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March
2004

mesa public library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

letter from the editor



In honor of Nick Hornby's *High Fidelity*...

Top Five Things to Do In March:

5. Celebrate St. Patrick's Day by reading *Ulysses* by James Joyce with Luke Lambert.

4. Wear fuzzy sweaters (in 2 short months, this will be impossible).

3. Win Nationals! Good luck Stapley NAL!

2. Read *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (always a good idea in any month).

...and #1

* 1. Read the books in this issue!

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Erin Hutchinson
open shelf Editor



rating system

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

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

Bridge to Tarabithia

By Katherine Paterson

Leslie Burke is the new girl in town who moves in next to Jesse Aarons. Because Leslie beat Jesse in a race, he isn't fond of her. When in the presence of Miss Edmunds (his music teacher, whom he has a crush on) singing, Jesse becomes caught up in the beautiful moment and breaks the ice with Leslie with a smile. He's surprised at himself at first, but they soon warm up to each other and form a close relationship.

Jessie and Leslie decide that they need a special place where they can get away from everything and be their own rulers. The name Terabithia soon becomes their imaginary kingdom which, unfortunately, can only be reached by swinging across a creek. This makes Jesse very uncomfortable. But because Leslie isn't afraid, he keeps his feelings inside. As their trips to Terabithia become an everyday thing, and the creek rises higher and higher, Jesse's internal conflict about whether or not to tell Leslie he doesn't want to cross until the water goes down weighs heavy on him. Soon, he finds a tragedy has occurred.

If you're looking for an action filled, sword fighting tale, this isn't it, but if you're looking for a laid-back melancholy story, this is the book for you.

—Kari Smith ★★

Scarlet Letter

By Nathaniel Hawthorne

I most likely would have given this book three stars if I had been able to read it willingly. In a nutshell, there is this woman who commits adultery, has a child, and is eternally shunned by the townspeople. Hester, the woman who commit-

This month:

Bridge to Tarabithia

by Katherine Paterson

Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

Goose Girl by Shannon Hale

Sorcery and Cecelia or the Enchanted

Chocolate Pot by Patricia C. Wrede and

Caroline Stevermer

Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code

by Eoin Colfer

The Tempest by William Shakespeare

A Sound of Thunder by Ray Bradbury

ted adultery, refuses to tell that the reverend is the child's father. I think the worst part is that Nathaniel Hawthorne starts to explain something, but by the time he finishes you have forgotten what he was trying to explain in the first place. This is a good book to read if you have a rainy afternoon (which is only once a year in Arizona).

—Lora Eubanks ★★

Goose Girl

By Shannon Hale

Born apart from all her other siblings, with the gift of speaking to animals, including her horse, Falada, the Crown Princess of Kildenree, Anidori-Kiladra, found life difficult. However, she does not truly know difficulty till her position is stripped from her. No longer the Crown Princess, she is now just another of her mother's children, without the title that her birth had given her as next ruler of the throne. She, instead, is sent off to be married—the only good that anyone sees in her.

However, upon the journey to wed the unnamed prince to whom Anidori was promised to marry, her maidservant, Selia, tired of living a life revolving around falsely being happy for another's good fortune, turns upon her and steals her identity. The princess finds that she has to flee into the country that she was intended to rule after the wedding. There she must seek to avoid Selia's guards and reclaim her identity and crown.

This book is full of adventure, and twists and turns that captivate and keep the reader's attention all throughout the novel. It draws you out into an alternate dimension in which you find yourself seemingly running from the guards yourself, feeling Ani's worries, fears, trials, and tribulations as you read the various parts of the book.

You become hopelessly unattuned to the world around you, sucked into the saga of the story. For some time, you can almost believe that you are Ani, and become so disoriented that for minutes afterward all you can remember is Sella's betrayal and how Ani could escape unharmed to tell the truth of her identity to the king. Metaphors that seem to have been customized for every situation, colorful language, and a good writing technique make readers seem to feel as though they were there themselves. Thrilling adventures that make you want to stay fixed in your spot forever, just reading till you finish the entire book in one sitting, loom around every chapter of the book.

There is only one bad thing about this entire book of which I can complain. The end is horrible. Not because of the content, but simply because it has to end. This is the sort of book you want to keep reading forever, and never put down.

I recommend **Goose Girl** to all readers (mostly girls though) and if I were allowed to, I would have given it five stars. This had become my new favorite book, and I think that everyone should read it, if only for the feeling of being enveloped in the writing.

