

KLN ZINE



THE KENMORE LIBRARY NEWS FOR YOUNG ADULT LIBRARY LOVERS!

WELCOME!

BY GRAILEY

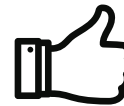
This issue is going to be sooo awesome!!! There isn't a specific theme for this issue, but I'll tell you what we have in it. I wrote about the anime I've been watching and they're all sooo good. So check that out I guess. Then we have a Grinch review (I'm sorry for the people that have a thing against Christmas stuff after December). Also for the Marvel lovers out there, we have a review of Black Panther. Then at the end of the issue, we have a big surprise for you guys.



ARTWORK BY MARC

TOTALLY RECOMMENDED

BY IZZY



Kindred

by Octavia Butler



I've productively read the many great literary works upon my bookshelf and will henceforth write about them, is what I would have said if I hadn't spent the better part of a month exclusively reading **Kindred** by Octavia Butler every weekday morning before school. This was undoubtedly one of my favorite books I've read this year, and it blends science and historical fiction as it tells the tale of Dana, a young Black woman living in the 70s who is teleported back in time to save the life of one of her distant ancestors, a white slaveowner's son, who will eventually father the girl she is descended from. This book is insightful in its commentary about the history of slavery and the nature of home across time and space. Captivating and chilling, this literary classic also has recently inspired a TV show by the same name.

TWISTED, INTRICATE, AND PHILOSOPHICAL



BY WILLOW

Notes from Underground is a darkly comedic novel, full of biting satire and featuring a protagonist who is intelligent, egotistical, and removed from society. This story of contradicting selves and wickedly complicated philosophy is cleverly irreverent, while revealing the flaws and effects of the nihilistic mindset that pervaded the time Dostoevsky was writing. The story opens with the musings of an unnamed narrator, who is currently living apart from the outside world (in the "underground"). In this state of self-constructed isolation, he claims that he is a "sick man...a wicked man."* Going forth, he begins to expand upon his reasoning behind this assessment - before abruptly contradicting it by claiming "I lied just now when I said I was a wicked official. I lied out of wickedness."

Thus begins a story of constantly shifting opinions and cynical observations. In fact, the first third of the book is entirely made up of these very observations, as the reader is pulled along with a soft of bemused enjoyment. As it progresses into its second part, however, the protagonist (or antihero, more accurately) engages in recollections of his earlier life some 20 years previously. (Featured with particular prevalence is a disastrous dinner party, which he invited himself to despite his extremely antisocial nature. As might be guessed, it doesn't turn out well...)

Though there are several characters that factor heavily in *Notes*, the one that colors the entire narrative is the central antihero (or as literary critics and readers refer to him, "The Underground Man."). The Underground Man is the filter through which the reader perceives the entire story, and it is evident from his descriptions that he holds nearly everything and everyone in contempt. Functioning almost as a personification of the nihilist movement (the dominant one in Russia at the time), he is extremely intelligent, but one must wonder if that intelligence has served him in his life. He is egotistical to the extreme, unable to participate in genuine relationships, and regards himself to be on a different level than the rest of his fellows. (Whether that level is above them or beneath them is a point that he changes on.) It is undeniable that many of the points he makes regarding the mediocrity around him are valid, but his mindset is what eventually leads to his complete retreat from the rest of the world. Over the course of the novel, the reader experiences how the narrator's nihilistic views and self-destructive tendencies have destroyed his life and relationships.

Notes from Underground is an artfully constructed story that is dark, hilarious, and disturbing by turns. A masterwork that showcases the brilliant, troubled mind of the narrator, it takes you to many strange and abstract places, wrapping you in a blanket of eloquence and humor that nonetheless conceals something richer and darker beneath.

**I am reviewing the Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky translation, rather than the Constance Garnett one, which is slightly different. The Pevear and Volokhonsky translation has been praised by critics for being the most accurate and vivid thus far - however, I encourage you to explore both versions, and determine for yourself.*

WATCH THIS: BLACK PANTHER: WAKANDA FOREVER

BY SIMON

Black Panther: Wakanda Forever is a direct sequel to *Black Panther*. In the wake of Chadwick Boseman's death, director Ryan Coogler had a huge workload to be respectful to Chadwick's death and also make a good movie. His choice to have Chadwick's character (SPOILER) die of a mysterious illness in the beginning of the film was a good one. The main plot is Shuri (Letitia Wright) dealing with T'Challa's (Chadwick Boseman) death and the underwater nation Talokan trying to wage war on the surface world. Namor (Tenoch Huerta) leads Talokan against Wakanda, which was in the way of their war against the surface. All in all it was an excellent movie but not as good as the original. I would rate 4.5 out of 5 stars.



