

KLN ZINE



THE KENMORE LIBRARY NEWS FOR YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY LOVERS!

INTRO!

BY NORA

Welcome to the 2nd edition of the KLN Zine since COVID hit. Integrating back into normal, social society after being alone for almost a year has been difficult. The novelty has worn off. We're struggling. We can't use Google Translate on French assignments anymore. We have to get up almost an hour before school to make it there on time. We're expected to take part in extracurriculars. It's too much. Our staff members are having trouble behaving like normal people. They've cracked under the pressure. As a result, the articles this time are a bit unhinged. In this issue, you will find:

- A communist reading of the classic children's text, Rainbow Fish
- A meme collage 
- A review of a local hole-I mean school

If that sounds slightly off-putting, we have normal-library stuff too.

- Um
- Let's see...
- Uhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh

In our defense, we're a bunch of teenagers. We're doing this for free. If you expect quality, library overlords, pay your workers.



RANDOM ARTWORK BY JUST GEORGE

GRAB A GRAPHIC NOVEL: **ALMOST AMERICAN GIRL**



Source: www.amazon.com

BY GRAILEY

Almost American Girl: An Illustrated Memoir
by Robin Ha

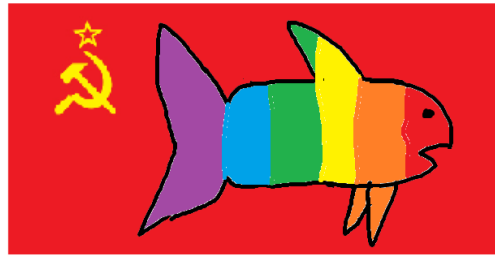
Have you have moved to a new street or new neighborhood where you don't know anyone. Robin Ha did when she moved to the United States from Seoul and she couldn't even speak English. Her mom wanted to relocate because she wanted a better life for her and Robin, and also for her husband in the United States. Robin found it very hard for her to make friends since she didn't speak English. When she thinks she'll never make any friends, her mom takes her to a comic-making class where she meets her future best friend. Soon Robin learns why her mother makes life-altering decisions as she continues her life in America. Robin soon makes a whole bunch of friends and goes to visit her home country, Korea.

GEORGE, IZZY AND NORA RUIN THE CLASSICS!

BY SEE ABOVE

Rainbow Fish

by Marcus Pfister



G: I love fish guys

I: Me too! One of my favorite fish are the rainbow fish from rainbow fish

N: I remember that book. I had to read it in first grade. I think we went to see a play?

G: The rainbow fish shouldn't have given away his scales in my opinion

I: George may I offer some constructive criticism for your opinion

G: No

I: Well I will anyway. Your opinion sucks it's clear that you have no knowledge of the rainbow fish and should retire from kln forever out of disgrace

N: What they said

G: Well, I guess this is your article now

I: Yeah it is. Let's talk about rainbow fish but in a correct way

N: The book's about communism. That's the only logical explanation. rainbow fish is jeff bezos.

G: Guys??? I'm certain the book was about a self centered fish who thought they were beautiful and was put on this unfair pedestal, like celebrities are

I: That opens up the conversation to a wider thesis about how celebrities are truthfully put on a pedestal but further exploit that pedestal by using it to never mature and to think of themselves as the center of the world without giving back to the community around them. Much like our capitalist friend rainbow fish.

N: Also opens up the conversation how celebrities have become instruments in the capitalist machine, their entire personas are marketed to us in order to get us to buy things (like Britney Spears lipstick for kids- that was a thing, right? or perfume)

G: Well back to rainbow fish, after getting harassed about giving away his funny color scales gets basically exiled by his community and he decides to get advice from an octopus. This octopus is probably paid off by like every other fish in the ocean to tell the rainbow fish to give everyone his scales

I: Perhaps. But initially, rainbow fish is startled by this idea, and doesn't want to give up the scales that he's been accustomed to his whole life. Much like many celebrities of our time but with massive amounts of fame, attention, and wealth. However, he eventually relents and starts giving away his scales.

N: And after he gives away his scales he realizes that he actually likes it. every fish in the sea has the same amount of shiny scales. they're all the same now. no one's being put on any pedestals anymore.

G: Except the octopus, as they literally all go to him for advice (i think i haven't read it in a hot minute) In conclusion the rainbow fish is a communist and we should support him

I: You have nothing to lose but your scales. (rainbow scales)

N: comrade rainbow fish, we salute you

WEB HORROR: LOCAL 58

BY GEORGE & QUARTZ



George: Let's talk horror but like on YouTube.

Quartz: My specialty lol.

G: Why don't we start somewhere local, like I don't know Local 58?

Q: Ok so local 58 is a YouTube series that was created in 2015, and was updated as recently as Halloween of 2021. Presently, there's 9 videos, with one, titled "Station ID", which is non-canon to the series.

G: Throughout the series these cryptic messages will appear and are extremely disturbing, one even telling everyone watching to expire. As well, there are tons of imagery of the moon.

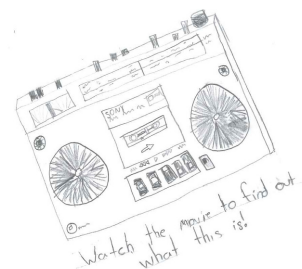
Q: Personally, my favorite video in the series is "Contingency", which consists of a video message from the government describing a threat that was too much for the country to handle, and demanding that everyone watches to expire in the victory position, which is laying on their back, on their front yard. It's never confirmed what this threat is, but other episodes hint at what it could be.

G: There are many theories about what local 58 could be about and one of them is that everything in space is alive, stars are eyes, the moon is alive and so is earth. The moon sees that the earth is being attacked by a parasite (the human race) and wants to rid the earth of us by crashing into the earth. The messages are coming from a cult that worships the moon.

Q: There's still most likely videos that have yet to come out, but with the evidence we have so far, this theory is very plausible. Personally, I would strongly recommend you give the series a watch.

