GROWING UP WITH

Girl power

girlhood on screen and in everyday life



rebecca c. hains



Table of Contents

Acknowledgments vii

Introduction xi

Chapter One: The Girl Crisis and the Riot Grrrls 1

Chapter Two: Girl Power Goes Pop:
The Spice Girls and Marketed Empowerment 25

Chapter Three: Did the Spice Girls Kill Feminism?
Young Feminists Speak 49

Chapter Four: Girl Power on Screen: The Rise of the Girl Hero 81

Chapter Five: Methodology: Researching Girl Power with Girls 109

Chapter Six: Girls Rule! Sexism, Strength, and Intelligence 123

Chapter Seven: Girl Heroes and Identity:
The Limited Typology of Girl Power 147

Chapter Eight: Girl Heroes and Beauty:
The Visual Limits of Girl Power 179

Chapter Nine: Beyond Girl Heroes:
Girl Power, Racism, and Power Relations 215

Conclusion 261

Epilogue 269
Works Cited 287
Index 305

List of Figures

1.1 Tobi Vail and Kathleen Hannah 14
1.2 Riot Grrrl Manifesto 15
2.1 The Spice Girls 28
4.1 *The Powerpuff Girls* 83
4.2 *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* 89
4.3 *Charmed* 90
4.4 A scene from *Kim Possible* 94
4.5 *My Life as a Teenage Robot* 95
4.6 *Atomic Betty* 96
4.7 *W.I.T.C.H.* 97
7.1 A Drawing by Gia, Age 8 150
7.2 A Drawing by Gia, Age 8 152
7.3 Drawings by Madison, Age 10 159
7.4 Drawings by Desirée, Age 10 162
7.5 A Drawing by Simone, Age 8 163
8.1 Bratz Forever Diamondz Doll: Yasmin 189
8.2 A Drawing by Kylie, Age 9 196
8.3 Two Drawings by Kylie, Age 9 202
8.4 A Drawing by Kelly, Age 10 204
8.5 Two Drawings by Angela, Age 8 206
9.1 Bratz Dolls 216
9.2 *That's So Raven* 241
9.3 *Bratz* Animated Television Show 242

List of Tables

9.1 Races Represented by the Cartoon Girl Heroes 230
9.2 Girl Hero Cartoon Statistics 231
9.3 Races Represented by the Cartoon Girl Heroes, Except *W.I.T.C.H.* 233