

Open shelf

April 2005

city of mesa library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

letter from the editor



For this issue, I thought I might offer a glimpse into the past of YAAC and send out some reviews from our graduated members. I feel I must offer my greatest thanks to the Eubanks clan—to Leon (a former Editor), for saving all these old reviews in a gigantic expanding folder that nearly made me cry tears of joy, and to Lora, who found said folder in the back of his closet and gave it to me to avoid me harassing her for reviews. I'm on my knees in thanks—THANK YOU!!! ^.^

Jenny Knatz
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The Hawk and the Jewel

by Lori Wick

Sunny Gallagher is the daughter of a wealthy English marquis. She doesn't know that, though. In the life she knows, she is Shani, daughter of an Arabian Emir. She was lost at sea when she was two, then rescued and raised as the ruler's daughter. The beautiful thirteen-year-old's life is turned upside down when the Emir forcibly returns her to her family in England. Why? She doesn't know.

Brandon Hawesbury is the captain of the *Flying Surprise*, the vessel sent to pick Sunny up from Darhabar. Immediately

drawn to the lissome, vigorous young girl, they become fast friends. As Brandon tries to show Sunny how things are done in England, a number of humorous situations arise.

Set in Victorian England, this enticing story focuses on strong willed, adventurous, amethyst-eyed Sunny Gallagher and her search to find where she belongs. I recommend this book to anyone, but especially to teenage girls.

- Melissa Taylor ★★★★★

Born of Elven Blood

by Kevin J. Anderson and John Gregory Betancourt

This novel starts when Maria is walking home after failing to get the lead role in the school play. When someone attacks her, a man helps her and she gets magically transported to the world of elves. Now she's in a world of magic and intrigue, and who is this black-masked rogue elf? This was a wonderful story. If you like fantasy mixed with a little bit of intrigue, this book is for you.

- Sabrina Poulsen ★★★★★

The Return of Sherlock Holmes

by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

The *Return of Sherlock Holmes* is a great book, though unless you read the books before

This month:

The Hawk and the Jewel by Lori Wick
Born of Elven Blood
by Kevin J. Anderson and John Gregory Betancourt
The Return of Sherlock Holmes
by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Goodbye, Mr. Chips by James Hilton
Captain Blood: The Odyssey
(and Dr. Peter Blood, Captain Peter Blood,
Slave Peter Blood, Governor Peter Blood)
by Raphael Sabatini
First Avenue by Lowen Clausen
I Was a Teenage Fairy by Francesca Lia Block
The Time Machine by H.G. Wells
Dolores Clairborne by Stephen King

if you won't understand the first case. The great Holmes is a mystery-solving genius. His best friend Dr. Watson chronicles his works. The cases take place, for the most part, in London. I really enjoyed this book—it shows just how crucial the mind is in certain situations. All mystery fans should pick it up.

- Thomas Alonge ★★★★★

Goodbye, Mr. Chips

by James Hilton

Goodbye, Mr. Chips is about the life of a schoolteacher known as Mr. Chips. It is a brief story, and his life is told through anecdotes without a lot of detail. The story takes place in England in the late 1800's to early 1900's. It has a very dry humor and I thought this book a charming story.

- Nicole Nixen ★★★★★



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!

Captain Blood: The Odyssey (and Dr. Peter Blood, Captain Peter Blood, Slave Peter Blood, Governor Peter Blood)

by Raphael Sabatini

These are the titles (among others) that Peter Blood, an Irishman from the days of England's Glorious Revolutions, has carried. By his father's wish, Blood is a doctor at twenty. By his own choice, he is an adventurer for twelve years afterward. And by pure chance, he becomes a slave and later a pirate captain.

Follow the adventures of the cynical, self-assured, remarkably witty Peter Blood in this first book of tales, **Captain Blood: The Odyssey**. Then pick up the rest of the series, because they're good too.

- Dana-Jean LaHaie ★★★★★

First Avenue

by Lowen Clausen

Have you ever read a book that inspired you? Well, this book did it for me. This is the story of a beat-cop in Seattle, mocking the controversial First Avenue—a hole of scum and the dregs of humanity. However, the main character does his job without complaint and sticks with it for reasons unknown even to him. But one day, those reasons are brought out from his subconscious when, while working the first watch early in the morning, he finds a dead baby, apparently abandoned in a slummy hotel room. This case becomes personal, though, because he knows the baby and its mother, and something tells him this isn't right—this woman wouldn't abandon her baby.

You should read this book if you enjoy police stories. Take this book off the shelf—it's really worth it.

- David LaHaie ★★★★★

I Was a Teenage Fairy

by Francesca Lia Block

Mab came to Barbie Marks from a flower bush and lives in a glorified birdcage. Barbie is

a teen model, almost of the same mold as her namesake. Mab is a fairy with an attitude and energy many times her diminutive size. Mab helps Barbie deal with her mother, a fallen model who tries to push her daughter to be what she once was. In California, models stick together and Barbie meets Griffin Tyler, an awfully sad, beautiful boy model who shares her same dark secrets and even has some of his own. Mab helps both Griffin and Barbie find that they don't need "the business" to make them who they are.

Although a bit dark, the story gives insight to the twisted world of modeling and the complicated emotions of all teens.

- Sara Thorson ★★★★★

The Time Machine

by H.G. Wells

First of all, if you are a sci-fi fan and you haven't read **The Time Machine** by H.G. Wells (who pretty much invented the genre), then you ought to be ashamed. Go and get it. Now. It's not even 150 pages long!

In **The Time Machine**, we are taken to a party at the Time Traveler's house, to which the Time Traveler himself arrives late. But he has a good reason to be late; he has just returned from a journey to the year 802,701 A. D. The Time Traveler then tells us the story of an earth very different from the one we know now. In the distant future, the human race has split into two species—the kind (but rather stupid) Eloi, and the sinister Morlocks, who lurk in the darkness. When the Morlocks steal his time machine, the Time Traveler must find a way to get it back, or spend the rest of his life in the future. Of course, there is a twist ending...

If you enjoy reading classics/fantasy/science fiction, then you definitely ought to read **The Time Machine**.

- Erin Hutchinson ★★★★★

These is My Words

by Nancy E. Turner

These is My Words is a novel in journal form that follows the life of a girl who travels to Arizona with her family during the 1800's. It explores the sorrows and joys of life on the frontier and life in general. Turner has a firm understanding of the human mind and this allows her to fully develop her characters. I

fell in love with some of Turner's characters and truly despised others. This made the novel much more realistic to me. One great characteristic of it is the author's fluid writing style and ability to change with her characters. I loved this book and recommend it to everyone!

- Mia Fioretto ★★★★★

Dolores Clairborne

by Stephen King

This book is very well-written. There are no chapter breaks, so it is just one big long tale, and as such hard to put down. It's about an old woman named Dolores Clairborne, who is charged with murder. This entire book is just her telling the police her story.

Stephen King puts together a solid piece of literature. If you want a fast read and a good story, this book is for you.

- Brandon Wood ★★★★★

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

 **CITY OF MESA**
Great People, Quality Service!