

Open Shelf

Summer
2007

city of mesa library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

Letter from the editor



And so my tenure as your editor and my six years as a YAACer come to an end. I want to thank my sister for dragging me to my first meeting. Also thanks go out to Diane who has been our sponsor for years but is now leaving us. Without more ado, here is the summer issue.

Mary Beth Hutchinson
Open Shelf Editor

From YAAC's Advisor

After many years serving as Advisor for YAAC, my time has come to an end. I will be moving out of state and moving on in my work with teens and reading, and leaving YAAC in the very capable hands of its new Advisor, Karen Peterson.

I would like to thank all the members of YAAC who came to meetings this year to talk about books and write reviews for this newsletter. Some highlights of the year were helping with the library's annual book sale in October, going to see *Stranger Than Fiction* for our meal & movie holiday get together in December, Comicon in January, the author visit by Derek Benz and Jon Lewis, who wrote *Revenge of the Shadow King*, in April, and the wonderful Poetry Slam, also in April.

I would also like to thank all the graduating seniors: Mary Beth Hutchinson and Jenny Knatz, our illustrious Open Shelf Editor and Co-Editor; and Alyssa Ratledge, who served for three years as a voting member of the adult Library Board and represented YAAC to the board; Joe Tuccillo; Talisha Royer; and Janine Bratlee. Best of luck to you all in the future—I know you will succeed and do wonderful things!

And to all the readers out there, thanks for tuning in. I hope you have a great time reading the selections from this diverse issue of Open Shelf!

Diane Tuccillo

Sorcery and Cecelia or The Enchanted Chocolate Pot

by Patricia C. Wrede and Caroline Stevermer

★ ★ ★ ★

I had seen this book multiple times on the shelf. The main point that "called out" to me was the fact that this was written in letter form. The two authors had played "The Letter Game" to write this book, each author writing in character to the other. Written by two cousins, Kate and her cousin, Cecilia, the book portrays the height of society in London during the 19th century. To add to the mix of status, cravat styles, and a possible stalker is the undertones of magic. With one cousin discovering her latent magical ability and the other struggling with unseen magical forces in the midst of society balls, the two are bogged down and occupied. Why is Mr. Tavleton always showing up and following people? Who is the mysterious Marquis? And what does the mysterious, foreign chocolate pot have to do with the action?

For answers to all you seek (well, at least those last few questions), go ahead and read this book.

--Gabrielle Hall

***Editor's Note:** For more great books mixing English high society and magic try Libba Bray's *A Great and Terrible Beauty* and its sequel *Rebel Angels*. Both books are award winning and fantastic.

This month:

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Enchantment Orson Scott Card

A Novice's Guide to Comic Books

So you have finally succumbed. You have realized that comic books are infiltrating the world. X-men, Spiderman, Batman, and Superman dominate the box office. The good people at the Pulitzer created a new award specifically for comic books. So you are left with this burning desire to enter the world of comic books. But now all you can do is stare forlornly at the comic book section in Borders (Lord knows you're too chicken to set foot in a real comic books store). Who are the great authors? What are the great series? You have no idea. All the while you can't help but to feel a little dirty knowing that you are about to dive into a format that every adult you know thinks is trash. I am here to tell you it's ok. I've been there too. So I've put together this little guide for the comic clueless from the formerly comic clueless. Pick the right books and you too will become a stalwart defender of this oft-maligned format. (A quick note: you are going to hear a lot of people refer to the books I review as "graphic novels." This is a term relatively new to the format but that has caught on quickly. I hate using the term. A graphic novel is just a longer comic book with glossier pages and "graphic novel" printed on the back. A graphic novel is just a comic book that wants respect. For producers of a format of literature so in love with it's rich history, they seem to want to do everything to distance themselves from it. I say, be proud of your format.)

If you want to get the most out of this format you need to know the mythology. For that you need to go back to the beginnings. *Essentials* collections cover this quite nicely. They cover every hero out there and give you pure volume of history. Often years of issues are in one volume. Jumping into modern story lines without some basic background is like trying to learn about WWII by starting with 1944. You won't know who's fighting, what they are fighting about, and you might end up accidentally rooting for the Nazis. Personally, I think the early X-men

volumes are particularly good but avoid the Wonder Woman volumes.

