Welcome to the first edition of the KLN Zine since COVID-19 hit! It’s been a long road, but we’re finally able to come together to write again. Below you will see jokes, articles, and reviews, all by talented young writers. We are so excited to be able to share our thoughts with you again. And so, without further ado, read on, and enjoy!

This book is amazing. It’s about a black 16 year old girl named Bree who lost her mother right before she goes to college with her friend. She discovers a secret historic white magic society while she’s attending University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. If you’re a fan of The Mortal Instruments or a dark academia fantasy lover you will enjoy it too! The theme of this book is family, legacy, love, and loss. The age range of this book is 14 and up.
Hooky by Miriam Bonastre Turn is a fantasy/adventure graphic novel about the misadventures of witch twins, a very determined princess, and several other unlikely friends. This story is perfect for any fans of Kiki’s Delivery Service, Harry Potter, or pretty much any manga. It has an overall cheerful and positive tune, though there are elements of peril and one very dark prophecy.

The story begins as twins Dani and Dorian miss the bus on the way to witch school, plunging them into a very sticky situation. Afraid that their parents will be angry, they decide not to return home and instead go under the apprenticeship of their aunt. However, when they are recruited to escort a traitor to prison, their lives are changed irreversibly. Hijinks involving a dragon’s egg and a broken broom land them in some serious trouble with their witch community. They end up hiding out in a future-seer’s house, where they are joined by a mischievous boy who Dani shrinks to miniature by accident, and a brave yet naïve princess whose objective is to find her kidnapped fiancé William. However, things are not what they seem and the twins discover one of them are destined to turn into the evil King (or Queen) of Witches.

This book is an entertaining and engrossing read, and whoever picks it up will be transported into a world full of magic and vivid, relatable characters. Anyone who enjoys a good fantasy with plenty of humor and a dose of suspense will love this book.

New Science Books: SUPER SCIENCE ENCYCLOPEDIA

The Super Science Encyclopedia describes how we power our homes, grow our food, and build machines that let us communicate and travel around the world. It features lots of discoveries and inventions to modern medicine and spectacular ideas for saving the environment. It explains the role that science plays in our everyday life. I recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn the details of science in a way you’ve never seen it before.

(Request your copy at the library today!)
WHAT I'M READING NOW:
A WIZARD OF EARTHSEA

BY IZZY

Personally, I'm not a big high fantasy person. Lord of the Rings is like my one exception because it's mostly drama and yelling, but stuff like Lovecraft has never really caught my ATTENTION. Which was why I was super surprised when I couldn’t put down A Wizard of Earthsea- definitely one of the most archetypically fantasy books I've ever read. I watched the movie (which is by Studio Ghibli and is super good) and I read the book from there, which was confusing at first because what I didn’t know was that the Earthsea movie and A Wizard of Earthsea have completely different plots. BUT, nevertheless, I still enjoyed the incredibly descriptive story of Ged, a boy from the island of Gont who learns to become a wizard by studying at the School of Wizardry on Roke Island. Those sure are some words. But the important thing is, the book is full of chilling twists, vivid adventure scenes, and dragons, which should sell the whole thing just by itself. Although I haven’t finished the story, I’m fully hooked so far, and hopefully will read the rest of the series if my unpredictable attention span can carry me through the beautiful, but abundant detail. If you enjoy high fantasy, dragons, and a fresh spin on the hero’s journey, A Wizard of Earthsea by Ursula K. Le Guin is a classic that I wouldn’t dream of ruining.

TRY THIS SERIES!

BY ELIZA

I love the series Bone by Jeff Smith. It’s the first graphic novel I ever read, and it hooked me. I now own all 9 books, plus a backstory. They’re about 3 little guys with big noses, named Bones. They’re all cousins and one, Phoney Bone, got them all kicked out of Boneville, the town where they live. They get lost and separated, and Fone Bone, the main character, finds this amazing valley with trees, plants, and streams, and it’s amazing compared to the desert. It’s about 2 minutes later when the winter hits, and Fone Bone has to find shelter. He builds a shelter, and becomes friends with the community. He’s trying to find some opossums he’s babysitting when he stumbles across some rat creatures, holding the baby opossums. He grabs the kids, runs away, and stumbles into a dragon. He scares off the rat creatures, and Fone Bone talks to him, and the dragon burns his head! He’s running to a stream, and before long he finds a girl, and she gives him better shelter. Her gran’ma comes home, with Phoney Bone! The girl, whose name is Thorn, takes them in, but Phoney runs away and ends up at a tavern where the last Bone, Smiley Bone, works! They all end up meeting up, and have to save the valley from a mysterious hooded one and her evil rat creatures. I totally suggest these books, and I’m going to go home and read the 3rd one again.
**KILL THE KING: FIRST SESSION KINDA THING**

**BY GEORGE**

So, let’s talk about this like D&D type thing I’m doing with friends :). It’s in Minecraft and the whole idea is that we all live in a town and one person is a king and the rest are citizens. The goal of the citizens is to kill the king for whatever reason, maybe the king like raised taxes or something. Anyways, I got to be the king who is allowed to make a new law every session. I also get access to a command that allows me to give me anything.