JUMANJI: THE BEST MOVIE OF ALL TIME (IN MY OPINION)

BY ELIZA



Jumanji is soooooooooooooo good!!!! Like seriously amazing. It's about these kids that all get detentions on the same day, and they find this old video game console in storage. They start to play, but get sucked into the game!!! They realize they are in a video game and meet Nigel, an npc, or non-player character. Nigel tells them the story of Jumanji and they realize they have to play the game to get out. The movie is an action, adventure, comedy, and I've watched it like 3 times. Same goes for the second one, Jumanji: The Next Level. Like if you haven't seen these already, just go and watch them. Plus The Rock is one of the main characters, plus Jack Black, Kevin Heart, and Karen Gillan. Do I still need to convince you? Fine, Awkwafina is in the second one..... What are you waiting for?

SHAKESEAPERE AND HIS UGLY WORDS: AN ESSAY

BY QUARTZ

G: Hello ladies and unladies, we're back to your regularly scheduled Shakespeare hate club letter

Q: I hate Shakeknife, he was so ugly. So were his words.

G: Agreed, specifically Macbeth. Like i get it, this silly man got girlbossed by his wife into committing murdered but like... bruuhh

Q: i love his wife so much lady macbeth pls marry me ur husbands a loser

G: The way Shakesworde writes is so annoying because who even says the word "Thou" or "thy" like bro come on just say YOU AND YOUR!!!!!!

Q: they really said "thou art gross, bathe thyself" like c'mon Shakeriflee what is this

G: No honestly though. I'm pretty sure people back in Shaketrebuchete's time didn't even speak like that.

Q: no literally. He didn't even make Macbeth a likable character. He was such a loser and I'm glad Macduff decapitated him. Lady Macbeth should have married me instead. I would have willingly killed King Duncan for her.

G: Macbeth got gaslit so hard, he ruined his life all for what? Toxic Masculinity or something like that.

Q: Anyway tldr: Macbeth is a loser who killed a lot of people and was an awful king who deserved his fate. His wife deserved better though.

G: Right, in conclusion, Shakescandlesticke needs to learn better english.

Q: Shakescannone my behated.

GRAB A GRAPHIC NOVEL: LUMBERJANES

BY ELIZA

The best graphic novel series of all time, period. It's about an all-girls summer camp, and this one cabin, Roanoke, discovers the woods are magic! They go on adventures trying to save different creatures and discovering more mysteries they have to solve, and making new magical creature friends. There's five main characters plus the camp director and the cabin counselor. They are: Ripley, the hilarious easily excitable happy camper, Jo, the science genius with rich dads, April, who's tiny but mighty and on a quest to get all the badges before summer ends, Mal, the rock loving punk who's afraid of water, Molly, the tree lover who has a friend raccoon that sits on her head, Jen, the worrying counselor that doesn't believe the campers at first, and Rosie, the camp director that definitely knows more than she's letting on. Just listing these characters make me want to read these books. Don't you? Go on and read them at your favorite library! They also came out with novels to go along with the books. You don't need to read them to understand the story, but if you want you can read them.

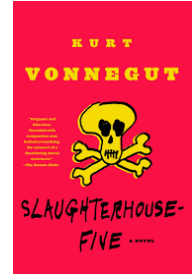


Source: www.amazon.com

WAR IS BAD KIDS, DON'T DO IT...

BY NORA

Kurt Vonnegut based *Slaughterhouse-Five* off his own experiences in war, as a POW in Dresden when it was bombed. Hearing that backstory, you might expect it to be a depressing, melancholy tale where everyone in it dies gruesomely and the main character is left with horrible, psychological scars. Instead it's about aliens, and everyone in it dies horribly and the protagonist is left with extreme, pretty much unacknowledged PTSD. But Aliens. Tralfamadorians to be exact, who look like plungers, see in four dimensions, and like to keep humans in zoos. Our protagonist, Billy Pilgrim, has been abducted and is in one of these zoos. He's also in the middle of fighting World War Two. The novel follows Billy as he time-travels throughout his life and visits alien planets, all while he's still stuck in a doomed Dresden, being held captive in Slaughterhouse no.5. It's a very weird and ironic book, offering a critique of war through absurdism and humor. There's plunger-shaped aliens and people puking to death after being forced to dig up dead bodies. What more could you want.



GAMING UNPLUGGED! THROW THROW BURRITO

BY IZZY



Raise your hand if you like these things: burritos. Terrible animal puns. Throwing objects at people really fast. Now that your hand is raised, let me answer your long-suffering question: how can I combine those three things together in a fun activity to play with my family and friends? Isn't it so crazy how I'm reading your mind today. Well, *Throw Throw Burrito* is an unconventional card game that you can borrow from the library as part of their new Gaming Unplugged Collection (board games for loan from the Central Library). This game can be played with two or more people, and involves some instructions. First, you're given five cards, and have to find sets of three identical cards. You can pick cards from the leftover pile, or take your opponent's leftover cards that they've discarded. Certain cards have instructions that spark a burrito battle, in which you and your opponents have to throw soft plush burritos at each other, and whoever gets hit first loses. The person with the most sets (and the most special, war-inciting cards) at the end wins, and you're given the trophy of a lifetime: a giant card that says FEAR ME. Go to your local library to pick up this game now, and become feared among your loved ones by throwing burritos at their faces.

To see a list of all the games available to request from the library, visit:

<https://www.buffalolib.org/services/gaming-unplugged/gaming-listing>

PODCAST REVIEW: WELCOME TO NIGHTVALE

BY IZZY

ILLUSTRATED BY
NORA



In the vein of creepy things that I'm talking (typing) about years too late, have you guys ever heard of **Welcome to Nightvale**? I intended to listen to it a while ago, but I got sidetracked and only committed to listening a few months back. As somebody who's evidently a big fan of the 'mysterious small town' genre, I really liked this podcast, and the narration style of an unconventional radio station describing the suburb through bizarre context clues. Cecil Palmer's weather reports, emergency alerts, and occasional profiles of random Nightvale citizens are as entertaining as they are unusual. In addition, for every episode, Cecil plays a song that's actually written by a musician in real life, and can often be found on Spotify. And since this is a book newsletter, novelizations of some of the most classic **Welcome to Nightvale** episodes can be found at the library, as well as the novelization of one of my other favorite podcasts, created by the same people who did Nightvale. It's called *Alice Isn't Dead*, and tells the story of a truck driver trying to find her missing wife... but that's a summary for another article.