Once you have the background, there are great modern titles for nearly every classic superhero or team. The **Astonishing X-men** by Joss Whedon (of **Buffy the Vampire Slayer** and **Firefly** brilliance) and John Cassaday is a standout series. Action and psychologically packed, it is beautifully composed. Through out is Whedon's characteristic combination of laugh-out-loud wit and skilled pathos. It is just plain excellent. For those who love the Man of Steel there is **Red Sun** by Mark Millar. The book poses the question: what if Superman's ship had landed just twelve hour later, and instead of growing up on a Kansas farm, he was raised on a Soviet collective? Fascinating and thought provoking, it is worth the read even for those who normally can't stand Superman (myself included). For those who's tastes run a bit darker there is the recent renaissance of Batman. Notables include: **Batman: The Dark Knight Returns**, **Batman: Year One**, and **Black and White**, but any volume you pick up is likely to be good. For a more critical and disturbing look at what superheroes would be in the real world, **Watchmen** is the book to read. Universally acclaimed, no serious reader should pass up this work.

Not everyone loves our protectors in spandex. Not to worry. The comic book format is wide enough to encompass every genre. No discussion on excellent comic books would be complete without **Maus** by Art Spiegelman. It is a Holocaust survivor's story told with the characters as animals (Jews are mice, Germans are cats, Frenchmen are, of course, frogs). This is the superlative comic book of the last decade and the work for which Pulitzer specifically created an award for comic books. Guy Delisle's **Pyongyang** is a visual travelogue of his journey in North Korea. Scott McCloud's **Understanding Comics** lays out everything there is to know about the format right down to the psychological processes that make comics work. **American Born Chinese** by Gene Luen Yang won the 2007 Printz award and documents the struggles of a Chinese-American teen. There are a number of modern legends in the comic world that you can't go wrong with. Alan Moore (**Watchmen**, **V for Vendetta**), Frank Miller (**300**, **Batman: The Dark Knight Returns**, **Sin City**), and Art Spiegelman (**Maus**, **In the Shadow of No Towers**) are some of the most notable. The format is so wide open that nearly every subject is covered by someone, somewhere. You will just need to do a little digging.

I am no expert on manga (Japanese comics). But it is an important subset. Manga is a cultural phenomenon that washed up on our shores relatively recently. Since manga is so broad, any demographic can find something to enjoy. But be careful. Much of what is out there is junk. Talk to fans and they will help you sift through it.

A few tips: Libraries, especially the Phoenix Library, are great ways to explore on the cheap. Venture into the comic book stores and talk to the clerks. Comic fans are opinionated and vocal; check out the lists on Amazon dot com and other

sites. Getting into the comic book universe isn't hard with the right tools. Best of luck.

--Mary Beth Hutchinson

A Dirty Job

by Christopher Moore

★★★★★

Christopher Moore strikes yet again as he spins a new yarn of life, death, karma and the rarely told story of the beta male that will keep you in stitches the entire time and leave you hungry for more. I could not put it down, and was actually sorry to finish. Rarely can you open a book to a random page, read one paragraph and start howling, but this is one of them.

Charlie Asher is what is known as a Beta male, a guy who goes through life knowing this and mainly keeps his head down. But Charlie is lucky. He owns a successful business in San Francisco, has a loving wife, and is about to become a father. Yes, for Charlie, life is stable, and it is good. Until the day his daughter is born and he finds a man in his wife's hospital room. A man that he shouldn't be able to see.

Suddenly, Charlie's life is flipped upside down. Names with numbers appear on a notepad while he sleeps—names of people who keep turning up dead. And Charlie keeps coming across objects that give off an unearthly red glow no one else can see. The pets he gets his new daughter keep dying, for no reason. What's going on here? Who was the seven-foot-tall man in the mint green suit? Why would a seven-foot-tall black man WEAR a mint green suit? And what's with the giant dogs?