We did the first session recently and it went great! Kinda... I started off by telling everyone that there was going to be a feast in the castle and then started distributing money, like any good king! Well when the feast came, things kinda went downhill. Everyone kept talking whenever I would try to speak until I eventually freaked out and told everyone to be quiet. Immediately I decided to make everyone start paying taxes! Oh boy everyone loves taxes!

Hint: No one liked taxes.

Almost like no one paid taxes but those who did were not punished. Next thing I decided was a good idea was coupons! The reasoning was “What do people love more than freedom? Money!” Which y’know is sound logic. That was basically the end of it but currently the general public does not like me...

Hopefully next time I can be less controversial.

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**READ THIS!**: **DARK TALES**

**BY WILLOW**

Dark Tales by Shirley Jackson

Shirley Jackson has written numerous short stories and novels, including The Haunting of Hill House and “The Lottery.” Dark Tales is a collection of some of her best and most unsettling tales, from “What a Thought,” to “The Summer People.” Jackson focuses on the dark side of the human psyche, her supernatural stories acting as a metaphor to the inner evil of the average person.

I highly recommend this collection for any lover of horror and suspense, though people ages 13 and older might be more prepared to appreciate the subtly of Jackson’s writing. The violence is pretty minimal, the stories more focusing on slow-burn suspense and paranoia that spiral into a chilling twist at the end of each. In terms of sexual content, they are pretty much completely devoid of it, unlike current mainstream horror. But again, the general nature of her writing might be more suitable for older kids.

The plots are varying, from a homicidal maniac in the guise of a good-natured citizen to a runaway whose parents don’t even recognize her after three years. All, however, are laced with an underlying tension and leave your skin crawling.

Dark Tales is a sophisticated & dark collection of stories that will absorb your attention completely. After you finish them you might even be tempted to read another collection by Shirley Jackson. Due warning, however – by the end of the book, it might be you looking over your shoulder every time you walk home, wondering, is that man in the light hat following me?
On June 29, 2021, Kazuya joins the battle:
Up b to do devil wings.
Down b to do heaven’s door.
Rage drive is down b.
His final smash is finally blaster.
And for more information go to YouTube!

**MANGA-MANIA: BLUE PERIOD**  
**BY GRAILEY**

Blue Period is about the story of Yatora Yaguchi, who has this feeling of emptiness. When he is around his friends, he can’t figure out why they’re so excited about drinking and soccer. One day he’s out walking around the schools halls when he sees a picture of a Picasso painting called Blue Period. Then he starts flirting with the idea of doing art. Will Yatora start doing art? Is it going to become a hobby? Or is there too much pressure on him to follow what his friends are doing? You can watch this show on Netflix.

**SSB: PRO TIP**  
**BY CARTER**

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Rage drive is down b.
His final smash is finally blaster.
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**NOT POKEMON**  
**BY CARTER**

Funkemon is a very fun game! The funkemon are:
Ploplet  
Hothead  
Wooddog  
Electrikitty  
and more!
Okay so I don’t think this should be a controversial opinion I think there should be worldwide Tom Holland hate... maybe then we would finally accomplish world peace. Anyways, you want to know a guy I am like... morally opposed to? Thomas (I’m assuming he has a full name) Holland from Spider-Man and other stuff maybe. Does anyone actually know the other things that he is from? Was he in anything else? Did he simply spawn in the Spidey suit? So it’s the fact that I only know him as a Marvel actor and also I think the fact that everyone likes him is annoying. No I don’t have any hard facts against Tom Holland but I hate him so you should too for realsies. His mouth is shaped like he put a frog in there and held it in his cheeks like an insane frog-eating chipmunk. I’ve only heard his voice like once years ago because I haven’t watched any of the Spider-Man movies but I remember being viscerally enraged by his voice. So his voice sucks too. Additionally, so many people think he looks attractive but he looks like the head of a fifth grade boy Photoshopped on the body of a seventh grade boy. Whenever I see him after feeling the reflexive instinct to kill, I feel the need to help him with his addition homework. He needs to master long division. So that’s my take. He is like a tadpole that turned into a white guy. Never mind I found out that he is British. That explains everything none of what I wrote is his fault he was simply born that way. We’ve gotta save the city from Green Goblin or whatever innit. He’s like one of those boys from that episode of Gravity Falls where Mabel finds boy band musicians that were born in cryogenic tubes and are all clones of each other that were raised running on hamster wheels. Like Marvel CREATED him. Someone should set Tom Holland free... into the wilderness... where he belongs.

We asked library patrons who is the most overrated author. Here is the breakdown.
WATCH THIS!: LOKI
BY WILLOW

Loki is an entertaining and engrossing show, complete with time travel, magic, and interesting, multi-dimensional characters. I highly recommend it to anyone who has at least basic knowledge of the MCU (Marvel Cinematic Universe), and anyone who enjoys a good adventure through space and time.

