

Rant & Rave

Book reviews for you, by you!

Welcome to the very first issue of *RANT & RAVE*, a newsletter of book rants and recommendations for teens, by teens. Do you always walk around with a book in your bag? Stay up all night reading under the covers? Love to tell your friends what to read next? Wish someone had told you to skip a book you hated? This is the place to make your voice heard!

Four times each year, we'll collect book reviews from teens across Asheville and Buncombe County and publish them in *RANT & RAVE*. Our reviewers rate books on the following scale:



For our first issue, we have reviews of two very different books, a nonfiction memoir and a fantasy novel. Read on, intrepid book-lovers, read on!

Jessie Snedden, 15, of the Leicester library reviews . . . *A Child Called It*, by Dave Pelzer



What is the book about?

It's about a boy telling his life story about how his mom treated him. She singled him out from his two brothers, and it's just terrible how she abused him; it's really sad.

What did you like?

I liked how he had the courage to deal with all that and how strong he is. He's a big inspiration. I also like how he made it through everything his mom put him through

What did you NOT like?

I didn't like the way his mom was, but there isn't anything about the book itself that I didn't like.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes, I would definitely recommend it.

Lasting thoughts you took from the book. . .

People really need to realize what they have because some people really live a rough and horrible life, and they wish they had what we do. So everyone needs to stop complaining and be happy with what they've got.



Eilish Hollar, a junior, of the Weaverville library reviews . . . *Starlighter*, by Bryan Davis



What is the book about?

A girl enslaved by dragons and a boy who grew up poor try to save the people enslaved by dragons.

What did you like?

The action and suspense, and the witty comebacks.

What did you NOT like?

The point of view, and that they worked without knowing the other was also doing something about it 'til later in the book.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes.

Lasting thoughts you took from the book. . .

Sometimes you just have to believe.



Do you want your review published in *RANT & RAVE*? Anyone ages 11 to 18 can submit a review. Look for a submission form at your local Buncombe County public library. (Or write a review in your own style – just make sure to tell us your name, the author's name, and the title of the book.) Turn your review in to any library and look for it in the next issue of *RANT & RAVE*!

Deadline for the March issue: Feb. 1st, 2011

Rant & Rave

Book reviews for you, by you!

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It's spring (well, almost)! Exams and end-of-grade tests are coming, but you still have time to squeeze in some fun reading before it's time to get down to some serious studying. In this issue, our reviewers cover everything from international crime capers to the story of a father recovering from war.

Emily Greene (9th grade) of the Fairview Library reviews . . . *Heist Society*, by Ally Carter



What is the book about?

Kat Bishop. A girl born a thief despite all her attempts to change that. When Kat's father is accused of stealing a collection of incredibly valuable paintings, she is in charge of retrieving the paintings. If she doesn't, her father could end up dead.

What did you like?

Carter weaves the most unlikely things into her creative masterpieces. Kat, the honest thief. Hale, the billionaire 16 year-old. My favorite aspect of *Heist Society* would be the creativity in these types of characteristics. I also enjoyed the romantic part of the book. Though not a main focal point, the romance was sweet and fun.

What did you NOT like?

Nothing, really.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Already have.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Who is Visily Romani?



Hannah McDonald (11) of the Weaverville Library reviews. . . *The Outside of a Horse*, by Ginny Rorby



What is the book about?

A girl named Hannah whose dad got back from the war with only one leg. Her dad has flashbacks from the war that make him do weird things. It is horses down the street that Hannah turns to for comfort.

What did you like?

The author does a good job explaining the characters so you feel very attached. It is a book that you will read very quickly and will not be confused for the whole thing.

What did you NOT like?

There was nothing I really didn't like, but if I had to say one, it would be that things repeat themselves.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes, anyone would like this, even if you don't really like horses.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

I thought that this book showed that even if things are bad, they can always get better if you try hard.

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Deadline for the June issue: May 1st, 2011

RANT & RAVE

Book reviews for you, by you!

Welcome to the third issue of *RANT & RAVE*, a newsletter of book rants and recommendations for teens, by teens. Summer is almost here! For book lovers like us, that means long afternoons of reading to our hearts' content, whether it's at the beach or the pool, under a favorite tree, or in the nice, cool air-conditioning. This issue we bring you five-star books full of dragons, werewolves, dystopian futures, and real life drama. Who knows? Maybe one of them will turn out to be your favorite summer read! Also in this issue: Summer Series Highlights and how you can get involved in the Summer Reading Program.

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Terrible Okay The Best!

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***Lockdown*, by Alexander Gordon Smith**



What is the book about?

Alex and Toby go to rob a house until giant men and Wheezers with gas masks come and kill Toby and frame Alex. Now Alex is sent to Furnace and must get out (it is where there is no hope).

What did you like?

Everything!

What did you NOT like?

Nothing.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes.

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

Everything is great and fast-paced and danger at every corner.

— Ryan Hobart, 11
Oakley Library

***City of Bones*, by Cassandra Clare**



What is the book about?

Clary stumbles upon a world of werewolves, vampires, fae, and warlocks and shadow hunters. She is thrown into a battle to save the downworlders, shadow hunters, and her mom.

What did you like?

The action, Jace, the humor, Jace, and the plot was great. Did I mention Jace?

What did you NOT like?

Simon and Valentine.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

YES!!!!!!

Lasting thought you took from the book. . .

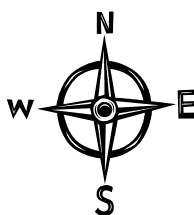
Some things should remain a mystery.

— Eilish Hollar, 11th grade
Weaverville Library

YOU ARE HERE!

The Summer Reading Program at your library isn't just for kids. Check with your local librarian about prizes, events, and volunteer opportunities especially for teens this summer.

Sign-up starts June 1st!



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Deadline for the Fall issue: Aug. 1st, 2011

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Book reviews for you, by you!

Summer is coming to an end. Boo. But that doesn't mean we have to stop reading! Tons of great new books come out each fall, and many of those are available at your local library, along with some older favorites. For our fourth issue of *RANT & RAVE*, our reviewers bring you their favorite books about vampires, dogs, and real life drama.

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Terrible Okay The Best!

A Dog's Purpose, by Bruce Cameron



What is the book about?

A dog who wants to find out what he's on the earth for.

What did you like?

It completely revolutionizes the way you see a dog's thought processes.

What did you NOT like?

It had a sad ending.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

No.

Lasting thought you took from the book...

You can never give up searching for your purpose, whether you're dog or human

— Britney Owenby, 7th grade
Fairview Library

The Missing Girl, by Norma Fox Mazer



What is the book about?

A family going through a hard time and really didn't know the sister was missing.

What did you like?

Everything.

What did you NOT like?

Nothing.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes.

Lasting thought you took from the book...

Read this book.

— Emily Livernois, 10th grade
Fairview Library

Twilight, by Stephenie Meyer



What is the book about?

Vampires, humans, and wolves/people, with love/romance, and fights with some suspense.

What did you like?

Everything. Love and suspense. If it will last, it is true. Who will win?

What did you NOT like?

Sometimes it had spots that were a little unneeded, but all great to me.

Would you recommend this book to your friends?

Yes.

Lasting thought you took from the book...

When can I read the next book?

— Sarah

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Deadline for the Winter issue: Nov. 1st, 2011