PODCAST REVIEW: JUST ROLL WITH IT

BY GEORGE

Just Roll With It is a Dungeons and Dragons podcast and currently has two different campaigns going. The cast of the podcast consists of popular youtubers Charlie (Slimecicle), Bizly, Grizzly, and Condificton. The two campaigns are a pirate campaign set in medieval times while in contrast they have a superhero campaign going on which is set in a more modern time. The pirate campaign is known as Riptide and its their main campaign that they've been uploading publicly on Spotify and YouTube. The characters of Riptide consist of Chip, a human who as a kid grew up with a pirate crew that mysteriously vanished, leaving him the only survivor, Jay who comes from a long family of strong naval leaders, and Gillion Tidestrider, a Triton that was pulled out of the sea while Chip and Jay were traveling. Together they form the Riptide pirates and travel trying to figure out what happened to the Black Rose Pirates, the crew Chip grew up with. The other campaign is a Patreon exclusive that has only just recently began being released on YouTube, and to be honest I have not watched any yet! Anyways, every episode of the Riptide campaign is very entertaining to watch and will constantly leave it's fans (such as myself) waiting for more. Be warned as it contains some swearing.

IMPORTANCE OF

BY NORA

ILLUSTRATED BY IZZY



Maus is a series of graphic-novels drawn by Art Spiegelman based around his father's first hand experiences in Nazi Germany as a Jewish man. Spiegelman's novels are unique because of the brutal way in which they share his father's story, refusing to sanitize any of the events in order to make them more palatable to the modern audience. The imagery is horrific, the characters are messy and complex, and the extent to which antisemitism really existed in Europe is on full display. Most modern Holocaust stories provide commentary from the POV of an outsider, usually a non-Jew who makes friends with a Jewish person in hiding. By the end of the story, our protagonists Jewish friend will have been killed and we will have been reminded of what terrible people the Nazis were, but also that they were the minority and most people living in Nazi-controlled areas did not share the extreme bigoted beliefs of Hitler and his party. **Maus'** challenge is that, giving us a story from a Jewish perspective where there aren't really any non-Jewish heroes and most non-Jews that are main characters encounter are just as bigoted as the actual Nazis, even in countries under Nazi control, like Poland. **Maus** is different than almost every other piece of Holocaust media out there, which is why it matters. Which is why it was banned. This year, the McMinn County Board of Education voted to ban **Maus** from its libraries because of its "unnecessary use of profanity and nudity and its depiction of violence and suicide". I don't think I need to explain why this is a stupid excuse and why censorship of this form is automatically bad, but when you take our current political climate into account, when you think about the fact that we live in a time where whether or not the Holocaust actually happened is controversial, this becomes much more concerning. Kids aren't being taught about the Holocaust. When we looked at **Maus** earlier this year in English and were asked to make assumptions about its content based solely on the cover, one of my classmates responded saying that it was "a romance novel". **Maus**. A romance novel. There's a swastika on the cover. And cat Hitler. How do you look at a drawing of a swastika and cat Hitler and come to the conclusion that the book is about romance? Of course, she might've been joking but I sincerely doubt it. And as our generation grows up, there's going to be an entire group of kids from Tennessee who were never exposed to this book and the ideas presented in it, an entire group of kids who think **Maus** is a romance novel. People will start to forget that the Holocaust ever happened and as they forget, it becomes more likely that a genocide on this scale will happen again. Which is why **Maus** and it's brutally honest portrayal of Nazi Germany is important. It should be required reading for everyone on this planet. You can find a copy at your local library, bookstore, or there are PDFs available online.

RETRO WATCH: TWIN PEAKS

BY IZZY

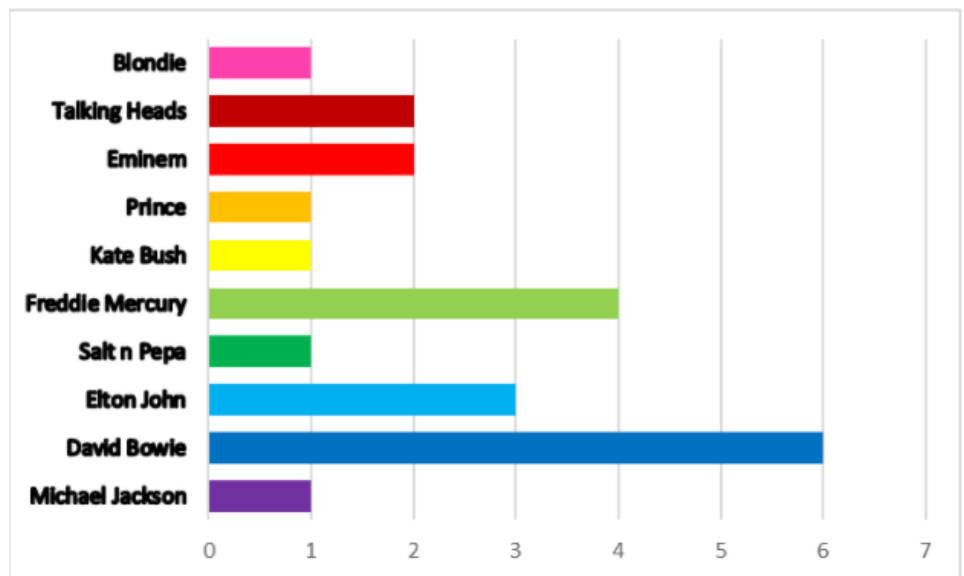


In preparation for the second KLN issue of the new year, I thought to myself- what's the freshest and most up to date television topic I could cover? A popular TV show reviewed 30 years too late, of course! Honestly, it was either this or the first season of My Little Pony that I've been nostalgia binging, so this is the better outcome. Twin Peaks is a mystery thriller show revolving around the titular town of Twin Peaks, which is turned upside down by the murder of local teen Laura Palmer. While the town's law enforcement and the FBI join forces to unravel the circumstances surrounding her death, the tensions simmering beneath the population boil over as rocky relationships are tested, secret plots are unearthed, and Scooby gangs of ambitious teens search for clues. This show is becoming one of my recent favorites because of its simultaneously suspenseful and calming tone, and because of the orange-tinted layer of nostalgia that makes me long for a time I was never even alive for. The plot manages to balance serious themes and comedy effortlessly, and I was mostly hooked by the compelling cast of characters who cleverly take advantage of the small town archetypes they've been placed in. Although I must warn you about the fair amount of horror and violence, this show is perfect for people who appreciate a classic murder mystery.