SONIC ENTERS A NEW FRONTIER!

BY GEORGE
ILLUSTRATED BY IZZY

Sonic the Hedgehog has recently zoomed his way into the spotlight with a brand new game, and honestly it's a pretty good game! As of now I haven't beaten the main story but I've put around 11 hours into the game. The open world is very beautiful and very fun to run around in, which is definitely one of the selling points for a Sonic game. The story so far has been intriguing as Sonic, Tails, Amy, and Knuckles get sent to "Cyberspace" and everyone but Sonic gets trapped and stuck somewhere in between reality and cyberspace. To free his friends, Sonic must collect these tokens in order to restore their memories and continue the story. All the collectibles don't feel like a chore to get and don't take long either. The combat mechanics are very easy to learn and useful in almost all of the battles. FOR SOME REASON, THOUGH, IT TOOK ME LIKE HALF THE THE TIME I PLAYED TO LEARN THAT YOU CAN HOLD DOWN THE COUNTER BUTTONS AND NOT JUST PRESS IT. That would've saved my life so many times, so now I pass the knowledge onto you. Anyways this game is very fun and definitely recommend you try it out!



IN PREPARATION FOR: SPIDER-MAN ACROSS THE SPIDER-VERSE

BY GEORGE

On December 13th, the studio behind Spider-man: Into the Spider-verse released a trailer for the new movie, **Spider-man: Across the Spider-verse**, and it looks so hype! So in preparation for the new movie coming out in June, I've decided to review the first movie. Honestly, the movie is great--literally my favorite movie. It introduces us to the character of Miles Morales, shows us his struggles, and his journey to becoming Spider-Man. Even though it's a movie about the multiverse, it does a great job of explaining everything and making it pretty easy to understand. The pacing of the movie is great and I really enjoyed how it took things pretty slow but still had some amazing action shots. Along with its art style, it felt like it could've been a comic with its pacing. From Miles's introduction to Peter Parker dying as an issue one, to Miles finding Peter B. Parker to eventually agreeing to help each other. Anyways, I love the scores that are used in the movie, they always managed to get across the emotions that were happening in those scenes. The art style was so unique at the time of its release. Spider-verse was such a mind blowing movie that managed to combine both humor and very emotional moments too. All in all, for a movie that came out in 2018, it's still great!



OUT AND ABOUT: BLACKBIRD SWEETS

BY SIMON



BLACKBIRD SWEETS
1547 HERTEL AVE



Blackbird Sweets is a bakery on Hertel and has the best cookies, cupcakes, and treats in Kenmore and Buffalo. They also sell pasta from Pasta Peddler and it is a great atmosphere and has great prices.



AWESOME AUDIO

BY IZZY



One of the most controversial, well-loved, and certainly most hyped books of last year is undoubtedly **I'm Glad My Mom Died** by former *iCarly* supporting actress, Sam & Cat lead, and prolific former child star Jennette McCurdy. Now, our sibling publication, *The Checkout*, has already done a stellar review of this memoir, and if you're a frequent reader of the Kenmore Library News and its spinoffs, you're probably saying, "Been there, read that!" However I'm not reviewing the eBook *I'm Glad My Mom Died*. This review is on the audiobook, narrated by the author herself from beginning to end! The overall memoir focuses on Jennette's youth, as her mother pressured her into a stressful acting career that she disliked and enabled her to develop an eating disorder to try and "prevent growing up." Jennette chronicles her emotional journey to reclaiming control over her life and decisions regarding romance, her mother's death, and the children's TV industry she's devoted her entire childhood to. This memoir was insightful, funny, sardonic, emotional, and shocking—even though I've personally never seen *iCarly* or its sequel, it made me seriously think about my preconceptions of it and of the kids' TV industry in general. But my favorite part of this audiobook was the narration. A lot of the reviews I'd read were praising that element, but when I started listening, the first thing I noticed was the *lack* of any particular emotion. The voices of each character were unique and fitting, but Jennette seemed to describe the traumatic catalysts and stinging details of her life in an objective tone, reading as if it were scientific data, impassive and focused. I figured that maybe she wanted the writing to speak for itself, rather literally, but eventually, when she touched on the topic of her recovery toward the end, her voice started to crack when reading, and I realized that the tone of the narration otherwise was most likely a controlled restraint of emotion. Hearing the story through her voice, picking up on the whining complaints of her grandmother, the quick paced confidence of her mother's words, and even her own flat, witty inner monologue, it all shaped a unique impression of the book that I don't think I would've had otherwise. **I'm Glad My Mom Died** is fascinating, hilarious, and electrifying, and the narration is a big reason why its message really hits home.

