

Open Shelf

January
2002

mesa public library young adult advisory council book review newsletter

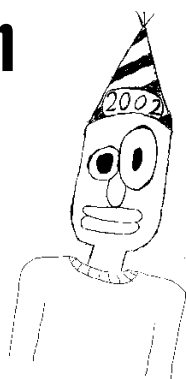
letter from the editor

Happy New Year! January first means a chance for a fresh start. It also means that the school year is half over (Yay!!!).

Anyway, enjoy the last part of your Christmas break, and if you get bored pick up a good book. You may want to try one of these.

Leon Eubanks
open shelf Editor

Send comments and suggestions to
tiepilot777@hotmail.com



Fellowship of the Ring

By J.R.R. Tolkien

In Middle-Earth, there is a mysterious force – the One Ring. Bilbo Baggins found the ring on one of his journeys and now, on his eleventy-first birthday, he passes the ring on to his young cousin and heir, Frodo. Now, Frodo must go on a perilous journey to the Cracks of Doom in the Land of Mordor to destroy the ring. He is accompanied by Gandalf the Wizard, the hobbits Sam, Merry, and Pippin, a dwarf called Gimli, an elf called Legolas, and two humans called Aragorn and Boromir. Together, they form the Fellowship of the Ring.

—Beth Dormady ★★★★★

The Last Hero

By Terry Pratchett

Time has passed, and the Silver Horde, led by the aging Cohen the Barbarian, sets out on their last adventure: to return fire to the gods. As they set out on their final quest, the inept wizard, Rincewind, tries desperately to find the Horde and stop the destruction of the Earth. This book is incredibly funny and beautifully constructed. It is a great read and is relatively short.

—David Justin Millar-Haskell

★★★★★

This month:

Fellowship of the Ring by J.R.R. Tolkien

The Last Hero by Terry Pratchett

Marlfox by Brian Jacques

Artemis Fowl by Eoin Colfer

Calvin and Hobbes by Bill Watterson

Doctor's Orders by Diane Duane

Scribbler of Dreams by Mary E. Pearson

Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck

The Eyes of the Dragon by Stephen King

Marlfox

By Brian Jacques

Nobody messed with the Marlfoxes, at least until they messed with the Redwallers! The dreaded Marlfoxes have stolen Redwall's most prized possession, a tapestry of Martin the Warrior, and three young beasts rush after them to capture the tapestry. This is a very well woven story with many intricate twists. It's a great book for almost anyone. If you are like me, you won't be able to put the book down until the last page!

—Matt Grimes ★★★★★

Artemis Fowl

By Eoin Colfer

This book is about a young genius named Artemis Fowl. His father recently disappeared, after squandering much of the family fortune. Artemis has come up with a plan to regain what was lost: he's going to steal fairy gold. Artemis makes a copy of the "Booke of the People" and learns their rules and secrets. He captures a fairy and ransoms her for gold. His plan is a success and he replenishes his family's fortune. This book is full of twists and turns and is a great novel. I highly recommend it to all ages.

—Jenny Knatz ★★★★★



rating system

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

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

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Watterson

Yes, I know, I am reviewing a Calvin and Hobbes book. That's not exactly a challenging read, but it's actually quite fun.

Calvin and Hobbes is an excellent comic series about a six-year-old boy named Calvin with an overactive imagination, and his stuffed tiger named Hobbes. Calvin is always making up really odd yet funny stuff.

The whole thing is just plain light-hearted and hilarious. Highly recommended.

—*Joe Tuccillo* ★ ★ ★ ★

Doctor's Orders

By Diane Duane

This is a really funny book, as long as you know the characters. The mission is to make contact with the inhabitants of "Flyspeck." Three different species live on this planet. This is very unusual because they all are indigenous to the planet. None of them were transferred from another planet. After McCoy complains once again, Kirk decides to put him in command while he goes down to the planet to negotiate. Later on, the ship suddenly loses contact with Kirk, some Klingons show up, and (much later) an Orion pirate ship arrives. The rest of the book is hilarious and I won't ruin it for you.

—*Deidre Oberpriller* ★ ★ ★

Scribbler of Dreams

By Mary E. Pearson

In this modern day Romeo and Juliet story, a hatred grows between the families of the Malones and the Crutchfields. This anger originated long, long ago between two Crutchfield sisters, one of whom married a Malone. Their anger was passed down for generations. Kaitlin Malone soon meets Bram Crutchfield and they fall in love without knowing who the other really is. Kaitlin discovers Bram's

true heritage, then struggles over whether she should tell Bram who she really is and risk losing him, or to keep it secret and hope he never learns otherwise. This is a really cute story. If you are a true romantic and love happy endings, this is the book for you.

—*Lisa Barcon* ★ ★ ★ ★

Tortilla Flat

By John Steinbeck

Who doesn't enjoy reading about the dregs of society? John Steinbeck is perhaps the best writer of stories about the adventures of drunken bums. **Cannery Row** is the first of Steinbeck's novels to receive wide popular acclaim. It follows the exploits of a bunch of modern Knights of the Round Table after World War I. Danny, back from the war, moves into property inherited from his grandfather and is soon joined by various mountebanks (sorry, English vocab word) from all over the California city of Monterey.

This is actually the first John Steinbeck book I didn't like very much. As hard as I might try, I could not find an actual plot line in this book. The whole "modern knights" thing was a little weak, and I couldn't quite figure out why the characters would spontaneously burst into loquacious bits of old-fashioned English. Nevertheless, it *is* John Steinbeck, and any John Steinbeck novel is good for kicking back in your free time. Or, if you're like me, reading under your desk during Geometry.

—*Erin Hutchinson* ★ ★ ★

The Eyes of the Dragon

By Stephen King

The Eyes of the Dragon is set in a mythical country in the time of Kings. The ruler of the kingdom is a king who has two sons. The first son, Peter, is perfect. He is kind, generous, understanding and handsome. The second son, Thomas, is cruel, stingy, callous, and was hit with an ugly stick about twenty-seven times. The King's advisor does not like Peter at all. On the other hand, he adores Thomas. The advi-

tor knows that Peter will be king when his father dies, but the advisor does not want that. He poisons the king and frames Peter. Thomas assumes the throne, and Peter is thrown in jail. After many years, Peter's old friends help him escape. What follows is a page-turning battle. In this book, King shows that he is not only the master of horror, but also of adventure.

—*Beth 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.

Check out the

teens

page at

 mesalibrary.org
City of Mesa Library on the Web



CITY OF MESA
Great People, Quality Service!