

Open Shelf

Summer
2003

Special Summer Issue



rating system

bad ★

so-so ★★

good ★★★

excellent ★★★★★

city of mesa library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

letter from the editor



Who can believe that the school year is over? You know, it's funny. You start the year feeling that it's dragging on forever and that it will never end, but as the summer approaches...you kind of start to get

a little bit wistful. I mean, you still want school to end, but for seniors, the realization that everything you've ever known is going to change kind of makes you stop and think. One of the things that is going to change for me is that my time in YAAC is over, and I would like to thank Robert, Shari, and especially Diane for a great 6 years. As for the rest of you people who are now faced with a blissfully free summer, we have a super-deluxe issue filled with YAACers' suggestions on how to

spend that free time. This summer's reviews run the gamut, covering everything from fantasy to Shakespeare. Just about any genre that you could possibly want is amply covered. Take advantage of our heartbreaking reviews of staggering genius, and have a great summer!

—Jason Yan
Open Shelf Editor

Send comments and suggestions to
tiepilot777@hotmail.com

letter from the advisor

This is my opportunity to thank all the wonderful YAAC members I have had the pleasure of working with this year. It has been a very busy one, with lots of projects and lots of reading!

YAAC has been actively involved with the YA Galley/Teen Top Ten project of YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association of the American Library Association). This has required much reading of brand new, hot-off-the-press books, and "galley" copies that haven't been published yet! Our YAAC members have been doing evaluations of all these books for publishers and for Open Shelf reviews. They (and you, any teen will be invited to do this) will be able to participate online in a Teens' Top Ten books vote during Teen Read Week in October. (For details go to:

www.ala.org/yalsa and click Teen Read Week, then Teens' Top Ten.) YAAC (and your) votes will be totaled with those of other teens from all over the country and will result in a 2003 Teens' Top Ten national list of best books.

YAAC members have also been busy in other ways this year. Some have partnered with me to do reviews of new books for VOYA (Voice of Youth Advocates) magazine. Three of our members, Cristina Anglin, Mary Beth Hutchinson and Jasmine Williamson, served as judges for the Battle of the Bards poetry contest. YAAC members also worked with the publisher of Anthology Magazine to run two Teen Poetry Slams, one in October and one in May. There were some additional fun times, going out to dinner and to see the **Lord of the Rings** movie in December, having a joint meeting in April with the members of YAAC from our Dobson Branch Library (who publish a newsletter, **Branches**), and seeing the movie **Holes**

in May.

Special thanks go to our officers this year: YAAC Representative (to the Library Board), Andrea Alonge; Open Shelf Editor, Jason Yan; Secretary, Erin Hutchinson; and Alternate, Luke Lambert. Extra special thanks and good wishes go to our graduating seniors, Ella Peterson and Jason Yan, who were members for 4 and 6 years respectively, and who are both going on to the University of Arizona this fall. Additional thanks and good wishes go to four other graduating members, Shyam Nair, J. Parker Heiner, Grant Penrod and Matt Houston, for their occasional participation during their busy senior year.

Have a great summer and enjoy this review-packed issue! You can't miss finding something really good to read.

—Diane Tuccillo
YAAC Advisor

Review by Cristina Anglin

In the Stone Circle

By Elizabeth Cody Kimmel ★★★★★



This is a wonderful book about a girl who only *thinks* she doesn't have any problems. She realizes her problems when she and her dad spend a summer in Wales. She discovers that she does miss her mom even though her mom died when she was young. Through helping a ghost, she discovers herself. It's a really good read.

Reviews by Remy Albillar

Time Stops for No Mouse

By Michael Hoeye ★★★★★



This story revolves around Hermax, a normal mouse and shop owner in his busy city. His world is turned upside down when a female aviatrix enters his life. She drops off a watch that needs fixing and leaves with his affections. When a sulky rat comes into the shop asking for the watch, Hermax is sucked into a whirlpool of mystery, betrayal, and the secret of eternal youth.

This was a great book and kept me entertained the whole time. I recommend it to anyone who wants a good book to read.



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

By Douglas Adams ★★★★★



This is a very good book. The characters, situations, and one liners make this a laugh-out-loud experience. It tells the tale of Arthur Dent, who finds out he is one of two survivors of the human race after the Earth was demolished to make way for an intergalactic highway.

Everyone should read this book. It's a bit short, but that's just an incentive to read the rest of the series.

The Restaurant at the End of the Universe

By Douglas Adams ★★★★★



This book is really great. It, like its prequel, is very funny. In this one, Arthur, his friend Ford, ex-president Zophod, and Trillian, along with the Android Martin, visit the restaurant at the end of the universe. Comedy ensues as they zoom around the universe in search of answers to Zophod's brain problems. Very funny, read it.

Life, the Universe and Everything

By Douglas Adams ★★★★★



Arthur, Ford, and company are off to save the universe. Just as great a book as the last two in the series, if not better. It is full of satire and sci-fi cool stuff. I suggest it to anyone who likes good books.

Martyn Pig

By Kevin Brooks ★★★★★



Martyn Pig, cursed with a horrible name, is very troubled indeed.

His mother left him years ago and his father is drunk and abusive. He finds asylum only in his pretty actress friend, Alex. Martyn, content with his life, thinks nothing will change—until his father abruptly dies. With Alex at his side, Martyn disposes of the body and finally thinks his life is going great. But, after learning his dead dad has just earned \$60,000, Martyn's life takes a turn for the worse. After some black mailing from Alex's biker wannabe boyfriend, and Alex doing a little dirty dealing of her own, Martyn realizes he's part of a plot from one of the mystery books he loves.

This is a great book, packed with action, a bit of romance, and a whole lot of thinking. The author has created believable characters that each fit in to a wonderful story with an ending that left me itching for a sequel.

Heroes

By Robert Cormier ★★



Francis has just returned from World War II without a face. After falling on a landmine, he is sent home. With a pistol as a souvenir, he's ready to hunt down and kill his childhood hero. As Francis recaps his sad life in a very sadistic manner, you sympathize. After facing his past and confronting his enemy, Francis finally has a slight notion of peace, waiting for his face to grow back.

This book is very dark, throwing you into Francis' very mind to experience all of his torment. It is very well written, but its constant flashbacks may get confusing. If you're looking for any notions of comedy, do not touch or look at this book because you will be sorely disappointed.

Simon Says

By Elaine Marie
Alphin ★★☆☆



Charles is a talented painter who has never been understood. Forced to play the game of Simon Says, he is trying to remain himself, sketching what was, and painting what should be. All this changes when he is admitted into the same art school as Graeme Brandt, the young author who Charles believes can show him how to stop playing the game. Charles realizes though that Graeme does not know how to stop playing the game. He only acknowledges its existence.

I absolutely fell in love with this book from the start. Amazing characters and plot make it simply great. Simon Says: check out this book. Simon Says: read it!

Reviews by Ashley Alger

Sweet Valley High: Jessica's Secret Love



By Francine Pascal ★★☆☆

Is Jessica a thief of hearts?

When Jessica Wakefield meets Jeremy Randell on the beach, she can't believe her eyes. He's everything she's always dreamed of and even more. Its love at first sight for him, too. They share an intimate kiss, then Jeremy says he can't see her again. Jessica doesn't know what to think but soon she understands all too well. He's engaged to the Wakefields' houseguest!

