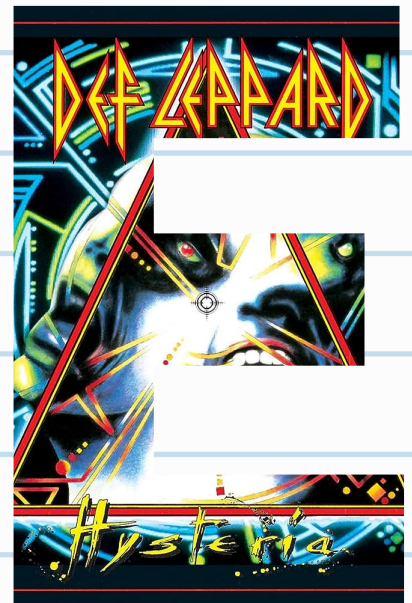
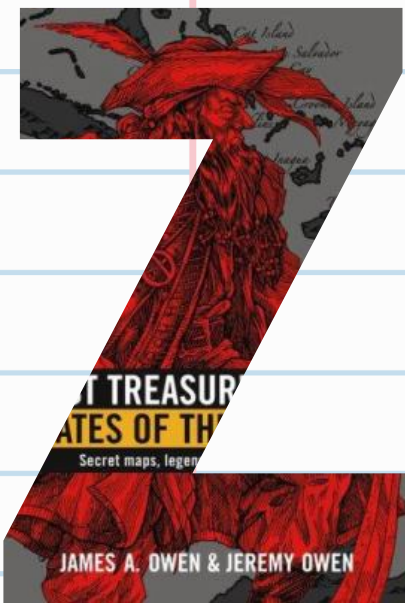




**FALL 2023  
ISSUE #18**



***HLN ZINE: THE KENMORE LIBRARY  
NEWS FOR YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY  
AND POP CULTURE LOVERS!***



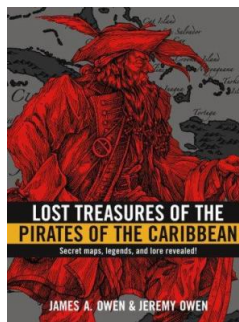
# WELCOME TO OUR NEW ZINE!

BY BELLA

Hello, and welcome back to another KLN Zine issue! Do you like the new cover? Did it make it harder to find it in the library? We're getting FANCY over here! This issue is full virtual pizzas, classic books and movies, a brand new film, something on the back cover, and a LOT more! So, enjoy!

# REAL-LIFE BUCCANEERS

BY BELLA



As a big *Pirates Of The Caribbean* fan, I can gladly say that **Lost Treasures Of The Pirates Of The Caribbean** by James A. Owen and Jeremy Owen is an awesome read! It tells tales of some of the swashbuckling, real-life buccaneers. There's recreated pirate maps, talks about the rise and fall of piracy, and tells about 3 generations of map-makers for pirate treasures. For those who like to read about pirates, adventures, and treasure, you should through *plunder* this book!

# DON'T WASTE 7+ HRS OF YOUR LIFE

BY BELLA



**The Twilight Saga** is a 5 film 'romantic' sci-fi series about a vampire and a girl falling in 'love'.

And it's AWFUL!

The relationship between the two of them is so toxic, it's not even romantic! It was so popular back in 2010s, but I wonder why...

Save yourself 7+ hours by NOT watching The Twilight Saga!

# DO WATCH THIS!

BY BELLA



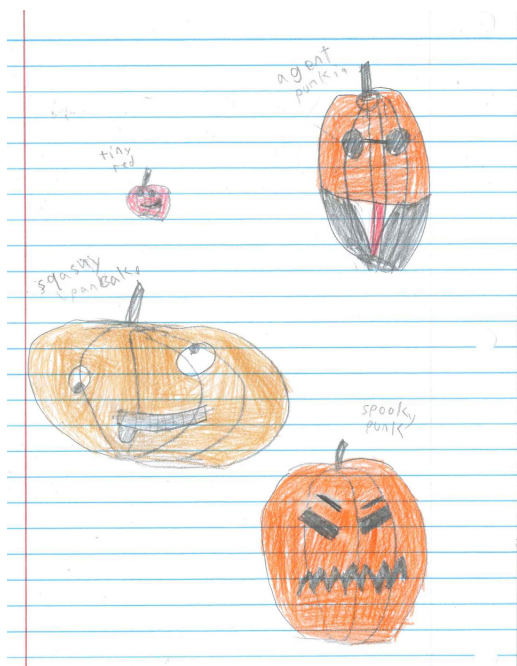
**The Hunger Games** is the first installment of the dystopian book and film series. Katniss Everdeen lives in a world where there's a wealthy capitol and 13 districts. She lives in district 12, the poorest district.

