

## LIGHT BULB LUNCH May 11, 2007

### Book Recommendations: YA books, but also interesting to Adults

#### ***19 Minutes* by Jodi Picoult**

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

The people of Sterling, New Hampshire, are forever changed after a shooting at the high school leaves ten people dead, and the judge presiding over the trial tries to remain unbiased, even though her daughter witnessed the events and was friends with the assailant.

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#### ***Bad Kitty* by Michele Jaffe**

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

While vacationing with her family in Las Vegas, seventeen-year-old Jasmine stumbles upon a murder mystery that she attempts to solve with the help of her friends, recently arrived from California. Funny, funny, laugh-out-loud funny!

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#### ***Bound* by Donna Jo Napoli**

Recommended by Katie Martin

In a novel based on Chinese Cinderella tales, fourteen-year-old stepchild Xing-Xing endures a life of neglect and servitude, as her stepmother cruelly mutilates her own child's feet so that she alone might marry well. (Kirkus starred, SLJ starred, PWstarred, Booklist starred)

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#### ***Crank* by Ellen Hopkins**

Recommended by Halee Patton

Kristina Georgia Snow's life is turned upside-down, when she visits her absentee father, gets turned on to the drug "crank", becomes addicted, and is lead down a desperate path that threatens her mind, soul, and her life. "The poems are masterpieces of word, shape, and pacing, compelling readers on to the next chapter in Kristina's spiraling world. This is a topical page-turner and a stunning portrayal of a teen's loss of direction and realistically uncertain future." School Library Journal (Winner of the Gateway Readers' Award 2007)

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#### ***Drawing a Blank* by Daniel Ehrenhaft**

Recommended by Megan Dowdle

Carlton Dunne IV, an outcast boarding school student with a secret identity as a graphic novelist, teams up with a beautiful Scottish girl who yearns to be an American police officer, to resolve an ancient feud and rescue Carlton's kidnapped father. But it's much more fun than the plot suggests. This book is hilarious! Booklist starred; SLJ starred)

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#### ***Elsewhere* by Gabrielle Zevin**

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

After fifteen-year-old Liz Hall is hit by a taxi and killed, she finds herself in a place that is both like and unlike Earth, where she must adjust to her new status and figure out how to "live." (SLJ starred; Booklist starred; HornBook starred)

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### ***Eragon and Eldest* by Christopher Paolini**

Recommended by Charlie Minton

In Aagaesia, a fifteen-year-old boy of unknown lineage called Eragon finds a mysterious stone that weaves his life into an intricate tapestry of destiny, magic, and power, peopled with dragons, elves, and monsters.(Booklist starred; 05-06 Missouri Gateway Readers nominee) In *Eldest* (the sequel), after successfully evading an Urgals ambush, Eragon is adopted into the Ingeitum clan and sent to finish his training so he can further help the Varden in their struggle against the Empire. (Note from Charlie: *Eragon* , the movie, was awful, so don't just a book by its movie!)

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### ***The Glass Castle* by Jeannette Walls**

Recommended by "Anonymous"

The author recalls her life growing up in a dysfunctional family with an alcohol father and distant mother and describes how she and her siblings had to fend for themselves until they finally found the resources and will to leave home. (Booklist starred; Kirkus starred; PW starred)

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### ***House of the Scorpion* by Nancy Farmer**

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

In a future where humans despise clones, Matt enjoys special status as the young clone of El Patrón, the 142-year-old leader of a corrupt drug empire nestled between Mexico and the United States. Booklist: "A powerful, ultimately hopeful, story that builds on today's sociopolitical, ethical, and scientific issues and prognosticates a compelling picture of what the future could bring. All of these serious issues are held together by a remarkable coming-of-age story, in which a boy's self-image and right to life are at stake.(Booklist starred, Kirkus starred, VOYA, NYPL, Hornbook starred)

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### ***King Dork* by Frank Portman**

Recommended by Brian Jochems

High school loser Tom Henderson discovers that "The Catcher in the Rye" may hold the clues to the many mysteries in his life. (Kirkus Starred)

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### ***Last Chance Texaco* by Brent Hartinger**

Recommended by Diana McClain

Troubled teen Lucy Pitt struggles to fit in as a new tenant at a last-chance foster home. "Intense, true-to-life characters; well-developed story.(Missouri Gateway Award Nominee 2006-07)

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### ***My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult**

Recommended by Nancy Daniels

Thirteen-year-old Anna, conceived specifically to provide blood and bone marrow for her sister Kate who was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia at the age of two, decides to sue her parents for control of her body when her mother wants her to donate a kidney to Kate. (Booklist starred; 2nd place winner Missouri Gateway Award 2006-07)

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***A Northern Light* by Jennifer Donnelly**

Recommended by Katie Martin

Sixteen-year-old Mattie, determined to attend college and be a writer against the wishes of her father and boyfriend, takes a job at a hotel in 1906 where the death of a guest renews her determination to live her own life.(Booklist starred; SLJ starred; PW starred; LibraryMediaConnection starred)

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***Pendragon: The Merchant of Death* by D.J. MacHale**

Recommended by Brian Jochems

Fourteen-year-old Bobby Pendragon, having learned he is a Traveler--someone who can ride "flumes" through time and space, is soon off to the alternative dimension of Denduron where he teams up with Loor, a girl his age from the warrior-territory of Zadaa, in an attempt to save the gentle Milago people from slavery.

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***Rose Daughter* by Robin McKinley**

Recommended by Katie Martin

A beauty and the beast story:

Beauty grows to love the Beast at whose castle she is compelled to stay, and through her love he is released from the curse that had turned him from man to beast.

(Booklist starred, Kirkus starred)

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***Shattering Glass* by Gail Giles**

Recommended by Sandy Stuart

Rob, the charismatic leader of the senior class, ascends to alpha male, and his high school clique's plan to make over a social outcast go tragically awry, in what PW called "a suspenseful, disturbing novel." (Kirkus starred; NYPL; Booklist starred)

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***Son of a Witch* by Gregory Maguire**

Recommended by Megan Patrick

A sequel to *Wicked*

Liir, believed to be the son of Elphaba the wicked witch of the West, has been spared from the destruction of Emerald City and nursed back to health at the Cloister of Saint Glinda; and when he is grown, sets out to find his supposed half-sister and fulfill that last wishes of a dying princess. (Kirkus Starred; PW starred)

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Also read *Wicked* and *Confessions of an Ugly Stepsister* and more by Maguire! IN LSHS COLLECTION

***A Tale of Two Cities* by Charles Dickens**

Recommended by Marc Russell

"A good introduction to Dickens; very difficult to put down, with all of the plot twists and turns." Charles Dickens' 1859 historical novel set in Paris and London during the French Revolution, in which a French nobleman, Charles Darnay, renounces his position and leaves his country, then returns during the Terror to save the life of a servant, putting himself in grave danger.

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***Uglies* by Scott Westerfield**

Recommended by Megan Dowdle

Tally is faced with a difficult choice when her new friend Shay decides to risk life on the outside rather than submit to the forced operation that turns sixteen year old girls into gorgeous beauties, and realizes that there is a whole new side to the pretty world that she doesn't like.

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After *Uglies*, you'll want to read the whole series, guaranteed! *Pretties* and *Specials* are the next two! IN LSHS COLLECTION

***Vote for Larry* by Janet Tashjian.**

Recommended by Megan Dowdle.

Not yet eighteen years old, Josh, a.k.a. Larry, comes out of hiding and returns to public life, this time to run for President as an advocate for issues of concern to youth and to encourage voter turnout. (Horn Book starred)

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