Sue Gibbons, daughter of Alice Wakefield's college roommate, has come to Sweet Valley to get married. She and Jessica become instant best friends and Jessica knows she is going to love Sue's

fiancé. When she finally meets him and discovers it's Jeremy, she realizes how right she was! She does love Sue's fiancé, and she wants Jeremy Randell, engaged or not, for herself!

This book kept me on the edge of my seat all day. They ended it at the most exciting part, but there is a sequel. I recommend this to anyone who loves mischief and romance.

Sweet Valley High: Left at the Altar



By Francine Pascal ★★☆☆

Jessica Wakefield is living a double life. At the same time she and her twin sister, Elizabeth, are helping their new friend, Sue Gibbons, plan her wedding, Jessica is meeting secretly with Sue's fiancé, Jeremy Randell. Elizabeth warns Jessica to stay away, but she can't help herself—she's never been so much in love.

When Jeremy tells her he can't go through with marrying Sue, Jessica is ecstatic, but tragedy interferes when Sue is stricken by a deadly disease that killed her mother years earlier. Torn by guilt, Jeremy decides he must walk down the aisle. But near the end of the ceremony, Jessica stops the wedding and tells the congregation Sue and Jeremy can't get married because Jeremy loves Jessica...

Review by Thomas Alonge

Trigun, Deep Space Future Gun Action!!



By Yasuhiro Nightow ★★☆☆

Imagine a planet with a name that sums up the environment of its surface.

That planet's name is Gunsmoke. It's a western-style planet filled with desperadoes and outlaws. But there is another name feared by all, a name used as a curse, or to frighten children. The Legendary Gunman, The Humanoid Typhoon: Vash the Stampede.

Enter Millie Thompson and Meryl Strife, two insurance agents, sent to stop Vash from destroying everything on Gunsmoke. But when they finally encounter the Legendary Gunman, he's a tall, gangly, dorky, annoying, obnoxious blond in a red trenchcoat.

This series is a great read for sci-fi lovers. The whole Wild West feel is great and the characters are involving. I love it, but it won't appeal to non-sci-fi fans. I would give it ten stars, but not all people have my opinion. This is a great after school read, to relax. So, grab this book and some donuts, and enjoy!

Reviews by Jeremy Davis

I Am Morgan le Fay: A Tale from Camelot



By Nancy Springer ★★☆☆

Morgan le Fay—so named for her mismatched eyes—encounters tragedy early on as her father is killed and replaced by Uther Pendragon. She is seen as a troublesome child, and exhibits strange behavior early on. Always viewed as different because of her eyes, she spends her days in the castle, until her nurse takes her away from the castle and other things to Cear Ongwyn, and she is now with the faeries. She learns to use the Druid stone she found by fate when she was a child, and many other things happen. This is a book you really have to read carefully to get. The figurative language is truly spectacular. Any and all fantasy/faerie lovers should pick this book up.

Douglas Adams's Starship Titanic

By Terry Jones
★★★



Three earthlings—Nettie, Dan, and Lucy, are going to a hotel when an interstellar cruise ship (the starship Titanic) crashes into the unfortunate building. Then, they board the Titanic and encounter many robots, aliens, and a bomb. This book is fairly short, and in the classic Douglas Adams style, even though he didn't write it. If you liked the *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, you should read this, just for the heck of it.

Reviews by Gerald Del Rosario

Beast

By Donna Jo Napoli
★★★



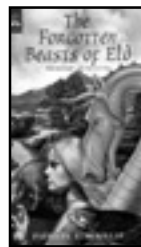
We all know the story *The Beauty and the Beast*, right? Most of it anyway. Check out *Beast*, a Persian version of *The Beauty and the Beast*. In it, a Persian prince, Prince Orasmyn, is cursed by a "wicked" fairy after he sacrificed a camel during the Feast of Sacrifices, which is a tradition practiced all over Persia. The camel has a scar on its fat hump, and in Persian beliefs, it is forbidden to sacrifice a camel that has suffered at the hand of a man. But the prince made the wrong decision, and he sacrificed the camel. You already know what happens next. A pari, or fairy, cursed the prince and turned him into a lion. He fled from his beloved Persia to escape death from his father's own hands and journeyed across France to find a woman to love him and undo the curse.

You might have to practice pronouncing some of the words because the book contains a few mixed Persian and Arabic

ones, plus it has some French phrases that are, of course, translated into English. It's a pretty interesting book in that the author used other people's cultures and traditions to create a view of *The Beauty and the Beast* that people don't know about.

The Forgotten Beasts of Eld

By Patricia A. McKillip
★★★



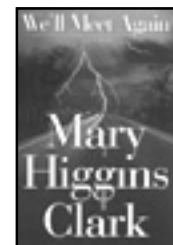
The book is about the wild, powerful beasts who are feared by people; witches, kings, and wizards throughout the land of Eldwold: Ter the Falcon who is the Lord of the Air; Gyld the Dragon, who breathes fire; Cyrin the Boar, who is the keeper of wisdom and riddles; Gules Lyon the Lion, who turns to gold and when people look at it, people lose their minds; Moriah the Puma, who is the lady of the night; the Swan; and Rommalb the Blammor, who is the night walker and crushes people to bones who are afraid of it and can't speak its name. But only one person is not afraid of these powerful animals—Sybel, a wizard woman who talks to people and to these beasts telepathically. She treats the animals as her friends and pets, not as captives. And the animals are willing to come to her because Sybel is not afraid of them.

Sybel can call every beast and person to her except the Liralen, a white-winged bird. It seems to her the Liralen is not answering her calls. Not one wizard or witch is able to call the Liralen. But in the end, the bone-crushing Blammor, Rommalb the night walker, changes into a white bird—the Liralen—when Sybel finally realizes where and who the Liralen is.

The Forgotten Beasts of Eld is just one of McKillip's books that will just take you away. As soon as you start reading it, you can't stop. It will completely draw you in. I recommend it to everyone. It's an exciting book. I just wish I could talk to animals telepathically. And I'm sure you will too!

We'll Meet Again

By Mary Higgins
Clark ★★★★★



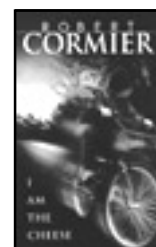
Frances Simmons is an investigative reporter for a true-crime show who tries to help Molly Lasch prove her innocence. Lasch was convicted of murdering her husband when she found out that Gary Lasch, a doctor, had an affair with a nurse, Annamarie Scalli, and smashed his head with a thirty-inch-high bronze sculpture of a horse and a rider. However, after she was released from prison, she claims that she did not kill her husband. She says there was someone else in the house the night Gary Lasch died and that she was paying for the crime she didn't commit. Greenwich, Connecticut is shocked to hear this statement. Molly Lasch arranges to meet Annamarie Scalli in a restaurant and just after their meeting, Scalli is found dead. Who killed Dr. Lasch and why? Did Molly Lasch kill Scalli?

My favorite mystery writer, Mary Higgins Clark, is best known for her bone-chilling mysteries, and *We'll Meet Again* is one of those super thrilling books. I recommend this book to everyone. It just rocks! I promise you that it will keep you turning the pages and staying up till 2 o'clock in the morning reading it (this is how I ended up!).

Reviews by Beth Dormady

I Am the Cheese

By Robert Cormier
★★★★★



Adam Farmer lived a normal life. He had two loving parents, school, friends, and a girlfriend. He was happy. That is, he was happy until he found out that his par-

ents were hiding a huge part of his life from him.

