ALAN v25n1 - The Book Connection- Clip and File Reviews of New Fiction Hardbacks

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Klause, Annette Curtis

Blood and Chocolate
Reviewed by Rebecca Barnhouse
Assistant Professor of English
Youngstown State University
Youngstown, Ohio

Blood and Chocolate by Annette Curtis Klause
Werewolves

In Klause’s first novel, The Silver Kiss, a girl falls in love with a vampire. Now Klause focuses on the supernatural character: Vivian, a sixteen-year-old werewolf who lives in contemporary America and who falls for a human boy. Vivian is a creature of strong canine appetites; blood, sweat, lust, and wild runs under the moon appeal to her. Can she reveal her identity to her boyfriend? What about her loyalty to the pack?

Life in the pack can be brutal. Biker bars are the werewolves’ hangouts, and both males and females constantly vie for power, relying on sex and physical prowess. Vivian struggles to fit in with both her own kind and with humans.

This book will appeal to werewolf and horror fans who don’t shy away from sex or violence.

The ALAN Review
Rebecca Barnhouse
Spring 1997 Youngstown State University

Brooks, Bruce

Asylum for Nightface
Reviewed by Elizabeth Poe
Associate Professor of English
Radford University
Radford, Virginia

Asylum for Nightface by Bruce Brooks
Religion/Fanaticism

Fourteen-year-old Zimmerman’s parents want to liberate him from his self-imposed spiritual morality. They want him not only to be a member of their family but also to accept their hip lifestyle and rigid unconventionality. Then they find their own religion while vacationing in Jamaica. Now Zim’s goodness elevates him in his parents’ eyes and makes Pastor Luke Mark John see him as the savior of teens who have been luring their parents away from his Faith of Faiths. Fortunately, before she became a found-again Christian, Zim’s mother had provided him the key to the asylum he now seeks, and Zim’s fate becomes inextricably bound to Nightface, a thirty-year-old superhero collectors’ card.

Just as precocious Zim provides a multi-dimensional view of religious groups, so does Brooks’ stylistically sophisticated novel present a multi-layered look at parents and teenagers, prodigies and superheroes, and power and manipulation. Thoughtful teens will find much to contemplate in this fascinating first-person account of a young man who wants only to love God and study the grand design of Creation.

The ALAN Review
Elizabeth Poe
Spring 1997 Radford University

Nix, Garth

Sabriel
Reviewed by M. Jean Greenlaw
Regents Professor
University of North Texas
Denton, Texas

Sabriel by Garth Nix
High Fantasy/Necromancers

The juxtaposition of a prologue that sets the scene in a fantasy world where Sabriel is born dead and brought back to life by her necromancer father and the first chapter, set in an obviously modern world, gains the reader’s immediate attention. Sabriel comes from the Old Kingdom and is drawn back into it when her father dies. Her quest is to rescue him from the river of death, as he is a special necromancer, the Abhorsen, whose task is to lay the undead back to rest. Sabriel and two companions struggle with the legions of evil until it becomes obvious what her fate is: She is the new Abhorsen and her companion Touchstone is the last of the royal line. The story is rife with the trappings of fantasy, including magical bells and swords, and cats and other creatures that are more than they seem.

Nix is a new and welcome voice in the fold of those who write high fantasy. He creates a believable setting and peoples it with characters who are fascinating and about whom one cares. The adventure is dramatic enough to make a reader lose a night’s sleep, because the book cannot be put down.

The ALAN Review
M. Jean Greenlaw
Spring 1997 University of North Texas
Napoli, Donna Jo
Zel
Reviewed by Laura M. Zaidman
Professor of Education
University of South Carolina
Sumter, South Carolina

Zel by Donna Jo Napoli Fantasy/ Rapunzel Variant

This enchanting tale transforms Rapunzel into an intriguing psychological drama of love and its denial. When thirteen-year-old Zel (Rapunzel) goes with Mother beyond their isolated mid-16th century Swiss Alps home to shop in town, the innocent child-woman captures the heart of Count Konrad and enchants his mare Meta. Though sharing the same birthday, he and Zel seem doomed as star-crossed lovers because their parents have other plans for their destinies.