OPINION: LOGO OVERSIMPLIFICATION IS BAD

BY SIMON

Okay. There is a problem with oversimplification. We see it every day. Guess where? LOGOS. This is a huge problem in our society and needs to be addressed by all the companies committing this felony. If you look, the Firefox logo was iconic. A fox circling the world. Then it got simpler. More solid colors. Then no fox or world. Take the Pizza Hut logo. It was iconic. The red roof over the company's name. Then they added a couple color swirls. It was a step in the right direction. Then they killed all of their design morals and made a red circle with a white Pizza Hut in the center. Why?! Another example is Google. Google apps were iconic and distinguishable. Then they put everything in the red, blue, green, and yellow. I can't tell Google Docs from Google Drive apart anymore. The logos are becoming almost unrecognizable. Companies, take note.



What happens when designers prioritise aesthetics over usability



ANIME THAT I'VE BEEN WATCHING RECENTLY

BY GRAILEY



Komi Can't Communicate

It's about a really pretty popular girl at school who has very bad social anxiety. She makes a friend with a not-so-popular boy to help make friends. (There is also a comic book series about it that I really want to read.) (TV-PG)



Gudetama: An Eggcellent Adventure

I know this show is super childish for some people but I really like it and it's super cute. It's about a super lazy egg going on an adventure with a chick. (TV-PG)



Lookism

This show is really good and I really like the webtoon series. It's about a boy who lives in a place where good looks matter and he is living two lives; as a good-looking person, then as an ugly person.

FOR THE POD PEOPLE (PODCAST REVIEWS)

DIMENSION 20

BY SIMON

Dimension 20 is a Dungeons and Dragons podcast and they play a campaign per season. The DM for the podcast is Brennan Lee Mulligan from College Humor. He does fun campaigns with weird twists. He plays with College Humor cast members and it is super funny. I would rate 9 out of 10.

THE HOTEL

BY IZZY



Strange as it may seem coming from a library newsletter that also reviews podcasts, books and podcasts aren't so different. Sometimes you don't want to parse through 100 40-minute episodes jam-packed with plot. Sometimes you're tired of getting through the dialogue of characters that you know will get better in the next season if you just get through these 8 hours of initial development. Sometimes you want to read--or listen to--brief, compelling stories with interesting characters... that are a little bit *eerie*? The Hotel is a horror podcast about three hotel staff members--The Manager, The Lobby Boy, and The Owner--who are eternally doomed to carry out their jobs, which are to murder unsuspecting guests by creating elaborate torture rooms tailored to each person's specific fear. The rooms' malicious features are often fantastical, like a room that slowly fills with water for someone with a fear of depths, and these short stories are categorized by guest, with each episode being about 11 minutes long. The episodes are usually narrated by a hotel staff member, and all three of them have distinctive personalities and different attitudes towards their gruesome lots in life. These stories are immersive, unique, and terrifying, and they vary greatly. I also like them for their brevity--it's a good podcast to listen to on a walk or while doing the dishes! Unspeakable horrors and violence can be anywhere in your daily routine, if you just give this audible anthology a quick listen!



"GRAND PIANO"
BY GEOFFREY

THE DAILY LIFE OF THE IMMORTAL KING PART 1

BY C.J.

This romance-action anime is good for people who like magic and references of other anime. The show starts off in a nice and peaceful city and then out of nowhere, a giant rip comes up in the sky and a giant toad comes out of the rip. Then it goes on a rampage for who knows what reason, and then it shows a kid buying crispy noodles in the middle of a rampage. Like, boy, where are your parents??? And then he starts to cross the street and this guy on a sword (and I mean that he's riding on it and not gliding), is trying to warn the kid to move but he's too interested in his noodle snack. But luckily the guy just saved his life, and then we skip like 10 years ahead. The main character Wang Ling, a "normal" teenager, is very skinny kid and he looks bored and then two strong boys come up and say "you don't look like you have a strong magic level so we will protect you but it will cost you some money." But before he can say anything a blast of fire came from the sky and this is how we meet Sunro. And with that it's the end of part 1!