This complicated book tells of Adam's journey of riding on his bicycle to visit his father in Rutterburg, Vermont. That plotline is alternated with Adam telling a doctor his life story.

In *I Am the Cheese*, the line between reality and insanity cannot be easily defined. This book has been on "banned books" lists because of anti-government sentiment. However, it is an excellent book, and a very quick read.

Pest Control

By Bill Fitzhugh
★★★★



All Bob Dillon (D-I-L-L-O-N, not D-Y-L-A-N) wants in life is to have a truck with a giant fiberglass bug on top. That's right, Bob is an exterminator. Of bugs. Unfortunately, the world's most dangerous group of governments and hired assassins also think he is an exterminator, but of people. This slight mix-up poses many problems for Bob. First and most important, he has a ten-million-dollar price on his head. Second, he has a wife and daughter to look after, and third, he can't succeed as a private bug killer if he is running from top assassins of the world.

This is an incredibly hilarious book, and a lighter read. Some of the scenes are slightly graphic, (the book is about hired killers so this is to be expected) so I would not recommend it to younger readers. As strange as it may seem, it is a comedy—a laugh-out-loud book.

Sabriel

By Garth Nix ★★★★★



In a land where the Dead can live and the Living must die, where ordinary walls and doors offer no safety, and where magic is the only form of protection, one individual stands out. The Abhorsen is the protector of the weak, the banisher of the Dead, and the wielder of

the strongest of all magics. Unfortunately, he just died, and his daughter Sabriel must go on a mission to take her father's place and stop one of the strongest of the Dead—Kerrigor.

Sabriel is a fast-paced book that one does not want to put down. There is a wonderful plot, but somewhat dark, so a more mature audience should read it.

Lirael

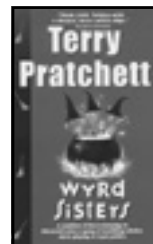
By Garth Nix
★★★★



There is a great unrest in the countries of The Old Kingdom and Ancelstierre. Powers are rising on both sides of the wall that separates the two kingdoms—powers that are not completely human. In the Old Kingdom, a young woman named Lirael has taken on the task of finding the source of the evil power that threatens her home and is attempting to stop it. She is accompanied by a creature that is made up of pure magic in the shape of a dog, the prince to the throne of the Old Kingdom, and the servant in the shape of a cat. They together must stop the evil and return peace to the kingdoms, but it will be a very long road. *Lirael* is the second book in a series about the fight between the living and the forces of the dead. It continues the story that was left off at the end of the book *Sabriel*. Reading *Sabriel* is not completely necessary to understand the book, but is probably a good idea.

Wyrd Sisters

By Terry Pratchett
★★★★



OK, right off the bat, let's get one thing straight—I cannot explain this book. I can only tell you that there are three witches, an insane duchess, a duke that can't seem to get blood off his hands (even though he as tried everything from washing to filing. The more he files, the more blood there

seems to be!). Also, there is the rightful heir to the throne, the ghost of the last king (he was killed by the duke), a dwarf playwright, and a depressed Jester. Yes, all of these things DO fit together, but I guess you will have to read the book to find out how.

Reviews by Ashley Egan

The Tarantula in my Purse

By Jean Craighead George ★★★★★



Tarantula in My Purse is based on a true story about a lady and her family. Throughout this book, you read about the many wild pets she and her family had, which total over 172. For example, one chapter is called "The Screech Owl Who Liked Television."

I think anyone who reads this book will love it, especially if you like animals. This book will make you laugh. Read it!

Spellfall

By Kathern Roberts
★★★★



Spellfall is about a girl named Natalie who doesn't know about a secret that's been in her family for years. She's kidnapped by a man named Hawk who is a type of wizard called a Caster. He has a son named Merlin who helps Natalie escape. Little by little, Natalie puts together the secret that has been in her family. Together Nat and Merlin help save a sole tree in Earthaven from Spellfall. In the end, Hawk, who is very evil, gets trapped in between two worlds—Earthaven and the real world.

I loved this book because Natalie had to adapt to her family secret and went on a great adventure.

Reviews by Lora Eubanks

Out of the Fire

By Deborah Froese
★★★★

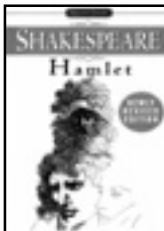


Imagine yourself suddenly being thrown into a life of chaos and excruciating pain. That is what happened to sixteen-year-old Dayle. She goes to a party, and what started out as innocent fun became a battle of life and death. A bonfire blows up, giving her third degree burns over much of her body.

This book is one of my favorites. The author really captures the reader's interest and draws you into the life of the characters.

Hamlet

By William Shakespeare
★★★★



Hamlet is a classic story about betrayal, revenge, and seduction. The play begins with the appearance of Prince Hamlet's murdered father's ghost. The ghost tells Hamlet that he was killed by Hamlet's uncle, who is now king. His uncle, Claudius, killed Hamlet's father so that he could marry Hamlet's mother. The ghost then asks Hamlet to seek revenge for his tormented soul and the play goes from there. The plot is filled with twists and turns, murder and lunacy, love and revenge. This is one of my all time favorite books. The ending will leave you stunned.


*Summer's
Here*

Review by Matt Grimes

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

By Douglas Adams ★★★★★

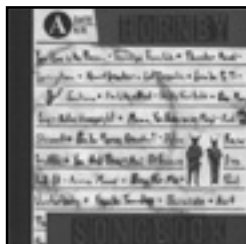


The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy depicts the hilarious adventures of Arthur Dent and his extraterrestrial friend, Ford Prefect. When Earth is destroyed to make way for a hyperspatial bypass, Ford reveals his non-earthly past, and whisks Arthur away with him to escape the impending doom. This hilarious book takes you all around a universe where the improbable happens almost everyday. This is a must-read for anyone with a sense of humor.

Reviews by Erin Hutchinson

Songbook

By Nick Hornby
★★★★



In the world of music, "pop" is not a dirty word. That, at least, is the opinion of Nick Hornby, the popular author of **High Fidelity** and **About a Boy**. If you've ever read Hornby (or seen any of the movies based on his work), you know that music, from rock, to pop, to soul, is an extremely important part of his life. **Songbook** is a collection of essays based on 31 of Hornby's favorite songs. However, the songs Hornby selects are secondary to his philosophy about the music. With his dryly witty prose, Hornby manages to convince his reader that the music that fills our lives, the music we hear

from our radios and walkmans everyday, is just as beautiful, intelligent, and important as any aria, cantata, or fugue. This book is essential reading for anyone who loves music.

Death Comes for the Archbishop

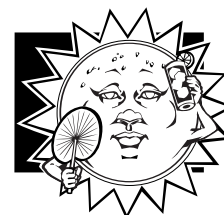
By Willa Cather ★★★★★



Warning: in this book, nothing terribly exciting happens. There's no whiz-bang ending, no shocking revelations in the last chapter. It's just the story of the life of one man, Father Jean Marie Latour. If you think this book sounds boring, though, think again.