Bursting with evocative sensory images of stolen rapunzel (lettuce), ripening melons, moon blood, and secret seeds, Zel resonates with passionate energy. The story's familiar motif of Rapunzel letting down her golden hair twists around themes of awakening sexuality, teens' struggle against parental control, love, betrayal, loss, and renewal. If readers suspend disbelief upon entering this fantasy world, they will delight in the way Napoli skilfully weaves narrative threads into a rich tapestry of the timeless fairytale metamorphosed.

The ALAN Review Laura M. Zaidman
Spring 1997 University of South Carolina

Avi
Beyond the Western Sea—Book Two: Lord Kirkle's Money
Reviewed by Donald R. Gallo
Central Connecticut State University
West Hartford, Connecticut

Beyond the Western Sea—Book Two: Lord Kirkle's Money Adventure/Prejudice by Avi

Adventure on the high seas, intrigue on the back streets, and a motley cast of characters propel this second half of Avi's lengthy two-part story focusing on poor Irish immigrants seeking a better life in the mill town of Lowell, Massachusetts, in 1851 and the prejudice that greets them there. If "yer be" attracted by novels like Pullman's Ruby in the Smoke and Avi's The True Confessions of Charlotte Doyle , then Beyond the Western Sea will suit "yer fancy." The books are filled with mysterious doings, with villains aplenty, and enough historical details to make the 1850s come alive for readers of any age. Although there is enough action in Book Two to carry it on its own, interested readers should start with Book One to fully understand the motivations of the characters, young and old, and the value of Lord Kirkle's money. (Another clue is that Book Two begins with chapter 75.)

The ALAN Review Donald R. Gallo
Spring 1997 Central Connecticut State University

Bradford, Karleen
There Will Be Wolves
Reviewed by Jennifer Monsa
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania


Bradford skillfully draws readers into this historical account of the People's Crusade of 1096 and the many injustices that occurred. The heroine, Ursula, is a young girl struggling to find her place in a male-dominated society. Ursula is determined to use her talents as a healer to help others, but many people view this as wrong because women should not have special healing powers. When she is accused of being a witch, the only way her father can save her from death is by agreeing that they will both accompany others on the People's Crusade. On this holy pilgrimage, Ursula and her companions witness many brutal attacks on innocent people all in the name of God. The brutality they are exposed to leads them to question the validity of the Crusade and the mentality of their fellow crusaders. Bradford's tale provides a realistic and disturbing view of the Crusades and leaves readers questioning how so many people could view murder, theft, and brutality as acceptable in God's eyes.

The ALAN Review Jennifer Monsa
Spring 1997 Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Naidoo, Beverly
No Turning Back: A Novel of South Africa
Reviewed by Bonnie Erickson
Professor of Secondary Education
California State University, Northridge

No Turning Back: A Novel of South Africa Post-Apartheid South Africa by Beverly Naidoo

Those who know Naidoo's 1985 Journey to Jo'Burg will not be disappointed with this grimly realistic yet ultimately hopeful depiction of post-apartheid South Africa. Because of his stepfather's beatings, Sipho runs away from his home in a camp of shacks to live on the streets of Johannesburg. There he joins one of the many gangs of young adolescents who eke out an existence by begging or carrying groceries for tips. It's a dangerous life, and not only because of gnawing hunger and the need for shelter. At one point, plain-clothed police round up Sipho and his street friends in the middle of an intensely cold night and throw them all into a lake. Sipho survives and eventually seeks out a shelter for children where he will be safe and can attend school.

Based on true stories from young South Africans at a real shelter, this compelling story will help student readers experience, through Sipho, a country's struggle to achieve, for all its people, peace and the opportunity to dream.