A BIT OF A DOWNER:

INSIDE JOB AND HOW ABUSE SHAPES THEIR MAIN CHARACTERS

BY ELLA

Inside Job is a Netflix original which features two main characters, Reagan Ridley and Brett Hand. Both of these characters show how abuse can affect children in the most crucial stages of their development. Reagan, who is the main protagonist, is introduced from the very beginning of the show to lack the social skills necessary to connect with her peers, and is very focused solely on her work. Her father Rand is quickly introduced, and his abuse towards Reagan is immediately noticeable. He is an alcoholic and speaks negatively about Reagan constantly, even to her face, and as the show progresses, Reagan exhibits signs of mental and emotional abuse. This abuse is also shown with Reagan's mom Tamiko, who is very narcissistic, and does not show interest in Reagan other than inquiring about her love life. The other main character is Brett, who is the narrative foil to Reagan as a character. Brett comes from a rich family with three (formerly four) siblings and his parents, who are unnamed. He is told constantly by his father that he is his least favorite, underneath the dog, and this is severely damaging to Brett's self esteem. The reason why Brett is so different from Reagan is mainly because of two factors. The first factor that differentiates the two is that Brett regularly mentions going to therapy to help his mental health and heal his childhood trauma. Reagan is unfamiliar with this idea, as she believes that therapy cannot help her. This fact does start to change in season 2, as Reagan is seen going to a support group where she meets her future boyfriend. Another difference between Reagan and Brett is that Brett believes that he has to be liked by everyone, regardless of who they are or how they treat him. This is shown when Brett runs into his past classmates and strives for their approval despite overhearing them talk badly about him. He willingly helps his family with their election campaign despite them continuously abusing him, and when Reagan questions him on why, he mentions that he still considers them family despite their previous treatment of him. In conclusion, Reagan and Brett are lovable characters who deserve better. #SaveInsideJob

WATCH:

BLADES OF GLORY

BY SIMON



Blades of Glory is a movie directed by Will Speck and Josh Gordon. When Chazz Michael Michaels (Will Ferrell) and Jimmy MacElroy (Jon Heder) get kicked out of men's single skating, Jimmy's coach (Craig T. Nelson) puts both of them in doubles skating as the first male-male pair of skaters. The top skaters in that league, sibling pair Stranz Van Waldenburg (Will Arnett) and Fairchild Van Waldenburg (Amy Poehler) get jealous, they try to sabotage them as Chazz and Jimmy try the hardest doubles skating move, the Iron Lotus. This is a great comedy with a great cast and awesome jokes. Would rate 10/10.

WATCH:

PUSS N' BOOTS: THE LAST WISH

BY GRAISON

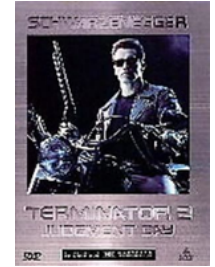


SPOILER WARNING!!!!!!

So...I read some reviews of this on the Internet and oh my god. My. GOD!!! As I was when I first watched it, no one thought it was awesome! The sequel to a 11-year-old Shrek spin-off was thought to be a cheap cash grab, as I also thought. Until I opened YouTube a few weeks after it came out and there it was, a plethora of positive review videos on my usually gaming-filled homepage. I thought "ok, maybe it's ok." I just shrugged it off and turned on a Ctop video instead. And then, like four days later, after my mom got off of work, we went to go see a movie. OK, enough about how I went to the movie to see it, lets talk about it! So, the movie begins with Puss at a party being cocky and careless, just singing about how "unbelievably humble" he is and that "he's never been touched by a blade." This shows that Puss is an arrogant jerk who cares only for his legend. So then the governor comes home, yep that wasn't Puss's house. Puss then fights the governor and almost kills him with fireworks! AND WAKES UP A FLIPPING GIANT! Puss then defeats the giant using a giant bell. The bell then kills Puss. And that is it for this first part of this review!

RETRO WATCH: TERMINATOR 2

BY SIMON



The Terminator franchise is a huge influential franchise on movies today (except Genisys and Salvation, but that's a talk for another day), and **Terminator 2: Judgement Day** is the most influential out of them all. Director James Cameron (Avatar and Avatar: The Way of Water) included stunning graphics that hold up today, a great plot with a lot of action, and a great cast. Starring Arnold Schwarzenegger as the Terminator, Linda Hamilton as Sarah Connor, Earl Boen as Dr. Silverman, Edward Furlong as John Connor, and Robert Patrick as the T-1000. **SPOILER ALERT** The movie is about Sarah Connor being put in a mental hospital after the events of the first Terminator movie. When the Terminator comes from the future to protect John Connor from the (also from the future) T-1000, a new version of the Terminator that can shapeshift, John wants to get his mother out of the hospital. They go and save her, and they want to shut down Skynet before it is created. (Skynet is the AI software that became conscience, and it created the Terminator and the apocalypse). After they break out Sarah, she wants to kill the creator of Skynet Miles Dyson (Joe Morton) all while the T-1000 is following them. After unsuccessfully killing Miles, Sarah decides to destroy all of Miles's work. With John, The Terminator, and Miles, they go to his office building at Cyberdyne to destroy his work. Word gets out that Sarah escapes the hospital, and a SWAT team surrounds the building. The Terminator fights the SWAT people AND the T-1000 while Miles, John, and Sarah prepare to explode the research. SWAT gets past The Terminator and gets to where it is. They shoot Miles but not John or Sarah. John and Sarah leave Miles to die while exploding the evidence. The T-1000 dies with the Terminator in a factory and Sarah and John live. **END SPOILER ALERT** The series moves on with Terminator 3: Rise of the Machines, Terminator Salvation, and Terminator: Genisys. It was then rebooted and took place after Terminator 2. This was Terminator: Dark Fate. All in all, it was a super influential movie and would rate 5/5.