Jean Marie Latour, a French missionary, is given the job of a lifetime. He's assigned to the newly formed diocese of Santa Fe to establish the Roman Catholic Church in this western wilderness. The year is 1850, and the United States has just gained control of the Southwest. Though the land is American in name, in actuality, it is a shifting amalgamation of Mexicans, Native Americans, and white Americans. In his attempts to create order in this land, Father Latour encounters dozens of unique people and on the way becomes a vital part of the community himself.

I warned you at the beginning that this book doesn't have any of the dramatic tricks often found in novels. I believe that this makes it a better piece of literature. It's simply a well-told story of a life well-lived. Cather, in her spare yet elegant prose, captures exactly what's important about the life of this humble priest, and on the way, teaches us a little bit about what is significant in our own lives. **Death Comes for the Archbishop** is a very satisfying book.



Review by Mary Beth Hutchinson

Lord of the Rings

By J.R.R. Tolkien

★★★★



The *Lord of the Rings*. Over 1,000 pages of sword swingin', horse ridin', ring bearin', questin' action. The One Ring of the evil lord Sauron has been found in the most unlikely of hands, a hobbit named Frodo. A quest begins to take the ring to the place where it was forged, Mt. Doom, and unmake it. If those on the quest succeed, the power of Sauron will be broken and the darkness covering Middle-Earth will disappear. If they fail, nothing will be able to stop the destruction.

Frodo's psychological battle with the corruptive power of the ring is fascinating if underwritten. Also the classic theme of industry versus nature is one of the more interesting I've ever read. If you look deeper into Tolkien's writing, you'll enjoy it so much more. Although the book is at least 100 pages overwritten, if you don't think you can make it through, force yourself!

Reviews by Jenny Knatz

The Last Unicorn

By Peter S. Beagle

★★★★



A unicorn, content in her wood, hears that the others of her kind have disappeared. At first she dismisses it as mere rumor, but slowly she begins to wonder. Is she the last?

The unicorn sets off to find out where her kind have gone. On the way, two companions, both human, join her. Together

they discover that unicorns were driven away by the Red Bull, a fiery beast controlled by the vile King Haggard.

I don't want to spoil the story, so I won't tell any more of the plot. I really liked everything about this book. Peter Beagle has always written wonderful fantasy stories, and *The Last Unicorn* is no exception. I really recommend that everyone read it, especially if they happen to be interested in unicorns.

Demon in My View

By Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

★★★★



Jessica is a 17-year-old writer living in Ramsa, a town (in her stories) right near New Mayhem, the legendary city inhabited by vampires. She loves her stories, the escape from her life. She wishes they were true.

But what if they were? What if every single thing that Jessica has written *is* true?

Well, she's about to find out...

This is a great book by the young novelist, Amelia Atwater-Rhodes. I really recommend this and all of her books to anyone and everyone.



Old Magic

By Marianne Curley

★★★★

There is something very strange about Jarrod. Kate senses it. Maybe it's the fact that on the first day he attended school he created a thunderstorm inside the classroom.

It turns out Jarrod has an ancient curse on him, so he and Kate have to go into the past to the time and place the curse was set. The book starts off great, and continues rising in its level of greatness to the last page. I loved it, although I wish the author had only added one more sentence to sum it up, but even then, it is one of the best. Read it!

No One Noticed the Cat

By Ann

McCaffrey

★★★★



Prince Jamas was ready to be king, except when the regent, Mangan, finally kicked the can, he wasn't prepared to deal with an over-ambitious and murderous queen from a nearby country. To help with this and other problems, Mangan left Jamas a cat. "A cat?!" you might say. But his little furry creature ends up saving Jamas' kingdom and that of the queen. This is a pretty good book but it's too long at the beginning and too short at the end. Still, I recommend it to all.

The Elenium Series

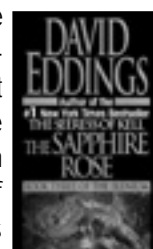
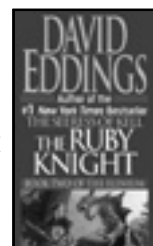
(The Diamond Throne,
The Ruby Knight, and
The Sapphire Rose)

By David Eddings

★★★★

This is another great series by David Eddings. Sparhawk, a Pandion Knight of the Church, returns from his 10-year exile to find his queen dying, sustained only by a spell that will last just one year. He sets out with knights from the other four orders of Church. The group consists of the knights, his squire, Kurik; Kurik's ill-begotten son, Talen; Sephrenia, the Styric sorceress who cast the spell to save Queen Enlana; and the mysterious Flute, who is much more than her 6-year-old appearance makes her seem.

Like I said, this trilogy is great. I really wish that Eddings would have taken more time to develop the characters. Half the time I couldn't tell the difference between



Bevier and Ulath (who, by the way, are almost complete opposites). Still, it has a great plot, and is as hilarious as all of David Eddings' other works. Please read!

Reviews by Luke Lambert

Battletech: Warrior, En Garde



By Michael A. Stackpole ★★★★★

Battletech is a sci-fi universe in which there are multiple worlds divided into five major houses called successor states. These houses all trace back to the planet Terra. Each house has cultural characteristics that came from five cultures on Terra. The names of the houses are Davion, Steiner, Kurita, Liao, and Maril. In this particular novel in the Battletech universe, the main character is Justin Allard, the son of Davion, minister of intelligence, Quintus Allard. Justin is a mech warrior, a pilot of a giant mechanical fighting machine called a Mech. While on a patrol mission, he encounters a renegade mech. The mech destroys Justin's Mech and causes him to lose his hand. It leads to a series of events that wind up with his expulsion from the House of Davion. This book is about his further adventures...It is an excellent sci-fi book and best of all, is followed by two equally good ones. They are called **Warrior, Riposte** and **Warrior, Coupe**.

Hogfather

By Terry Pratchett

★★★★★



This book is hilarious, just like all of Terry Pratchett's Discworld novels. It is quite strange, but that's to be expected. What happens is, the Hogfather, sort of a Santa figure, is assassinated!!! For some reason, Death (with a capital "D") has to take his place. It includes the return of Susan, Death's granddaughter. This is a must read for everyone.

Review by Stephanie Ledezma

My Life and Death, by Alexandra Canarsie



By Susan O'Keefe ★★

This book was about a girl who moved away from her house and moved in with her aunt. She started at a new school, then heard about a guy who died. They were the same age and they had a lot in common. So, she starts attending the funerals—of strangers!

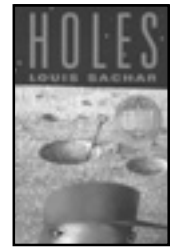
Through most of the book, the girl, Alexandra, talks and thinks about the same thing over and over. That kind of made the book boring. The only time I really wanted to read the book was at the beginning when she first starts telling about her dad leaving and her moving.

Reviews by Mandi Levendowski

Holes

By Louis Sachar

★★★★★



Have you ever been in the wrong place at the wrong time? That exact thing happened to Stanley Yelnats, but of course it wasn't his fault. It was the fault of his "dirty-rotten-no-good-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather." If it wasn't for his great-great-grandfather, there wouldn't have been a curse on his family and he wouldn't have gotten the shoes...

Stanley has been accused of stealing a pair of baseball-legend "Sweetfeet's" tennis shoes from a homeless shelter. He is given a choice: a juvenile detainment center, or Camp Green Lake. He picks the obvious choice—camp. However, as soon as he arrives at Camp "Green Lake," he realizes how misled he has been. Camp Green Lake is a desert, for one thing. There is no lake for miles and miles around. It *is* a camp—a work camp. The boys at the camp are sent out into the desert "looking for something interesting." How do they look? By digging holes; five feet by five feet by five feet.