In this society, the president forces one male and one female teenager randomly from each district to fight to the death each year.

When reaping day comes, Katniss' sister, Primrose, gets chosen as tribute. Katniss bravely take her sister's place. The male tribute is Peeta, who has a secret crush on Katniss. I'm not going to spoil the ending, so you're going to have to watch the film to find out. ;)

# FUNKY PUMPKINS

BY CHARLIE



# MUST WATCH

BY CALEB



## Avatar the Last Airbender

This American anime/cartoon series is jam-packed full of action and adventure for everyone 7+. The show focuses on Aang, a 12-year-old airbender and the avatar, after being trapped in an iceberg for 100 years Aang wakes to find 2 southern water tribe children and a war. Aang and his friends, Katara and Sokka, go on adventures across the earth kingdom, water tribe, and fire nation where Aang makes two new friends, Toph, an earthbender, and Zuko, a firebender. Aang also masters all 4 elements, water, earth, fire, and air. The show has 3 seasons and ends after Aang defeats fire lord Ozai.

# THE COOLEST LOOKING STICK IN ANIMATION

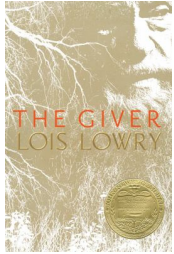
BY IZZY



As you might notice from many of my reviews earnestly covering books, shows, and movies meant for a younger audience, I really enjoy watching kids' movies. I like seeing new, revolutionary animation and seeing how grounded messages and themes can be woven into fantastical contexts to create something both fun and compelling to watch. A lot of Netflix's more recent original animated movies can be credited as such, one of the most popular being *Nimona*, which was definitely awesome. It's a difficult line for me to walk as someone who personally disagrees with how Netflix is treating the work of its animation department, but I really like what's coming out lately. One of my newest favorites has been **The Monkey King**. What can I say, I'm a sucker for continuing storylines and beautiful animation. **The Monkey King** is a smoothly animated movie about a monkey with laser eyes who was born out of a rock egg. He's ostracized from the rest of monkey society, and he tries to prove his worth by finding a legendary weapon that can protect the monkeys from a nearby demon. He steals a magical fighting stick from the underwater palace of the Dragon King, and when the other monkeys refuse to accept him, he goes on a quest to fight 100 demons so that he can attain immortality and join the Immortal Ones. Also he names himself Monkey King. His story really begins to develop when he's joined by Lin, a young village girl who challenges his ego and bottomless need for validation. This movie has plenty of fast-paced, fun fight scenes, catchy music, and a soft emotional core, providing a charismatic protagonist whose actions aren't excused but acknowledged, and whose gradual friendship with Lin, the only person to truly love him, served as the backbone to the entire plot. The adaptations of Chinese mythological figures were unique and interesting, and **The Monkey King's** story was very similar to the classic tale he was based upon- the cautionary tale of Sun Wukong in *Journey to the West*, an adventure novel written in 16th century China. This character's epic backstory has been adapted in countless ways over the years, but the fact that such a recent adaptation can be both plot-accurate and relatable is what solidified this movie's storytelling for me. It was fun to learn about the origins of Netflix's **The Monkey King**, and how that makes it even better than it may seem at first glance. All in all, a definite recommend if you like action, heartfelt narratives, or Disney's *Hercules*, because trust me, the whole time I was drawing some pretty frequent similarities.

# READ A CLASSIC

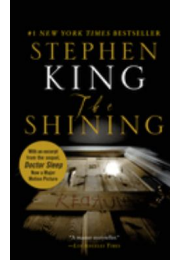
BY BELLA



**The Giver** by Lois Lowry is an amazing dystopian story for young adults. For those who don't know about **The Giver**, the story revolves around Jonas. He lives in a 'perfect' world. No sadness, no war, no joy, just neutral feelings. When someone becomes 12 years old, they are assigned a role. Jonas gets a special role, to be the next Giver. The Giver's role is to hold all the memories of pain, joy, imperfectness, and love. But, as time goes on, Jonas realizes the community isn't what it seems. This book has constant suspense. Amazing book for fans of sci-fi and mystery.