But when Charlie learns that it's all part of his new compulsory hobby of being a servant of destiny, there's also not a lot his Beta male nature can do about. It's a dirty job, but someone's gotta do it.

--Patricia Langevin

The Book Thief

By Marcus Zusak

★★★★★

A book written from the perspective of death sounds vastly depressing doesn't it? However, **The Book Thief** really isn't. Liesel Meminger is being taken to live with foster parents during the beginning of WWII. It is an astoundingly well-written, day-stealing story. Aside from the multi-faceted characters and spectacular plot, just the prose all by itself is worth reading. It is lyrical and unique and smooth and fantastic. Liesel, Rudy, and her mama and papa are all real and individual. Liesel, the book thief, steals books and a much of the book revolves around her learning to read and finding the power in words. She also becomes the fascination of the narrator (Death, remember?). As well as Liesel

being beautifully portrayed, death becomes a main character and he becomes entwined in the progression of the novel. This book is definitely worth your time.

--Oonagh McQuarrie

How the Light Gets In

By M.J. Hyland

★★★★★

Lou Connor is a gifted, unhappy Australian sixteen-year-old. She's given the chance to go to America as an exchange student, and she hopes that she can get away from the squalor of her life in Sydney. She moves in with a 'model' middle-class family in Chicago, whose desperate bid for the Average American Family runs up against Lou's hunger for a real family. She sneaks back into her old habits, and unfortunately, things go south from there.

Very rarely do you find a book that feels so familiar, or whose characters feel like people you know. As much as that sounds like a book that's simply predictable, **How the Light Gets In** is definitely not. It's perfect for reading while traveling because it will hold you in for hours. (I read it on the plane)

--Oonagh McQuarrie

White Oleander

By Janet Fitch

★★★★★

Astrid is the only child of Ingrid, a brilliant, crazy poet who kills her ex-lover. Ingrid is convicted and sent to jail and Astrid bounces from foster home to foster home, which, through the course of the book, takes her further and further from her mother and her bewitching presence. **White Oleander** is a spectacularly written, lyrical novel that you should read because it will take over your day and inspire you.

--Oonagh McQuarrie

Pond Scum

By Alan Silberberg

★★★★★

Oliver, Mooch (a salamander), and Antoine (a crow) have three lives completely different from each other. For Oliver, moving to a ratty old house next to a pond is a dramatic change. Living in that house means being attacked by insects. Skunks stinking up the house for no apparent reason, and a military group of crows always following through the window and causing mayhem. Why? The alliance, the entire population of pond animals, has a distaste for humans.

Mooch has a problem. His best friend Willy the dragonfly has left him. Can Mooch get his friends to realize they are meant to be friends? Mooch's life changes when he is caught by Oliver and stuck in a glass tank. Antoine is in the

military. He is a cadet to his uncle the General. He is forced to attack the house and Oliver.

Everything comes together in this witty book when he finds a special gem. He is able to transform into any animal. As complicated and silly as this book seems, I enjoyed it to no end.

--Catherine Millar-Haskell

Simon Says

By Elaine Marie Alphin

★★★★★

The game of life, Simon Says. However, is it really a game, and if it is, how do you escape it? This is what's constantly on Charles Weston's mind and what makes him transfer to Whitman High School for the Arts. There he plans to meet Graeme Brandt, 17-year-old author of the book, *Eye of the Storm*. Charles thinks that Graeme knows how to escape the game since he can show in writing what it is. Along the way, he deals with conflicts about how to sketch people for who they are and finding just the right person with whom he can share his paintings. With so many rejections and disapprovals from his previous years, he has little hope in finding the one. That one, he hopes, is Graeme. Yet Charles soon finds that the answers he is seeking are not easily found. So the question continues. Is, or is there not, a Simon? Interesting what you may find out.

This is a great book for anyone. Unique, intriguing, and fascinating are only a few words to describe this amazing book.