The boys aren't particularly friendly either—with names like Armpit, Zero, Zig-zag and Mom (their counselor), Stanley feels out of place with his real name, *and* the occasional shout of "Neanderthal!" Eventually, he and another boy get into a big fight over a letter Stanley was writing and he earns the nickname "Caveman." Throughout his whole camp experience, he makes friends and enemies, and takes a stand. But with all this, can his name be cleared?

There are also parts of the story that are flashbacks. The story of his dirty-rotten-no-good-pig-stealing-great-great-grandfather unfurls as does the forbidden love story of Sam the Onion Man and Kissin' Kate Barlow.

If you haven't read the book—**READ IT NOW!!** If you've read the book, go see



the movie. I saw the movie over April Break and it's "the book without page numbers!" It's totally excellent. If you're still skeptical, guess who did the screen play? The author, Louis Sacher.

The Princess Diaries

By Meg Cabot
★★★★



Mia Thermopolis is 5'9", has huge feet, hair that is called "mouse brown," or "dish-water blonde" (attractive, isn't it?), bitten stumps of fingernails and is flat as can be. That is the reason she's the freakiest girl in Albert Einstein High School. Then Mia's father (Artur Cristoff Philippe Gerard Renaldi) comes to New York (where Mia and her mom live) and explains to Mia that he can't have more children. When Mia asks why that even MATTERS her father explains that she is the Princess of Genovia. Mia? A PRINCESS? Think again.

After Lilly (Mia's best friend) accidentally finds out, Lilly spends most of the book not talking to Mia and boycotting Ho's Deli (because they give Asian students a whole five cent discount!). As a result, Mia starts hanging out with Tina Hakkim Baba, a rich girl who's father is a sheik and who's body-guard must follow her around. With all this princess business, Josh Richter, THE hottest boy EVER, finally notices her, but will Mia decide it's because he likes her or because she's a star? And what about Mia's mom, who is dating Mr. Gianini, Mia's algebra teacher! Mia's life is a royal disaster!

This is a laugh-out-loud kind of book. It is the start of a series, and so far the books are really good. If you can, I suggest getting the tapes. Anne Hathaway (actress who played Mia) reads them, and it seems like Mia's standing there talking to you. I really think that you should read this book if you like comedic books and happy endings (not)!

All-American Girl

By Meg Cabot
★★★★



Samantha Madison is your average fifteen-year-old girl, except for one thing. No, it's not her wite-out daisy combat boots, or that she's in love with her sister Lucy's boyfriend, or all her black clothing, or even the fact that she can draw amazing celebrity sketches. It's the fact that she's saved the president's life—guess it's the price she pays for living in Washington D.C.

She was just coming out of Static Records and CDs when she saw the president heading into a cookie shop...and then she spotted the man with the gun. All she did was jump on him and avert the bullet into space...but apparently that's enough to turn you into a national—no, INTERNATIONAL—celebrity over night.

This is a really good book about how a 15-year-old deals with friends, popularity, love and much more. **All-American Girl** is a must-read for anyone who loved **Princess Diaries**, or enjoys life with a lesson.

Reviews by Lindsay Lutes

In the Stone Circle

By Elizabeth Cody Kimmel ★★ ★

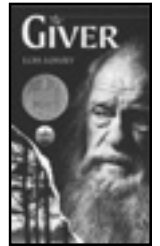


This book is about Cristyn, who's dad is a medieval freak. His whole life is dedicated to the medieval times. Her dad decides to spend a summer in Wales to do research on a medieval famous person. Cristyn is upset at first, but then in Wales she befriends a girl, Miranda, whose mother is sharing the house with Cristyn's dad. The two of them find out about a ghost who is trapped in the house and help her join the other spirits.

My opinion is that it's really good but the ending is kinda cheesy. I would have given it 4 stars, but because of the ending it got 3.

The Giver

By Lois Lowry
★★★★



This is such a good book! It's about a boy, Jonas, who lives in a world where everything is perfect. Jobs, husbands, wives, kids—practically every decision is chosen for the people there. When Jonas is given one of the most important jobs in the community, he realizes how much the community is missing. He starts to feel love, pain, happiness, and sorrow. He starts to see things others don't. His trainer, "The Giver," helps him learn about the past. But when Gabriel, a baby, is decided to be "released," which in their world means to be killed, Jonas decides to run away to "elsewhere" with Gabriel. This book is so, so sad, but it's also extremely good. If you haven't read this book, you should!

The Carniverous Carnival

By Lemony Snicket
★★★★



This book is the 9th book in the **Series of Unfortunate Events**, which is a series about three orphans whose parents died in a fire. They've inherited a fortune, and the evil Count Olaf is out to steal it. In this book, the orphans get to a carnival and disguise themselves as freaks so they can try to escape Count Olaf, but of course he finds a way to catch them. I would recommend this book to anyone who hates bad endings (if there's anyone out there).

Reviews by David Justin Millar-Haskell

Halo: Fall of Reach

By Eric Nylund

★★★★



This book takes place directly before the game Halo does. It delves deeply into the secrets behind the Covenant-Human war and the origins of John-117. It's action-packed and answers any questions you have about the game. It features many space and planetside battles so any fans of the game are in for a real treat.

Shadow Puppets

By Orson Scott Card

★★★★



The latest book in the Bean Saga starts where *Shadow of the Hegemon* left off. Bean is "grown," with no idea how long he has to live. Achilles returns, but why has he sided with Peter? Several battle school children return and enter the fray on both sides as Bean and Achilles fight for world domination.

Reviews by Deidre Oberpriller

Bloody Jack

By L.A. Meyer

★★★★



This was a really good book. I know that's a bit of a cliché, but it was!

Living in 18th century London, Mary Faber has been an orphan since she was very young. A gang of other orphans (well,

more like a group, if you think of Chicago mobs when you hear "gang") took her in, and from that "Dark Day," as Mary called it, she lived with them until their leader, Rooster Charlie, was killed. When Charlie died, she got another gang of kids to join hers, then left both gangs. After wandering semi-aimlessly, she finally goes to the docks. She had always wanted to captain a merchant ship, so she decides to get started by becoming a ship's boy on the H.M.S. Dolphin. By disguising herself as a boy, she is taken on as one of the five ship's boys. Her adventure continues on board the Dolphin for several years, and the deception becomes harder and harder to keep up as she becomes a young lady. Finally, one of the other ship's boys, Jaimy, finds out her true identity and they become very close friends. Jack's (that's Mary's new name as ship's boy) adventures become even more interesting as we watch her relationship with Jaimy grow and they have to find new ways to hide her true gender.

As I said, this is a good book. I could hardly put it down. Read it!

Discover Your Destiny

By Cary Schmidt

★★★★



Teenagers, do you want to make the right decisions in life? If you are between the ages of 17 and 27, you are in the "mistake zone" of life. You are already trying to make life-changing decisions and have probably already made some wrong decisions. You need to read this book! Even if you aren't in the "mistake zone," this is a must-read. It gives a lot of Biblical principles to help you make the right decisions in life. No matter what age you are, even if you are past the "mistake zone," this is one book that you should consider before making any decisions.