The ALAN Review Bonnie Erickson
Spring 1997 California State University, Northridge

Dalkey, Kara
Little Sister
Reviewed by Nancy E. Zuwiyya
English Teacher
Binghamton High School
Binghamton, New York

Little Sister by Kara Dalkey Historical Fiction/Fantasy

The beautiful cover of this book introduces a story about a young girl's courageous quest for the soul of her brother-in-law and the sanity of her sister. Living in 12th century Japan, Fujimura no Mitsuko tells of the events surrounding a great tragedy that happened to her noble family. They had to flee the city because of attacks by warrior monks. The large estates of the rich were being burned. Later they suffered further degradation. It is at this point that little Mitsuko, who always thought of herself as merely the little sister, takes things into her own hands. She leaves her family and steps into the world of fantasy when she meets Goranu, a shape shifter who will fly her throughout the
Keep Smiling Through by Ann Rinaldi: German Americans/WWII

Kay is ten. She believes that the ideals of loyalty to country, truth, and respect espoused by radio program heroes will make everything go right, even in the midst of WWII. She keeps “smiling through,” yearning for bacon, sugar, and Mary Jane shoes - all rationed. America and its soldiers come first. Hero’s platitudes seem clear, but Kay struggles, puzzled, as she watches “Amazing Grace” - her pregnant, pampered, and fit-pitching stepmother - nourish her unborn child and feed her own selfishness while the family does without. Clear truth vanishes altogether when Kay’s German grandfather is dubbed a “Nazi traitor.” Kay speaks out - after she realizes that loyalty to family and country demands courage.

Rinaldi’s well-researched story and vivid characters will hook and hold readers from grades 7 - 10 and provide an excellent companion piece to history units.

The ALAN Review Judy Beckman
Spring 1997 University of Northern Iowa
Set in Japan, this translated story by a Japanese author begins with three friends - Kiyama, Kawabe, and Yamashita - who become curious about dying, following the death of Yamashita's grandmother. Determined to learn more, they choose an old man from their neighborhood to watch. Believing they will see death first-hand if they continually watch him, they set out to do just that and neglect their studies. Yumoto skillfully shows the transition of the boys and the crotchety and lonely old man as they become friends. The friends learn valuable lessons about both living and dying as the story and friendship with the old man comes to an end. This excellent novel gives middle school readers a first-hand look at Japanese education and culture as well as a heartwarming story about friendship and compassion.

The ALAN Review
Connie Russell
Spring 1997 Eau Claire School District, Wisconsin

Lane, Dakota
Johnny Voodoo
Reviewed by Joanne Peters
Teacher-Librarian
Kelvin High School
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

Johnny Voodoo by Dakota Lane Romance/Family/History

After her mother's death, 16-year-old Deirdre's family moves to Charmette, Louisiana. Bayou country is geographically and culturally distant from Manhattan. Still, wherever you live, coping with "Clouvelletta" at your new high school, enduring your family's unique craziness, and obsessing about the mysterious guy who appears in your life, as if by magic - those experiences are universal. What makes this book different from your standard story of teenage trouble? Johnny Vouchamp (a.k.a. Johnny Voodoo), is he a stalker? A vagrant? An evil presence? Or is he just another tough-seeming but vulnerable kid, reaching to Deirdre for connection in his painful existence? Once the mystery is revealed, its power and mystique vanishes. Too many contrivances are worked in towards the end of the story. Still, Deirdre's voice is authentic - aching with pain and longing, frustrated with her family, and ecstatic at every moment spent with Johnny. Language and situations make this appropriate for older readers.

The ALAN Review
Joanne Peters
Spring 1997 Kelvin High School, Winnipeg, Canada

Spinelli, Jerry
The Library Card
Reviewed by William R. Mollineaux
Teacher of English
Sedgwick Middle School
West Hartford, Connecticut

The Library Card by Jerry Spinelli Short Stories/Teen Problems

What possibilities are offered by a small blue library card? With his usual humor blended with heartbreaking seriousness, Spinelli provides middle school readers with several answers in four separate, fast-paced, magical stories connected only by a library card. Mongose appears doomed to shoplifting and vandalism until a blue card opens up the world of natural science. Brenda, starting to resemble Shel Silverstein's "Jimmy Jet" as she suffers through the first days of the Great TV Turn-Off, is saved by a dream-like trip to the biography section of her local library. Sonseray, a boy whose unruly behavior has caused the uncle he lives with to leave several towns, realizes a library offers more than books, quiet, and air-conditioning. And April discovers in a hijacked bookmobile that her old New York City library card can provide something we all need: friendship.