# VISIT THE OVERLOOK

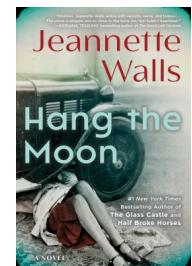
BY WILLOW



Part ghost story and part psychological thriller, **The Shining** displays Stephen King's admirable talent for the macabre in a tense and unsettling portrait of madness. The story follows Jack Torrance, a former alcoholic and writer seeking to repair his relationship with his family. He takes a job as a caretaker at the remote Overlook Hotel to spend more time with them - however, things take a turn when his psychic young son starts to have horrifying premonitions. As the snow swirls and they're cut off from the outside world, Jack's thoughts begin to darken. But is he just losing his mind, or are the ghosts of the Overlook influencing him toward violence? (8/10.)

# THE 18TH AMENDMENT CAN'T OUTLAW THIS!

BY IZZY



I usually don't read newer books, not because I specifically have a long-standing grudge against them but because I still need to get around to reading older books. New books are usually for 60-year-old me to discover. However, when Jeannette Walls published her new novel **Hang the Moon**, I went, "WHOA, WHAT???" seeing it on Libby. I didn't say that in the library because I'd never yell in a sanctimonious space I promise. The Glass Castle was wonderful- I see it all the time in thrift store book sections, I already told you guys how much I liked it, et cetera et cetera. So I tried **Hang the Moon**, and of course it was amazing. It follows Sallie Kincaid, the eldest daughter of Duke Kincaid, who pretty much runs the Virginian small town of Claiborne County in the Prohibition era. Sallie, a daredevil driver and outcast from the Kincaid family, reasserts her authority as she becomes a bootlegger helping to run the small town in times of crisis. Unfortunately, her success is often swayed by conflict from the law, family scandals, and the disasters that plague her as the new reigning monarch of a fractured community. This book had a lot of twists and turns, multiple romances, and some pretty crazy moments, but despite many different relatives, family friends, and just characters in general, every one of them was well-rounded, even within Sallie's main narrative. The implications of the story mattered more than the outright facts- none of the characters were safe from the impacts of the family's scandals, and as you learned more about the Duke, his actions started to click together and make him into a more complex, if not deeply unlikable, character. Sallie's flaws made sense, and her sincere kindness in the face of despair and trauma contrasted against the Duke's secretive charisma truly made her into her own person, coming alive from the pages in order to set things right for herself, her family, and her community. Jeannette Walls's writing is as sharp as ever, and **Hang the Moon** was a perfect ride for drama, action, and breakneck driving tips.

# BARBIE!!!!

BY IZZY



**RESERVE YOUR  
SPOT ON THE  
HOLD LIST  
TODAY! DVD  
COMES OUT  
2/29/24**

This has truly been the year for in-theater movies that have completely lived up to the hype. Across the Spider-Verse, **Barbie**, and, um... other movies I've also seen that I can't remember. But of course I'm talking about the much-awaited **Barbie**, since my colleague already reviewed ATSV, I haven't seen Oppenheimer, and the **Barbie** movie was undeniably fantastic. The beginning's iconic homage to 2001: The Space Odyssey is a great joke that works even better for an adult audience, all of the songs fit perfectly, and every actor is clearly pouring their hearts into making their roles be true to them. In this story, Barbies are actually real, and all live in another world aptly named Barbieland, alongside Kens and one Allen. Suddenly, a Stereotypical Barbie, played of course by Margot Robbie, starts to turn... real. To avoid the horrors of flatly-shaped feet and cellulite, she ventures to the Real World to reunite with the little girl playing with her doll and work with her to restore the balance of the universe. As she and Ken traverse reality, facing capitalism, existential crises, and the patriarchy, they each learn more about their individuality, and the beauty in being human. I loved how the movie used their knowledge about the Barbie franchise to make the wry reference humor work even better. The societal commentary intertwines perfectly with the overall message about the beauty in aging, as this is a heavily controversial subject that Barbie has been a direct factor in as an immortal source of conventional beauty standards. Also, the film wasn't scared to be just plain silly- the neon outfits, Ken's obsession with horses, Weird Barbie- the journey was fun and bittersweet and uplifting and a little depressing all at the same time. So personally, it was an incredibly enjoyable ride for me, with surprises around every bright pink, sometimes Rocky-themed corner.