I got it while at the 2003 Youth Conference at West Coast Baptist College which I attended, along with my three roommates, one of whom was a youth pastor's wife. All of us would recommend this to any-

one. Although the library probably doesn't have a copy, I urge you to find a copy and read it. (If you live near Lancaster, California, it should be easy to get.) If you know of anyone who went to the conference (which should be easy to do since almost every state was represented) ask if they have it and are willing to lend it out. You could also ask your library for an inter-library loan. I don't care how you get your hands on it, just get it and read it!

The Last Dog on Earth

By Daniel Ehrenhaft

★★★



Logan's stepdad, Robert, thinks that Logan is a "troubled" teen. When Robert finds out that one of Logan's classmates, Devon Wallace, got a dog to "teach him discipline," Robert decides Logan needs to get a dog to train. (By the way, Devon is almost perfect—perfect hair, perfect grades, good at every sport, but he bullies every kid around when there are no adults around.) While at work, Robert has Logan and his mom go to the breeder and get a \$600 purebred chocolate brown Labrador Retriever (which is the exact same kind of dog Devon has. Logan knows that Robert really wants the dog for himself, but doesn't want to train it). When Logan finds out how much the dog will cost, he convinces his mom to go to the shelter instead. When they get there, they look at all the dogs, but Logan can't find the one he wants (the exact opposite of what Robert wants—mutt, female, and ugly). He finally finds Jack—a wild dog about to be put down. He convinces the people at the shelter (and his mom) that this is the dog he wants. There's just one more problem—all the dogs in the area are getting sick with POS (Psychotic Outburst Syndrome), a new disease with no known cure. It's a disease that mimics both rabies and mad cow disease. And the dog food is infected with it. Now, you may be thinking—what's the point in creating a character and then killing them off with a stupid disease? Are you sure about that? Maybe Jack is immune.

Wait...she's foaming at the mouth! No, Jack! Ok, if you want to know more, read this book!

It's the Thought That Counts



By Beth Cruise ★★☆☆

I needed a **Saved by the Bell** fix, and fast. I looked on the computer to find as many **Saved by the Bell** books as I could. I didn't bother to look at the plots, I just grabbed them all and checked out. I sat down to start reading them and realized two out of the three I picked up were not with Zack and his friends! They were about the "new class" after Zack graduated. Anyway, the plot was good. They had won a trip to San Francisco, and Vice Principal Screech was their chaperone. It also happened to be a 2-year anniversary for Tommy and his girlfriend. Unfortunately, Tommy had forgotten that detail and was scrambling to raise money to buy her a pair of earrings. Screech and Bobby also had a mission—to win a contest to tour a candy factory. The story goes back and forth among the two groups and the girls. There were some really hilarious parts, and of course there was a happy ending.

Fireside Manners



By Beth Cruise ★★☆☆

Of the three **Saved by the Bell** books I picked up, this was the only one with Zack and friends. Kelly's little sister is supposed to be going on a field trip with her class, but they don't have enough chaperones, so Kelly volunteers herself and her friends. Zack is more than happy to oblige, of course, since the field trip is going camping overnight. He is mostly thinking of a romantic night with Kelly under the stars. The rest of the gang grudgingly comes along for the ride, the girls prodded by the

chance to spend some time with Damon Knight, football player and poet.

Star Trek Chronology



By Michael & Denise Okuda
★★★★

This is more of a reference book than a reading book, but if you want to do a lot of research like I did, you end up reading it. As the title suggests, it gives a timeline based on information given in all the different series and movies (up to a certain point depending on how far they were in the series and movies). Then, when you think you're finished, it gives you short bios on the characters, and more information on things like warp drive and stardates. If you ever need to know anything Trek, pick up this book!

The Last Roundup



By Christie Golden
★★★★

This takes place sometime after the events in **Undiscovered Country**. Peace talks continue between the Federation and the Klingon Empire as Spock, McCoy, and Uhura help with negotiations and cultural exchanges in the medical and acting fields. Back at the Academy, Kirk is feeling left out. Sure, he has a teaching job, but it's not the same as being out in space doing what he is teaching about—making command decisions. One night, Alex and Julius Kirk (two of his three nephews) visit him with a proposition. Would he be willing to join them in colonizing a planet they call "Sanctuary?" Of course he would! It's better than sitting around doing nothing. He is able to get Scotty and Chekov to join him and his nephews. A few days after they are settled in, Chekov notices that they can no longer communicate with the outside. The race that provided Sanctuary, the Falorians, have something to do

with it, but if I tell you any more, I'll give the ending away. So, I leave you with this thought—if you know the characters of the Original Series you will really enjoy this book. I know I did!

Young Hercules



By Mel Odom
★★★★

This was a novelization of an episode of the **Hercules** series starring Kevin Sorbo. It opens with Hercules going to Ares' cave to retrieve Zeus' goblet. He succeeds, but that night his mother decides to send him to the Academy. When he gets there, he meets Jason, heir to the throne of Corinth. He also finds out that Iolaus, a pickpocket, has arrived. Anyway, a few weeks into training, Jason receives word that his father, the king, is ill. So Hercules, Iolaus, and Jason set out for Corinth. When they get there (with a few setbacks), they find out that the King is so sick that only the Golden Fleece can save him. They go back to the Academy, thinking up a plan to get the Fleece to him. Do they succeed? Are they able to get the Fleece to him in time? Well, I'm not telling! You have to read it to find out!

Reviews by Heather Pearce

Number the Stars



By Lois Lowry
★★★★

Number the Stars is a story about a girl named Annemarie and her experience with World War II and the Nazis. Her best friend, Ellen, and her family, are Jewish, and when the Nazis begin persecuting the Jews in Denmark (where they live), Annemarie and her family, along with members of the Resistance, help them

escape to Sweden.

Lois Lowry does a great job of making each character come alive, and her portrayal of life during the World War gives readers an excellent idea of what it must have been like. Although **Number the Stars** is a childrens' book, I would recommend it to anyone as a good read. It is well-written, educational, and a great book for people of any age.

Princess in Love

By Meg Cabot
★★★★



The third book in the **Princess Diaries** series, **Princess in Love** was funny, sweet, and very enjoyable to read. Written in the fashion of a sort-of diary of her feelings that she writes in basically every chance she gets, you read the story of Princess Mia Thermopolis' life completely, as she views it. She tells you about her problems with her best friend Lily (who is a genius bent on saving the planet), her issues with her evil Grandmere, who sometimes seems out to destroy Mia's life, and her troubles with boys. The book is funny, captures your attention, and definitely left me wanting more. I would recommend it, as well as the first two books of the series, to any girl interested in romance and humor.

Review by Ella Peterson

Born Confused

By Tanuja Desai Hidier
★★★★



Dimple Lala has lived her life split between two worlds. Growing up in a traditional East Indian home while going to a traditional American high school, it's understandable that she not know what to think. The decidedly independent Dimple

has spent her entire life resisting her parents' strict adherence to tradition. Her best friend, Gwen, is beautiful, charismatic and always the center of attention, while Dimple simply fades into the background. Never without her beloved camera, Dimple records events and emotions through the wide, unblinking eye of "Chica Tikka." Dimple follows, almost as an observer, the wild, dramatic life of Gwen, and struggles to find a niche where she truly fits. Dimple works to come to an understanding of her parents and their lives, enduring and eventually appreciating their attempts at exposing her to their culture, if not their introducing her to their idea of a proper young man. Showing us a side of America often overlooked, Dimple takes her journey through all different aspects of the East Indian subculture. Attending conferences and summits, dancing at clubs, roaming markets, she seeks to learn about her roots and, by proxy, herself. Along the way, she meets again her parents' idea of the "suitable boy," who catches her in a web of his music and words, and helps her discover that some of the old traditions still hold their charm. Accompanied by an artist's eye for detail and razor-sharp, sarcastic wit, Dimple finally stumbles into a realization of her own place in the world—a position in which, as she discovers, she is not entirely alone.

