

# KLN ZINE



THE KENMORE LIBRARY NEWS FOR YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY LOVERS!

## CHECK THIS OUT!

BY IZZY



**The Earth, My Butt  
and other Big Round Things**  
by Carolyn Mackler

Even in the upper class paradise of New York City, preteen Virginia Shreves has been dealt a rough hand. Her weight issues wear on her self-esteem as she's constantly measured up to her image-obsessed parents and successful siblings Byron and Anais, who seem as flawless on the inside as they are in appearance. Her best and only friend Shannon has moved away, leaving her alone to fend for herself in a judgy and prestigious private school. And, of course, she's having problems in love- the boy she's been fooling around with after school, a kid tragically named Froggy Welsh the 4th, ignores her in public, confirming her fears that her weight deems her socially intolerable. But when the integrity of her picture-perfect family comes into question, Virginia's forced to face the truth about herself, her beliefs, and her loyalties. *The Earth, My Butt, and Other Big Round Things* is a kind, witty, and surprisingly insightful spin on the feel-good YA genre.



ARTWORK BY FIONA

## WELCOME!

BY GEORGE



Well, well, well, looks like you picked up another issue of the Kenmore Library News!

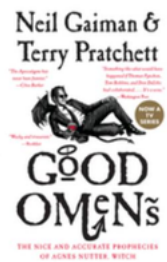
I bet you're wondering what you're getting yourself into right? Well, let me tell you! Since we've just gone through "Spooky Month," there are tons of horror-themed articles. For example, there are reviews on Stephen King books, *Only Murders in the Building*, the movie *Friday*, and a school word search 🧐! This issue is action-packed full of amazing content, so make sure to read all the way through!

# ***SUPERNATURAL FUN***

BY WILLOW

## **Good Omens**

by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman



Clever and irreverent, *Good Omens* is a hilarious novel full of surprises. Though the middle drags slightly when the spotlight is taken off the dynamic leads, the book is overall excellently written and extremely, extremely funny. With a cast of singularly quirky characters, an impending apocalypse, and a flaming car, it makes for a delightful read that will keep you engaged from beginning to end.

The Rapture is almost here, and the legions of Heaven and Hell are preparing for the ultimate battle. Everything would be going according to the Ineffable Plan, except that one angel and one demon aren't especially looking forward to the apocalypse. In fact, they are actually bent on stopping it. Defying the armies of both Good and Evil, the unlikely duo set off to feed some ducks, influence the Antichrist, and prevent the end of the world that they've both grown to care for.

Among its many strengths, one of the best is the chemistry between Aziraphale and Crowley (angel and demon respectively). Whether you read their relationship as platonic or romantic, there's no denying that the novel is best when both of them are in the same room. Whenever they are separated, the story loses a little of its flair--though the supporting characters are still relatively strong, none of them are as sheerly enjoyable as Crowley or Aziraphale. Whether the pair are debating existence itself or just snarking at each other over a bottle of wine, their interactions make for some of the funniest and most touching moments of the entire book.

Overall, *Good Omens* is supernatural comedy at its best. Though by no means perfect, its relentless humor and scene-stealing protagonists still make it a marvelously entertaining piece of fiction.

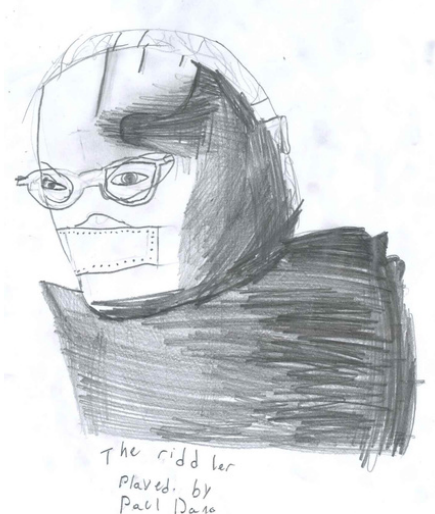
# ***WATCH IT: THE BATMAN (2022)***

BY SIMON



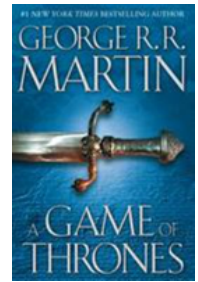
The *Batman* was a very interesting take on a beloved comic book character.

It was a very dark movie, pushing its PG-13 rating. Directed by Matt Reeves, *Batman*/Bruce Wayne was played by Robert Pattinson and the Riddler/Edward Nashton was played by Paul Dano. The plot consisted of (SPOILER WARNING) the Riddler trying to kill corrupted government workers in Gotham while leaving puzzles for *Batman* to lead him to the Riddler. Some of the other characters were Commissioner Gordon played by Jeffery Wright and Zoe Kravitz as Catwoman. There was also Andy Serkis as Alfred and Colin Farrell as the Penguin. The movie grossed \$770.8 million at the Box Office and got a score of 85% on Rotten Tomatoes. I would rate this movie a 4.5 stars out of 5 and would definitely recommend. This movie was confirmed a sequel from Warner Brothers and a Penguin spinoff series.