# DEF...INITELY LISTEN TO THIS

BY SIMON



## My top 10 Def Leppard Songs:

### 10. Photograph (Pyromania)

It's a good one, but the others are better.

### 9. Animal (Hysteria)

I like the chorus, the rest of the song is a little underwhelming.

### 8. Let's Get Rocked (Adrenalize)

I like this one, it's a bop.

### 7. Hysteria (Hysteria)

You probably think this should be higher up, don't you? Well I don't. It's still good though.

### 6. Rock of Ages (Pyromania)

This one's fun.

### 5. Rock Rock [Till You Drop] (Pyromania)

I like it, the keyboard is fun, with all the sound effects.

### 4. Another Hit and Run (High N' Dry)

A great song in general, I feel it doesn't get enough credit. The drums are great in this one.

### 3. Pour Some Sugar on Me (Hysteria)

A great song, definitely deserves top three.

### 2. Armageddon It (Hysteria)

An amazing song. One of my favorites.

Honorable Mentions

Love Bites (Hysteria)

I know a lot of people like it, but I don't think it makes my top 10.

### 1. Let It Go (High N' Dry)

My favorite Def Leppard song, but not a lot of people give it the credit it deserves.

# FOR THE GAMERS

BY GRAISON



S'Donkey Kong will remain a lovable ape, Link will never lose hope, and of course Mario will never start (REDACTED) Have you heard this quote from the 2003 Nintendo E3 press conference? I'm not joking, someone really said this. 2003 was WILD!! And to top it all off, NOTHING WAS GOOD!!! The biggest announcement was a MULTIPLAYER PAC-MAN GAME!!!! I mean, WHAT!?

Oh, yeah, let's forget that RESIDENT EVIL @#%&\$%# FOUR WAS @#%&\$%# ANNOUNCED!! THAT'S SUPPOSED TO BE THE BEST ONE!!! But noooo, Pac-Man's more important. It was a very disappointing year for gaming fans. But do you know what game would've saved the 2003 Nintendo E3? Pizza Tower!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

I kid, I kid. But a new Wario Land would've been great. Another suggestion of a game they should have made during this time span is a mainline Pokémon game. They don't have a problem making a ridiculous amount of them in a short period of time, so why not a new one? Another problem is that they were obviously working on the Wii and NDS, but they were too paranoid that the competition (e.g., Sony and Microsoft) would steal their ideas, so they kinda left people with a cliffhanger. That didn't happen, even though people who haven't looked at the history think that the PSP is a rip-off of the NDS, but that's not true and the people who think this is should look up the time spans of the announcements.

This other problem is a pretty big one. They announce a lot of games BEFORE E3. And the thing is, those games ranged from good to perfect. Those games include:

- Mario & Luigi: Superstar Saga
- Metroid: Zero Mission
- Prince of Persia: Sands of Time
- Viewtiful Joe
- And more.



Past Nintendo, here's a friendly tip, maybe WAIT to announce your games, so you aren't left with a Pac-Man game and literally nothing else. The final problem I'll be talking about is... Weird, to say the least. The quote at the beginning I showed you is supposed to mean 'We (Nintendo) don't have to have guns and violence. We can stay family friendly, we don't need to do what Sony or Microsoft are doing!' That's actually heart felt, even though it was terribly worded. It's meaningless, though, because barely a few minutes after this, they said that they were going to be more 'EDGIER'. Quick question, do you associate Nintendo with the word 'Edgy'? No? Yeah, what I thought. And it doesn't help that this is one of the worst selling consoles, only selling 21.7 million units. It may sound like a lot, but when you think of the Wii, (which sold 101.6 million units) it's very unimpressive. So, in conclusion: the ps2 had Budokai Tenkaichi, it's the best console of that time in my eyes!