The ALAN Review
William R. Mollineaux
Spring 1997 Sedgwick Middle School, West Hartford, CT

Hobbs, Valerie
Get It While It's Hot, or Not
Reviewed by Judy Stoffel
Professor of English
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College
Saint Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana

Get It While It's Hot, or Not by Valerie Hobbs Teen Pregnancy

This novel chronicles several months in the lives of four 16-year-old California girls who have vowed to be "friends to the end." "Kit is in the last stages of a difficult pregnancy, forced to stay in bed. Her unreliable, bar-keep mother is not available to help, so the friends step in, taking shifts to keep Kit company and do housework, while trying to maintain their own relationships and schoolwork. Things do not run smoothly. Megan, the narrator, is a super-responsible teen whose mother is the opposite of Kit's and whom Megan has labeled "the General." The book tries to give both sides of the sex education/condom-distribution controversy by making Megan a reporter on the school paper, doing a teen pregnancy story. But the question remains open to continued debate. Teen readers will recognize familiar and trying situations in this book, which tries to support responsible teen sexual behavior without being preachy.

The ALAN Review
Judy Stoffel
Spring 1997 St. Mary-of-the-Woods College

Woodruff, Elvira
Orphan of Ellis Island
Reviewed by Tracy Babiasz
Technology Librarian
Durham County Library
Durham, North Carolina

Orphan of Ellis Island by Elvira Woodruff Immigration/Time-travel

"Many, many people have walked through these halls feeling frightened and alone. Coming to a new country is like being adopted into a new family." Thus Elvira Woodruff launches a parallel between sailing to a new country and walking into the love of a family. Orphan of Ellis Island chronicles the journeys of Dominic Cantori: one to 1908 Italy and one a personal journey in which a lonely orphan learns what it is like to be part of a family. When he is left behind on a school trip to the Ellis Island Immigration Museum, Dominic finds himself transported to a time and place where he feels more alone than ever. With the help of his self-appointed family, he finds that he too can enjoy a family's love. Woodruff's well-researched novel beautifully describes the similarities between an orphan and an immigrant's search for a home. Appealing to younger teenagers, the map, glossary, and pronunciation guide will add to the enjoyment of Dominic's adventure.

The ALAN Review
Tracy Babiasz
Spring 1997 Durham County Library, North Carolina

Conrad, Pam
Zoe Rising by Pam Conrad Time travel/Mothers and Daughters

In her sequel to Stonewords, the late Pam Conrad continues the adventures of Zoe as she masters the art of "ghost walking," leaving her body and traveling to other places and times. This mysterious power enables her to intervene in the enigmatic childhood of her mysterious mother. It is the mother whom she describes as a "blown-out egg." She moves back and forth in time with the help of her friend Jedidiah Seger "like a rubberband" to the Grandma and PopPop who have raised her.

In addition to exploring the fantasy of time travel and the paranormal, Conrad delicately examines the relationship between Zoe and the mother who, due to her delicate mental health, has never been a part of her life. It is a testament to adolescent self-reliance and coping skills.

The ALAN Review Margaret J. Ford
Spring 1997 Campbell Memorial High School, Ohio

Schmidt, Gary D.
The Sin Eater
Reviewed by Joan Nast
Professor Emerita
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama

The Sin Eater by Gary D. Schmidt Parent's Death

For young (and older) adult readers, Gary Schmidt's first novel about ninth-grader Cole Hallet is notably full of well-drawn characters. Foremost are his cantankerous Grandpa Emerson and spirited Grandma; his fishing, swimming, and school friends Will and Peter; and other people of Albion, New Hampshire, both living and dead, like the long-ago "Sin Eater" of the title. The legend of this man provides the theme: he was a healer, eating bread into which people had baked their sins and leaving them free to love. Cole struggles to cope with the death of his mother two years earlier and his father's decline into depression. Schmidt integrates family stories and includes cyclical scenes of farm life: splitting wood, canning tomatoes (with humorous results), weeding the graveyard, attending church and the county fair. Mature readers will find The Sin Eater to be a sensitive tale of death and the continuity of life.