# **EXCELLENT DARK FIRST BOOK TO THE FAMOUS FANTASY EPIC**

**BY WILLOW**



**Game of Thrones is an excellent, addictive fantasy novel, combining both the deadly serious and darkly comedic. Its rich world-building, multi-faceted and morally gray characters, and intricate plot make it one of the best of the genre. (And honestly, who can resist the giant wolves?)**

**The book is centered around the conflicts within a Medieval Europe-type fantasy world, a time and place that George R.R. Martin obviously has researched extensively. The atmosphere feels very convincing and vivid, based enough on reality to feel grounded and imaginary enough to be original. The author knows every history, house and mythology of Westeros intimately and his precision shows--from wolves named after warrior queens to the crypts of the ancient Kings of Winter.**

**The characters, too, are delightfully fleshed out. Tyrion Lannister is a witty, secretly scarred individual whose status as a dwarf and his father's constant disapproval has instilled a deep-set inferiority complex within him. Fierce, defiant, nine-year-old Arya loves sword fighting and despises her duties as a lady. Jon is the illegitimate son of honorable Eddard Stark, and he suffers taunts and downright dislike from the highborn people around him. And Daenerys Targaryen's transformation from scared, oppressed little girl to Mother of Dragons is downright brilliant.**

**And of course, the plotting must be addressed. In fantasy, authors often prioritize impressive descriptive paragraphs over story, but here it is not the case. Game of Thrones is a family drama, a political thriller, and a mystery, even containing elements of spine-chilling horror. Ned's search for Jon Arren's killer, Arya and Sansa's sisterly squabbles, the Lannisters' schemes, and a looming threat beyond the realm's protective wall all keep the reader turning pages and waiting to see what happens next.**

**Overall, this book is captivating. Satisfying character building, a compelling plot and stunning setting make it a story you will not soon forget.**

# **K-POP DRAMA**

**BY CJ**

**Why, God, why is BTS on the rampage?**

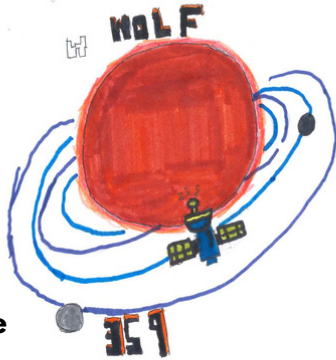
**In 2021 and 2022 BTS sang in the THE GRAMMYS TWO TIMES IN A ROW! And for someone who is writing a hate article it is impressive that they got in it again, but that is not the point. The point that you need to know is that BTS was so quiet for so long that I kind of was sad, but now I don't want to hear their voices again. I am kind of thankful that it's wearing off, my friend, but then when you don't expect it they will make you scream. I think you watched Turning Red (from our last issue), but take a look at Jimin and then look at Tae Young. They look the same and they are so young.**

# PODCAST PAGE

## WOLF 359

BY IZZY

Science fiction, cosmic horror, and enthusiastic comedy with a tinge of pop culture references... and complex, intriguing character writing on top of it all? You may be asking, Izzy, what book, movie, or TV show are you talking about now? Actually, I'm beginning an experienced recommendation (I've listened to it twice) for you to listen to Wolf 359, a science fiction/comedy story podcast about three astronauts living in a space station orbiting the aforementioned red dwarf star. The story is told from the perspective of Doug Eiffel, the station's inattentive Communications Officer, who mostly uses his official voice logs to complain about his job when he isn't narrating a galactic-scale misadventure. Along with his straight-laced boss, Commander Minkowski, the eccentric scientist Dr. Hilbert, and the station's sharp-witted AI unit, Hera, Eiffel navigates a world of limited resources, conflicting opinions, the occasional giant sentient plant monster living in the walls, and universes beyond. I enjoyed this podcast for a lot of reasons (if you couldn't tell by the overwhelming majority of what I write, I'm a big sci-fi fan), but my two favorite aspects of this show are the incredible, tangible voice acting, and the subversive, creative character writing. Almost every science fiction or space drama trope you can think of is explored and carried to its logical (and oftentimes hilarious) extreme. Mad scientists, aliens, monsters and more, this show is a great introduction to podcast fiction.



## MABEL

BY IZZY

While some audio dramas thrive within extravagant settings and fantastical characters, like many other narratives, some podcasts demonstrate their best work when focusing upon the mundane. The Mabel podcast is told through the cluttered voicemail inbox of Mabel Martin, who receives a string of messages from her estranged grandmother's hired caregiver, Anna Limon, asking for information. As we learn from each message, Anna has been finding mysterious clues placed in peculiar places around the house. Marbles hidden inside old dolls, stacks of strangely unopened letters all addressed from the same person, poetry written by a familiar yet unidentifiable hand. As she wraps herself further into the Martin family mystery, Anna's voice messages to the near-mythical Mabel Martin forms an intricate friendship in itself, as they both struggle to come out of the house's enigmatic imprisonment alive. Mabel is a beautifully written podcast with creative dialogue, a soothing tone, and best of all, a jazzy soundtrack.





# THE LOCKED TOMB SERIES

BY IZZY



Image: <https://www.amazon.com/>

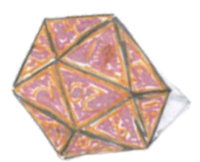
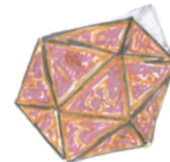
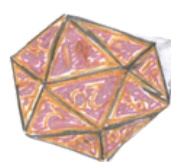
Do you like science fiction? Are you interested in stories involving necromancy? And last, but never least, do you enjoy themes of political intrigue, a critical analysis of how religion can be used to enforce control, and ornately written memes deader than the skeletons that the main characters routinely bring back to life? If so, I would absolutely recommend The Locked Tomb series.

The first book, *Gideon the Ninth*, follows an indentured servant to the death cult of the Ninth House, Gideon Nav, whose main objective is to escape the cult's withered clutches by evading its leading priestess, the sinister necromancer Harrowhark Nonagesimus. Who also happens to be a teenager like Gideon, and who has known and mutually hated her since childhood.

So when Harrow offers Gideon the opportunity of escape, Gideon reluctantly takes her chances, and gets a promotion to be Harrowhark's cavalier (basically her bodyguard) while she travels to the First House to undergo the Lyctor Trials alongside the leading necromancers from the eight other Houses. And if you thought that wasn't chock-full of lore already, the true meanings behind the Houses, the Lyctor Trials, and even necromancy itself are unraveled along with a competition-turned-multiple murder mystery.

