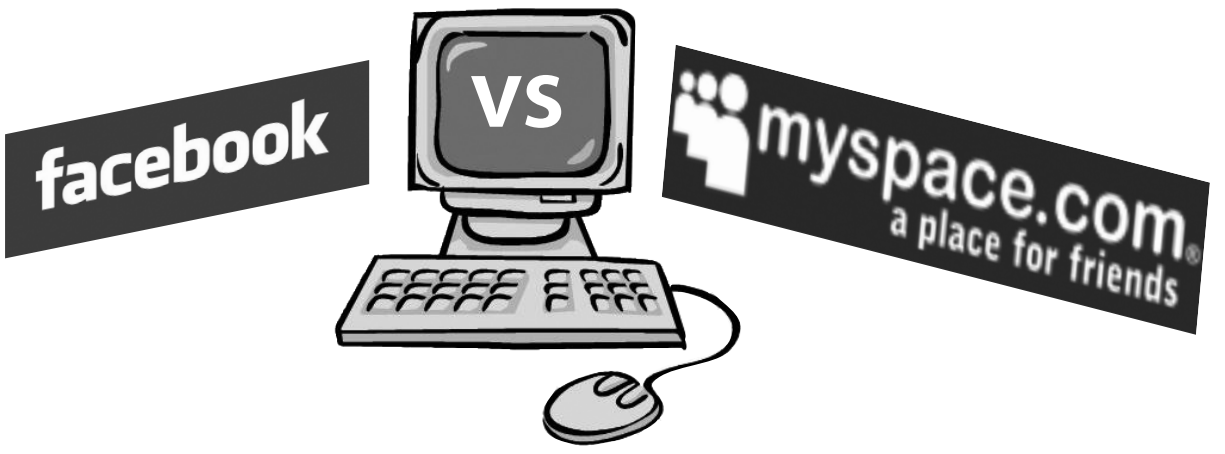
I use video games as an outlet for my anger; it is not the cause of it. If I have a really bad day at school, where everyone is picking on me and they make me angry, I go home get on "Halo 3" and shoot some aliens in the face. Isn't that not better than getting a real gun and shooting those who made me angry at school?

The act of playing violent video games is harmless, and it can affect different people in different ways. Blaming video games for violent crimes is ludicrous. I once read in a "Time" magazine that playing certain games can actually help surgeons before they go into surgery because it warms up their hand eye coordination.

Although all video games are not guaranteed to enhance hand eye coordination, most violent video games do require at least some tactical thinking. Video games are a virtual art form and are just as much a form of art as music, film, or painting. And all of those art forms actually go into making a video game, so to say violent video games perpetuate violence is like saying music, movies or paintings with violent content all incite violence.

**The classic PC game Doom was one of the most violent of its time, the main character sporting an arsenal of weaponry used to slaughter monsters and demon-like creatures.**

# Facebook vs. Myspace: Internet Wars Commence




**Renee Macdonald**
Layout Editor

Personal profiles have never been so easily available to the common person as they are today. Question is, where do you want to put yours? Myspace or Facebook? Maybe both. As it is, there has been some controversy over which space is better to use.

Putting your face and favorite activities on the internet is, strangely enough, a highly addictive hobby that many teenagers enjoy. Long gone are the days where you had to actually go meet a person face to face in order to get to know them. The internet offers customized web pages which allow you to put yourself out there, exposed to the world. The question becomes, where do you want to have this next generation experience? Which web site better fits your needs? Myspace or Facebook?

Both web sites allow pictures, videos, comments, blogs, profile questions, groups that are centered around certain subjects, and an electronic connection to everyone else who has a profile. Myspace and Facebook do all of these things in different ways, and neither is necessarily better or worse than the other.

Myspace allows the user to personalize their own web page without the complex knowledge of HTML. Flipping through profiles on Myspace, you can easily see what each person is like. You can place music, pictures, videos, blogs (online journals), and even how you happen to feel that day on your Myspace through public emoticons (electronic faces that show emotion).

A music directory of bands is available on Myspace. Here a web-surfer can search through and add music to their profile page, and at the discretion of the artist, even download music. Facebook has similar applications, but not nearly as convenient and handy as Myspace's music directory.

Facebook does not allow you to have many of those liberties, although you can still answer a few simple questions such as what your favorite quotes are, what school you go to, etc... On the prop side for Facebook, you can have many applications, or little mini-games. There are applications like Scrabulous, Pirates Vs. Ninjas, Superpoke, Food Fight, Horoscopes, Quizzes, and many more that are available depending on what you are interested in.

While Facebook doesn't let you play with the color schemes, pictures, and videos on your profile page (certain applications have links that will lead viewers to those), Facebook also looks a lot cleaner and more professional than Myspace. It is possible to have too much flair. Many people on Myspace overdo their profile pages to the point where they don't load quickly, they look gaudy, and no one really wants to read your profile anymore. Facebook is clean and precise and its uniform look ultimately makes a better picture, so long as the user is tactful with the amount of applications they use.

While it does depend what computer you use, Myspace has a tendency to load much slower than Facebook. It lags when you simply go to check your inbox, or change your mood. On Myspace you can also click on a link, and oftentimes you'll run into a "page can't be found" message. All of the ads that Myspace places on its pages are a huge hassle and also slow down loading time. Facebook runs relatively smoothly and has few to no ads.

Myspace accumulates a lot of spam and hacking as well. You see spam mail in your inbox and on your comments on your profile all the time, sometimes asking if you want to hook up with some random girl in a picture. Profiles on Myspace get hacked all the time to place this spam, and while Tom sounds like he's trying to fix it, you can still find signs of spam and hacking wherever you go. This is not a problem on Facebook. You never hear anything about spam or hacking outside of unwanted application invitations.

It is not unheard of on Myspace for people you have never seen before in your life to send you friend invitations simply so they can boost their friend list numbers. Apparently friend lists are simply a huge competition between strangers on Myspace. While the same thing occurs occasionally on Facebook, it's not nearly as prominent.

While Myspace is easier to customize, Facebook is downright more fun. Applications can keep you busy for hours while you sit and chat with your friends through your inbox, groups and causes keep you well informed, and the application "events" keeps you updated about important events around your area.