The story begins after the events of Avengers: Endgame, when Loki steals the Tesseract and evades the Avengers in an alternate timeline. He soon finds himself in the captivity of the Time Variance Authority (TVA), a bureaucratic establishment that dedicates itself to maintaining the proper flow of time. Despite his motive to escape, Loki reluctantly teams up with a down-to-earth TVA agent to bring down a hostile version of himself. However, this variant is not who she seems, and Loki soon discovers that there is something nefarious going on. His hijinks lead him from apocalypses to offices as he faces off against a faceless antagonist more powerful than anything he’s ever seen. But as he begins to make connections, he realizes that maybe he is not destined only to lose, and that he might even be able to be happy.

Loki is an enjoyable story with good messages about empathy, forgiveness, and learning from your mistakes. If you like a show with action, plot, and plenty of mischief, this is for you.

KNIVES OUT? OUT WHERE?
BY GEORGE

God don’t you love murder? That’s in my top 12 favorite things! Well, let’s talk about a movie all about a murder, Knives Out! So the movie starts with a murder: the perfect way to start a murder mystery movie! So this old guy gets murdered and all his children get questioned by the police. They all hide details about the night and finally the dead guy’s assistant shows up. Apparently this woman is literally unable to lie. She literally throws up every time she lies.

Anyways this leads to a whole lot of shenanigans, with like dogs and Chris Evans, but they end up figuring out that... SPOILER ALERT!!! Chris Evans murdered the old man by changing out the medicine, but due to the old man being incredibly stupid he died!

Anyways Chris Evans goes to jail and everyone is happy. Except for literally all the other family members. They wanted money.

Let’s talk about why it’s good. The amount of twists and crazy things that came out of nowhere but just make complete sense. I loved how each character felt unique and I guess you could within reason understand why they wanted the inheritance. But at the same time you could see why they’re all major jerks. All in all the movie was one of my favorites and I think you should definitely give it a watch.
The Tell-Tale Heart

GEORGE B): HAVE YOU HEARD OF EDGAR ALLAN POE-M?
IZZY (^_ ^): I THINK I HAVE HEARD OF HIM AND HIS POEMS!
G: YEAH HE'S Got REALLY GOOD POEMS AND SHORT STORIES!
I: I WONDER WHAT KINDS OF REALLY GOOD POEMS AND SHORT STORIES HE HAD!
G: MURDER, THEY WERE MAINLY ABOUT MURDER.
I: THOSE POEMS AND SHORT STORIES SOUND PRETTY GOOD.
G: THE TELL-TALE HEART IS ONE OF MY FAVORITES BECAUSE IT'S KINDA FUNNY.
I: YEAH, THAT'S MY FAVORITE TOO. WHAT'S IT ABOUT, THOUGH?
G: WELL, IT STARTS WHEN AN OLD MAN LOSES HIS WIFE. THE ONLY GOOD START TO ANY STORY.
I: SO TRUE. BUT WHERE'D HE LOSE HER?
G: IT'S BEST IF WE DO NOT DISCUSS THAT.
I: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT, THEN?
G: HE HAS THIS SERVANT WHO MAY OR MAY NOT BE INSANE, THAT IS DEFINITELY STILL UP FOR DEBATE. THE OLD MAN IS BLIND IN ONE EYE AND THE SERVANT REALLY HATES THIS.
I: KINDA WEIRD OF HIM. BUT HE'S TOTALLY NORMAL ABOUT HOW MUCH HE HATES THIS GUY'S EYE, RIGHT?
G: YEAH, IF DECIDING TO MURDER THIS GUY BECAUSE YOU HATE HIS EYE IS NORMAL. WHICH COINCIDENTALLY HE DECIDES TO DO!
I: WOAH!
G: SO OUR FRIEND HERE, GOES INTO THE OLD MAN'S ROOM FOR 7 NIGHTS. EVERY NIGHT HE OPENS HIS LANTERN AND CHECKS FOR THE EYE. ON THE EIGHTH NIGHT THOUGH, YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT HE SEES.
I: OMG I WILL NEVER EVER GUESS.
G: THE EYE. "SUSPENSEFUL MUSIC HERE"
I: NOT REALLY SURE WHAT ELSE HE THOUGHT HE'D SEE IN THERE. BUT WHAT DID HE DO?
G: WHAT ANY REASONABLE PERSON WOULD DO, STAB THE OLD MAN. AT THIS POINT YOU'RE PROBABLY ASKING YOURSELF, "HOW DOES HE GET AWAY WITH IT?"
I: I'M ASSUMING THAT SINCE HE WAS SO SNEAKY ABOUT THE 7 NIGHTS THING HE GETS AWAY WITH ALL OF IT WITHOUT DOING ANYTHING STUPID AT ALL.
G: OF COURSE BECAUSE OUR NARRATOR IS REALLY SMART AND INTELLIGENT, WHICH HE DEMONSTRATES NEXT BY SHOVING THE BODY IN THE FLOORBOARDS!
I: WELL, KIND OF GOOFED THAT ONE UP.
G: WHEN THE POLICE ARRIVE THEY SURE DON'T THINK SO. THEY HARDLY NOTICE THE TERRIBLE SMELL! OUR GOOD PAL THE NARRATOR INVITES THEM IN FOR TEA AND PLACES HIS CHAIR RIGHT ON TOP OF THE FLOORBOARDS THE BODY WAS IN.
I: I GUESS HE WAS SO FOCUSED ON THE TEA THAT HE FORGOT ABOUT THE BODY HE HAD UNDER THE FLOOR.
G: I WOULD'VE. BUT AFTER ALL THIS TIME THE NARRATOR GOES A LITTLE OFF BRAND AND STARTS HEARING THINGS, EVENTUALLY LEADING TO HIM SHOWING THE POLICE THE BODY.
I: I WONDER IF THE POLICE WERE MAD THAT THEY DIDN'T GET TO FINISH THEIR TEA.
G: WELL, I'M SURE THEY IGNORED THE BODY UNTIL THEY FINISHED THE TEA. AFTER THAT EVERYONE LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.
I: EXCEPT FOR THE OLD MAN'S MISSING WIFE.
G: I WONDER WHERE SHE IS.
READ THIS!: THE INHERITANCE GAMES