The ALAN Review Joan Nast
Spring 1997 Campbell Memorial High School, Ohio

Lee, Marie G.
Necessary Roughness
Reviewed by Alan McLeod
Professor of English Education
Virginia Commonwealth University
Richmond, Virginia


Moving from Los Angeles to a small town in northern Minnesota at the start of the twins' junior year in high school is a challenging experience for the Kim family. To the twins, Chan and his sister Young, everything seems different and making friends difficult. Chan takes his soccer skills to the football team, and Young plays her flute in the band. They make friends, yet Chan has to deal not only with necessary roughness on and off the field but also with family tragedy. In the process he ponders his Korean roots and family values.

Adolescent readers will find the story moving, entertaining, and painful. They will gain some modest insight into an Asian-American family and see that, no matter the culture, there are more similarities than differences in relationships. Lee's storytelling is compelling.

The ALAN Review Alan McLeod
Spring 1997 Virginia Commonwealth University

Wynne-Jones, Tim
The Maestro
Reviewed by Lisa J. McClure
Associate Professor, Department of English
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois

The Maestro by Tim Wynne-Jones Coming-of-Age/Canada

Fourteen-year-old Burt Crow stepped out of the wilderness into the sunlight, his father's words still echoing in his ears: "You steal everything!" Ironically, Burt steps into another wilderness when he enters the world of Nathaniel Orlando Gow, a.k.a. The Maestro. This new wilderness, however, offers Burt something in return—A chance at a life he had never imagined existed; but he must "steal" to keep this one.

Canadian children's author Wynne-Jones's first attempt at adolescent fiction hits the mark. The Maestro is an imaginative (albeit at times, improbable) coming-of-age story that explores issues of parenthood, self-reliance, fear, and honesty. Although Burt's behavior will be problematic for some, he is a likeable young man whose resilience and perseverance are remarkable. Most impressive is Wynne-Jones's ability to present Burt's story in metaphorical images that add great depth to the timeless story of a young man's search for his place in the world.
Pulse by Joe Cardillo Relationships

Pulse is a story about relationships of many types. Kris and Jason are high school seniors, best of friends, and in love. They also love nature and having a special place where kids can hang out. When their haven is proposed as the future site of a major mall, they organize the local kids into an environmental group called Pulse to oppose the plans. They soon learn that profit is behind the city's motivation, and it has gripped Kris's mother as well as their school principal. Conflict with a group of punkers adds an extra plot twist.

The events are told from Jason's perspective in a light conversational tone. As he relates the story, he ponders boyfriend-girlfriend, parent-child, man-nature, and mind-spirit relationships, among others. The outcome is realistic, having no pat answers or magical endings. Pulse reverberates with topics for class discussion.

A Girl Named Disaster
by Nancy Farmer

When a cholera epidemic rampages through her village, Nhamo feels partly to blame. After all, a girl whose name translates as “disaster” must have drawn the sickness. Nhamo's family pledges her in marriage to assuage the evil spirits that have caused the illness. Here will be a loveless marriage: her husband-to-be is more than twice Nhamo's twelve years of age, and so Nhamo flees, seeking refuge with her long-lost father in Zimbabwe. Her trip is fraught with perils, though her adventure serves to strengthen her resolve to become an independent woman. This absorbing tale provides a satisfying knowledge of the culture and customs of Africa in much the same way as Farmer did in The Ear, the Eye and the Arm. This Newbery Honor book and semifinalist for the National Book Award would pair well with Call It Courage and other such stories.

The Heart Knows Something Different: Teenage Voices
from the Foster Care System
Persea Books, 1996. 212 pp. $13.95

An authentic voice is all one can say about this collection of forty-one articles by teenagers from the foster care system. Since 1991 a magazine titled Foster Care Youth United has published articles by teenagers in foster care. Some full of hate. Some full of hope. Some to make one cry. All give the uninitiated a true picture of foster care with the myths left behind. What could easily be a downer makes one cheer for the resilience and tenacity of these kids who did not ask to be born but now demand a right to be heard. The collection is divided into four sections: “Family,” “Living in the System,” “Who Am I,” and “Looking to the Future.” There is a foreword written by Jonathan Kozol, and a glossary of slang helps. Also provided are resources with addresses and phone numbers and a subject guide. Suggested for the reference shelf.