Finally, if you end up finishing *Gideon the Ninth* and are desperate for more (and I definitely wouldn't blame you), *Harrow the Ninth* is the second book in the series, focusing on Harrowhark's perspective.

Personally, I loved the way this book could pull you into the gloomy, acrid depths of the Ninth House or the halls of the mysteriously grandiose First House with just a few sentences, and make you feel wrapped up in the internal or external conflicts of the protagonists. And although Gideon and Harrow are exact opposites of each other, with Gideon's crude humor and Harrow's grim intensity, their dynamic is undeniably compelling, and brings out the best in both of them.



BY NEIL

ILLUSTRATED BY SIMON

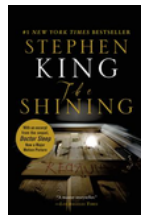
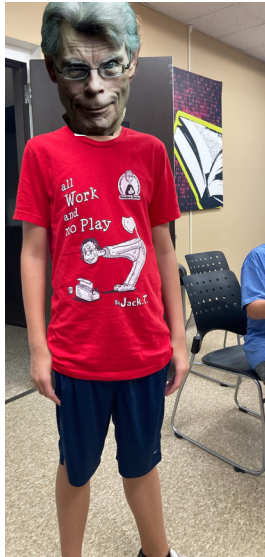
In 1974, *Dungeons & Dragons* was published by TSR, and created by Ernest Gygax and David Arneson. At first people speculated that D&D was what was causing multiple accounts of murder and suicide but really, it is just a fun role-playing game that many people enjoyed playing. In the Netflix original *Stranger Things*, D&D is thought to be a cult, and some people even tried attacking the leader.

In real life, *Dungeons & Dragons* has grown during lockdown as a thing to do online, on a table, or just in your head. It has a variety of rules, and has many ways to be played. You can customize your character and abilities, then battle monsters and enemies to claim your prize of gold and experience.

If you enjoy Role Playing Games, and have a passion for adventure, you should play *Dungeons & Dragons*.

# STEPHEN KING KRAZY

BY SIMON



Stephen King's writing style is very gory and he writes mostly horror books. Some of his more popular books are It, The Shining, Pet Sematary, Cujo, The Body (Stand By Me), and Salem's Lot. All of these books are bestsellers and he is a really great author.

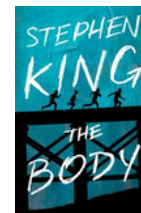
The Shining is about the Torrance family, who go to the Overlook Hotel in Colorado because Jack Torrance is the caretaker. Over the course of the winter, Jack starts going insane and by the end (SPOILER ALERT) Jack tries to kill his family.



Cujo is about a family that goes to get their car fixed and meets a Saint Bernard. Later when the mother and child go back a couple days later, the dog has rabies and went crazy, trapping her and her kid in her car.



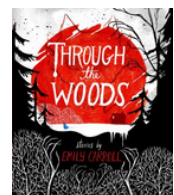
Pet Sematary is about a man named Louis who moved to a house next to a highway and his kid is hit by a truck. He buries him in a pet cemetery and it brings him back to life.



The Body is a book about a group of 4 four kids who look for a missing and presumed dead kid before a local gang gets there first and has a lot of adventures along the way. It was adapted into one the most iconic Stephen king movies, "Stand By Me." The four main characters, Gordie, Teddy, Chris, and Vern end up finding it and meet the gang there. What makes this book good is that there is a sad ending and the hardships of the characters is for nothing.

## GRAB A GRAPHIC NOVEL: THROUGH THE WOODS

BY IZZY



Have you ever been gripped by primal terror, standing at the edge of a dark precipice, looking into the indiscernible void, staring into eyes that are unmistakably your own, save for a sharp glint in the other's gaze? Would you like to be? Immerse yourself in a world of jilted ex-wives come back from the grave, mysterious beasts from forests unknown, and other spooky manifestations, in the vibrant graphic novel Through the Woods. Each page illustrates haunting tales with bright, eye-catching colors against backgrounds shrouded in darkness. This graphic novel surprised me at every turn, and almost every ending kept me wondering. My favorite story of all of these, and arguably the best one, is "The Nesting Place."

# School 🧐



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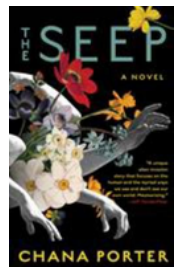
**BACK TO IT...**

**BY GEORGE**  
ILLUSTRATED BY IZZY

Classroom	Homework	Teacher	Pens
Student	Friends	English	Math
Science	History	Pencil	
Tests	Books	Lunch	
Notes			

## **CHANA PORTER'S THE SEEP**

**BY IZZY**



What if the Earth was overtaken by ethereal extraterrestrial beings with strange powers outside of human comprehension? What if, through this alien invasion, humans were given the ability to live out their wildest dreams, and the planet could finally be rid of worldly conflict and pollution? What if immortality, rebirth, and complete transformation were only a decision away? This concept is explored insightfully, realistically, and beautifully by Chana Porter in her sci-fi book *The Seep*. As Trina Goldberg-Oneka tries to navigate a life without the companionship of her wife, Deeba (who decided to become reborn as a baby halfway into their marriage), she's forced to grapple with the hazards and merits of living in an ever-changing world. An intriguing read for anyone with a penchant for the weirder aspects of science fiction.