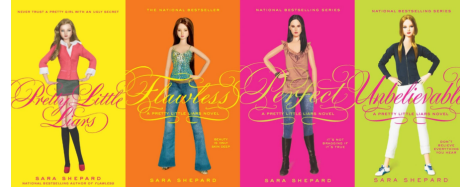
# ***COLOR IT. I DARE YOU***

**BY CALEB**



# THIS SERIES PASSES THE BECHDEL TEST, BUT SHOULD IT? SCHOLARS DEBATE!

BY IZZY



Over these past few months, I've devoted my time, mental energy, and opinions to a debated literary classic of the YA genre, a series that I obsessed over but never finished in middle school and the book original of a show that I enjoyed but also never finished in my freshman year of high school. Which beloved and not at all excessively ridiculous series have I been reading? **Pretty Little Liars** by Sara Shepard, of course! An extraordinary teen drama, and one of the founding tenets of my middle school reading experience. Just to make sure you're ready, PLL is a 16-book odyssey, and I devoured the first 9 in a few months. We won't be discussing the continuation after that because in my personal opinion, the 9th book was the story's natural conclusion anyway. However, after 9 whole books, I have... opinions. First off, let me put a disclaimer here: I do not think that the **Pretty Little Liars** series is necessarily good, well-written, or even well-thought out. However, I do think you should read it, because these books have been some of the most fun I've ever had whilst half-hate-reading. The main plot follows four teenage girls living in Rosewood, Pennsylvania, an idyllic and super rich suburb where only amazing things happen and only amazing people live. The girls, despite being rich white private school students, all lead very different lives. Aria Montgomery is offbeat, artistic, and cultured from her time living abroad in Iceland, the kind of person who deems herself "not like other girls" and even calls her peers "Typical Rosewoods". Hanna Marin is a popular, fashion and status-obsessed queen bee who used to be an overweight dorky tween, and concocts dramatic schemes to keep her crown in place. Spencer Hastings is the "rich girl" character in a series that entirely revolves around rich people, but her parents often neglect Spencer and her older sister Melissa, making them compete viciously for affection and praise through academic achievement. Finally, athletic Emily Fields is a great swimmer, daughter, and girlfriend, but she secretly doubts her motivations and, gradually, her sexuality. What could possibly tie these primary characters together? You guessed it! Murder! They were all elite members of the most popular clique in school, the friend group of Alison "Ali" DiLaurentis. Ali was magnetic, and chose them to be her best friends on a whim during a charity drive. They all enjoyed the thrill of popularity and Ali's charismatic personality, but the night of one of their sleepovers, she vanished, never to be seen again and presumed dead. Aria, Hanna, Spencer, and Emily all drifted apart after that, grieving in their own ways and transforming from the misfit, insecure tween girls they were to shakily established high school teenagers who had, in one way or another, managed to develop "new and improved" identities. But someone else wasn't able to move on quite as quickly, because the quartet started to get anonymous messages from someone going by "A" threatening to tell their deepest secrets. This person knows where they are at all times, everything about them, and everything they've been hiding... strangely, everything they'd all individually confided in Ali years ago. So as A starts to pull more of the strings behind this mystery, the girls are forced to team up again to uncover their stalker's identity, protect their secrets, and investigate the cracks in Ali's death to find out who's really behind the scenes. Obviously, because I've just written a lot about it and I already said this, I love this series. Are the characters deeply flawed and almost ridiculously unlikable? Yes. Are the umptillion romance subplots in every other chapter confusing and dumb? Of course they are, although I do have a ranking of every single boyfriend in the **Pretty Little Liars** series. But the detail is palpable, the plot twists are thrilling to follow, and even in each character's worst moments, even in the midst of a book's craziest ruse, there's always a rhyme and reason, and even if you don't think there can possibly be a narrative significance for what's happening in the story at the moment, and even if there isn't one, you're undoubtedly going to have the time of your life reading anyway. I like how Shepard isn't afraid to go the extra mile with her character development, and that the general writing solution to every insane situation is to escalate it even more so that it swings all the way back around to making sense in the end. I will never read about worse YA teen romances, and I will never read about a character who is haunting their narrative quite like Alison DiLaurentis ever again. I will also always remember what slingbacks and kitten heels are because they're explicitly mentioned in the story at least 30 times. I recommend this book if you like YA dramas, convoluted romances, or also feel unfortunately compelled towards the worst-best teen mystery writing from the early 2000s.



# R/BOSS FIGHT MEMES

BY CJ

Warning: Cringe. Lots and lots of cringe...