Puppies, Dogs, and Blue Northers: Reflections on Being Raised by a Pack of Sled Dogs
by Gary Paulsen
Harcourt Brace, 1996. 81 pp. $15.00

Teen readers who know Paulsen's other books and his litanies of adventures will curl up with an old friend here. Paulsen strings together a series of biographical essays that tell the story of his best lead dog, Cookie, her puppies, and the adventures shared by musher and dogs.

Fiery Vision: The Life and Death of John Brown
by Clinton Cox
University of Georgia Press, 1996. 224 pp. $15.00

In Paulsen's signature prose, crisp and clean as a Minnesota winter night, he takes readers into the birthing room to see Cookie and the new pups. We are witnesses to a mother's stubborn determination not to give in to the death of a stillborn pup. Through Paulsen's eyes we see the different role each dog in the team plays as they all take a part in raising the pups. Whether Paulsen is describing the joyful chaos of thirty-six puppies in a small Minnesota house or detailing Cookie's nobility in the face of death, readers are handed a mirror to look at themselves and reflect on the lessons animals have to teach us about living life.
John Brown's intense opposition to slavery culminated in his leading a group of his followers in the 1859 takeover of the armory in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, the state in which slavery in this country began. The ensuing battle with militia and U.S. Marines, followed by Brown's capture, trial, and hanging, are the highlights of Cox's well-documented biography of one of the notable figures during the years leading up to the Civil War. In earlier chapters, Cox traces the events in Brown's life that define his vision of freedom and racial equality for all. The prologue and epilogue frame this biography quite well, and the bibliography and index are useful tools. Black and white photographs enhance the text.

While it targets middle school readers, this biography offers much to high school students who want to know more about the social and political issues of nineteenth century America, some of which are still present in a nation of increasing diversity.

The ALAN Review

Huge Agee
Spring 1997 University of Georgia

Michael Cadnum
Zero at the Bone
Reviewed by Bruce C. Appleby
Professor Emeritus
Southern Illinois University
Carbondale, Illinois

Zero at the Bone by Michael Cadnum Family/Adventure

Zero at the Bone is both mystery and adventure and is exceptionally well written. Michael Cadnum has created a brutally real world which seems unreal because of the tensions, the fears, and the horrors that are (or may be) surrounding the marvelously realized characters. When Cray's older sister fails to come home, Cray and his parents become increasingly aware of how they have grown apart. It would be unfair to reveal the surprise ending. It is fair to warn readers that this book is exciting and totally captivating. I had to read it in a single sitting. Remember the name Michael Cadnum, who has already been labeled "Cormieresque." Cadnum's power of language and of character do remind one of early Cormier. This book indicates Cadnum has a bright future.

The ALAN Review

Bruce C. Appleby
Spring 1997 Carbondale, Illinois

Nancy Garden
Good Moon Rising
Reviewed by Joan F. Kaywell
Associate Professor of English Education
University of South Florida
Tampa, Florida

Good Moon Rising by Nancy Garden Lesbian Love

Right-wing conservative censors will go crazy with this book, but it is definitely worth the challenge! There is no foul language, no explicit sex, no anti-parent propaganda, and no violence. This is, however, a beautiful story of love between two adolescent girls who meet and become romantically involved while rehearsing for their school play Ñ Arthur Miller's The Crucible. While Jan and Kerry, each other's first, struggle to go slowly with their feelings, "Proctor" ironically is quick to play judge and jury.

Using mostly their director's words to describe her reaction to the dress rehearsal, I think I can best describe the power this book had on me: Thank you...It is a beautiful novel, sad and noble Ñ such cruel misunderstandings, such evil, such courage, such ignorance Ñ and you (Nancy Garden) made it sing; you found it all, and showed all that's in it, and I am so very proud. Good Moon Rising is every bit as good, if not better than, Garden's Annie on My Mind, an ALA best of the Best Books for Young Adults, which also addresses lesbian love.