--Ashley Sanders

Daniel Half-Human

By David Chotjewitz and Doris Orgel

★★★★★

Promising to be friends forever, Daniel and his friend, Armin, swear eternal unity by slitting their wrists and combining their blood. When Hitler comes to power in Germany, the friendship is threatened when Daniel finds out he is half-Jewish. Trying to keep it hidden from everyone, even Armin, he decides to join the Hitler Jugend (Hitler Youth). Trying, but not succeeding, David's secret gets out. He feels like his whole world has turned upside down! Along with putting his family at risk, he is also ignored by his fellow classmates and even grows distant with Armin. Hoping that this terrible time ends, Daniel desperately tries to keep things together. Based on the Holocaust and the suffering of Jews during the reign of Hitler, this book will pull you in from the start.

--Ashley Sanders

Blue is for Nightmares

By Laurie Faria Stolarz

★★★★★

Nightmares, we all have them. So what makes Stacey so special? Well, for her, they come true. A junior at a boarding school, Stacey's nightmares are about her roommate, Drea, being murdered. Yet the only thing that the nightmares show is the murder, not who the murderer is or where it will take place. Therefore, Stacey has to find out how to prevent the murder before it actually happens. This is all while trying to gather up the courage to tell Drea, while dealing with Chaz, Drea's on-and-off boyfriend, who likes her but being the good friend she is, won't take him, and still trying to get good grades in class. Busy, much? This book has a twist at the end about the murder and is interesting all the way to the very last word.

--Ashley Sanders

Midnight Predator

By Amelia Atwater-Rhodes

★★★★★

Training as a vampire-hunter for two years, Turquoise feels ready to take on any job, especially when offered big buckets of cash. She is told to kill a vampire by the name of Jeshickah, the former founder of Midnight, a house for vampires and their human slaves. Acting as a slave, she gains an ally from the new leader of Midnight, Jaguar. Yet he warns her that if she kills Jeshickah, she will be on the hit list of many strong vampires that are a great threat to her. Along with figuring out how to complete her task, she also faces other problems. From the vampire that killed her family and changed her life forever, to the thoughts of her future, Turquoise starts to question the life she has now.

Leaving off with a bit of a cliffhanger, but having an interesting plot, I thought that this book was a good read, especially the numerous descriptive details. If you like a story about vampires, this book is a must.

--Ashley Sanders

Bottled Up

By Jaye Murray

★★★★★

Bottled Up, by Jaye Murray, is a novel about one boy trying to get rid of the life he has. A drunken father, unprotective mother, and non-understanding teachers, Pip has to deal with them all. By going to the Sit, a cemetery, and getting high, he hides from all his problems, including himself. Yet, when threatened by Principal Girdali to call his father, Pip promises to do counseling. Yet he could care less about changing his life for the better. All he wants to do is get high and be left alone. But, when his younger brother, Mikey, starts copying his bad habits, Pip starts to worry. When forced to stay clean, Pip starts to see that

he will have to face his problems eventually. However, will temptation to run and hide be too sweet? A great book overall.

--Ashley Sanders

Rebel Angels

By Libba Bray

★★★★★

In the sequel to **A Great and Terrible Beauty**, Gemma is back to being caught up in the mysteries of the realms. With her two friends, Ann and Felicity, the trio is asked to put the magic of the realms back into the Temple. Yet along the way, Kartik, a gypsy in the Rakshana, tells her that no one in the realms can be trusted, for the loose magic has corrupted many. Soon Gemma doesn't know whom to trust. Pippa, who was trapped in the realms, seems as sweet as ever, but Gemma suspects something is wrong. That, along with wondering who Miss McCleethy, the new art teacher, really is, understanding her pain filled visions, avoiding a man in the Rakshana, and sorting out her feelings about Kartik, she is kept quite busy. With a sharp twist at the end that has no foreshadowing to spoil it, this is a great sequel. Bray's talent at awing readers never seems to fade.

--Ashley Sanders

Nailed

By Patricia Jones

★★★

Nailed is about Bret, a high school outcast who falls for beautiful and flirty Kylee. As they begin to date, Bret finds out that Kylee is more than just a pretty face. She is strong willed and has a huge sense of humor. On Christmas after Bret tells Kylee that he "lives" her, he finds out something that makes him hate her. As Bret's life begins to crumble, the only thing that he needs is his family.