—*Rosalinda Albrecht* ★ ★ ★ ★

Sorcery and Cecelia or the Enchanted Chocolate Pot

By Patricia C. Wrede and Caroline Stevermer

Ah, good old London...that's where, in the 1817 of Wrede's and Stevermer's parallel worlds, Katherine Talgarth is having her Season. But she wouldn't want to exclude her cousin and best friend, stuck back home in Essex from her (mis?)adventures. So Kate and her cousin Cecelia (or Cecy) Rushton set up a letter correspondence, and what events they have to tell!

First, Kate is nearly poisoned with a cup of chocolate. Then Cecy finds a strange charm bag under her brother's bed. What next?

One mishap leads to another, which in turn leads to a fantastic plot. The story is witty and original, the characters are 3-D, and oh, what I'd give to be able to write that way! The authors use an incredible early 19th century dialect that is, from my perspective, flawless. I'm going to be going around all week using phrases like "That is outside of enough!" and "Are you bamming me?" I must also admire how the authors wrote this story via letters to one another, just like their characters, without any planning as to the plot. To have been able to pull that off...WOW. I can only

wish and hope that the sequel, **The Grand Tour**, is just as well done. Yay, for chocolate pots!

—*Jenny Knatz* ★ ★ ★ ★

Double Take

Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code

By Eoin Colfer

If the other two **Artemis Fowl** books are any guide, this book was just as excellent, amusing and overall great!

In the **Eternity Code**, the ever diabolical Artemis has built a super computer which, in the hands of the wrong person, could be catastrophic. So, of course, it gets into the hands of the wrong people. The computer-CEO mortally wounds Butler—which gets really...scary. But, how can Artemis save Butler—and the computer? Why, with the help of elf Holly Short, of course!

I decided that Artemis needs to grow up and fall for Holly. But we'll see...

—*Mandi Levendowski* ★ ★ ★ ★

Artemis Fowl: The Eternity Code

By Eoin Colfer

In another book in the **Artemis Fowl** series, we find ourselves with Artemis carrying out his latest scheme. Using the technology he acquired during his last encounter with the fairies, Artemis has created the C cube. The C cube is a marvel of modern technology, so when it is taken Artemis calls for reinforcements. This story is full of action and suspense. Personally, it captivated me and took me into the world of Artemis Fowl. If you like suspense, action, and adventure, this is the book to read.

—*Jasmine Williamson* ★ ★ ★ ★

The Tempest

By William Shakespeare

Shakespeare illustrates his genius themes and writing styles in his final play, **The Tempest**. The play starts on a ship caught in a huge storm. This storm is the first glimpse of magic in the play, for the powerful Prospero caused the

storm out of revenge on the ship members. Among the crew is Prospero's brother, Antonio, who stole the position of Duke of Milan from Prospero. Amidst numerous spells, marriages, and acts of revenge and mercy, order is finally restored to Milan, and the creature-like Nave Ariel is finally set free.

Shakespeare says farewell to his audience and even asks for applause from them as a final goodbye in his last masterful play, **The Tempest**.

—*Zack Clark* ★ ★ ★ ★

A Sound of Thunder

(from *Caught In the Organ Draft: Biology in Science Fiction*, edited by Isaac Asimov, Martin H. Greenberg and Charles G. Waugh)

By Ray Bradbury

Time Safari, Inc.

Safaris to any year in the past.

You name the animal.

We take you there.

You shoot it.

Eckels, along with four other people, travels back to the past with one mission: to shoot a T-rex.

First of all, he can't wait to get his hands on the Time Machine that will take him there, and get a good look at the dinosaur.

Second, when he's inches away from the great T-rex, he chickens out and fails to shoot the monster. So, in shock he wanders off into the wilderness. As he wanders, he makes the biggest mistake of his life. Before traveling to the past, there are only two rules: (1.) only shoot the animals with red paint on them, and (2.) do not step off the Path. The Path is an antigravity metal that floats six inches above the ground. It is to prevent the hunters from touching the world of the past in any way, because they don't belong in the past.

Somehow, Eckels stepped off the Path accidentally. What happens next? That's for you to find out by reading this amazing book and finishing the rest of the story with great anticipation of what happens in the end.

—*Gerald DelRosario* ★ ★ ★ ★

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