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mesa public library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

letter from the editor



Finally! The interminable Winter Break is over and we're back in school! Yay! Yeah, right. Well, to make the transition from complete and total freedom to being chained to the proverbial ball and Jansport a little bit easier, try some of these books. This issue's got super-viruses, genteel vampires, and Purgatory. Interesting stuff. Anyway, hope your year starts out well!

teens_info@ci.mesa.az.us

Jason Yan
open shelf Editor



rating system

bad ★
so-so ★★
good ★★★
excellent ★★★★★

Visit the Library's NEW Web Site:
www.mesalibrary.org
and see the Teens page!

The Belgariad series

(Includes: Pawn of Prophecy, Queen of Sorcery, Magician's Gambit, Castle of Wizardry, and Enchanter's End Game)

By David Eddings

Garion, a simple farm boy, is suddenly taken up in an adventure to decide the fate of the world. Okay, so it sounds a little corny, but I promise that it's not. Garion discovers that his Aunt Pol is really the legendary Sorceress Polgara, and that the old vagabond storyteller that comes to the farm is the mythical Belgarath. These powerful people help Garion to find his true destiny as Belgarion, the Rivian King and Overlord of the West, the one destined to fight the evil god Torak. Though it sounds rather serious, this book is absolutely hilarious! There are so many one-liners that you couldn't count them in a lifetime. I highly recommend these books to anyone and everyone, no matter what their tastes.

—Jenny Knatz ★★★★★

Wyrm

By Mark Fabi

Wyrm was a very good book. It tells the tale of Mike Arcangelo, a virus buster who has run across a very strange bug. This little wyrm soon spreads across the internet, becoming a sentient being. It creates the world's most advanced multiple user domain (MUD) RPG ever. To stop it, Mike and his colleagues must totally get

This month:

The Belgariad series by David Eddings

Wyrm by Mark Fabi

Wenny has Wings by Janet Lee Carey

Simon Says by Elaine Marie Alphin

The Salmon of Doubt by Douglas Adams

Carpe Jugulum by Terry Pratchett

Museum at Purgatory by Nick Bantock

Joshua by Joseph F. Girzone

into the game, risking death along the way. This book was great and had everything I've ever looked for in a book. If you want to read something good, read *Wyrm!*

—Remy Albillar ★★★★★

Wenny has Wings

By Janet Lee Carey

Wenny has Wings is a book about a brother and sister, Wenny and Will, who one day decide that they are going to go to town. On the way there, something catastrophic happens. Wenny and Will are hit by a truck. Wenny and Will are taken to the hospital and considered "dead." While this is happening on earth, Wenny and Will are floating around following a bright spot of light until Will sees his parents trying to wake him up in the hospital with a "chest buzzer." Will feels sorry for his parents and decides to come back, but Wenny decides to remain in the clouds, where she is very happy. The rest of the book is about how Will copes with the fact that his parents wish that Wenny were the one who had survived, and how he resolves his sadness.

I really think that *Wenny has Wings* is a terrific book. In fact, I love it so much I am currently doing it for my novel project in school. It's funny, sad and somewhat adventurous, plus the characters are sure to touch your heart. I would recommend this book to anyone who has ever wondered if there is life after death.

—Mandi Levendowski ★★★★★

Simon Says

By Elaine Marie Alphin

This is easily the best mess-with-your-mind novel in the whole world. I love the way the author portrays the childhood game. All the characters are at an artistry school so their ideas are pretty skewed. But everyone is realistic and the ideas portrayed are incredible, things no one would ever have thought of.

Everyone should read this book. I personally am going to buy a copy for every single one of my friends and force them to read it, even if it means taping their eyes open in the middle of the night.

—*Alyssa Ratledge* ★★☆☆

The Salmon of Doubt

By Douglas Adams

I don't like to think of myself as soft-hearted, but I cried when Douglas Adams, author of the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* trilogy, died last year. No wonder I so greatly anticipated the coming of *The Salmon of Doubt* – a collection of speeches, short papers, and assorted files on Adams' computer, and the beginnings of the next novel he was working on.

I readily admit I was riveted by every word of this book, but I doubt everyone would be. I'm a huge Douglas Adams fan, but people who aren't might not know what he thinks about American tea. And, of course, the partially finished novel is...well, partially finished. Still, for any fanatic like myself, every word written by this master is relished like a pizza with everything on it.

—*Janel Torkington* ★★☆☆

Carpe Jugulum

By Terry Pratchett

Something strange is happening in the kingdom of Lancre. The vampires from Uberwald have been invited, and everyone knows that once vampires are invited, they don't have to leave. They are trying to appear more civilized, so they are no longer the evil blood-sucking monsters that they once were. They call themselves vampyres, not vampires, and they suck

blood "nicely." In other words, they don't just swoop in and drain someone dry, they ask first and then take small sips. Not that it's much better... Anyway, it is up to Granny Weatherwax to stop the evil menace. So, she fights, and they fight back, and it becomes a battle like the world has never seen before...

—*Beth Dormady* ★★☆☆

Museum at Purgatory

By Nick Bantock

The museum at Purgatory is where all the collectors and artists of the world come to sort through their collections and decide whether they're going to Heaven or Hell. Nun, the curator, takes you through the rooms the collectors have assembled while waiting to decide to go to either place. As you pass through the rooms, you hear each collector's story. At the end of the book you hear the curator's story.

This book could have been great. It has one of the greatest premises I've heard. However, the writing killed and mangled the story. The story never has a climax; it just seems to ramble on, never getting anywhere.

—*Mary Beth Hutchinson* ★★☆☆

Joshua

By Joseph F. Girzone

Joshua is new to the town of Auburn. Although he lives on the outskirts of town, everyone is curious about him. In the few months Joshua was in Auburn he made a big impression on everyone there with his wisdom and great understanding of human nature. Some of the impressions he made weren't very good, though, including to the bishops of some of the churches in Auburn. Amidst building controversy, Joshua is sent to Rome.

This is a very interesting book in that it parallels a similar story, except for the ending. This book is good for insight about life and situations of life.

—*Jasmine Williamson* ★★☆☆



Get Prepared

Get helpful free advice on how to achieve the highest score possible!

SAT Strategy Session & Test Drive

Tuesday, Jan. 7, 7-8:30 p.m.

Youth Activity Room

Follow up with the free practice test on Saturday, January 11 from 1-4:30 p.m. Registration is required and begins on Monday, Dec. 30. Call (480) 644-2734.

ACT Strategy Session & Test Drive

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7-8:30 p.m.

Youth Activity Room

Follow up with the free practice test on Saturday, January 25 from 1-4:30 p.m. Registration is required and begins on Monday, Jan. 13. Call (480) 644-2734.



5th Annual

Battle of the Bards Poetry Contest

Jan. 2 through 31

For ages 12 to 17 and adults. Deadline for original poetry submissions is 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31. Teen entry forms are available at the Main Library Youth Services Desk and at the Reference desks at the Dobson Ranch and East Mesa Branch Libraries. First, second and third place prizes will be \$75, \$50, and \$25 gift certificates to Borders Books & Music. Winning entries will be read at the Battle of the Bards Poetry Reading held on Thursday, April 10, 7-8:30 p.m.

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