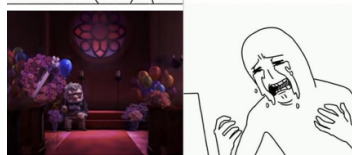
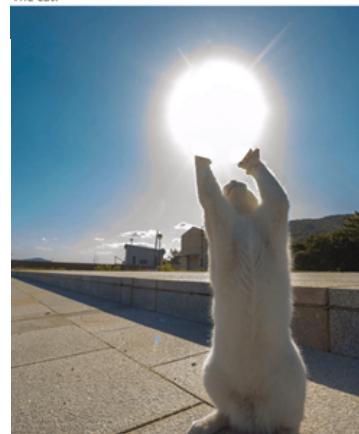
The demon train triplets



The guardians of the shadow realm



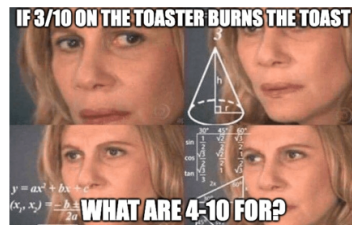
My party: How dangerous can they be? It's just a cat. The cat:



A Shinigami from Death not



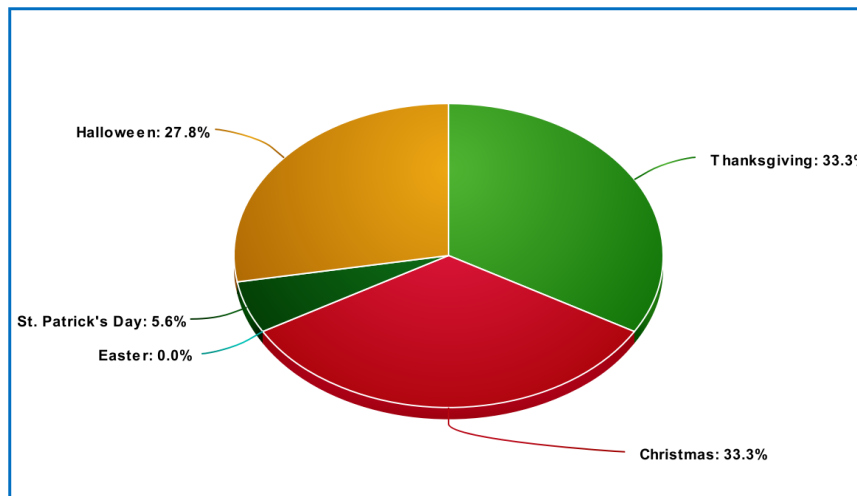
This isn't even my final form



Which one is your favorite?!

## What's your favorite holiday?

Here's how library patrons voted!!!

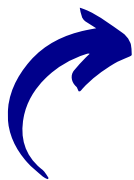


■ Thanksgiving ■ Christmas ■ Easter ■ St. Patrick's Day ■ Halloween

meta-chart.com

POLL-A-RAMA

BY KLN STAFF



# GEORGE AND IZZY RUIN THE CLASSICS: THE ODYSSEY

BY SEE ABOVE

Izzy: So, George, what have we not ruined in our several years writing this article?

Also have you noticed that we sound like literature Tim and Moby every time we write this

George: BEEP BOOP BEEP. BEEEP BEEP BOOP.

Izzy: You're so right! Well, we've exhausted Harry Potter, Romeo and Juliet, and

I can't really remember the other ones it was Rainbow Fish that one time though-

George: We have done so much yet never are we released from this paper prison.

Izzy: Unfortunately, since we both haven't read The Epic of Gilgamesh, how about we ruin an equally accessible and fun read-

**The Odyssey** by ummmmm Homer!!!

George: **The Odyssey** is a classic story about Odysseus, a war hero, attempting to return home to his wife. When we meet up with him at the start of the story, he has been trapped on an island called Ogygia with a woman named Calypso.

I: You'd think that this was a little sketch because he can't reunite with his wife because he's with another girl \*\* but he actually is being held against his will, and finally Athena stops beefing with the other gods and decides to help Odysseus out by encouraging his son, Telemachus, to get over himself and kick all of the guys intruding into his house because they all have a thing for his mom to leave. Yep, it really is that confusing.

George: So while Telemachus is off in Sparta figuring out his dad is alive, the suitors all plan on ambushing and killing him when he returns. Up in mount olympus Zeus commands Hermes to go grab Odysseus from Calypso's island. Once Hermes arrives there, he convinces Calypso to release the poor man as he is so depressed from not seeing his wife.