**Who's YOUR
favorite
musician
from this list?
Here's how
library
patrons
voted!!!**

POLL-A-RAMA

BY KLN STAFF



Three identical cartoon characters are shown in a row. Each character is a white, round-faced figure with large, expressive eyes, a black nose, and a wide, smiling mouth. They have blue, curved horns on their heads and a blue mustache above their mouths. Each character is giving a thumbs-up gesture with their right hand. The background is plain white.

BY IZZY & GEORGE

I: There are so many cool places to go in Kenmore. My personal favorite is our really great education system!

G: Yeah! It's not like we go there every day so we get time to enjoy it again later!

I: Very true. Whenever I visit there for fun I'm always like 'when can I go back there'.

G:True! Let's look at some reviews to see if other people feel the same!

I: I'm sure that the reviews surrounding our prestigious school are held in very high regard.

G: Exactly, let's see this one here says, "Man, I thought this was Outback Steakhouse". I'm sorry sir this is not an Outback Steakhouse.

I: Put some steaks in there and it will be. One of my favorite choices is an anonymous Google reviewer who reports, “

**‘ehh
hh
hh
hhhh’’. This was the abridged version- the original was much more descriptive, but used generally the same vocabulary (the same “h” over and over). But those are the opinions of nameless randos who possibly don’t even attend Ken West. Our perspectives are much more recent, and much more accurate.**

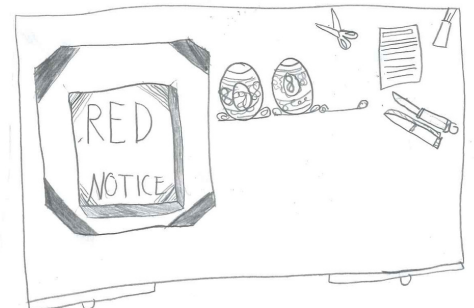
G: My opinion on Kenmore West is that a lot of the teachers are pretty friendly and understanding of people's circumstances. A lot of the rules put in place seem pretty out there especially the ones about hoods and hats.

I: Exactly- what I'm super obsessed with is when they stop enforcing out-of-date dress code rules for months and then go back on it immediately. But I really love how teachers are not only understanding of students' circumstances, but very lenient when it comes to assignments. 10/10 high school experience.

WATCH THIS!: RED NOTICE

BY ELIZA

Red Notice is a great movie. The story begins with a museum theft by the greatest art theft of the world. Or is he.... This man, Nolan Booth, successfully steals the painting, but gets found by a FBI profiler, John Hartley (Dwayne Johnson), and they team up to find the real greatest art theft of all time. There is action, adventure, and comedy in this great, no amazing movie. I definitely suggest it. Right now you can borrow it from the library, it's on Netflix, or on YouTube in HD for free.



DO NOT WATCH THIS: ARCANÉ

BY WILLOW



Arcane is TV series newly released on Netflix, combining themes of the dystopian, fantasy, and science-fiction genres. Don't let the animation of this video game adaption fool you – this show is certainly not for kids and is marketed to teens and older. Despite amazing visuals and initially compelling plot, after the fourth episode the show dissolves into a violent and grim series that takes a great amount of stamina to persevere through.

After their parents die, sisters Vi and Powder grow up in the brutal conditions of the Undercity, forced to steal from the pretentious and rich Piltover. The first part of the series centers mostly around the sisters' dynamics with their friends and their father figure Vander as they struggle to make a living and evade a new peril in their home. This is by far the best part of the series, as you are pulled forward into the compelling plot and the characters' struggles in their environment.

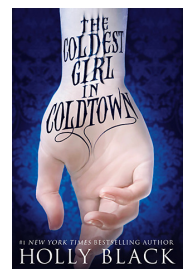
But after a time jump of undefined length, the plot falls apart and the characters become empty husks of their former selves. The show becomes more centered on a much less dynamic subplot that takes place in Piltover, taking you out of what had previously been the main and engrossing story. The time leap also removes you from the action, setting you down again years after the story begins. The characterization suffers as Powder goes from being innocent and intelligent, desperate to prove herself as capable and inadvertently causing terrible destruction, to the sadistic and mentally unhinged Jinx. She falls into the archetype of the mad and chaotic villain, but unlike other antagonists of a similar vein, she is one dimensional and unlikable. Her character development is never delved into deeply, and any chance at redemption seems pointless, being as she seems completely brutal and unsympathetic through most of the show. Vi is a mildly interesting character, but besides her fighting skills and sarcasm her character is never expanded upon. Similarly unexplored is her budding romance with naïve but headstrong Catelyn. Their chemistry is immediately engaging but hardly goes anywhere, as they are separated for the majority of the show.

Moreover, the show replaces strong plot or characters with brutal violence. This is a common choice in much of today's media – often creators are unable to develop a story satisfactorily and so pile on the gore in an effort to hold the viewer's attention. To the contrary, however, the violence in Arcane is what makes it especially unenjoyable, along with the constant pessimistic filter of the series.

Overall, Arcane is an initially compelling but ultimately disappointing show that fails to rise to its potential. The combination of poor characterization, weak plot, and distasteful violence makes it a dissatisfying watch and one of many shows that add to the mediocre majority of young adult media today.