Born Confused takes the familiar issues of belonging, friendship and love, and molds them to an entirely fresh perspective. Dimple's trials on the way to her acceptance and understanding of herself and those around her are told in a way that will incite simultaneous sympathy and laughter. This book is the sigh of commiseration, the smile of recognition, and the warmth of understanding.


Summer's Here

Reviews by Alyssa Ratledge

Taken

By Thomas H. Cook
★★★★



What's better than a good government/alien conspiracy? Very few things. **Taken** is a novelization of the SF channel's miniseries, and, for a book based on TV, it was great!

It documents the lives of three generations of families who have been affected by alien encounters. These families become intertwined in some of the worst ways, but it does make a wonderful novel.

I loved this book. Even people who aren't into conspiracies will like it, too.

Catalyst and Speak

By Laurie Halse Anderson
★★★★



Another story from the author of **Speak**.

Catalyst is set in the same school, but it's main character is very different. She's driven, she's got dreams—but, then, it all comes crashing down.

Both books detail the main character's thoughts and feelings toward the life-changing events that strike them. Both books do it incredibly well.



After

By Francine Prose
★★★★

Read this book during the summer.

Why?

Because after you do, you will be a bit paranoid.

But don't take it the wrong way. This is



the best new book I've read. It's got great writing, a great plot, etc.

At a school in the next town over, there's a school shooting. The high school employs new security measures, which ever so slowly get more and more intense, until...

This book asks the question, what happens when it goes too far? Although far-fetched, it's a very, very realistic problem.

The Experiments

By John Darnton
★★★★



This book is much easier to listen to than to read. Get it on audiotape. Why? 1. It's really long. 2. There are parts you just need to read or listen to over and over to understand. The problem is, even though I think I got it, there must be something else.

This book is about cloning, and how a rogue group of scientists created clones of the children of members of a cult. Then someone escaped, one thing led to another and voila, three people are simultaneously being hunted by the cult and trying to figure out why. The ending is weird, I'll just say that. It's predictable at first, but gets much better as it goes on.

Daughter of the Forest

By Juliet Marillier
★★★★



Based on the Celtic legend of swans, **Daughter of the Forest** matches beautiful storytelling with logic and fantasy. Juliet Marillier's writing is beautiful and flowing, while the story works and enchants the reader with each turn of a page.

Sorcha, the youngest child and only sister to six boys, is given a terrible task. However, she very much loves her brothers, and knows the only way to get them back is to complete it. Her endurance leads her down many a path twisted and rup-

tured often enough by the Fair Folk of Erin. Sorcha knows she must complete her task, but it is incredibly daunting at times. Barely can she survive the winters in the forest and being dead to her father. Then, her path takes a turn the Folk do not intend—or do they? This twist takes her far from her home, and into the land of enemies.

This book is beautiful, one of the best myth-retellings I have ever read. Everything about this novel is perfect. Different than the "Swans" myth, and yet quite alike, original, but true to the legend, **Daughter of the Forest** is a must-read for everyone. It is long, but you won't even notice as hours slip away, and you too are transported into the land of magic and swans.

Reviews by Rachelle Reyes

A Child Called "It"

By Dave Pelzer
★★★★



A Child Called "It" is about David Pelzer, who was severely abused by his alcoholic mother. To his mother and brothers he was no longer considered family and no longer considered a person. He was tortured and starved by his mother. His father attempted to help him, but failed. At school, his classmates disliked him because he was an outcast. He felt so alone.

His only ways of getting food to survive were stealing, eating the leftovers thrown away in the garbage, and even eating from the dog bowl. His dream of a family and being loved gave him the courage to survive.

This story is a great one and I highly recommend that everyone read it.

Hero

By S.L. Rottman
★★★★



This story is about a troubled 15-year-old boy named Sean. He is abused by his mother and he hasn't seen his father for years. In school, he's always getting into trouble. Because he's violated his curfew so many times, he is sentenced to community service at Mr. Hassler's farm. During this time he learns the value of work, discipline, how to be a friend, and what a hero truly means. Everyone who reads it will love it.

Reviews by Elizabeth Steimle

Point Blank

By Anthony Horwitz
★★★★



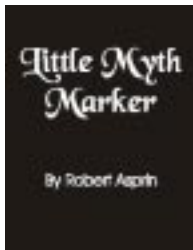
The second novel featuring Alex Rider—London teen turned spy for MIG—has him infiltrating a French/Swiss private boarding school for rich boys beyond hope. Taking up the name Alex Friend, of Friend Supermarkets, he enters the school where all the multimillion dollar brats act relatively "normal" to the extent of strangeness. It's up to Alex to figure out why two parents of students were killed within weeks of each other, why the second and third levels of the school are off limits, and why there are guards who carry automatic weapons at a school which is only accessible by helicopter.

As the second installment to the Alex Rider series, **Point Blank** is a great sequel but is more understandable if you've read **Stormbreaker** first.

Little Myth Marker

By Robert Asprin

★★★★



Skeeve, Klad magician living and working at the Bazaar on Deva, decides one day to make both his bodyguard and partner, Aahz, upset by going out and blowing lots of money in a game of dragon poker. Too bad Skeeve ended up getting a formal challenge from the Kid-Dragon poker guru extraordinaire. It's also a bummer that one of the markers for a gambler he beat happens to be a six-year-old, elemental magic wielding kid. Making matters worse is that the other Magicians on Deva are jealous of Skeeve's popularity, so they've hired the Axe, a character assassin.

Reviews by Joe Tuccillo

Thorn Ogres of Hagwood

By Robin Jarvis

★★★



Here comes another interesting fantasy which is like a mix of **Harry Potter**, **Lord of the Rings** (although much more of the latter), and a little bit of its own thing. It is the first chapter in a saga about the Werlings, little forest creatures who have been kept alive due to their ability to 'wergle,' or turn into various creatures. Enter Gamaliel Tumpkin, a young Werling on his first day of Werling school, who is...well, a bit of a failure. One night, he decides to go on a journey deep into the forest with some of his peers, unwilling because of what twist of fate might be brought upon them.

This book holds some good traits and rather disappointing ones. First the good: It's descriptive, has awesome (and very authentic) British-esque dialogue, and is much darker than you would imagine it to

be. And then there's the disappointing: It has little sense of the aforementioned main character Gamaliel, usually detailing the character Finnen Lufkin's experiences instead. Also, there isn't much action and little of a very large fantasy world is explored. Hopefully much more will be packed into the next installment. Either way, it's worth your time.