BY GRAILEY

Do you wish to inherit forty-six billion dollars from a total stranger? Well, sixteen-year-old Avery Grambs does. A billionaire named Tobias Hawthorne disinherited his family for her. When she found out, she was surprised because neither she nor her sister/guardian know a Tobias Hawthorne. When the Hawthornes send Avery and her sister to Texas to read the will, she finds out that she has to stay at the Hawthorne house for a whole year before she can inherit the money and estate. But she and one of the Hawthorne brothers, Jameson, try and find out why she was chosen to inherit the money. The genre of this book by Jennifer Lynn Jones is mystery. I would recommend this book for kids ages 12 and up.

A-MAZE-ING!

BY CARTER

[Hand-drawn maze image]
Super Smash Bros. last DLC character is Sora!!!!!!!
Yep, Nintendo finally did it!!!!!
Sora is not a mod. Not a glitch. Not a leak. It really happened. Fighter 11 is actually sora and he brung some sweet moves, cool costumes, marvelous mii’s and one awesome stages!! I’l list it all down.

Sooooooo.... This happened

Yep................................................ that’s Pikachu dunking a electroball in a floating net........................................... Oddly this isn’t the weirdest thing I’ve ever seen.

Tabs full release
This is a game that I wrote about 1 ½ years ago, and at the point it was in early access.
But now it came out!!!!!!!!!!!!
Let me write down what changed since then......
- The official unit creator with 3 preset units to choose from!
- About 7-10 new secret units, 4 new factions, and 5 new maps!!
- New multiplayer 1v1 mode!!
- Cool achivements!!
And more coming soon!!!!!!!!! (I think???)
As Earth becomes more and more under the influence of global warming, strategies must be applied to keep it from spiraling into a matter out of our control. One of the things in development for the future is a hyperloop system. Planned to span all the way from San Francisco to Los Angeles, the hyperloop will revolutionize transportation as we now know it.

A hyperloop is a mode of transportation designed to get people to their destinations much faster and more efficiently than other forms. It consists of a pod being propelled through a steel tube at speeds of up to 750 MPH due to next to no air resistance. Essentially, a vacuum would be created inside of the tube allowing the pod to move through it without meeting friction from the atmosphere. The hyperloop could completely transform transport systems across the globe, as it allows the passengers to reach nearly airline speeds without leaving the ground- and for the price of taking the bus!

Besides the simple speed of the hyperloop, there are other advantages to it as well. Energy efficiency is another plus to this system, taking 90 – 95% less energy per passenger mile than cars, trains, or planes. If they get built, the carbon fiber-made pods would weigh less than one third of the passengers and luggage! The hyperloops would be suspended in midair by wind and solar-powered magnets, with a stabilizing center rail and braking system. There are even suggestions of LED powered virtual windows depicting outside scenery rather than the plain steel tubes!

Hyperloops should be integrated into all of our transportation systems. From speed to energy conservation to pure amazingness, they are a must for everyone. If they can be installed all over, along with other efficient forms of conveyance such as autonomous vehicles and high-speed rail, they can help the fight against climate change. The world will need every strategy for combating global warming that it has, and hyperloops will be an effective tool for helping the world toward a stable, habitable future.

WATCH THIS!: THE GREATEST SHOWMAN

BY ELIZA

The Greatest Showman is my favorite musical, I totally suggest it. The movie follows P. T. Barnum while he tries to survive on the streets after his father dies and he falls in love with a girl. Years later, they get married and have two daughters. Barnum tries to provide for the family by starting a circus of sorts, with all sorts of strange and different people in it. They create an act, and people from all over the world come to see it. He begins to rely on this famous singer Jenny Lind to appeal to a rich classy audience. It pays off, he starts to forget his family, and gets so rolled up in his newfound fame that his wife and daughters go back to his wife’s dad’s house. His circus building gets burned down by a mob and he remembers who he did the circus for. Please please please watch this movie so you can love it as much as I do.

HYPERLOOP ME IN...