READ THIS: THE COLDEST GIRL IN COLDTOWN

BY NORA



Source:
<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/12813630-the-coldest-girl-in-coldtown>

Young-adult vampire novels. They're a staple of the genre. Maybe they're their own genre. You can probably name a few off the top of your head. Twilight. The Vampire Diaries. Vampire Academy. Etcetera. They're all kind of terrible.

The Coldest Girl in Coldtown is not terrible.

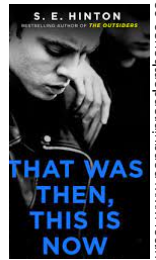
I'm not a big vampire person, I like Buffy but that's about it, and I read this book before I watched that. I only picked this book up because of the author. I read all of Holly Black's faerie novels (Hot take: The Folk of the Air is overrated; The Darkest Part of the Forest is superior) and couldn't get enough of her writing style, so I picked this up. And I was pleasantly surprised.

The main character, Tana, exists in a world where vampirism is a pandemic, and the infected are forced to live in walled cities known as Coldtowns. But it turns out vampires aren't really good at being contained and many still roam free... and bloodthirsty. When Tana wakes up after a party and finds the rest of her classmates dead. The only other survivor is her ex-boyfriend, Aiden, who's been bitten. When the vampires return to finish them off, Tana is bitten also. The two make it their mission to get to the nearest Coldtown to wait out the infection before they hurt anyone else. The only problem is that once you enter Coldtown, you can never leave.

I actually really liked this book. It sounds kind of corny but I thought it was actually really well done. I even kind of liked the obligatory vampire love interest. So, if you're a fan of dark and gritty vampire novels, check this out!

CLASSICALLY GOOD: THAT WAS THEN, THIS IS NOW

BY WILLOW



That Was Then, This is Now by S.E. Hinton is another excellent book written by the author of *The Outsiders*. It is grim, intense, and painfully realistic, a story of troubled childhood, warped society, and the loss of innocence. As the characters navigate the uneven ground of adolescence, one question pervades the story - can anything be like it used to be?

Bryon and Mark have been as close as brothers their whole lives, and it seems that their bond will never break. But as they grow older, their lives begin to diverge. Mark is the same as always - golden, fierce, always living in the moment with no thought of the future. Bryon, meanwhile, is changing drastically, navigating romance and the thoughts that come with growing up. As heartache, relationships, and circumstance pull them apart, will their friendship survive the tumultuous ordeal?

Haunting and grimly poignant, this book has simple yet effective plot and multi-dimensional characters that are painfully human. As Bryon explores the complicated realities of life, struggles with tough decisions and deals with the harsh realities of his environment, the reader can't help but root for him. Over the course of the story, a romance full of promise blossoms, a young boy runs away and a friendship is shaken to its core. All the while, the viewer feels happiness, regret, horror, and nostalgia, and the desire for everything to work out in the end.

But the underlying theme of S.E. Hinton's gloomy yet superb novel is that everything does not always work out in the end, or go back to the way they were. Perhaps part of growing up is facing some of life's harsh realities, and still being able to persevere, though changed drastically.

DON'T JUST WATCH... READ! MARVEL COMICS

BY GEORGE

Marvel comics are great, their stories are confusing, pretty cool, and the artwork is amazing. The house of M event occurred after the Scarlet Witch accidentally killed several Avengers. Luckily for us it's the comics and no one stays dead for long! So Wanda (Scarlet Witch) met up with her brother, father and Charles Xavier. There is news that the Avengers as well as some E-Men are going to figure out what to do with her. They reach Wanda's location and suddenly everything goes white. Wolverine wakes up and immediately realizes things are off. The world was prominently mutants and the humans were oppressed. Wolverine searches and finds Luke Cage who had no recollection of the original timeline. With Luke Cage's group there was a mutant child who did recall the timeline. She reminded Cage of the past and they decided to find other heroes and do the same. After collecting a few heroes they run into Peter Parker. Peter, or the Amazing Spider-Man, lost his Uncle Ben and his love interest Gwen Stacy. In this world they're back and Peter and Gwen are together and they have a kid. After learning nothing is real, Peter runs off and has a good cry. I FEEL SO BAD FOR PETER DURING THIS STORY. HE GOES THROUGH SO MUCH AND IN THE END HE HAS TO SUFFER MORE! GIVE THIS MAN A BREAK.

The rest of the story goes as expected but I don't want to spoil everything. Overall this story was a very enjoyable one with great artwork and an amazing story. If you want to get into comics, it's pretty easy to pick up any series and just get reading.

WATCH THIS!: ENCANTO

BY GRAILEY

If you haven't heard or seen this movie you need to move out of the rock you've been living in. This movie is about the amazing Madrigal family who live in the hidden mountains of Columbia in a magic place called the Encanto. The Encanto blesses each Madrigal child with a gift when they come of age. Except Mirabel who figures out she may be her family's last hope when she finds out the magic around the Encanto is in danger. I personally love the characters. They're the type of characters that everyone would like because they are hilarious. I love that there are Hispanic and Afro-Latinas in this movie. So you have a variety of color in the movie. The movie also tackles some heavy themes like generational trauma, family dynamics, and the suffering of refugees (a.k.a immigrants even though they had no choice in the matter). Overall I give this movie a 100/100 mostly because I love the song "We Don't Talk About Bruno". You can watch this movie on Disney+.



Source: <https://movies.disney.com/encanto>

RETRO HORROR: WEEKEND

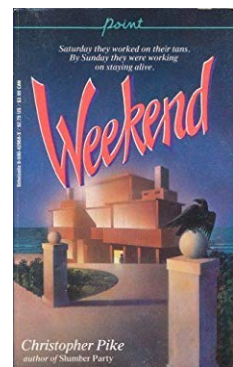
BY WILLOW

Weekend is a horror/thriller marketed to the young adult audience, written by author Christopher Pike. Tense, entertaining, and surprisingly heart-warming, Pike combines humor with horror in this engaging read.