The ALAN Review

Joan F. Kaywell
Spring 1997 University of South Florida

Alden Carter
Bull Catcher
Reviewed by Jeffrey S. Kaplan
Assistant Professor
University of Central Florida
Orlando, Florida

Bull Catcher by Alden Carter Baseball/High School Sports

When I taught English, I was always looking for good books about high school sports. And I was at a loss. Literary anthologies had none, and libraries had few. Recent years, though, have brought an increase in teenage sports stories Ñ and Alden Carter's Bull Catcher is a worthy addition. Neil "Bull" Larsen is a ninth grade who loves baseball and hopes to turn pro. Well, as growing up goes, "stuff happens," and Bull must deal with his life on all playing fields. Bull's mother does not live with him; his ailing grandfather is his guardian; his love life is in turmoil; his best friend is being beaten by his father; and his dreams for turning pro are dashed by "not just enough natural talent." Carter traces a boy's growth from baseball fanaticism to athletic wisdom in a gritty story of teenage love and loss. Ah, at last, I found my sports book.

The ALAN Review

Jeffrey S. Kaplan
Spring 1997 University of Central Florida

Clinton Cox
Fiery Vision: The Life and Death of John Brown
Biography

John Brown's intense opposition to slavery culminated in his leading a group of his followers in the 1859 takeover of the armory in Harper's Ferry, Virginia, the state in which slavery in this country began. The ensuing battle with militia and U.S. Marines, followed by Brown's capture, trial, and hanging, are the highlights of Cox's well-documented biography of one of the notable figures during the years leading up to the Civil War. In earlier chapters, Cox traces the events in Brown's life that define his vision of freedom and racial equality for all. The prologue and epilogue frame this biography quite well, and the bibliography and index are useful tools. Black and white photographs enhance the text.

While it targets middle school readers, this biography offers much to high school students who want to know more about the social and political issues of nineteenth century America, some of which are still present in a nation of increasing diversity.
End of the Hardback Mariella considers whether the hardback is on the way out, as a major publisher announces plans to concentrate on paperback fiction. Andrew Kidd of Picador comes in to explain.

Football and fiction A week before the William Hill Sports Book of the Year is announced, Wayne Rooney’s ghostwriter Hunter Davies asks whether there has ever been a great football novel. Books for

All News of a scheme aimed at promoting books to readers from ethnic minority backgrounds. Samenua Seasher, of Arts Council funded project Decibel and Londonstani writer Gautam Malkani join

Mariella. Show l The books are already complete and published as eBooks and POD via Amazon only! Thread Slivers and Thread Strands are the first two books of a blended epic high fantasy and a hard

science fiction adventure.  The eBooks are already complete. I have already sent Thread Silvers off to my new editors and will get it back shortly. After that, both books will need a pass through the

proofreaders, which will take another couple of weeks. While all that work is going on my amazing graphic artist group will be working on the updated covers and dustjacket designs.  Dagger Elite will

receive all the Dagger Client benefits plus 6x9 hardbacks (signed if desired) of both _Thread_Slivers_ and _Thread_Strands_. (Plus the 2 folded posters - automatically - if stretch goals are met). Less.

Yes, hardbacks are still popular. Hardback fiction brings in about £70m annually (roughly 20% of the printed fiction market), according to sales data from Nielsen BookScan. But the format’s worth is

about more than just its monetary value. In fact some literary editors will still only review fiction (on first publication) if it’s published in hardback. Similarly, a hardback signifies to authors and agents

that this is a book their publisher cares about, so much so that some agents (and authors) will insist upon it.  The hardback is the prop forward of the book world: it bashes its way through a crowded

marketplace giving the book/author a foothold before the pacier paperback races through. Reviews are brief accounts of books, films, plays, CDs, etc. Their purpose is to inform readers and viewers,

while also giving opinions and recommendations about whether or not they should buy a CD, read a book, watch a film, etc. Reviews should include: - an introduction which gives facts and background

information concerning the book, CD, etc. (i.e. the title, the name of the artist/author, type, etc). The book relates how Fossey, a zoologist, moves to the Varunga mountains to study gorillas. After

months of hard work, she is finally accepted into their group, playing wrestling and even hugging these animals. With the addition of new characters, the fast-paced nature of the film, and the added

romantic aspects, this movie was truly a great one. Part 1. Drafting Your Review. Hardy's fiction, like Prosperous island, is full of noises. Some are straight-forwardly musical — produced by singers, solo

instrumentalists, church bells, dance-bands. Hardy's interest in music, of course, is very much a topic in its own right - a topic which has been widely discussed. Many of his leading characters are

musicians of a sort: Christopher Julian is a composer, Dick Dewy and Donald

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