BY WILLOW

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Hey guys, let’s talk about recent popular games. Among Us. This game created all the way back in 2018 has recently exploded in popularity this year! It all started when a couple popular Twitch streamers played this old (it’s not that old I don’t know why I said this) video game earlier this year. The game is about little astronauts, fixing up their spaceship/homebase/planet base and making sure everything is going well. Then there are the imposters which are a bunch of aliens that for some reason look like the funny bean people and love committing murder! The goal of the imposters is to kill most people before the crewmates complete their tasks. Recently though there was a new update! This was released 11/9/21 which was the day before I’m writing this. This new update adds a shapeshifter role which allows you to turn into another player and murder someone. Also a few others that make the game crazy and interesting which y’know gotta appreciate. The game is honestly really fun when you have a group of friends to play with and a great game despite the people who say its overrated. The Among Us memes though....

Let’s talk about stupid conspiracy theories, starting with the stupidest one of all, that the earth is flat. There’s literally no evidence of this. I looked across the internet for like 15 minutes and there was nothing. Wikipedia says this: “His primary aim was to reach children before they were convinced about a spherical Earth.” They wanted to just convince children the earth is flat, which honestly might’ve worked- have you seen how many flat earthers there are online? Another theory is that the moon landing was faked. ??????? “visible confusion”. Why would they, what would be the point?? They wanted to win the space race and I think since no one knows what the moon looks like if they did fake it, it would be really bad. The people who claim this actually do have some evidence but it can be easily disproved. They say things like, “Why are there no stars in the background of the footage?” “Where are the rovers and flags and other things left behind, why can’t I see them?” “The backgrounds are repeated!!!!” Shhhh, just shhhhh. The moon was facing the sun and was overly bright so they had to focus the camera and it got rid of the stars. They’re there, they landed in different places. It’s the moon, things are bound to be similar. In conclusion I’m pretty sure most people who believe conspiracy theories lack common sense and do not know to laterally read. Laterally reading is basically seeing an article and researching who made it, for what purpose, and how trusted they are.
TWO TO REVIEW

BY NORA

A Lesson in Vengeance & If We Were Villains

If you go online and look up reviews of these books, the most popular negative ones you find will probably say something like this: “This book is sooo stupid. Just another rip-off of The Secret History. smh.” and to be honest, these reviews will never fail to confuse me. It’s true that these books probably do take some influence from The Secret History, which I’ll admit I have not read, yet; it’s almost impossible to find a copy. The Secret History was the first in a subset of mystery books taking the pretentious teenage bookworm, known as Dark Academia (probably named after the TikTok aesthetic. I’d be angry about it if I didn’t absolutely love the atmosphere). Dark Academia is almost exactly what it sounds like- a murder mystery (sometimes with elements of the supernatural, sometimes verging on horror- point is it has to be dark) that takes place at a college or boarding school. The characters are usually pretentious and morally grey- at least one in every book is a murderer (and it’s usually the protagonist’s homoerotic best friend/love interest). Despite the fact that I have not read The Secret History, I can definitively say that while A Lesson in Vengeance & If We Were Villains belong in the Dark Academia subset, they are not The Secret History ripoffs because if they were both ripoffs, they’d have something in common besides the atmosphere. Which they don’t.

A Lesson in Vengeance takes place at Dalloway School for Girls and is narrated by our protagonist, Felicity Marrow. Felicity’s “best friend”, Alex, died at school last year and, as a result, she’s having a lot of issues- most of which stem from the fact that she accidentally killed her. Felicity believes that she’s haunted by multiple ghosts, the spirits of Alex and a vengeful witch she accidentally summoned the year before. Dalloway was the site of five murders back in the 1700’s and four of the victims were believed to be witches. Only one lived to be executed for her crimes though and it’s a common belief that she killed the others. This is the woman that Felicity summoned last year- but the ritual was interrupted, meaning that she’s still around. This year, however, Felicity is trying to forget all that, convinced by her therapists that magic doesn’t exist. That doesn’t really work though, as Felicity soon finds herself drawn to a new student at the school- Ellis Haley, a writer who’s new project focuses on the stories of the Dalloway witches. From here, things quickly go downhill.

If We Were Villains doesn’t focus on witchcraft, no, instead the teens in this novel are obsessed with something infinitely more horrifying- the work of William Shakespeare! (This is kind of a joke- Will Shakes is cool and all, but the people who are completely obsessed and worship him are... another breed.) The narrator of this story is Oliver Marks, a theatre student at Dellecher Classical Conservatory, where they exclusively study and perform Shakespeare. The core cast of this novel live, eat, sleep, and breathe Shakespeare- quite literally since the author writes them all as classic Shakespearean archetypes. Oliver and his friends are all in their fourth year at Dellecher, when the group of them has almost surpassed friendship and crossed into something codependent and twisted. Throughout the novel this bond is tested when they all find a member of their group dead, and of course, one of their own must be the culprit.