# ***STREAM THIS!: ONLY MURDERS IN THE BUILDING***

BY GEORGE

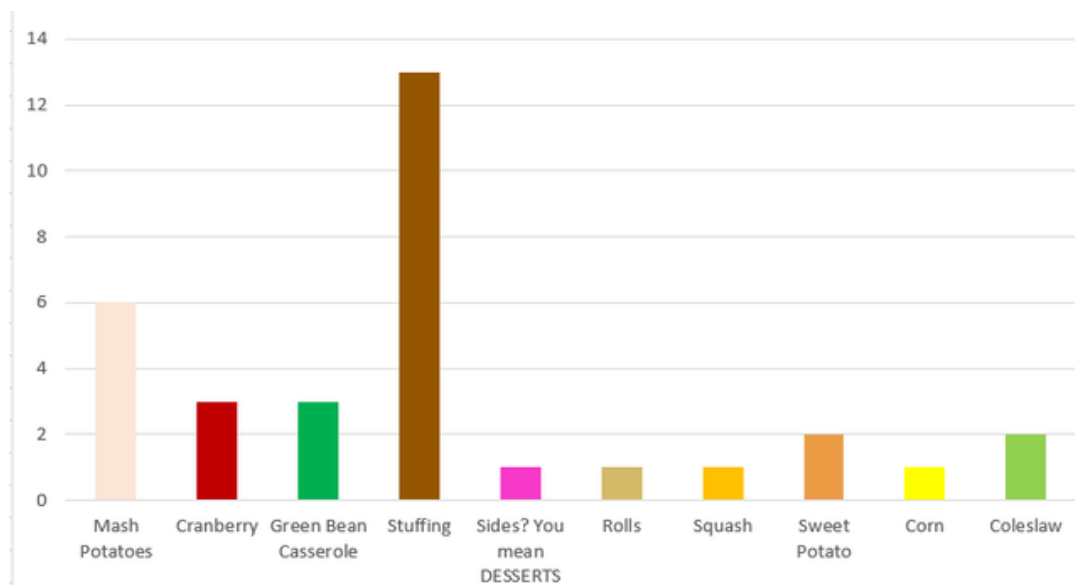
Do you enjoy murder? I sure do! Only Murders in the Building is an original show that premiered on Hulu every Tuesday and currently has two seasons out. The main cast are all extremely interesting and continuously keep you engaged. As the title states, there does happen to be a murder, in the building. This leads the main characters to all meet and eventually work together to solve the case. The main cast consists of Mabel Mora, a young woman in the building to remodel her aunt's apartment; Charles-Haden Savage, an older man who was once a famous actor in a show called "Brazzos;" and Oliver Putnam, a director who has fallen off. If you're into murder mysteries and enjoy trying to figure it out along with the cast, I would completely recommend this show. Every twist they bring forward is unexpected and keeps you guessing. Definitely give it a watch! This show is intended for mature audiences though, so keep that in mind while watching.



**So what's your favorite THANKSGIVING dinner side?  
Here's how library patrons voted!!!**

**POLL-A-RAMA**

BY KLN STAFF





# ***OPINION: VIDEO GAMES ARE A GREAT FORM OF ART***

**BY GEORGE**

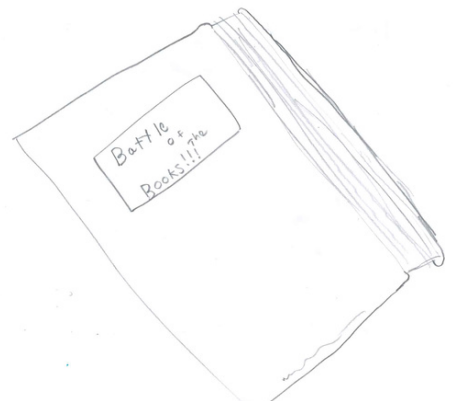
Hello! 'Tis me again, back at it again with another opinion. Let's start by saying, I love art. Music, paintings, sculptures, etc. (I ran out of types of art that I know off the top of my head). Recently, I remember (maybe) reading an article about how some people consider video games not an art form. I disagree with this fully. First of all, recent video games have looked extremely beautiful. The graphics of games have improved immensely since the days of the first Mario. For example, a recent game called Stray. In Stray, you play as a cat and get to live out your dreams of being a feline friend. The graphics look amazing and realistic, the outside world looks bright and happy, while the underground area looks dark and gloomy in stark contrast. Before I ramble too much about graphics and things, let's move on to music and sound design. One of my favorite games with fantastic music has got to be Undertale. Now listen, I'm sure anyone reading this has heard about Undertale and everything else that goes along with it, but it's soundtrack is stellar! When traversing the overworld, the music perfectly conveys everything, the mystical feelings of the ruins, the calmness of Snowden, the intensity of Hotland, and especially when you enter a boss fight. The music is majestic in the way it conveys the intensity. Another honorable mention that does this pretty well is Pokemon too. Finally, the story of these games are better than some of the books I've personally read. The two games that come to mind when I think of amazing stories are Spider-man PS4 and Red Dead Redemption 2. Spider-man PS4 is particularly good as it feels like a classic Spidey story from the comics. Red Dead Redemption 2 is a game made for older audiences but I can recommend its story as you get attached to the main character and want to root for him. It is a tear jerker though, so play with caution! In conclusion, video games combine three different forms of art into a perfect conglomerate of music, graphics and story that more people should respect.

## ***JOIN THIS! (NEXT SUMMER)***

**BY SIMON**

### **Battle of the Books**

Battle of the Books takes place over the summer and you read four books over the summer and at the end answer trivia questions and **DEFEAT THE ENEMIES!!** Many different libraries compete for a chance to win. I would totally recommend anyone who is interested in books and trivia!



# GEORGE, IZZY, AND NORA RUIN THE CLASSICS: HARRY POTTER



BY SEE ABOVE

I: Hi everyone. Remember that edition we did a few years ago dedicated to Harry Potter and how great and well-written it was to the point where we actually sent a letter to the author herself? Remember that one, gang? LOL.

G: I'm sorry, you what????

N: Yep, we did. I was there. I guess this article is one long winded, goofy way of saying that, in light of recent events, we at KLN no longer support J.K. Rowling and her piece of wizard fiction, Harry Potter.

I: More like Harry POOPER lol. I'm fitting that joke everywhere who even cares. Anyway JK Rowling cringe, her transphobia was one of the most massive fails of YA literature. IF YOU CAN EVEN CALL IT LITERATURE. #URSULAKLEGUINGANG FOR LIFE!