REEL REVIEW: FROST/NIXON

BY WILLOW

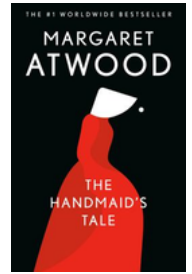


In 1977, charming British talk-show host David Frost is looking for the perfect interview. Despite significant pushback, he decides that he's going to question Richard Nixon, the only president to resign from office in U.S. history and the cause of the infamous Watergate scandal. But to do that, he's going to have to overcome the skepticism of his partners, pushback from Nixon's associates, and the former president's manipulative mind-games. Oh, and he has to raise two million dollars too.

Frost/Nixon is an expertly crafted movie whose brilliant actors bring the (true) story to life. Michael Sheen perfectly captures Frost's charisma and chaotic attitude, while Frank Langella is impeccable at delivering Nixon's internal conflict to the screen. Despite that the movie consists mainly of the characters sitting and talking, it is tense and engaging from beginning to end--especially the interviews, which keep the viewer on the edge of their seats. Overall, it's an excellent political drama and a perfect choice for people who are interested in stories of systemic corruption.

IS THIS THE REAL LIFE, IS THIS JUST FANTASY?

BY WILLOW



Ominous and superbly written, **The Handmaid's Tale** is the book that made Margaret Atwood famous. This tale of oppression and rebellion has been questioned repeatedly for its disturbing themes, but has persevered as a fantastic, feminist work of literature. A compulsive read, it is a stunning story of resistance and an ominous warning of what society could become.

As one of few remaining fertile women, Offred is a Handmaid--enslaved and forced to bear children for the Republic of Gilead's elite Commanders. Cloaked in red and stripped of her identity and family, she holds onto her memories of home and uses all of her remaining will to stay alive. For though rebellion is stirring, there is no one and nothing that she can trust.

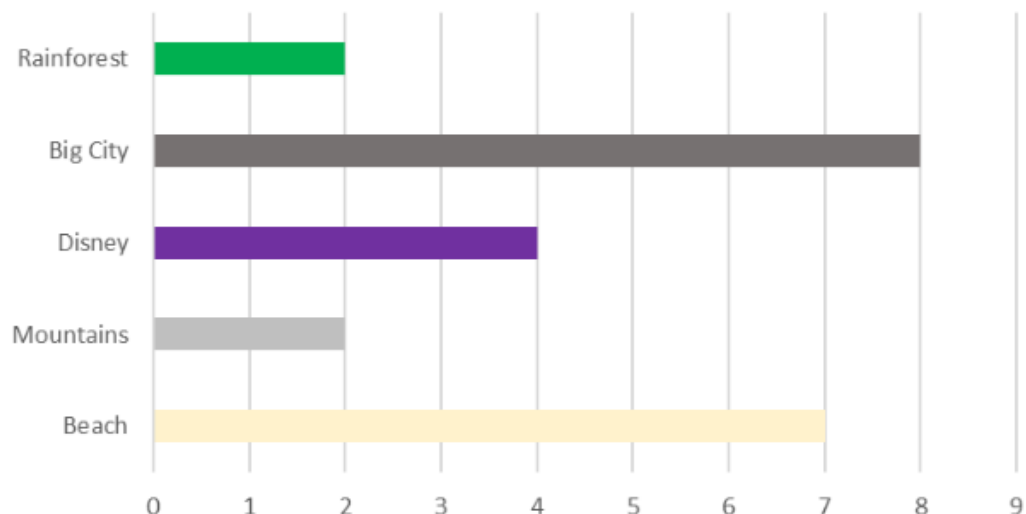
Margaret Atwood uses her creativity and skills to craft an expert story of frighteningly relevant dystopia. The prose is rich and vivid, often abstract, and always captivating. It conveys the inescapable darkness of the book's premise, as well as the lingering hope that still pervades the narrative. Offred is a complex and relatable character--not perfect or heroic, but still conscious of the depravity of her surroundings. She moves through her world with unease, a bit of dark humor, and very human emotions that she masks beneath the white wings of her costume. And that world is realized in detail, though often limited by her personal perception. The blooming flowers, corpses hanging from metal hooks, and disturbing rituals are all conveyed vividly and with excruciating detail. The underlying themes of the narrative are expressed through these descriptions, from Gilead's terrifying religious zeal to the small and quiet corruptions of individuals.

