

Teen Advisory Council

Book Reviews

JULY 2010

The Green Book

By: Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen

Are you interested in the environment? Or, are you interested in ways to become more eco-friendly? If you are, then I know the book for you! It is called The Green Book and is written by Elizabeth Rogers and Thomas M. Kostigen (with a foreword by Cameron Diaz and William McDonough.)

This book essentially lists all of the ways that you can change to become more eco-friendly. What I really love about this book (aside from the fact that it is printed on 100% recycled paper) is that it lists practical ways that people can become more earth-friendly. And, if you want to learn more about the items listed, there are web sources in the back of the book where you can go to and search away! There weren't any parts of the book that I disliked. I would recommend this book to everybody because I am really concerned about the environment. And if you are somebody who wishes to become more "green," then I definitely recommend reading this book!

-Megan Romania

Redeeming the Lost

By: Elizabeth Kerner

This is the third in a trio of books, beginning with Song in the Silence, which was about a woman named Lanen Kaelar who travels to an island that is the home of dragons. While there, she falls in love with the king of dragons. This sounds implausible, but in the midst of the book, Akor, the king, is turned into a human. The two eventually fall in love and get married. In the second book, The Lesser Kindred, Lanen and Akor are married and are involved in the process of the dragons from the island moving back to the mainland, where the humans are. In the beginning of this book, Redeeming the Lost, Lanen has been kidnapped by her father,

Stone of Tears

By: Terry Goodkind

This is the second installment of the "Sword of Truth" series. This story continues from the first, with Richard and Kahlan journeying through the Midlands. The story takes place in a completely fantasy world, whose name is unmentioned, but is divided into Westland, the Midlands, D'Hara, and the Old World. Their journey begins with the Mud People, and from there Richard is taken by a Sister of the Light to the New World, where he has to learn to control his "gift", or magic. Also, while he is in the Old World, his father, Darken Rahl, escapes from the underworld, and once again, Richard must find a way to vanquish him to save the world. My favorite parts of the book were the action, when Richard is fighting, and the romance between Kahlan and himself. Also, it was enjoyable because Terry Goodkind inserts a subtle humor into his writing that will have you laughing in the most solemn of moments. I would recommend this book, and the entire series, to anyone that asks, as I have been reading it since the third grade. It is slightly confusing if you haven't read the first, and certainly confusing if they aren't read in order, but after you get into the story, you find it hard to tear yourself away. I believe that anyone who enjoys fantasy novels would enjoy this book.

-Cathy Cantolina

The Bean Trees

By: Barbara Kingsolver

Think of a small Kentucky town, even smaller than Athens or Sayre. Everybody in this town is the "hillbilly" type and the entire town is behind in technology compared to the rest of America. Can you picture it? This is like the town of Pittman that Missy "Taylor" Greer grew up in. After graduating high school, Missy left her small town and single mother behind to explore more of America. She refused to be like most of the others in her town who get stuck in Pittman County for the rest of their lives. Missy changes her name to Taylor, becomes the unexpected mother of a small Native American girl, and ends up in Arizona. The Bean Trees was a wonderful book about saying goodbye, motherhood, and discovering what really happens in the world.

-Abby Davenport

Turncoat

By: Jim Butcher

The book that I chose for this month's Café is called Turncoat, by Jim Butcher. In the story, the main character, Harry Dresden, is a wizard working as a private investigator. This book is one of many of the "Dresden Files" series. In Turncoat, one of Harry Dresden's "friendly enemies" comes to him half-dead, looking for help, claiming to have been framed for the murder of a high-standing member in the wizard community. Harry in turn decides to help him, and this decision leads into a suspenseful, twist-filled series of chapters in which the results are not expected. I loved this book, and the rest of the series, because Jim Butcher always incorporates humor and wit into his novels, making them so interesting. I would definitely recommend the entire series to anyone who enjoys modern fantasy novels. The books are funny, entertaining, and they keep you interested throughout their entireties.

-Cathy Cantolina

Perfect Match

By: Jodi Picoult

Nina Frost is an assistant district attorney and a mother. She lives with her husband Caleb and son Nathaniel. They seem to be having a normal life until something devastating happens. Nina and Caleb find out that Nathaniel has been sexually assaulted and severely traumatized by this. Picoult goes on to describe the battle to find the true offender and the changes to a once normal family household. Of course, no Jodi Picoult book is complete without a dramatic ending and a shocking twist. I would recommend this book to anyone who enjoys Jodi Picoult books; just a warning that Perfect Match can be very emotional at times.

-Abby Davenport

The Wolf and the Dove

By: Kathleen E. Woodiwiss

This story was centered on the Norman invasion of Britain in the early 11th century. In the beginning of the book, a girl of eighteen by the name of Aislinn was in her home when it was attacked by the Normans. They killed many of the people in her land, and she hated them. Then Wulfgar, another Norman, entered the picture. He wanted at first only to take her as his mistress, though treated her like a wife, but maintained that he didn't want to tie himself to any woman, as he hated them all. Through battles of hate and jealousy and deception, they both overcame the boundary between their nations and realized that they were deeply in love with each other. This book was a very good one, in my opinion, and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a riveting historical romance. Though it is rather long and is written in an almost old-fashioned style, so some readers might not have the patience for it.

-Cathy Cantolina

At First Sight

By: Nicholas Sparks

Are you a fan of romance novels? Or, are you a fan of heart-wrenching stories? Then I know the perfect book for you! It is called At First Sight and is written by Nicholas Sparks.

In At First Sight, Sparks does a fantastic job of describing the life of a city-boy (Jeremy Marsh) with a writing career that decides to move to Boone Creek, North Carolina. This is because he is marrying a librarian (Lexie Darnell) from Boone Creek, whom he met on his last visit there. The story then continues through their short engagement, their discrepancies, and their past. This story perfectly details the ups and downs of their new engagement, such as when Lexie has complications with her pregnancy. The end of the story is such a surprise that I can't talk any more about the book (although I really want to)! I didn't have a least-favorite part of the book. My favorite part of the book was the jaw-dropping ending that would leave even a statue in tears. If you are a person who wants to believe in miracles, this is the perfect book for you!

-Megan Romania