G: J.K. Rowling created a seven-book series about a child and this singular guy who can, for whatever reason, just mess up a whole society of people with things way stronger than guns. Like this child isn't even that strong and for whatever reason literally NO ONE CAN KILL HIM!!!!

I: Okay so for some reason we are deciding that the child wizards at Hogwarts were actually open carrying the whole time. But yeah, Harry Potter was so lame like what's the point if he can't die or whatever??? Guy couldn't hold a wizard stick to Percy Jackson or Ged from Earthsea (read Earthsea it's literally the same series but a million times better).

G: I think it's really crazy how everyone just fawns over Harry in the first book. Like yeah, Voldemort is gone because of Harry (not even that though) and he's the "boy who lived" but like he didn't do anything?? Harry was literally like a few months old, how did he stop Voldemort. Also did no one think to investigate the situation or...??

N: I think everyone just heard Dumbledore say Voldemort was gone and just assumed that he was right, cause he's Dumbledore, and totally didn't have a completely 100% not added in at the last second gay relationship with the leader of the wizard Third Reich.

I: What. What even goes on in Harry Potter. Why are we still letting JK Rowling write things. But all of the terrible plot aside, the book isn't even good, like, conceptually. Dividing the classes between wizards and muggles while making the latter out to be super ignorant and inferior is a pretty obvious case of subtle racism, and her antisemitism is everywhere (there are literally sneaky goblin bankers like c'mon.). Plus, Dumbledore is one of thousands of crazy dumb names, like her naming process is BIZARRE.

N: Remember when she named the only black guy in the book Kingsley Shacklebolt??? That was... a choice. Plus, writing isn't even good on a technical level. We've all seen the infamous line "'Snake! e\*#@\*#@\*ed Slughorn'." (Look it up to see the full quote.)

G: Despite all these terrible writing choices, there are tons of characters that simply just aren't memorable in any sense (see the wizard of Third Reich). I literally had to look this character up on the Wiki and saw so many characters that I have literally no recollection of in the books. Granted I only have read the original seven and have not cared to see the recent movies either.

I: Exactly, at this point JK's just making up guys for sport. Obviously, a lot of this would be okaaaaay but she's gotten a bang for her buck with all of the merchandising/theme parks/concerts/one time I saw a museum exhibit based on Harry Potter and I was so confused. Like what scientific facts can kids learn from Harry Potter??? But anyways. It's a little bit too much for a book series that's painfully mid.

G: There ain't no way people made a museum based on Harry Potter, that's genuinely insane....

I: Also, like Tom Holland, she's British, which (once again) puts a lot of this into perspective. Especially the horrible typing disasters such as the one quoted above. I get that it's a different vocabulary but literally HOW. My takeaway from all of this is

G: And this is why we don't let Izzy do the last line

# THOR-OUGHLY ENJOYABLE!

BY WILLOW  
ILLUSTRATED BY IZZY



## Thor: Love and Thunder

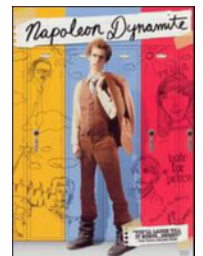
Thor: Love and Thunder is a hilarious yet thoughtful continuation of the God of Thunder's adventures, full of stunning visuals and side-splitting comedy. Though the absence of some of Thor's normal companions is glaring, it still manages to be immensely entertaining, continuing with the same style and humor of Ragnarok. Fans will not be disappointed with this movie, which contains a multi-faceted villain, intense fight scenes, and...screaming goats?

There are many things to love about this newest installment. Firstly, the art direction is utterly jaw-dropping. The sets are spectacular yet contrasting--first an eye-popping array of bright, vivid colors in the first few acts, then a long sequence shot in stark black and white. The emotional scope of the story is similar to the cinematography, ranging from complete hilarity to a darker, more somber tone (especially later in the movie). And the characters are extremely strong as well - Christian Bale's Gorr is relatable yet terrifying, with his psychotic, black-toothed smile and complicated motivations. Though his status as a villain is undeniable, he still manages to evoke sympathy and compassion. In addition, Jane Foster's character is much improved by her transformation into the Mighty Thor, removing her from the "damsel in distress" stereotype and allowing her to become more of a character.

There are still some flaws, however. Valkyrie is one of the best characters in the whole thing, yet one can't help but feel she's not utilized to her full potential. The king of a New Asgard that's being rapidly materialized, Val doesn't seem too happy with the way things are going, but that aspect of her character is never explored in any depth. She gets a few battle sequences - along with some touching dialogue between her and Jane--yet still seems sidelined in the grander scheme of things. And then there are the characters who are omitted completely--namely Thor's brother Loki, with his magical abilities and seemingly endless supply of quips. Without the two brothers' dynamic chemistry, along with Loki's distinctive sardonic witticisms, there's something conspicuously lacking in the story. (We can only hope that some future installment will reunite the duo...) But despite its flaws, Love and Thunder is still incredibly enjoyable, and a worthy continuation of Thor's journey.

## RETRO WATCH: NAPOLEON DYNAMITE

BY SIMON



Napoleon Dynamite was directed by Jared Hess. It follows Napoleon Dynamite (John Heder) who meets a kid named Pedro (Efren Ramirez). Pedro wants to run for class president while Napoleon deals with his absurd Uncle Rico (John Gries) and Napoleon's brother Kip (Aaron Ruell).

I enjoy this movie because it is a hilariously awkward movie and is full of one-offs. I hope you enjoy this movie!