Overall, **The Handmaid's Tale** is disturbing, relevant, and expertly executed. Though the horrifying subject matter can prove distasteful at times, it is also worth reading at least once. There are many things to be gleaned from the novel, especially its addressing of the persistent misogyny of modern times. (And before you think "it's only a book" - Margaret Atwood has confirmed that every disturbing aspect of the story has also occurred in real life--somewhere, sometime.)



What is your favorite vacation place? Here's how library patrons voted!!!

POLL-A-RAMA
BY KLN STAFF



GEORGE AND IZZY RUIN THE CLASSICS: GRINCHY EDITION

BY SEE ABOVE

G: Hello, welcome back to ruining the classics and since it's the holiday season, we're doing The Grinch! I hope you enjoy this though some might find it cringe.

I: This review might seem a little bit predictable, but we hope that our interpretation will be somewhat respectable (sorry)

G: My first complaint is that the people in this story are all called Whos. Why are they called the Whos, I don't know who they are, that's your job Dr. Seuss. A better name for them is "Chrises" and that should now be used.

I: The story also makes no linear sense--how did he change his mind about Christmas so quickly after 53 years just because he found out about holiday magic? All it took was singing he already hated for his whole Christmas belief system to panic.

G: Even with all these plot holes, you have to admit he went 53 years without killing a single person over their Christmas spirit. Though they are now making a horror movie version of the Grinch, I think I might buy a ticket...

I: I didn't know that, it sounds rather strange! You'd think that they're targeting a very specific age range...

G: Back to the story, as we flip through the pages. He came up with a plan to steal all of the decorations and presents, taking from all ages!

I: And as the Grinch steals toys from children and food from houses, Christmas Day ticks closer and closer with time. Hey, is it just me, or have you noticed that all our sentences rhyme?

G: I did not notice that which is pretty crazy! Though it could be that maybe my memory is a little hazy.

I: Huh, well, let's get back to the task at hand. Existentialism is unimportant when the Grinch has been stealing from Who-land!

G: It's actually Who-ville but that is unimportant. What is, is that he has stolen from every person in town. They really should call their police force and take him down.

I: Did that even make sense grammatically? Either way, the Grinch was stealing from a whole town systematically! But despite his uniquely Grinch-like scheme, the Whos' Christmas spirit and community still managed to gleam.

G: The Grinch was ready to get rid of all of the gifts he took, so he went to the top of the highest mountain. Yet, everyone who's someone in Who-ville, gathered and sang around the fountain. The magic of song inspired the Grinch, teaching him that Christmas was about more than just material gifts. And so, he took the presents back down to the town and his morals went through a shift.

I: You'd think that after experiencing home invasion and theft, the little Whos wouldn't have any patience left. But they welcomed the Grinch, and let him cut the roast beast! He delivered their gifts and participated in their feast. What a heartwarming lesson about the importance of being kind! But wasn't it selfish of the Grinch to ultimately make the holiday all about him.

G: Yeah, now that I think about it, that's so very rude of him! Everyone thinks of him as this guy who has learned from his mistakes and finally appreciates the joy of Christmas but he broke into everyone's houses, stole literally everything that was Christmas themed, and was planning to dump it off a cliff. And then he only realized his mistake when everyone started singing anyway? It makes no sense at all.

I: He really did emotionally manipulate that 2-year-old little girl just so he could get back at the Whos for having Christmas literally only once a year. AND he dressed his dog up like a reindeer and made him carry him around. Canceled!

G: They literally made a whole song dedicated to how awful he is! And I quote, "You're as cuddly as a cactus," "you're a bad banana with a greasy black peel," "given the choice between you, I'd take the seasick crocodile" and those are just the funnier ones that I picked! Actually back to the lyrics it quite literally says "You know if you ask the Who's Who of Whoville, No one's denying, You're a vile one, Mr. Grinch." LITERALLY WHAT?!?