--Samantha Mannes

After

By Francine Prose

★★★★★

I feel like I review this book every summer, but it is absolutely worth reading every summer. Reading this book during the school year will make you cynical and suspicious of your teachers and school administrators; reading this book during the summer will keep you just paranoid enough.

Imagine this: a high school in the next town over goes through a terrible crisis, one that shakes the entire community. To school officials, parents, and even students, a move towards heightened security seems logical, even a relief. But soon the security restrictions go from metal detectors to search and seizure to rumors of implanted microchips, and the Big

Brother attitudes of administration get more and more sinister. Soon the teens begin to doubt the motives of the school, especially as the rules become more arbitrary and the brainwashing begins. The students find themselves fighting against something much more dystopic than normal malevolence of school.

The modern world is full of slow infringement on personal privacy and liberty—consider the warrantless wiretapping, violent interrogations of US citizens, or provisions of the Patriot Act. Think such governmental intrusions won't trickle down the bureaucracy to public schools? Read *After* and think again.

—*Alyssa Ratledge*

Pagan In Exile

By Catherine Jinks

★★★★★

Pagan in Exile is the second book in *The Pagan Chronicles*, though it can easily be read alone. I have probably already plugged *Pagan's Crusade*—can't help it, I love the series—so here is number two. Pagan and Lord Roland have returned to Europe to rally forces to take back Jerusalem from the infidel. Pagan expects Roland's family to be as good and gentle as Roland is. They are anything but. They are crude, loud, and filthy. In their presence, Roland is beginning to lose himself. But that is only one of Pagan's problems; there is a series of bloody assaults and if he and Roland don't get out soon they might find themselves dead. Pagan's quick wit and sharp tongue will not be enough to save them. I hope you enjoy it as much as I did.

—*Nykii Ryan*

Enchantment

By Orson Scott Card

★★★★★

Enchantment, by the author of *Ender's Game*, is one of Orson Scott Card's best books. The story starts with a young Ivan Petroski, a Jewish boy living in pre-iron curtain Russia. Ivan and his family escape to America with help from his cousin Marek. While at Marek's, Ivan glimpses a beautiful woman guarding a terrible monster. After moving to America, he goes on with his life. But the memory of the girl haunts him. Years later, he returns to look for her and finds her still there, unaged and unchanged. But when Ivan wakes the girl with a kiss, his life changes. The girl turns out to be far more than meets the eye.

Enchantment is the story of how Ivan faces the odds which are sorely stacked against him. Everyone should read this book. It was well written and had a great ending.

—*Rachel Starks*

I recently asked YAACers a few questions about books. Here is a sampling of responses.

Your bookshelves are filled with . . . ?

Realistic fiction (if the word 'edgy' is on the back, I'll read it)

Sci-fi and fantasy

Satire

Just about everything

Who are the authors with near papal infallibility levels?

Francesca Lia Block

Terry Pratchett

Tamora Pierce

Mercedes Lackey

Andre Norton

Gregory Maguire

David Clement-Davies

Diane Duane

C.S. Lewis

Roald Dahl

Orson Scott Card

What are the Book(s) that changed your life?

Dangerous Angels by Francesca Lia Block

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephan Chbosky

Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by JK Rowling

My Sister's Keeper by Jodi Picoult

Wicked by Gregory Maguire

My Antonia by Willa Cather

The Twits by Roald Dahl

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by CS Lewis

1984 by George Orwell

The Lorax by Dr. Seuss

The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton

The Giver by Lois Lowry

What series were you willing to plunk down full price for the next installment (or would if the author were alive)?

Abhorsen by Garth Nix

Star Trek by various authors

The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

Daughter of the Lioness by Tamora Pierce

Wind on Fire Trilogy by William Nicholson

Harry Potter by JK Rowling (I believe in Severus Snape!)

Fireworthy:

Eragon by Christopher Paolini

The Eternal Tree of Prand by Frances Evlin

Nothing But the Truth by Avi

Teens Top Ten 2007—National Online Vote for the BEST Books!

The Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA) has announced the nominees for the **2007 TEENS TOP TEN BOOKS**. During TEEN READ WEEK, teens in Mesa will have an opportunity to vote for your favorites, so here is a chance to get a head start on some of your reading. This is a national online vote based on books that teen reading groups from around the country have nominated, so be sure to have your voice heard in the final results by reading and voting! For more information, go to:

www.ala.org/ala/yalsa/teenreading/teenstopten

FIREGIRL by Tony Abbott.

Tom tells about the arrival of Jessica, a new student who was badly burned in a fire. Little by little Tom begins to look beyond her exterior.

CLAY by David Almond.

Stephen has a talent, the gift of creation—and he knows the Davie has this talent, too. Davie allows Stephen to convince him to help bring a life-size figure to life—and Clay is born. Stephen has special plans for this innocent. What has Davie helped to unleash on the world?

ROAD OF THE DEAD by Kevin Brooks.

Fourteen-year-old British, half-gypsy Ruben is frightened when he finds himself psychically witnessing the vicious attack and murder of his sister. When the official investigation stalls, Ruben and his brother attempt to put together the pieces of the crime themselves.

SECRETS OF MY HOLLYWOOD LIFE: ON LOCATION by Jen Calonita.

What if everyone in America wanted to know what you were doing when you weren't filming your TV show? Kaitlin Burke, a 16-year-old TV star, is exhausted from this glamorous life. So much so she decides to go undercover as an ordinary high school student. But could it be that high school is just as tough as Hollywood?

THE LOUD SILENCE OF FRANCINE GREEN by Karen Cushman.

Francine Green doesn't speak up much, and who can blame her? But when outspoken, passionate Sophie Bowman transfers into Francine's class, she finds herself thinking about new things that never concerned her before.... Eventually, Francine discovers that she not only has something to say, she is absolutely determined to say it.

JUST LISTEN by Sarah Dessen.

Annabel is nice. Too nice to say why she is unhappy with her life and what happened the night her life changed. That doesn't work in the world of her only remaining friend, anger-management-alum and alternative-music-nut Owen. Can she learn to speak, argue and finally to say the truth?

HOW TO RUIN A SUMMER VACATION by Simone Elkeles.

The last thing 16-year-old Amy wants to do for the summer is go to Israel with her estranged Israeli father, who's dragging her to meet a family

she's never known. What could be worse than a summer in a place without friends, shopping or a cell phone?

IN SEARCH OF MOCKINGBIRD by Loretta Ellsworth.

Erin waits as long as she can until she decides that running away from home is her only choice. Then she goes on a mission: To find the reclusive author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This takes Erin on a bus journey, knowing that if she can find Harper Lee she will also be closer to her mother who adored that one book more than all others.

THE CHRISTOPHER KILLER by Alane Ferguson.

When Cameryn asks to be her father's assistant at the county coroner's office, she never expects that her first case will be a friend in a serial killer case.

WHAT HAPPENED TO CASS MCBRIDE by Gail Giles.

After his younger brother's suicide, Kyle Kirby exacts revenge on the person he holds responsible: he kidnaps 17-year-old Cass from her house, and buries her alive, chastising her with a walkie-talkie. Can Detective Ben Grey discover Cass's whereabouts before it's too late?

HELLO GROIN by Beth Goobie.

When Dylan agrees to create a display for her high school library, she has no idea of the trouble it's going to cause—for the school principal, her family, her boyfriend Cam and his jock friends, her best friend Jocelyn, not to mention Dylan herself. And Dylan wouldn't ever have had to face her deepest fear and the way she was letting it run her life.

RIVER SECRETS by Shannon Hale.

Razo is one of Bayern's weaker soldiers. He is sure he is only on the important Tira mission out of pity. But in the strange southern country, Razo befriends both the high and low born, people who can perhaps provide them with vital information. And Razo is the one who must embrace his own talents in order to get the Bayern soldiers home again, alive.

SHOCK POINT by April Henry.

When fifteen-year-old Cassie Streng discovers that her psychiatrist stepfather is giving a dangerous experimental drug to his teenaged patients, she is determined to expose him. Instead he sends her to a boot camp for troubled teens in order to keep her quiet. Cassie is in danger at this 'school.' Can she escape, expose her stepfather and stop the school?