# **STREAM THIS: THE SCHOOL NURSE FILES**

**BY GRAILEY**

This show is interesting but it's hard to understand when I watch it and no, it's not because it's in Korean (my Korean has gotten better) but at times the storyline can be pretty bland. So I'll tell you what this show is about and then I'll tell you what I think about it. The School Nurse Files is about a school nurse named Ahn Eun-young that has superpowers where she can see jellies that are invisible to normal people. The school that Ahn Eun-young works at discovers disturbing things at the school and has to solve the mysteries. So, I had a hard time trying to write what it's about because the show was kind of confusing to me. My thoughts about this show are pretty mixed. I liked it at times and then I didn't because I couldn't really understand what was happening. Like one moment nobody knew that the school nurse has powers and now everybody knows and is onboard about it. How do you find out that somebody can see invisible creatures and be like "that's totally normal" and "I totally don't think you're crazy?" The only reason I continued to watch the show was because I thought the male lead Nam Joo-hyuk was cute but other than that I thought the show was weird. Overall I would recommend this K-drama if you like weird things or the actor Nam Joo-hyuk.



Image: [www.netflix.com](http://www.netflix.com)

# **READ THIS: IRON WIDOW**

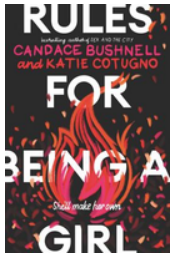
**BY IZZY**



Since even before Pacific Rim came out, the science fiction trope of alien-killing mechas powered by the interpersonal bonds between people has been, to be frank, a thoroughly awesome concept. But this idea is elevated within the lens of Chinese culture, gender equality, and the points where those two things intersect. Iron Widow tells the story of Wu Zetian, a girl whose family volunteered her to help pilot Chrysalises, giant mechs that protect the city of Huaxia from insect-like alien invaders. Unfortunately, this honor is undercut by the true intentions behind the female pilot position: to provide a source of energy that the partnering male pilot can drain, ultimately ending in the girl's death in the name of a successful battle. But fortunately still, Zetian isn't planning on becoming just another statistic. She conspires to murder the famous male pilot who killed her sister, and she'll do anything to exact her revenge. I liked this book for its creative spin on the classic Pacific Rim archetype, and Zetian's shameless vengeance makes her an intriguing and refreshing female protagonist. However, I did consider the book's gender politics to feel a little flat, and the plot often mocks the same disadvantaged women the story's message pledges to liberate.

# MUST READ: RULES FOR BEING A GIRL

BY WILLOW



Sharp and feminist, *Rules for Being a Girl* is an essential and relevant read. It deals with tough topics like sexual harassment, victim blaming, and the casual misogyny still pervasive in our society today. It's a story of a girl who learns how to trust her instincts, stand up for herself, and become the person she wants to be.

Marin has never been one for going against the grain. In the minefield of high school life, she's always thought that fitting in is the easier choice – the safer choice. But after her English teacher “Bex” kisses her without her consent, her life is thrust into upheaval. Marin wonders if she led him on. Is it her fault it happened? But shock and shame turn to rage when the school refuses to believe her testimony, while her friends turn their backs on her. Fueled by anger and a desire for change, Marin starts a feminist book club and meets new allies, all of them motivated by a longing for justice. She even starts to fall for a cute boy, one who appreciates her for exactly who she is.

This story is empowering and important, yet also entertaining as a portrait of high school romance. Readers can't help but root for Marin as she defies the sexism around her, while struggling emotionally with impending adulthood and the deterioration of her beloved grandmother. Her fight with victim blaming and shame is realistic and relatable, showing how our system blames women for their trauma inflicted upon them rather than the men that perpetrate it. Will societal pressure silence Marin's words, or can she defy the patriarchy and prove that girls make their own rules?

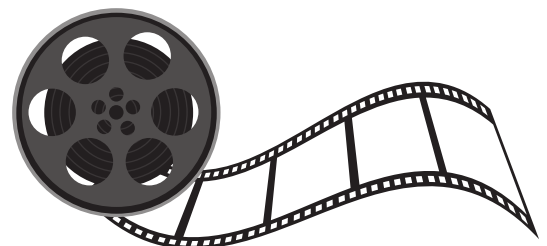
# RETRO WATCH: FRIDAY

BY GRAILEY



**DISCLAIMER: THIS MOVIE IS  
RECOMMENDED FOR AGES 17 AND UP**

This movie is one of the funniest movies of the 90s in my opinion. It has a very funny plot, and the characters are amazing. It also has a very good lesson to it. So this movie is about these characters named Craig (Ice Cube) and Smokey (Chris Tucker) who live in LA and who spend their Friday smoking on Craig's front porch all day until Big Worm, the neighborhood dealer, finds out that they're smoking his stash--now they until 10 PM to give him \$200, and that's when all the action unfolds. You are going to have to watch the movie to find out what happens next. My favorite part in this movie is when Smokey and Craig say “Dammmmmmn” when they saw Red's face after what Deebo did to him. Also, if you have uptight parents I wouldn't recommend you watch it in front of them or even tell them that you watched it. I give this movie a 9/10. I like the last one better. You can watch this movie on Netflix, YouTube, or you can rent it from the library





# **READ A CLASSIC:** **JANE EYRE**

**BY WILLOW**



One of the most famous examples of the “gothic romance” genre, *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë is a timeless classic. The Victorian setting is dark and unnerving, while the romance is immersive, and the characters are vivid and relatable. Though it manages to be astonishingly feminist for its time period,

*Jane Eyre* is artistic, intelligent, and resourceful, but her life has been filled with tragedy and misfortune. She was orphaned as a young child, sent to live with relatives that cared nothing about her, and shipped off to boarding school shortly after. But now that she is an autonomous adult, she puts an ad in the paper for a position as a governess, hoping to escape the literal and figurative ghosts of her past. When she is asked to work at a large mansion for a good pay, she thinks that she has at last found a place for herself. But when she begins to fall for her employer, the reclusive and mysterious Mr. Rochester, all her notions about the world are turned upside down. For within the dark halls and locked rooms of Thornfield Hall, dark secrets lurk in the shadows.