Nothing has been the same since the accident. When a group of friends get together for a weekend in Mexico, it's a chance for things to go back to normal. They expect a weekend of surfing, sunbathing, and romance – but what they get is far more sinister. Someone knows the truth of what happened to Robin that night, and they'll go to any ends – even murder – to find out who did it.

Weekend is an enjoyable, though slightly cheesy, combination of romantic comedy and twisty thriller. The dialogue is entertaining, if a bit racy, and the relationships between the teenagers are compelling, although slightly underdeveloped. This is a shame, as more expansion on this element would have been a drastic improvement to the story. In addition, this book is to a degree a product of its time (the 80s), so expect it to at points come across as dated. However, the plot remains engaging and keeps the reader on their toes, laughing at the comedic exchanges and shuddering at the particularly chilling scenes. But between humor and horror, Pike manages to slip in some genuine moments that make the book all the better. Some of the story elements, such as sorcerers and firework smuggling, are not explored to their full potential, but in the end the novel keeps you hooked right down to its mind-bending conclusion.

Overall, **Weekend** is clever and creepy, blending teenage drama with thrills. Despite being dated, it still holds up for modern fans and makes a well-deserved addition to any bookshelf. If you're looking for a story with the best elements of comedy, romance, and horror, you'll love this book.



Source: <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weekend>

MANGA REVIEW: UZUMAKI

BY WILLOW



Junji Ito's **Uzumaki** is a masterfully woven tale of terror and mystery that is sure to keep all horror readers engaged. From the unnervingly surreal visuals to the shocking plot, it will keep you turning pages and shuddering in horror right down to the last chapter.

This manga novel tells the story of Kurouzu-cho, a cursed small town whose residents are forced to endure madness and death. The source of their terror is the hypnotic spiral, which haunts the town, causing distortions in reality. The plot follows teenager Kirie Goshima as she witnesses firsthand a series of increasingly bizarre events in her hometown, struggling to survive in a world of blood-sucking pregnant women, reanimated corpses, and snail people. Will she and her friends escape Kurouzu-cho, or will they be forever trapped inside the spiral?

This book is a masterclass in horror manga, exploring the terrifying, gruesome, and surreal in twisted visuals and a story line that gets more bone-chilling with every chapter. The entire experience has a vaguely dream-like quality, the plot twisting and distorting with Kirie's surroundings. As the reader draws closer to the end of the book, they sympathize with the characters, with them as they are lost in mazes of spiral-shaped housing complexes, forced to eat giant snails, and all the while drawing nearer to the center of the town's disease.

In conclusion, anyone who enjoys reading manga that is frightening and altogether brilliant, this book is for you. If you dare to enter Kurouzu-cho and the influence of the spiral, you will not be disappointed.

POKEMON

BY GEORGE

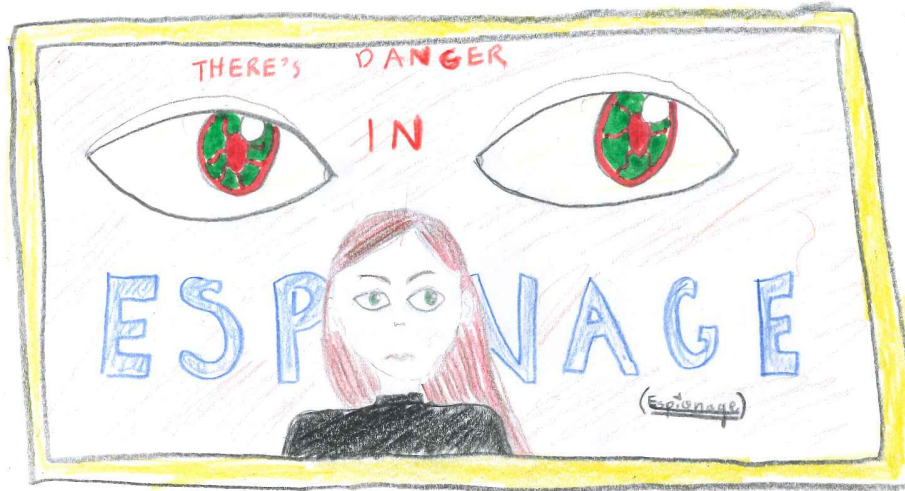


Oh boy am I big fan of Pokémon and like literally any media that has to do with Pokémon! The new game Pokémon: Legends Arceus is no different, and it's currently one of, if not, my favorite Pokémon game to date. The game takes place in a medieval Sinnoh (one of the many regions in the Pokémon world) and our protagonist gets dropped out of the sky and is presumably from the future. This claim is backed up by the fact that they get dropped out of the sky with their cell phone... so um maybe! You go through a tutorial of catching Pokémon and eventually get into the swing of things and the main gameplay mechanics. Instead of Pokémon sneaking up on you, a lot of Pokémon require you to crouch and hide in tall grass so they don't run away. Other Pokémon will immediately want to battle you and you can't throw pokeballs anymore. In each area there are Pokémon known as Alpha Pokémon which get a stat boost, a higher level than most of the wild Pokémon, as well as being bigger than others. As you catch more Pokémon, your pokedex expands and you have to do more tasks surrounding the Pokémon to fill it out. As you progress your pokedex you earn more stars which unlock new areas and more Pokémon to find, as well as the story. The story is very engaging and keeps me wanting to continue. This game is surely a 9/10 game and possibly the best Pokémon game!

JUST A GIRL

(A SERIAL STORY PART II)

BY WILLOW



Catherine reeled, and she didn't reel easily. "You're lying," she said in a hiss.

He smiled, thinking he had finally gotten the upper hand. "Why would I lie?" he asked.

He should have remembered that she was the one with the upper hand on him – literally. She hoisted him up by his collar, and he choked and spluttered as she spoke. "I can think of a thousand reasons that you would lie," she said in an even voice. "And if you are, I will think of a thousand ways of killing you. And please trust me, it won't be pleasant."

He trusted her. "I'm not! I swear."

Cat wasn't sure that she could trust what he said. She didn't trust what anyone said, and now didn't seem like a good time to change her sentiment.