Izzy: You'd think this was happily ever after, right? Telemachus has some confidence back, Odysseus can escape, and everything will be- oh right this is literally one of the oldest and most well known stories of all time so you know it's not lol!

POSEIDON BLAST

George: Poseidon is a man that you do NOT want to mess with because if you ever DARE to set foot in the sea or decide you want fish, you're probably dead! You're probably wondering, what ever did Mr Odysseus do to make Big P angry? Well, TL:DR Odysseus blinded a giant cyclops to save his crew who were being eaten. Unfortunately for Odysseus, that was in fact Poseidon's son.

Izzy: Uh-oh... that's a pretty bad coincidence! Well maybe Poseidon should tell his son to stop eating people, but Athena thankfully sent Odysseus to the island of Scheria, island-trapped again :( The king and queen promised to bring him to Ithaca, but before that, they want him to tell them a bedtime story yayyyyyyy :) So he explains how he cleverly defeated Polyphemus by blinding him and calling himself "Nobody", went to the time-stopping Land of the Lotus Eaters, became bewitched by the sorceress Circe, also became bewitched by sirens, traveled to the Underworld to find a prophet, and fought a sea monster called Scylla. After all this, they were like okay that was a long story time for you to leave now

George: So when Odysseus returns to his home to beat up all the men trying to steal his wife, Athena disguises him as an old beggar and he goes off to the hut of his faithful swineherd where he waits until his son arrives. Once Telemachus arrives, Odysseus reveals himself to his son and together they formulate a plan to kill everyone trying to hook up with his wife.

I: Unfortunately, they can't actually *initiate* the plan yet, so Odysseus has to listen to the suitors insulting him and making yo mama jokes at him (is it obvious that I don't remember this story very well) for a little bit until Penelope decides that all this craziness has got to stop. She holds a contest for all the suitors and Old Beggar Odysseus, saying that anyone who can string Odysseus's old bow and fire an arrow through 12 axes will win her hand in marriage. She kind of knows that the Old Beggar is Odysseus, but she really knows when Odysseus wins the contest easily and kills all the suitors with the help of his bow and Telemachus. Yay!!!!!!

George: the moral of the story here is that if you ever go on a long trip with a really faithful wife and son who thinks your still alive, then once you get home kill all of the men trying to get with your wife and you'll live happily ever after!

I: The perfect love story, adventure, and guide to getting off of isolated islands ever written! Who could even tell it was written millennia ago! And the other moral is that Poseidon sucks ❤️



# PIZZA! PIZZA! PIZZA!

BY IZZY



Hey you guys- reading is hard. Brain power and energy both need to be sacrificed in order to take on a book of any kind, and who has time for that in this modern age? Certainly not us, and probably not you either. Instead, I'm going to discuss my better hobby: playing video games. If you see any book recommendations by me in this publication, that's Evil Me so skip over those reviews because Evil Me is a terrible writer. Anyways! What video game specifically, you might ask? And I would answer pretentiously, it's actually *games*. Over the last two years, I've been getting obsessed with **The Legend of Zelda: Breath of the Wild**, and now, regrettably, with its sequel **Tears of the Kingdom**. I'm generally new to video games, as I haven't gamed for most of my childhood, and am now clawing back those lost opportunities by playing classics like *Undertale* and *Sonic Mania*. I haven't played any other Zelda games, and I'm seeing this franchise in a completely unaware light. The options and graphics in this game are stunning, but we all know that: traveling to scenic areas like Kakariko Village and Zora's Domain, meeting the NPCs no matter how small their parts are (I was *thrilled* when both Hudson and Bolson made significant comebacks in TOTK), and even the fights are beautifully portrayed. I loved the haunting music when you're beating the Divine Beasts contrasted with the sweet, nostalgic tunes that play during the subsequent cutscenes of each Champion. I thought all of the Champions' Descendants were endearing and interesting in their own ways, even if their character arcs were a little bit predictable in order to keep Link's journey consistent. One of the best aspects of the game, at least to me, was how your decisions, the side quests you take on, and the bosses you choose to fight alter Link's personality in a subtle way, crafting an individualized, independent character out of the stock Knight figure that Link is meant to represent.

