

Open Shelf

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city of mesa library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

Letter from the editor



There is something about winter that makes readers crave fantasy. It's an easy escape from a world that can make you think that a new ice age is fast approaching. To help you find your egress, this month's issue is full of the fantasy you crave when the mercury plummets. Enjoy.

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Alanna: The First Adventure

By Tamora Pierce

How many stories are out there which tell of boys overcoming the odds and becoming men? Too many, since there are so few about girls becoming women, and most of them are romance novels with too much fluff (bleach). Here is one of those few without the fluff, and I just have to say—it totally ROCKS!

Alanna and her twin brother Thom are ten years old and about to start off on their training for adulthood. Alanna is to be sent to the City of the Gods to become a proper court lady so that when she is sixteen, she can find a proper, noble husband. Thom is sent to the palace to be

a knight of the realm. The big problem is that Thom doesn't want to be a warrior—he wants training to use his magic to become a great sorcerer. Alanna in turn doesn't want to be a lady and get married six years down the road to some lout. Their father is a scholar and doesn't care for either one of them, so what can be done?

Alanna has an idea (a very dangerous thing indeed, for her). She and Thom will pose as twin BOYS. She will go to the palace and train, and Thom will go to the City of the Gods to use magic. The idea is so absolutely insane, impossible, and unbelievable that it just might work.

This first book in the *Song of the Lioness* quartet marks Alanna's first steps into a whole new world as she struggles to find out where she fits in it all.

—Patricia Langevin
★★★★★

East

By Edith Patou

Rose is a north-born child, a natural explorer and wanderer. Her mother, a very superstitious woman, believed that she would lose her daughter due to her "birth direction," and tried to dispose of her wandering ways. But no matter how hard her mother tried, Rose always managed to escape from the house to go exploring.

Nearly fifteen years later, Rose's family is suddenly overcome by poverty and her sister,

Sara, has a terrible illness. When a mysterious, talking white bear comes pawing at their door, he offers to give them a life of luxury and cure Sara in return for Rose. Despite her parents' best efforts to avoid this, she agrees to go with the bear to a castle carved into a mountain.

Why does this bear want Rose? What will he do with her? Will she ever see her family again? The answer lies in *East*—I highly recommend it!

—Maggie Haughey
★★★★★

Abarat

By Clive Barker

From encountering a seemingly living sea to a man with seven heads, Candy Quakenbush



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!

has adventures almost as odd as her name. Clive Barker tells of a normal girl from Chickentown, USA, who wanders out of school and into a strange archipelago called the Abarat, where each island is an hour and the proverbial night versus day war rages on. As she travels from island to island, Candy becomes an object of interest to the Prince of Darkness, further complicating her journey. **Abarat** is ridiculously good reading.

– Casey Hunter
★★★★

Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn trilogy

By Tad Williams

The current king of the land dies and is succeeded by his son, Elias. From that point on, things go from bad to unimaginably horrible. Evil starts to literally tear the land apart, and the only thing standing in evil's way is Elias' brother, Prince Joshua, and his ragtag group.

A young scullion boy, apprenticed to a famous scientist, is all mixed up in this somehow. In the end, his true destiny comes to light and he is left with the awesome task of putting a world back together.

This trilogy is awesome, but quite lengthy. I recommend this series to all who like to read and love adventure—read and enjoy!

– Chris Smith
★★★★

The Silver Kiss

By Annette Curtis Klause

A girl named Zoe is isolated in her own home. Her mother is dying of cancer, her father's too busy to spend time with her, and her best friend is moving to Oregon. Zoe feels like nobody understands her until she meets Simon. She thinks he's perfect, except for one minor fault: he's a vampire. His mother was killed three hundred years before by someone Simon knew, and now there are women being killed in the same manner. Zoe helps Simon to find the murderer so he can finally rest in peace.

I couldn't put it down—this book really kept me in suspense!

– Micki Gentile
★★★★★

The Sight

By David Clement-Davies

This book is a heartwarming work of imagination. It's about a wolf pack and their struggle to stay alive after an evil wolf curses them. This story has a little bit of everything: adventure, mystery, fantasy. It brings you into a whole new world from a wolf's point of view. You will definitely get into this book after the first couple of pages. This is one of the best books I've read in a while. Enjoy!

– Anna Gurevitz
★★★★★

Twilight

By Stephenie Meyer

With the lack of new Anne Rice and Amelia Atwater-Rhodes vampire novels, I'd been desperate. I'd read a bunch of horribly clichéd novels involving "the lonely ones." So, when my writing instructor gave me a vampire novel and a shining review...

Isabella Swan is moving from her sunny Phoenix (!) to rainy Forks, Washington. Boys are paying too much attention to her, girls are being suspicious, but worst of all is Edward. He's attractive, intelligent, mysterious, and he absolutely hates her... usually. But sometimes, he seems to be so caring and sweet... What's a girl to do?

I was so glad to have met Stephenie Meyer—she's a brilliant, original woman in a frequently unoriginal subject. I positively LOVE this book. There's a movie deal in the works and two more titles, so get **Twilight** before everyone else!

– Mandi Levendowski
★★★★★

Where's FRANK?

FRANK Teen Literary Magazine 2005 is now on sale at all three City of Mesa Library branches for 75 cents, or read it for FREE in the library or your school media center. Teen submissions for the 2006 issue will be accepted until March 31, 2006. You can also sign up to join the teen editorial staff.

Check

<http://mesalibrary.org/teens/frank/>
for more information.

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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