The Hero Perseus: A Mad Myth Mystery

By Robyn and Tony DiTocco

★★★



Very rare is a book as strange and comical as this one. Percy is a teenager who has just moved to a small rural town from New Jersey. He's really not used to this place, but just as he's unpacking, he makes friends with a girl named Andi. Seems fairly normal...right? Wrong. One night, Percy draws a picture which comes to life, and it is none other than the messenger god, Hermes, himself. It turns out that something strange has occurred in the rifts of time, thus skipping over Zeus receiving the lightning bolts and being able to create rain. And you know what that means: one heck of a drought. Percy also discovers he is the descendent of Perseus the warrior, and it is his duty to find this wrongdoing in ancient Greece. The story, which transports Percy "back" to the days of the Greek gods, turns into one big fetch quest, taking you from place to place all over Greece and introducing some very colorful characters. Surprisingly enough, it's really quite entertaining and gives some really good information on Greek mythology. Amidst all of this, the authors still manage to squeeze in stuff about Percy's everyday life...and of course...football. This is generally where the book suffers. A lot of us (read: me) really don't know a whole lot about America's Favorite Sport, and it goes very, very into detail, leaving the reader mind-

numbingly confused, but only for about a chapter.

The **Hero Perseus** is extremely descriptive (if you couldn't tell already), and quite well-written. It may sound strange, but it's your genre, it may very well be worth checking out.

Review by Starr Whitwood

Pastwatch: The Redemption of Christopher Columbus

By Orson Scott Card ★★★★★

After the Earth has destroyed itself with war, the survivors rebuilt. They create a machine that can look back in history and see any event. You can watch a person's whole life like a movie from any angle, and they appoint The Pastwatchers to sift through the past and tell all the people stories. This is so they will never forget the past and the great destruction that it led to, so that history will not repeat itself. As The Pastwatchers do their work something happens. They realize that they can change the past...

This book is well written and I really enjoyed it!

Review by Jasmine Williamson

The Restaurant at the End of the Universe

By Douglas Adams

★★★



The second book in the **Hitchhiker's**

Guide series. This book is another funny and complicated story of Zaphod Beeblebrox and his journey around the universe. I would recommend this book to people with too much time on their hands.

Reviews by Jennifer Yan

Gone With the Wind

By Margaret Mitchell
★★★★



Scarlett O'Hara. Rhett Butler. A dress made out of green curtains. "My dear, I don't give a damn." Who doesn't know what book those things are from? Probably very few people. But how many people actually know what happens in **Gone With the Wind**? Again, probably not very many people (unless you've seen the movie, and that doesn't count). I was part of that majority for the longest time; I knew about the famous things in the book, but I didn't really know what the book was about, so I finally decided to read it.

Now, as most people probably know, the main character of **Gone With the Wind** is Scarlett O'Hara, and the novel is set in Georgia right around the Civil War time period. She's the belle of her county, will all the beaux that she could ever want. But the one man who she's actually in love with, Ashley Wilkes, marries someone else. What's a girl to do? Scarlett decides to marry Ashley's wife's brother, who dies shortly after their marriage, leaving her with an unwanted child. Sound like a soap opera? That's only the beginning. Life seems to have it in for Scarlett and with all the obstacles that are thrown in Scarlett's face, it's quite fun reading about how she deals with everything. At times, I was extremely proud of her for having "gumption," but at other times, I wanted to strangle her, she was so obstinate and stuck-up. Despite the fact that she can sometimes be disagreeable, though, Scarlett is a very likable character on the whole.

I know that I haven't given her or the book justice in this review. Read the book and you'll see what I mean. You'll also finally know how Rhett Butler and the green curtain-dress fit into the story.

Scarlett

By Alexandra Ripley
★★★



This book is the sequel to **Gone With the Wind**, but it was written by a different author. Because the two books were written by two different people, the style of writing is a little bit different, and I personally liked Margaret Mitchell's style better. However, **Scarlett** is still an enjoyable book. As the title implies, the main character of this book is Scarlett O'Hara. While part of the book is still set in the South, **Scarlett** eventually moves to Ireland, where her father's relatives live. With money that Rhett gives her to leave him, she buys land that used to belong to the O'Haras that was taken by the English. On that land, she starts her own little town. With the responsibilities of her town, she grows up and changes into a less selfish person. Not surprisingly, even though they're halfway across the world from each other, she and Rhett Butler run into each other a few times. As always, **Scarlett** has many obstacles to overcome, and the way she does overcome them is amusing.

If you read **Gone With the Wind** and weren't satisfied with the ending, the ending in **Scarlett** will probably make up for it. And even if you liked the ending of **Gone With the Wind**, **Scarlett** is still worth reading.

Ongoing Teen Programs

YAAC (Young Adult Advisory Council)
Volunteer teen book review group; meets twice a month on Saturday mornings at 10 a.m.

FRANK Magazine
Published by teens for teens. Submit writing, photography, or artwork, or join the editorial staff

Pen-Pal Program
Make a new friend from the U.S. or Canada



Great Books Make Great Movies

Summer 2003 Reading for Teens

Ages 12-18; grades 7-12
Sponsored by Harkins Theatres, Atomic Comics, the Phoenix Mercury, Shirts 'n' Things, Sonic Drive In, the Mesa Amphitheatre and the City of Mesa Library
Monday, June 2- Thursday, July 31

City of Mesa Library Summer Events for Teens

- June 16, 1-3 p.m. • Groovy Glass Magnets
Main Library
- June 25, 7-8:30 p.m. • ACT Strategy Session
Dobson Library
Registration begins June 2
- June 28, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. • ACT Practice Test
Dobson Library
Registration begins June 2
- July 9, 7-8:30 p.m. • SAT Strategy Session
Dobson Library
Registration begins June 16
- July 12, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. • SAT Practice Test
Dobson Library
Registration begins June 16
- July 15, 7-8:30 p.m. • ACT Strategy Session
Main Library
Registration begins July 7
- July 19, 1-4:30 p.m. • ACT Practice Test
Main Library
Registration begins July 7
- July 29, 7-8:30 p.m. • SAT Strategy Session
Main Library
Registration begins July 21
- Aug. 2, 1-4:30 p.m. • SAT Practice Test
Main Library
Registration begins July 21



Young Adult Advisory Council

YAAC was started in 1977 and the group continues to be a major part of Youth Services at the City of Mesa Library today.

Mesa's group of teenage volunteers meets twice monthly to review books they have read, write reviews for their *Open Shelf* newsletter, advise the Young Adult staff of programs and books of current in-

terest to young adults, and to plan special activities. YAAC has been instrumental in the three-year, nationwide Teen Top Ten/ YA Galley Book Pilot Project for YALSA (Young Adult Library Services Association) of the American Library Association. They have also been trained to do, and are doing, teen/librarian partner book reviews

for *Voice of Youth Advocates* magazine.

The YAAC application form for membership to the Main Library's YAAC is available at the Youth Services desk or online at www.mesalibrary.org/teens/getinvolved.htm. For further information or to apply for membership in person, call (480) 644-2734.



L-R

Talisha Royer, Jenny Knatz,
Mary Beth Hutchinson, Ashley Egan, Chris
Carbone, Grant Penrod



L-R

Joe Tuccillo, Matt Taylor,
Remy Albillar, Mandi Levendowski



L-R

Greta Baranowski, Grant Penrod,
Jenny Knatz, Ashley Egan,
Luke Lambert, Jasmine Williamson

City of Mesa Library Locations

Main Library

64 E. 1st Street
(480) 644-2734

Red Mountain Branch

635 N. Power Road
(480) 644-3184

Dobson Ranch Branch

2425 S. Dobson Road
(480) 644-3441