If either of these sound at all interesting, I’d suggest checking them out. As a somewhat-pretentious sort-of actor, the rituals at Dellecher speak to my soul. (I almost envy Oliver and Co. Almost. I’m not too far gone yet) A Lesson in Vengeance is spellbinding (Ha. Pun.)- the tension builds slowly but the climax had me screaming (not literally. I’m not too far gone. Yet.). So please, do yourself a favor and pick up at least one of these books. You (probably) won’t regret it.
A show I’ve really been getting into lately is Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance, a story that’s supposed to serve as a prequel to the hit Jim Henson movie of the 80s. If you aren’t well-versed in the complex universe of Jim Henson puppets, Dark Crystal is a fantasy movie much like the more popular Never-Ending Story and Labyrinth (yeah, that’s the one with David Bowie). In the original, an elf (called a Gelfling in the Dark Crystal universe) named Jen goes on a mythical quest to repair the Crystal of Truth, a giant gem that is the heart of their world, Thra. He enlists the help of another Gelfling named Kira, but at every turn they’re thwarted by the tyrannical evil that broke the Crystal of Truth in the first place, turning it into the Dark Crystal. That evil is manifested in the forms of giant vulture creatures called Skeksis, who hold an iron grip over the world of Thra while brutally annihilating anyone who objects. But that’s just the plot of the original. This story, and the general world, is fully explored and brought to true life in Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance, a story set in Thra that takes place years before the time of Jen and Kira. In this story, the race of Gelfling still thrive, although the rule of the immortal Skeksis continues to loom over their heads. Three revolutionaries- Deet, Rian, and Brea- join forces when they discover that the Skeksis have begun replenishing their own life forces by stealing the life essences of Gelfling, and transforming it into an edible liquid. So basically these puppets are committing mass murder/elf eating. Which is puppeted to be just as gross as it sounds. Their path to freedom becomes more and more rocky beneath their feet as casualties ensue, loyalties are broken, and families are thrown into chaos. As if their plates couldn’t get more full, a global spread of purple mist that destroys everything it touches called The Darkening starts to seep into their world. The animated and puppet-y performances contrasted with the darker and more serious themes of the show are morbidly compelling, and the celebrity-voiced Skeksis are as goofy as they are horrible. Outside of the Muppet movies, I hadn’t watched a lot of Jim Henson movies before Dark Crystal:AOR, and I definitely hadn’t seen the original film. However, this show still pulled me in even without any surrounding context, and if you’ve read this far, I’ll share with you my last opinion: the prequel is much better than the first movie. Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance is a total recommend if you like puppets, fantasy adventures like Lord of the Rings, or dramatic sagas like Game of Thrones (yes, really). And if you finish and are unsatisfied with the discontinuation of content (as I certainly was), read the Dark Crystal: Age of Resistance graphic novel series. A mystically compelling read for all the Henson-heads out there.

DON’T HAVE NETFLIX? REQUEST THE DARK CRYSTAL: AGE OF RESISTANCE GRAPHIC NOVEL SERIES AT THE LIBRARY!
“Good work, Catherine,” said Manny as she set down her satchel laden with bills on the desk in front of him. “Your work was clever, though it needed refinement.”

Cat tried to keep from scowling. “Refinement?” she said.

“Delayed-reaction poison would have been less noticeable,” he said. “Here.” He handed her a gold pen. “Use this in your next mission.”

She pushed it back into his hand. “I would have had to get close enough to him to slip in the poison. My way was less suspicious.”

“You’re quick, child,” he said, smiling. “But your brutality is terrible.”

She hated when he condescended to her. It made her want to hit him. But hitting the leader of the most powerful spy organization in the world probably wasn’t the greatest idea, and she wasn’t too keen on the punishment.

“I have a strong stomach is all,” she said. “I don’t shrink from the work that needs to be done, unlike some people. Has Ani returned from her assignment as well?” She didn’t want to keep discussing her strategies with this man. She despised Manny, in truth, but she knew better than to show it. He was the one who could give her higher-up jobs. “She’s going to the American Embassy in Russia. Why not send me instead? I’m smarter and faster than she is. I bet that I can deliver you the job in half the time she can.”

“You have no subtly,” he said, rolling his eyes. “Your time will come, Catherine. But you’re still young, and Ani has more experience.”

“Very well,” she said meekly, and he was instantly suspicious.

“What are you planning?” he said.

“Nothing,” she said delicately. “Why do you always assume that I’m planning something?”

“Because you always are,” he said.

She smiled at him. “Fair enough.”

Then she got up and left the room.

It took all of Cat’s willpower to stop her from throwing something. That imbecile Ani was getting all her jobs while she sat here! She needed to get out of this place. She could go to the Russians, she supposed. They would give her a job, at least.

But she knew that she wouldn’t. And Manny knew it too.

Damn him! She hated everything about him, from his satisfied face to his shrewd eyes to his carefully boring tie. And she couldn’t kill him either, because he gave her money, and she needed money. She knew that she was ruthless, and quite possibly had no moral compass, but what did she care? A successful person didn’t need a moral compass anyway.

Cat went home to her apartment, which APRAP paid for, and sat down on her couch. She put her feet up and stared at the ceiling with an expression that could have curdled a pan of fresh milk. Then, slowly, deliberately, she picked up a delicate glass paperweight on her coffee table and dashed it against the floor. It made a satisfying smashing sound. Then she got off her couch, just as deliberately, stepping lithely over the glass shards, and went to get a dusting pan. She swept the pieces of glass into the pan and dumped them in the garbage. She didn’t think about what might happen when the boy she hired came to take the trash out. She never thought about the boy at all.