But of course, that's all old news. Guardians, Divine Beasts, the Remote Bomb/Cryonis/Magnesis/Stasis abilities (REMOTE BOMB I MISS YOU SOOOOOO MUCH 🥺🥺🥺) have all become irrelevant with *Tears of the Kingdom*. In this game, you can go in the sky, on the earth, and in an Upside Down-like underground called the Depths. Instead of the Ganon-infused Malice just being gross, pink, and annoying to fall in, the remodeled Ganon-infused *Gloom* is also gross, red, and actively deadly in several different forms. I adore this game- it has the same sense of character development, visual appeal, and even more choices than its predecessor. I'm still not very far in the actual plot and I've been playing for hours, getting way too distracted with exploring minor locations, taking on sidequests, and collecting every Bubbul Gem I can find. Obviously I'm personally having a lot of fun with this franchise, and *so much* fun with cooking, obtaining fun materials, and occasionally completing important Sage quests or Depths research trips. Overall, I recommend **Tears of the Kingdom** and **Breath of the Wild** to anyone who likes open world games, fun boss fights, and collecting cool frogs. Enjoy your own interpretation of Link's classic quest, and watch out for the Hands because as someone who made this grave mistake very early in TOTK they are NOT like Malice Pools in BOTW.

# (DONT) EAT THE RUDE: A CRITICISM

BY WILLOW



The show *Hannibal* has received acclaim among critics and audiences for its artistic composition, atmosphere, and originality. But is the show actually as good as many people claim? Though it showcases incredible potential in its talented actors and set design, it suffers from uneven characterization and a plot that alternates between compelling and nearly unwatchable. Overall, it is a deep disappointment that masks its mediocrity behind cheap sensationalism.

The story centers around Special Agent Will Graham, who works as a profiler for the FBI in serial murder cases. Using his almost supernatural powers of empathy, he's able to get inside the minds of the most horrific killers and help catch them - but at a severe cost to his own mental health. He starts suffering from vivid nightmares and hallucinations, but his new friend Doctor Hannibal Lecter says that there's nothing wrong with him. And Will can trust him. Right?

Before diving into criticism, there are undoubtedly things to like about the show. The sets are visually incredible, alternating between beautiful, bleak, and horrific - or sometimes a combination of the three. Mads Mikkelsen and Hugh Dancy both deliver brilliant performances as Hannibal and Will, respectively. Their characters' romantic chemistry slowly builds over the course of the seasons, and there's palpable tension between the two in every scene they share. The show's focus on criminal psychology is one of its best aspects and is especially sure to fascinate those interested in the field. There are also some genuinely funny moments ("You worry too much," Hannibal tells Will while throwing corpses out of a cop car) and sections of the seasons that build excellent momentum, keeping viewers engaged and on the edge of their seats.

The problem is...well, everything else. Though the crime scenes are well-designed, their logistics are completely unrealistic, as each one would take days of construction rather than a few hours. (And really? A totem pole of corpses? People being used as fertilizer for a mushroom garden? What happened to just stabbing someone?) The dialogue consists mostly of melodramatic philosophy and obscure but meaningless metaphors - not even Dancy and Mikkelsen's acting can salvage many of their scenes from dissolving into disastrous absurdity. Every character - including Will and Hannibal - changes their personality and motivations from episode to episode, and some of them seem to have superpowers that allow them to survive being stabbed, shot, and burned alive. The plot has so many holes that it is continually distracting from the show's better aspects, and there are long stretches where the show becomes downright boring. (Yes, even cannibalism becomes tedious, which says something about Hannibal's quality.) These episode-long lulls in the story are often punctuated by sensationalist murders and mutilations that make no sense in context but serve as enough material to propel the audience into watching the next scene. (SPOILER AHEAD.) By the time the show is over, its theatrics, inconsistency, and cheap storytelling makes one feel like jumping off a cliff right along with the leads. (SPOILER ENDS.)

Overall, *Hannibal* is a series of missteps that cannot be redeemed, despite the best efforts of its cast and art directors. It's a stunning, morbid waste of time - and a waste of opportunity. The characters and actors deserved a better story, but instead they got a story that prioritized cheap thrills over depth and consistency.

**HLN ZINE STAFF**

**GEORGE**

**CALEB**

Grailay

CJ

ISABELA

WILLOW

Simon

GRAISON

Charlie