Most of the book is incredibly well done, with a likable heroine and an oppressively haunting setting. Jane is a relatable and very human protagonist, regularly struggling between morality and her deeper impulses. Caught in a web of deception, she attempts to follow her sense of justice and be an overall good person, something she often grapples with at a very philosophical level. And yet she has a hot temper, a strong will, and a very feminist outlook--an unusual depiction for a female character during the nineteenth century. For instance, this quote: “I am no bird; and no net ensnares me; I am a free human being with an independent will.”

But despite these freeing sensibilities, the book still falls prey to certain misogynist tropes – namely, the “mad wife in the attic.” Bertha Mason is Mr. Rochester’s unstable wife, who he discards after he learns of her mental illness. Locking her in an attic cell, he hides her from the rest of this world, for which she swears vengeance and attempts to dispose of him upon numerous occasions. Perhaps this scenario would not be so triggering to modern audiences if it wasn’t for the real-life connotations--women of that time period were often committed to asylums or declared medically insane simply because their husbands found them to be a nuisance, and because the women themselves had no legal power to prevent them.

To read *Jane Eyre* thoughtfully, one must take into account many facets of it--both the positive and the decidedly negative. It still remains one of the most beloved pieces of gothic fiction ever written, and it wholeheartedly deserves its title for its story and character development. But on a different note, one must not forget the problematic aspects of it, nor dismiss them in favor of the book’s many virtues. The mad wife has her own story to tell--it’s only a matter of time before somebody writes it.

**“Women are supposed to be very calm generally: but women feel just as men feel; they need exercise for their faculties, and a field for their efforts, as much as their brothers do; they suffer from too rigid a restraint, to absolute a stagnation, precisely as men would suffer; and it is narrow-minded in their more privileged fellow-creatures to say that they ought to confine themselves to making puddings and knitting stockings, to playing on the piano and embroidering bags. It is thoughtless to condemn them, or laugh at them, if they seek to do more or learn more than custom has pronounced necessary for their sex.”**

**– Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë**

# LEARN MORE! ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE

BY WILLOW

Since the discovery of penicillin in 1928 revolutionized medicine, antibiotics have grown progressively more effective, spreading around the world and becoming accessible to millions of people. There is no doubt that antibiotics have changed the fabric of our society, nor that they have prevented countless deaths (some data claims that they save over 200 thousand lives annually in America alone). However, their continual use in everything from hand soap to toothbrushes to animal agriculture has led to some concerning effects, namely a spreading epidemic of antibiotic resistance. Antibiotic resistance occurs when bacteria is exposed to an antibiotic and becomes immune to it - a natural form of mutation that is being disturbingly accelerated by rampant misuse. Humans have begun utilizing antibiotics for all kinds of unnecessary things, and the result is significantly higher mortality rates and medical costs. One study estimates that more than 1.2 million people died in 2019 due to antibiotic resistance.

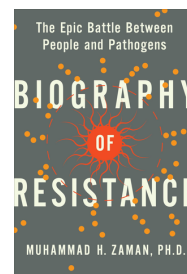
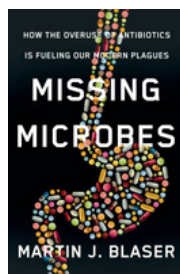
In order to prevent more deaths, changes need to be made to how antibiotics are employed within our society. There are many ways in which we can remove mostly unnecessary antibiotics from our daily lives, allowing them to be effective when they are needed most. For instance, antibacterial hand soap is actually not the most effective variable in the process of washing the hands - what eliminates the most germs is scrubbing the hands together, in addition to hot water. Therefore, there is no reason why antibacterial soap cannot be replaced by other kinds, in order to terminate one factor in what is growing into a major health crisis.

In addition, attention should also be paid to the extensive use of antibiotics in animal agriculture, prompting one to wonder whether the already numerous costs of animal exploitation outweigh the benefits. Because the animals are kept in such unsanitary conditions, they are often dosed with antibiotics in order to prevent them from acquiring disease. This system is used in factory farms across the world, providing more means for bacteria to develop resistance to different drugs - and also exposing human consumers unwittingly.

Overall, caution should be exercised in the needless use of antibiotics. Though they are necessary in acute situations, there are also plenty of other options for less severe illnesses such as colds, flu, etc. For example, there are several natural plant sources that contain antibiotic properties, including (but not limited to) garlic, oregano, and goldenseal. Some of these may even grow in your yard or cost next to nothing.

In conclusion, conventional antibiotics have many important and practical applications in the world of modern medicine, but their potency is steadily being reduced in the situations where it is the most valuable. In order to prevent more deaths and medical complications, it is imperative that we create boundaries for when and how antibiotics can be utilized.

Learn More!



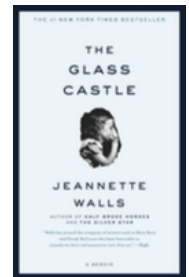
# ***STREAM THIS!: DERRY GIRLS***

**BY GRAILEY**

So the final season of Derry Girls came out on Netflix. I was soooooo happy because I waited two years to watch the last season and those two years weren't good. I literally went crazy, like really crazy, but then I watched it and I wasn't so happy. So first off I thought the episodes would be longer but no, they are not, which kind of sucks. I also feel like they could have worked on the writing a bit better because you know if they did there would be more than three seasons and I wouldn't have to watch all it the again. Overall the series is good I just wish they didn't end it. So this series is about four teenagers trying to survive living in the confusing world. It's pretty much an adventure every episode. In the second episode of the first season, the girls had stolen something from a restaurant and then to repay the lady they had to clean her house, but instead of cleaning they decided to drink. One thing led to another and the house caught on fire.