BAD KITTY by Michele Jaffe.

Jasmine had to give up her police internship to go on her family vacation. It doesn't take long before Jas stumbles upon a murder mystery while vacationing with her family in Las Vegas.

BORN TO ROCK by Gordon Korman.

After ultra-straight-laced Leo Caraway discovers that his biological father is none other than millionaire King Maggot, lead singer of the punk band Purge, he accepts a roadie job on King's tour in the hope of securing sorely needed college tuition to Harvard.

NEW MOON by Stephenie Meyer.

Edward leaves, not wanting to put Bella into danger. Bella depression deepens until she befriends Jacob, a sophomore from her school with a penchant for motorcycles. Their adventures are wild and her fun with Jacob soon turns into danger, especially when she finds out Jacob's real identity.

KIKI STRIKE: INSIDE THE SHADOW CITY by Kristen Miller.

When Ananka Fishbein ventures into an enormous sinkhole near her New York City apartment, she finds things that change her life: a million rats, delinquent Girl Scouts, and a secret city.

PROM ANONYMOUS by Blake Nelson.

Chloe Thomas is the last person that anyone expects to see at the prom. She agrees to go when her two oldest friends ask her to. What will happen in the three weeks leading up to the big night?

MAXIMUM RIDE: SCHOOL'S OUT -- FOREVER by James Patterson.

Max and her flock are discovered by an FBI agent and forced to go to "school." There is no such thing as an ordinary day there, and max faces her greatest enemy.

LIFE AS WE KNEW IT by Susan Beth Pfeffer.

When a meteor knocks the moon closer to earth. Miranda and her family need to prepare for tsunamis, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, extreme weather, food shortages, and disease.

PENELOPE BAILEY TAKES THE STAGE by Susanna Reich.

Left in the care of family with very rigid views of proper behavior in the late 1800s, Penny is determined not to give up her dreams of an acting career. She starts by plotting to star in the school play.

ALL HALLOWS' EVE: 13 STORIES by Vivian Vande Velde.

This is a spine-tingling collection of scary stories, take Halloween night and add a possessed car, a crypt, a psychic and ten more!

SKIN by Adrienne Maria Vrettos.

The one normal person in Donnie's family is his older sister, Karen. His family has to make huge changes when they admit that Karen has an eating disorder, and suddenly Donnie feels more on his own than ever. Will things be able to become normal again?

THE UNRESOLVED by T. K. Welsh. 0

The 1904 "General Slocum" steamship disaster killed more than 1000 people from the part of New York City known as Kleindeutschland. One victim was 15-year-old Mallory Meer. Her boyfriend, Dustin Brauer, is accused of setting the fire by a leader in the German neighborhood. Mallory, now insubstantial, sees everything and helps the truth to emerge.

FLORA SEGUNA: BEING THE MAGIKAL MISHAPS OF A GIRL SPIRIT, HER GLASS-GAZING SIDEKICK, TWO OMINOUS BUTLERS (ONE BLUE), A HOUSE WITH ELEVEN THOUSAND ROOMS, AND A RED DOG by Ysabeau S. Wilce.

Flora gets lost in her own eleven thousand room house and stumbles upon the long-banished butler of Crackpot Hall. Soon she finds herself in the middle of a mind-blowing muscle of intrigue and betrayal that changes her world forever.

Have a great summer!



rating system

bad; needs work ★

so-so ★★

average ★★★

good ★★★★

excellent; perfect ★★★★★

Visit the Library's Web Site:

www.mesalibrary.org
and see the Teens page!

What is YAAC?

The Young Adult Advisory Council (YAAC) is a group of teens from many of Mesa's junior and senior high schools. They hold meetings twice monthly to review books for this newsletter and to plan special activities. They also help the librarians in Mesa Public Library's Young Adult Room at the Main Library as volunteers and assist with programs.

If you are interested in becoming a member of YAAC, call (480) 644-2734 or stop by the Young Adult service desk and ask for an application.

Learn more at:



mesalibrary.org
City of Mesa Library on the Web



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