Catherine would live to regret that.

STORY CONTINUES ON NEXT PAGE
When the boy came in, she was watching television. She had let down her hair and combed it back from her head, and long red waves cascaded down the side of the chair. From her carefully bored look, she could have been any teenager watching daytime television and ignoring her homework. The boy watched her and thought what a pity it was that he was going to kill such a pretty girl.

He didn't look at the garbage. She was a loose end, and they didn't need any loose ends. He cocked his gun.

Cat dove under the couch out of pure instinct. She had heard the cock of a gun and hadn't even paused to think. All of her training had taken hold of her, and it had saved her life.

The boy sighed and ran around the couch to end her.

But she wasn't crouched there, waiting to be killed, which actually surprised him. No one had warned him about who Catherine really was. He dropped to his knees and looked underneath slowly. There was no one there.

Then he felt a knife at his throat. “Don’t move,” she said.

He froze. “Drop the gun,” said Catherine.

“You wouldn’t hurt me – you’re just a girl,” he said breathlessly.

“Want to bet on it?” She pushed him backwards onto the carpet, knife still digging into his neck. “I’ve killed more people that you ever will, and don’t think I have any qualms about adding you to my list.”

He didn’t answer, and she grabbed him by the collar. “Who do you work for?”

He looked up at her and answered with as much dignity as he could muster giving his current position.

“APRAP forever.”

LOOK FOR THE CONTINUATION OF THE STORY IN OUR NEXT ISSUE!

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OK SO
CATS
AND
SOUP

They’re two amazing things, right?
Don’t answer that. I know I’m right.

Anyway so this game is on Android and iOS, and you just buy machines and cats to run them and they just like make soup and stuff.

I love it so much. It’s my only source of happiness.

Here are my cats so far -->
The Murder Most Unladylike Mysteries by Robin Stevens are a series of books about two young ladies with some very unusual talents – they solve murders. The books are perfect for fans of Agatha Christie and Sherlock Holmes, and are cleverly plotted with red herrings and vivid characters.

Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells are opposites – Daisy is outgoing and popular, and Hazel is quiet and studious. What they both have in common, however, is their passion for detection – and of course, their friendship. From boarding school to gloomy English manors to a Nile cruise, there are mysteries to solve wherever they go. They use their wits and persuasion to solve fiendish cases and save the world from nefarious criminals, all while navigating the equally perilous territory of teenage life.

The books are murder mysteries, so don’t be surprised to see some dead bodies and blood, but nothing is described in detail. As the girls go from age thirteen to fifteen, also expect some increase in romance, but beyond a few kisses and some flirting, there is little inappropriate material.

For anyone who decides to pursue this title, Daisy and Hazel will capture your heart and imagination. Every time you think you know who did it, Robin Stevens will throw you off balance and make you eagerly turn another page. If you’re looking for an entertaining book full of girl power and twisty plot, you should read this series.

(Note: I am discussing the British version of this series. Five of the books are out in the American version and are called the Wells and Wong Mysteries.)

EXPERIENCE KENMORE:
THE BENGAL GRILL

In this current day and age, venturing to the unknown (outside my house) is an instance that’s few and far between, and going out to eat is even farther. However, I have broken my the-same-three-restaurants loop to go to Bengal Grill, a Bangladeshi restaurant on Delaware Avenue. I got the tandoori chicken the first time I went, and it was incredibly delicious. The food at Bengal Grill is just that kind of food that makes you want to curl up on your couch with a blanket and a movie you love. Which was exactly what I was doing while I was eating it, actually (if you’re curious, the movie was Spirited Away). It’s definite comfort food, and the menu has enough variety to last for as many breakfasts, lunches, and dinners as your heart desires. I also got the milk tea, which was the milky cherry on top of the spicy chicken cake. Hm. I can’t decide whether that visual sounds good or not. But, to get back on track- if you’re looking for some amazing Bangladeshi food with tons of appetizing options, visit Bengal Grill today! Don’t wait, just get there as fast as you can! However fast you’re going, it’s not fast enough!
I read a lot of books last year. This one may be my favorite. The novel Vicious by V.E. Schwab chronicles the life and times of one Victor Alan Vale and his relationship with his former-best-friend-now-sworn-enemy Elliot “Eli” Cardale, or as he likes to be called, Eli Ever (I know, I know, I can hear you cringing) Victor and Eli were best friends and roommates (“wink wink”) in college but things quickly deteriorated after (SPOILERS- let’s just say it has to do with superpowers) and Victor ended up in jail. The novel picks up 15 years later, as Victor escapes (because what kind of novel would this be if he didn’t??), with his cellmate, Mitchell Turner in tow. And even though it’s been 15 years, Victor still has only one thing on his mind- Eli Ever and revenge. The novel follows him and his complete lack of mortality on this quest for vengeance and we watch as he draws people (and animals) into his orbit, including one Sydney Clarke, who Victor and Mitch find on the side of the road, after they’ve just broken out of prison and she’s just been shot. Sydney’s currently in conflict with her sister, Serena (who had her shot!), and when Victor and Mitch realize that Serena has allied herself with Victor’s precious Eli, they decide to let her stick around. (As a bargaining chip? Perhaps, yes, but also because she’s a thirteen year old recovering from a bullet wound. Also SPOILERS.) This novel is great. It’s told in alternating timelines, meaning we find ourselves flipping back and forth between the present day and Victor and Eli’s college years, which keeps the story moving at a nice pace. The prose is also excellent; I love Schwab’s writing style and the way she writes here creates a comic book-like atmosphere, even though there’s no pictures. It’s a vintage, pulpy superhero comic (think The Shadow. God, does anyone here get that reference?) that also manages to be completely dark academia. (In summary, almost everything I love.) Schwab also manages to create a fascinatingly complex group of characters, for while they may be absolutely heartless and deplorable people, they’re easy to sympathize with and even relate to. (Yes, even Eli and his terrible chosen name. Though much of his sympathique characterization doesn’t arrive until the second book.) I should probably say here, though I question your intelligence if you haven’t figured it out yet, but Vicious is an adult novel. Not because it has any S-E-X or anything but because of mature themes and violence. I’d say it’s good for mature teens. It also deals heavily with the topic of death, and while it’s not real, permanent death, all the main characters except Mitch have died, and death continues to be brought up, and I’ve heard that can be upsetting. So. Yeah. If you’re still here after my obligatory content warnings and you haven’t completely turned away from the concept of the novel, please, please read it. It’s amazing.
MAZE BUT THEY'RE RUNNING