# ***REAL LIFE: READ A MEMOIR***

**BY IZZY**



Lately, I've really been getting into memoirs. My ignited passion for reading about other people's lives started a couple years ago, when a school assignment caused me to read *Just Mercy*, a brilliantly written book that discusses the racism inherent in the American justice system (and is reviewed in the fall issue of our older sibling publication, *The Checkout!*). Getting to explore and interpret other people's experiences, the depth that our interactions can have, and the implications of real life being threaded into an effective narrative has captivated me and held on ever since. So when I happened to pick up *The Glass Castle*, I instantly got sucked in. Jeannette Walls narrates her childhood moving from place to place with her parents, Rex and Rose Mary, her sister Lori, and her brother Brian. Their constant state of poverty is traced with a silver lining as Rex teaches his kids, but especially his favorite daughter Jeannette, about the wonders of geology, architecture, and the constellations, among many other things. Rose Mary, a free-spirited artist and nonconformist, encourages her children to fend for themselves, and as Jeannette navigates a life as an aspiring journalist, she makes incisively detailed note of all the unique ways her family's unstable life gradually collapses all around them. This book never failed to astonish me, move me, and keep my attention.

# CLASSIC READ: THE PEARL

BY WILLOW



One of Steinbeck's finest works, *The Pearl* is a tale of family, poverty, and systemic corruption. Based on Mexican folklore, this book explores many themes, including greed and humanity's potential for both good and evil. This meditation on the human condition has won the Nobel Prize and numerous other awards, managing to convey a deep and thoughtful message in under a hundred pages.

After discovering a huge pearl off the Gulf coast, Kino and his family's lives are changed forever. Suddenly, they have a chance to change their living situation – the couple can be officially married, they can send their son to school, and finally escape the poverty they've been living in for their whole lives. But good luck is often coupled with bad, and everyone wants a piece of the profit. They'll go to any lengths to secure the pearl for their own gain--even if they have to destroy Kino and his family to get to it.

*The Pearl's* deceptively simplistic story is interwoven with themes of greed and resentment, and how humans' self-serving nature can result in destruction. After Kino discovers the pearl, the whole town is thrust into chaos, and the hearts of the people are full of jealousy and spite. Though they maintain an outward façade of pleasantries, they attempt to exploit the family in various ways. The best example of this is Kino's visit to the pearl sellers. When he attempts to sell the pearl, they collectively declare that it is nearly worthless, attempting to cheat him out of his opportunity. Because he cannot read and is thus unable to prove definitively that they are ripping him off, he leaves without making a deal. In this way, the pearl sellers' greed is what prevents anyone from profiting from the situation--including themselves. Their scheming sets off an irreversible chain of events that inevitably result in not only the family's eventual fragmentation, but the loss of the pearl who's discovery incited the entire situation. True to life, they are unable to see beyond their petty desire for money, and in their pursuit for personal gain become complicit in tragedy. Working in conjunction with an exploration of human greed, Steinbeck's utilization of plot devices also assists in the construction of this brilliant story. For instance, the scorpion sting at the very beginning serves as foreshadowing for the more drastic calamity that would occur in the future. By extension, it also sets up the future heartlessness of the rest of the town, by introducing the doctor's refusal to help the family in their desperation.

In conclusion, *The Pearl* is an exquisite novella that manages to dig deep into the human psyche in 90 pages. It explores in detail the way that one person's success can awaken inner darkness in others, and uses plot devices to further convey its message. It is a stupendous introduction to Steinbeck's work, and a brilliant examination of self-destructive nature and power imbalance.

## BOTTOM PAGE MEME

BY GRAISON

I did say I would do this bruh. I warned you. But this time I look at memes from the internet and thing got ..... welllllllll yeah..... this is gonna get weird. Have you seen Ctop's video today (this article was made 10/26/2022 for viewing)? That whole video, like many others, is just a meme. These morons just act like they're drunk all the time. Sub to them if you like to laugh.



# ***PLAY IT: STICK IT TO THE STICKMAN***

**BY GRAISON**

Do you want to beat up your boss and some annoying co-workers? Then you can do it virtually. No, I don't mean cyber torture and hacking, I mean Stick It to the Stickman! It's a free game on itch.io, but there is an option to pay for it, and you should! It's a physics-based fighting platformer in which you have three moves to start, and when you get enough XP from defeating enemies you can choose a promotion or upgrade a move. Promotions are new moves that you can get. You can choose one of the three moves and add it to your move list, which transition from one move to the other. For example; if I drink coffee and I have a roundhouse kick after it. You use to drink coffee and it switches to roundhouse kick. The main objective is the defeat Jeff Bezos. And to think this is just a demo. But wait! There's more!

As of July 4th, the neurolink test came out! In this demo, you are getting tested on by ELON MUSK! DundunDUUUUUUUUUUUUN! I have a feeling that when this is out, the next thing is Mark Zuckerberg. But forget that. This version of Stickman is a top-down physics game in which you fight and instead of transitioning between moves, you have one move you use by pressing z and one special you use by pressing x. The enemy's drop XP this time! And instead of getting new moves, you get neurolink upgrades that have a reload time and a mind range! This is a way harder version of the main game that you should definitely try! Recently I have the student, Ph.D., and the feral child.

All and all, this is a good game you should download. You won't regret it!!

# ***VR GAME: GORN***

**BY CJ**

Gorn is a VR game that started for a PC. A few years later it became a VR game. If you try to use the Safari app on your Oculus it won't work buuuuuuuut you can still play it for \$20. You can play it on itch.io for free and I think it's best to do it on a VR set. And my favorite YouTuber is Ctop (this is related on Gorn). How I found out about him is from my brother and it was a Gorn video. It took a will to like it but I overcame and now I like the video so yeah :). But I don't know if you will get sick while playing it so you should get used to it because you can get queasy and feel like you'll throw up. I'd play Gun Raiders if you are new to the Oculus. I played that game but when you die, you are 20 or 50 feet in the air--it will feel like you are falling but one month later you will get used to it and will be ready to play Gorn.

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