But she let him go, and he stumbled backwards with a yelp, rubbing his neck. He was a tall, proud-looking boy with a tanned face and brown hair, and eyes that were bright and sharp. Those eyes saw her clearly for the first time, beyond the white, composed face and the soft, chaotic red hair, beyond the pretty exterior into something sharp and dangerous.

He took a step away from her, and immediately his own pistol was being pointed at his chest. "Don't even think about it," Cat said flatly. She was absurdly upset with this boy for smashing her already precarious peace of mind like she had smashed the paperweight. Who did he think he was? The idea that APRAP had sent him was a ludicrous sentiment – and yet there was something in it that made her heart pound, and made her say, "Why did APRAP send you?"

He had the strong sense that the wrong answer would lead to that bullet taking up a permanent residence in his heart. "They didn't tell me anything except that you were a loose end and I had to kill you," he said, which was the truth. "If I had known just how hard you would be to kill, I might have been less keen on it."

Cat considered him levelly, but her mind was racing. He was speaking convincingly – but because he was telling the truth, or because he was a good liar, good enough to fool even her? She wasn't comfortable enough with her deductions to say any way for certain – but she was reasonably sure that either way he would end up dead by her hand. She contemplated this without particular emotion and spoke to him again in a voice that she thought was both plausible and charming. "What is your name? Or should I just call you assassin?" she offered.

He was offput by her sudden change in demeanor, but more taken with her flirtatious smile. "Timothy," he said.

He didn't relate his last name, which was rather disappointing but not surprising. "Well, Tim, I might keep you alive for just a little longer." Long enough to figure out what's really going on...

STORY CONTINUES IN THE NEXT ISSUE.....

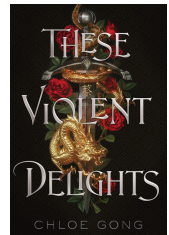
REEL REVIEW: SCREAM (AHHHH!!!)

BY IZZY

Boo! I spooked you, huh? Did you feel scared? Intimidated, maybe? Now, for one last question... what's your favorite scary movie? Personally mine is *The Thing* but I would also be up for *Carrie* or *Candyman* any day. *Get Out* is also really good and my personal favorite aspect of it is the way that you can notice a new detail in it every time. Really speaks to the thought and creativity put into the.... And that's how I'd bore *Ghostface* into hanging up on me. But all unnecessarily convoluted intros aside. I thought the new *Scream* movie was just okay. It honestly shows just how just-okay it was that I can't even remember its full title, just that it's the new *Scream* movie. Honestly, a horror movie franchise that's based on the irony of horror movie franchises can only go so far. Self-aware horror movies kind of die out when horror movies themselves have changed so drastically over the years, so a lot of the self-awareness gets a little tone deaf. For example, the whole "the diehard fans are the villains now" thing is cliché in the best of circumstances. Also, shoving Billy Loomis in there for the fan appeal was kind of meh, and I definitely don't think he'd still look 17 like 30 or 40 years later. I dunno. It was entertaining, and I definitely liked the whole 'the final girl is the assumed victim from the first scene' trope subversion. But there's a point where self-aware is too aware, and when the characters keep saying, "Well, this horror movie is gonna be just as good as *Friday the 13th* or *Halloween*!" it kind of made me want to walk out of the theater and go watch *Friday the 13th* instead. Like, you're talking about Jason so much I'm realizing I kind of miss that guy. The new *Ghostface* killer is some random side character that you gave me five unlikeable seconds to care about? That's so cool I guess. Plus I thought it was sort of funny how they kept saying, "You think it's sloppy that we just brought back old characters aged up to make this movie interesting! But aren't we so meta for knowing that that's what you were thinking?!" I mean, that was what I was thinking. And now I'm thinking it was pretty sad that you also thought that but still chose to go down the aged-up-old-characters route anyways. Overall, it's a fun movie if you just want to tune out, but it might get a little annoying if you were searching for the long lost actually good *Scream* sequel.

NOT QUITE ROMEO: THESE VIOLENT DELIGHTS

BY NORA



Source:
https://www.goodreads.com/author/show/50892212.Chloe_Gong

Romeo and Juliet gets a lot of flack in pop culture, mainly for the way it incorporates and serves as the inspiration for most examples of the star-crossed lovers trope, which is undoubtedly the most annoying trope of all time. Which is why, when I heard that this book was a *Romeo and Juliet* retelling, I was a bit put off, not enough to prevent me from reading it, but enough to put me on high-alert, ready for a bit of cheese and teenage angst.

This is me warning you to be ready for cheese and teenage angst.

These Violent Delights by Chloe Gong is a *Romeo and Juliet* retelling, set in 1920's Shanghai, over a backdrop of a vicious gang war and Imperialism. Juliette Cai is the daughter of the leader of the Scarlet Gang and rightful heir, or at least she would be, if she was a boy. As it stands now, Juliette's horrid cousin Tyler stands to take her father's place once he's gone, and Juliette hates this. She spends almost all of her time trying to be taken seriously, both by the members of her own gang and the white foreigners who control the city. Roma Montagov is Juliette's main rival and former lover (what a plot twist, am I right?), heir to the White Flower gang. Roma doesn't really like the gang life though, he's too soft, and he's not respected by any of the gang's members. When a mysterious epidemic begins to threaten Shanghai and the futures of both gangs, Roma and Juliette are forced to put aside their differences (and sexual tension) and get to the bottom of the mysterious creatures threatening public and political health.

These Violent Delights is more than a simple retelling, it's also a very interesting look at imperialized China, which is a time period and place not often talked about. I'd recommend it to anyone who likes romance but also anyone who likes history and maybe even mysteries. This book has something to offer almost everyone.