BY GEORGE

Here at KLN we’re experts at mazes, impossible or no. The book, The Maze Runner tackles the question everyone has but never knew they wanted to ask, “What would happen if we take a ton of children, all around the ages of like 8-19, put them in a massive maze with a clearing and put dangerous monsters that show up in the maze at night.” So these kids have this one safe area called The Glade, and refer to themselves as The Gladers, easy right? The kids somehow managed to form a society and create jobs and leaders for the kids. The most important jobs are the ones that deal with food, running in the maze, and things like that. Anyways, the story progresses really well and while it moves kinda fast it seems really natural. I really enjoyed all the characters and finding out about the Glade. 10/10 would recommend.

I DON'T LIKE WORKING

BY OLIVE

Working sucks. But as a teenager, money does not suck. Money is something we don't get handed anymore unless its our birthdays or Easter or something stupid like that, because we're at that awkward age where we're too young to get a job and too old for our parents to cover our lavish expenses. But coming from a person who was literally hired on their birthday, don't get a job. The amount of toxic and unsettling experiences I had with not only the patrons but the management is immeasurable to any other life experience I've had so far. Some days it was difficult to justify going into work. I had little time for friends, I worked (over) what I was allowed to as a 14 year old, and didn't really get a lot of compensation. After I was fired for not working hard enough (I'm sorry I literally just worked the register and dealt with old creeps on meds, how did I not work hard enough) I was missing money from my final check. Overall, it was not a great experience, and I'd seriously suggest waiting until you can actually work ON the payroll and not deal with [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] bosses like the one I had to work for.
George

I'M WRITING PUNS NOW???
(HILL ME)

BY NORA

(Actually I found these all on the internet because I'm not funny.)

Why did Adele cross the road? To say hello from the other side.

What did the grape say when it got crushed? Nothing, it just let out a little wine.

To the guy who invented zero, thanks for nothing.

Can February March? No, but April May.

Need an ark to save two of every animal? I noah guy.

Why was Dumbo sad? He felt irrelephant.

I was wondering why the ball was getting bigger. Then it hit me.

What do you use to cut a Roman Emperor's hair? Caesars.

England doesn't have a kidney bank but it does have a Liverpool.

There was a kidnapping at school yesterday but don't worry, he woke up!

I asked a Frenchman if he plays video games. He said Wii.

READ THIS!: SPHERE

BY WILLOW

Sphere is a tense science fiction/thriller book written by Michael Crichton, the author of the well-known Jurassic Park. It may be his best work by far, a thrilling tale that delves a thousand feet into the ocean and explores aliens, time travel, and the terrors of the human mind.

When psychologist Norman Johnson flies to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean, he is expecting to be dealing with a plane crash. He doesn't expect to be dealing with an old research project about extraterrestrial life, which he gave up years ago. After all, there are more important things to worry about than alien invasion. But it turns out that the problem is more immediate than he had anticipated. The “plane” is actually a spaceship of unknown origin, and he is being sent down into the water to investigate the crash site. Staying in a pressurized environment on the ocean floor, Norman is joined by fellow scientists Theodore Fielding, Elizabeth Halpern, and Harold J. Adams. But they are not prepared for what they find when they open the door to the ship. What follows is a chain of events beyond anything they could have anticipated, and as the story explodes into its conclusion, the characters must face not only unknown forces, but the darkness of their own minds.

For anyone who is looking for a page-turner complete with aliens and a tightly-knit plot, you should find this book immediately. However, you might find that you neglect all other responsibilities just to finish it. Take some good advice and carve out a few hours in which to explore the unknown in peace.