I: FOR REALLLL. And you know who else is problematic? Scrooge. Capitalist

G: All in all, I think we've pointed out reasons that we should not like the Grinch anymore, he is an evil being with nothing but bad intentions for the Whos. (Side note, are the Whos the same people from Horton Hears a Who? So does that imply that the Grinch is just realllllyyyy tiny and on a flower? Is there a Dr. Seuss connected universe?)

I: Dr. Seuss conspiracy theory we're gonna crack the case

DEFINITELY NOT TWILIGHT

BY WILLOW

Salem's Lot is Stephen King's ominous second novel, full of the unsettling subject matter and characters that have made his writing stand out in the horror genre. The plot follows a writer who comes back to the town he spent time in as a child after his wife dies in a tragic accident. Looking for peace and inspiration for a new book, he instead begins to realize that there are sinister secrets being concealed in Jerusalem's Lot--and that his childhood fears might be very real. With admirable set building and truly spine-tingling moments of horror, it is a worthy read for any vampire fan. However, there are still numerous flaws in the story, including its irregular (and sometimes exasperating) pacing, poor execution of major plot elements, and rampant homophobic and misogynist language.

The book has admirable qualities, namely its atmosphere, as well as the successful scares it builds in many individual scenes. The small-town setting is vividly depicted, with some prosaic (though perhaps tonally out of place) descriptions of the countryside and changing weather conditions. The book also takes time in establishing the societal constructs within Salem's Lot, weaving together the threads of numerous individuals to provide a feeling of community--and giving some interesting insights into the secrets and scandal that create it. This collective attitude changes to isolation frighteningly quickly, as more characters are picked off one by one. The few remaining characters are faced with numerous dangers in many scenes that are truly chilling. To describe a few of the most terrifying--an undead child moans outside the window of a former schoolmate, a vampiric mother calls for her dead son, and several well-established characters are transformed into bloodthirsty monsters.

However, the story has many serious shortcomings. One of the worst is the incredibly insensitive language directed at gay and female characters by others over the course of the story. Women are repeatedly sexualized by obsessive men that cannot find meaning in their lives, and who deal with their unhappiness by perpetrating abuse and reducing women to playthings within their minds. Gay characters (who are purely hypothetical in this book, never appearing directly at all) are described with extremely offensive slurs, and mentioned repeatedly for no purpose except the continued display of other characters' intolerance. Overall, these elements make the book much less accessible to modern audiences, while lowering the book's quality significantly. In addition, the plot itself also suffers from some defects--namely, the pacing. While containing many individual scenes of merit, the book struggles to weave them into a narrative that builds steadily, instead consisting of bursts of action that are separated by often tedious sections. And the fruition of many major story components are a bit sloppy and rushed - for example, (SPOILER) the turning of a main character results only in her being immediately staked, rather than any interaction between her and her former friends.

Overall, there are many interesting and frightening elements to Salem's Lot, making it a compelling read for fans of Stephen King, as well as the horror genre in general. However, in approaching the book, readers must appreciate the outdated and unacceptable nature of some of the story's aspects, in addition to humoring its plot flaws.

Welcome to 'Salem's Lot - I hope you enjoy your journey into the macabre.



JOURNEY INTO PALDEA!



BY GEORGE

On November 18th, **Pokémon Scarlet and Violet** was released on the Nintendo Switch. Personally, it has been one of my favorite Pokémon games to play to date, no contest. After completing the whole main story and putting hours upon hours into this game, I can confidently say it's a game I will continue to play in the coming years. The Pokédex is pretty expansive and has a lot of Pokémon who haven't appeared in games for way too long. When you start, you get a few choices on what you want to tackle and in which order. The options include the gym challenge, taking down titan Pokémon, and finally defeating Team Star. With each option comes a different companion that joins you as you take on challenges. These companions include Nemona, a trainer who is just really excited to battle; Arven, a chef with some mysterious goals; and Penny, a shy girl with the most common sense out of everyone you'll meet. After completing all of the story lines, they all culminate into one story as you make your way down into the Great Crater of Paldea. Without spoilers, I can say that single handedly this is the best story a Pokémon game has given us, with interesting characters, fun interactions, and just some heartbreaking scenes. Aside from the story, the game plays very well too. Being able to go anywhere you want and see the Pokémon in the wild, actually running around, sleeping, existing in the world, is very nice to see and one of my favorite parts. Although this game has many positives, there is one main negative: the frame rate. There are areas in the world where the frame rate just tanks and it ruins the immersion sometimes. Hopefully a patch has already come out or will come out soon for the lag! I genuinely recommend getting these games for anyone just getting into the series or long time fans.