SCIENCE COMIC



A SOLILOQUY ABOUT READING

BY IZZY

Lately, I've been getting into the wild world of reading. I know, I know. Unmarked territory for someone who supposedly writes about books once a week. But with an English class that actually encourages reading through the medium of 5-page essays, and some free time, I've been picking up some of the books sitting on the shelves that occupy both my house and the long-abandoned library app on my phone. (It's called Libby, by the way, and it's supported by own very own Kenmore Library. Don't be like me and read books so that you can pass your English classes and maybe learn or something!). But anyways. In addition to continuing my Earthsea read, I've also been starting other fantasy books like Pan's Labyrinth, and picking up where I left off on old series.

I'll start with the Earthsea series, since I'm just picking up where I left off. I'd usually heard that the second Earthsea book, [Tombs of Atuan](#), is better than its former. It has a more cohesive plot, it's more interesting... stuff like that. After the first book, [Wizard of Earthsea](#), I could definitely see how that could be true- it's good, sure, but it took a while for me to get really interested, and for the most part it's just typical high fantasy. But when I started Tombs of Atuan, I wasn't expecting it to be that good. The sequel story is separated from Ged's storyline at first, because it follows Arha, the teenage priestess of a cult surrounding an underground labyrinth of catacombs. The cult, comprised of women and their eunuchs, which are basically servants, worships a nameless power of dark forces, which are implied to be the same dark forces that Ged is fighting against in Book One. But the main attraction of the Tombs of Atuan is the treasures they hold, namely the legendary Ring of Erreth-Akbe. Arha lives in almost complete ignorance of these treasures until a wizard intrudes upon the catacombs to take the Ring, a blasphemous crime against the Nameless Ones. Arha tricks her prisoner at first, intentionally misleading him through the labyrinth to starve him. But as they eventually start interacting face to face, and spending time together, Arha and the now-experienced wizard Ged both realize how futile escape is, and how much they value the trust they've gradually begun to place in each other. They find a way out of the twists and turns of the Tombs of Atuan, fighting against Arha's fellow priestesses, the catacombs, and the Nameless Ones themselves. But as Arha starts to puzzle out what freedom really means, she also uncovers the meaning of something just as valuable and just as hidden from her- her true name, the human name that was stolen from her when she became leader of the Tombs. I liked this book a lot because in the first Earthsea book, female characters were few and far between, and women were generally seen as weak or unimportant. This is partially because of the context of the time, since these books were written in the 60s and Ursula Le Guin knew that characters of color and female characters would probably detract from readership. But I was pleasantly surprised by the inclusion of female characters in Tombs of Atuan. Arha is complex, multi-faceted, and just as important to the plot and the retrieval of the Ring of Erreth-Akbe as Ged is, probably more so since she's the main character and the narrator of the story. So that was my continuation of Earthsea. Right now, I'm on the fourth book, Tehanu, but I'm taking a brief Earthsea break before continuing because I feel like I've been reading nothing but Ursula Le Guin for like three months.

Guillermo Del Toro never misses. My second fantasy book in recent months has been [Pan's Labyrinth](#), and sadly I actually had to google whether the book or the movie came first. Oh wow! As someone who just googled it for you, dear reader, I can say that the movie came first! Well anyways, now I'm wondering whether the movie is better than the book. [Pan's Labyrinth](#) confused me at first- thinking that it went along the lines of Coraline, I sort of thought that it was just a generally dark kids' book that got turned into a movie. I mean, the incorporation of magic and fauns is usually a kids' fantasy thing, and I'll be honest, the last time I looked into this book was three years ago when I was super bored. But when I started it, I was met with a good contrast of realistically violent warfare, complex emotional conflicts, and the main character, Ofelia, using magic and fairies mainly as a route of escapism from her all-too-brutal life. Reeling from the relatively recent death of her husband, Ofelia's mother, Carmen, ended up marrying a cutthroat military captain- Vidal- to keep herself financially and emotionally stable, and her pregnancy caused Carmen to bring herself, Ofelia, and Ofelia's future stepsibling to an old repurposed mill where Vidal was leading an attack against a group of rebel fighters. Ofelia finds a fairy in the forest surrounding the mill, and the rest of the story follows a stark contrast between the high-stakes conflicts that the military force faces, and Ofelia's journey into the mystical world of fantasy and myth that the fairy is guiding her towards. This story is really compelling, and the mix of realism and fantasy keeps a good balance that keeps me interested. I'm not finished with this book yet, and I've got a feeling that the tone of the story doesn't keep a consistent pace, but so far I've been drawn in much farther than I was expecting. I should probably get around to reading the book's source material someday...at some point.

TOTALLY RECOMMENDED

BY GEORGE

WORDLE!



Day-to-day life not challenging enough? Why not challenge yourself to a wordle! Wordle is a game you can play anywhere, on your laptop, phone, or your Nintendo 3DS (please do not fact check this)! Wordles are always 5 letter words that you get 6 tries to guess. The word changes daily so it's always ready! Wordle is really fun as you and your friends can compete to see who can get it in the least amount of tries. The way it works is if you get a letter wrong while guessing it turns gray on the keyboard, if the letter is in the word but not in the right place it's yellow, and if the letter is right and in the correct place it lights up green! Personally, wordles are very fun to help me challenge my brain and keep me thinking. Also I've never lost, which is a bonus.

WORTH A WATCH: MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

BY ELIZA

Murder on the Orient Express is an exciting, dark movie. The movie opens in Jerusalem, where the greatest detective in the world, Hercule Poirot, solves a case. His friend then arranges for him to go back to London, on The Orient Express. On the train, Ratchett, a passenger, offers to hire Hercule to be his bodyguard during the three-day journey, because he had gotten many life threatening letters. However, Hercule completely declines after learning that Ratchett is a hustler. That night, Hercule hears noises coming from Ratchett's compartment, and sees someone in a red kimono running down the hallway. Later in the night, an avalanche stranded the train on a bridge. In the morning, they realize Ratchett has been murdered, stabbed a dozen times, and all the passengers on the train were suspects. Unfortunately, Hercule has his work cut out for him, because every passenger is very suspicious. There is much I have left out of this, including a burned note, connecting the murdered passenger to a case involving kidnaping and murdering a child, causing a family to fall apart, and affecting countless people. The plot is very complex, but it's still a really amazing movie and I would definitely watch it again.

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