

# OPEN shelf

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2002

mesa public library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

## letter from the editor

March has rolled around again, and that means St. Patrick's Day, which is a special time for those of us lucky enough to have some Irish blood in their veins. Happy St. Patrick's Day to all! If you are not Irish, stick close to someone who is. It is a documented fact that no Irishman has ever been killed by a herd of rabid prairie dogs on St. Patrick's Day, and the luck might just rub off.

Leon Eubanks  
open shelf Editor

Send comments and suggestions to  
tiepilot777@hotmail.com



## rating system

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

Visit the Library's NEW Web Site:  
[www.mesalibrary.org](http://www.mesalibrary.org)  
and see the **Teens** page!



## Face to Face With the Unknown

By Sherry Hansen Steiger

This book is kind of interesting but was really unbelievable. This is all about teens who have experienced either ghosts, angels, near death situations, or have seen UFOs. This book would be good to read if you had a long day at school and need to get your mind off of reality.

—Lora Eubanks ★★

## Troy

By Adèle Geras

Xanthe and Marpessa, two sisters in the City of Troy, are sick of the war. For ten years they have had nothing but screams, blood, and battles. Xanthe, who works in the Blood Room attending wounded soldiers, one day attends Alastor. Stung by Eros' arrow, she falls in love with him. But Marpessa one day meets Alastor and Lady Aphrodite has great plans for them. As the tale unwinds, you see the love of the sisters twisted and turned, but in the end they triumph. This story is great and is all about the Trojan war from the women's point of view. Anyone even remotely interested in ancient Greece will love this book.

—Jenny Knatz ★★★★★

## This month:

*Face to Face With the Unknown* by Sherry Hansen

Steiger

*Troy* by Adèle Geras

*Letters From the Earth* by Mark Twain

*The Year of My Indian Prince* by Ella Thorp Ellis

*The Last Safe Place on Earth* by Richard Peck

*Leaving Fishers* by Margaret Peterson Haddix

*Red Storm Rising* by Tom Clancy

*Emma* by Jane Austin

*'Salem's Lot* by Stephen King

## Letters From the Earth

By Mark Twain

I don't think Mark Twain is usually a very good author. Teachers make us read **Huckleberry Finn** and **Tom Sawyer**. But this book is actually rather funny. Satan writes letters to the other angels, telling them how silly we are to believe that we're going to heaven and that there is a God. Adam and Eve write about their inventions. Mark Twain himself writes about another author, James Fenimore Cooper, the person who wrote **The Last of the Mohicans**, and his literary transgressions. This is an extremely funny book. Read it.

—Andrea Alonge ★★

## The Year of My Indian Prince

By Ella Thorp Ellis

Imagine it's 1945, and your father just came back from the war. You're the women's captain of the swim team. Yet there's a problem—you can't keep your breath long enough to race. Then your doctor fluoroscopes you and you find out you're tubercular. You're then isolated in a compound yet you find love in this unusual place. I think you should read this!

—Cristina L. Anglin ★★★★★

# The Last Safe Place on Earth

By Richard Peck

Todd has found the perfect girl, Laurel. She is every fantasy he has ever had and she comes to his house every day. Laurel babysits his little sister, Marnie, while he and his adoptive sister are at school. Suddenly his sister goes crazy. She tries to flush her witch costume, she says her teacher is evil and Halloween is when she kills children. The pieces begin to fall together for Todd and reveal what his town really is.

This book has everything I love in a great story: mystery, censorship, and fanatics. Great book!

—*Mary Beth Hutchinson* ★ ★ ★ ★

# Leaving Fishers

By Margaret Peterson Haddix

Before I rave about how wonderful the book **Leaving Fishers** is, you need to know it's a partially hidden commentary on religion. It explores the fine line between religious groups and cults but doesn't preach either way.

However, all of this is woven into an intriguing plot that includes a girl who gets involved in a cult called Fishers of Men. The book is about how she is brainwashed and builds her life around the needs of the Fishers. This, of course, ruins her relationships and she becomes depressed when she can't meet their needs.

Typical cult stuff. But this book was great! It's well-written with a plot that pulls you in and doesn't let go until the end.

—*Alyssa Ratledge* ★ ★ ★ ★

# Red Storm Rising

By Tom Clancy

If you would like to read a great novel about a hypothetical third world war, get this book. Now, most people don't enjoy war books, but if you enjoy the smooth grab-you-by-the-throat writing style of Tom Clancy combined with the cool battle

scenes and soldierly brotherhood found in war novels, grab this.

The book takes place in several countries around the globe sometime in the 1980s. The list of characters are from all sides of the fight; Polish, Russian, German, British, American. Officers in all armies tell part of this intriguing story. You will enjoy this book if you choose to try it!

—*David LaHaie* ★ ★ ★ ★

# Emma

By Jane Austin

Emma Woodhouse is a confirmed bachelorette who lives with her father. After her ex-governess gets married, Emma takes it upon herself to bring Miss Harriet Smith into Britain's upper class, much to her old friend, Mr. Knightley's dislike. He thinks that Emma's meddling will ruin Miss Smith's life...and her own. Throughout the entire course of the story Emma does her own thing and Mr. Knightley is confirmed correct.

Jane Austin is wordy and writes a lot about relationships so there are going to be weddings throughout the course of the tale. If you can get into the relationships and love triangles, it's worth reading.

—*Elizabeth Steimle* ★ ★ ★

# 'Salem's Lot

By Stephen King

Jerusalem's Lot is a small unassuming town until the mysterious Misters Straker and Barlow buy the house on the hill. First, the Glick boys disappear, and after a small panic, everything settles down again. But that isn't the end. People all over town are dying. Tired, dizzy, pale, loss of appetite...symptoms point to a mild flu or anemia, but unexpectedly, they die. Then, most disturbing, the dead bodies disappear as soon as night falls. The rest of the townspeople are acting strangely, too. Only coming out at night, staying away from mirrors, and having strange dreams about the dead townspeople coming into their houses at night. Most people wouldn't give it a second thought, but Ben Mears, Suzanne Norton, Jimmy Cody, Matt Burke,

Father Callahan and Mark Petrie think that there is an Evil taking over 'Salem's Lot. But the question is: can they stop it before it stops them?

—*Elizabeth Dormady* ★ ★ ★ ★



# 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.

# Tales of the Unknown

With Storyteller J Tank  
Saturday, March 9

1 p.m.

Main Library  
64 E. 1<sup>st</sup> St.

*Check out the*

# teens

*page at*

 [mesalibrary.org](http://mesalibrary.org)  
City of Mesa Library on the Web



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