SPOILERS FOR THE STORY OF POKEMON SCARLET

The Titan story is the best by far, with Arven talking about his relationship with his parent (depending on which game you pick) and how his partner Pokémon was injured in the great crater. The quest to heal his partner really makes you feel for him. When you eventually get to Area Zero, the story only gets better. I love the interactions between the three characters and being able to really understand how they feel. The cutscenes feel beautiful and well made. The twist of the professor being an AI was amazing and completely unexpected! I loved the battles against the AI and how they feel. I really feel like I can't write out just how amazing this game has been and how much fun I've had.

GRAPHIC NOVEL: WATCHMEN

BY WILLOW



Since its publication in the 80s, **Watchmen** remains one of the most artistic and addictive comics ever published. Co-created by writer Alan Moore and artist Dave Gibbons, it weaves an intense story of corruption and political strife. With its striking panels, three-dimensional characterization, and tight plot, it transcends its genre to take its place among the best novels of all time.

After an act was passed in by the American government in the 70s banning vigilante activity, most of the world's former superheroes have retired from their crime-fighting days. Only two are allowed to continue their jobs, as they are backed by the government. But after one of the former "Minutemen" is brutally killed, things start to spin out of control. Nuclear war hovers just over the horizon, while more members of the crime-fighting team are assaulted, arrested, and exiled. To stop the chaos, all of the team members need to work together despite their disparate personalities and motivations.

The entire book is expertly put together, from its artwork to its character development. Though Alan Moore didn't draw his comic, he intricately plotted every panel to look exactly the way he wanted it to. This leads to the feeling that you are watching a finely-crafted movie, and allows the story and world to have a level of depth rare to a comic book. Each character populating this world is just as unique, with a colorful personality and detailed backstory. There's Rorschach, whose unstable home-life lead him to become a brutal, homicidal vigilante who refuses to compromise. There's Dr. Manhattan, a semi-human blue being who is nearly omniscient and yet struggles to maintain personal connections. There's Laurie (the Silk Spectre), who was pressured into life as a superhero by her mother and holds her own in a world of men.

The plot of **Watchmen** is especially interesting, resembling that of a full-length novel rather than a comic book. Complex and many-faceted, it deals with political corruption and interpersonal relationships, while touching upon topics such as racism, sexism, and homophobia. Every major character goes through a personal arc, challenged in their own way by the plot and forced to make nearly impossible decisions.

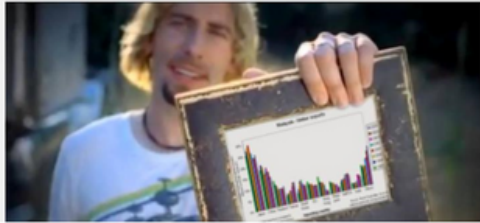
Overall, **Watchmen** is an excellent book that surpasses most others of its genre. It is intricate, often grim, occasionally amusing, and populated with fascinating characters. It is a must-read for anyone who is interested in a visually arresting, narratively complex story, and especially for those who enjoy antiheroes.

QUOTING MEMES

BY GRAISON

Warning: Cringe. Lots and lots of cringe.

"Look at this graph"



-Nickleback

"When life gives you lemons"



-Dalton Ross

"insert can you feel my heart here"



-giga chad

"I'm john cena!!!!"



-anonymous

"insert hip-hop remix of clash of the gods here"



-drip goku

"OVER 5000!!!!!!!!!!!"



-Vegeta

"I was an adventurer like you, then I took an arrow to the knee"



-random whitereum guard npc from skyrim

"That's my opinion!!!!!!!!!"



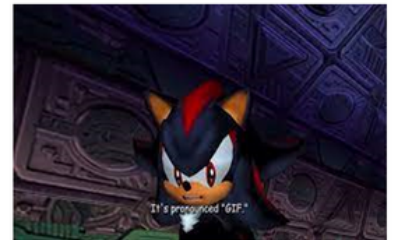
-Tamra judge

"like man, I only need 1% of my power"



-Ultra instinct shaggy

"It's pronounced 'gif'"



-shadow the hedgehog

"Hello there!/I have the high ground"



-obi-wan Kenobi

"you gotta seize the opportunity"



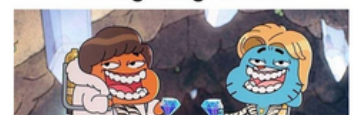
-mark lee

"Before and after getting airpods"

Before AirPods



After getting AirPods



-gumball and Darwin watterson

COLOR IT!

BY SIMON



KLN ZINE STAFF

GEORGE *Nora* **ELLA** **WILLOW** **Simon**
Grailey **ISABELA** **GRAISON** **CJ** **MARC** **Geoffrey**