

HEROES ~ JULY 2015

Books

Allende, Isabel

Zorro (2005)

Diego de la Vega, the son of an aristocratic Spanish landowner and a Shoshone mother, returns to California from school in Spain to reclaim the hacienda on which he was raised and to seek justice for the weak and helpless. (*Adventure*) JFS

Armstrong, Kelly

Odin's Ravens (2014)

When Ragnarok--the apocalypse--threatens, the human descendants of the gods band together to fight monsters, and Matt Thorsen and his friends must journey to the underworld to save a descendant (*YA/Mythology*) JK

Bausum, Ann

With Courage and Cloth: Winning the Fight for a Woman's Right to Vote (2004)

An award-winning author chronicles the story of the women's suffrage movement in America, using compelling period photographs--including some never before published--to illustrate the vivid narrative. Focuses on National Woman's Party founder Alice Paul, whose famous hunger strike was depicted in the film *Iron Jawed Angels*. (*Nonfiction*) BM

Blake, Michael

The Holy Road (2001) Eleven years have passed since Lieutenant John Dunbar became the Comanche warrior Dances With Wolves and married Stands With A Fist, a white-born woman raised as a Comanche from early childhood. With their three children, they live peacefully in the village of Ten Bears. But there is unease in the air, caused by increased reports of violent confrontations with white soldiers, who want to drive the Comanche onto reservations--a movement symbolized by the railroad, the white man's holy road. Disquiet turns to horror, and then to rage, when a band of white rangers descends on Ten Bears' village, slaughtering half its inhabitants and abducting Stands With A Fist and her infant daughter. The three surviving great warriors--Wind In His Hair, Kicking Bird, and Dances With Wolves--decide they must go to war with the white invaders. At the same time, Dances With Wolves realizes that only he can move unnoticed among the white men to rescue his wife and child. Told with the same sweep, insight, and majesty that have made *Dances With Wolves* a worldwide phenomenon, *The Holy Road* is an epic story of courage and honor. (*Historical*) MR

Bradbury, Ray

Fahrenheit 451 (1951)

In a society in which books are outlawed, Montag, a regimented fireman in charge of burning the forbidden volumes, meets a revolutionary school teacher who dares to read. Suddenly he finds himself a hunted fugitive, forced to choose not only between two women, but between personal safety and intellectual freedom. (*Classics; Science Fiction*) JFS

Bray, Libba

Beauty Queens (2011)

When a plane crash strands thirteen teen beauty contestants on a mysterious island, they struggle to survive, to get along with one another, to combat the island's other diabolical occupants, and to learn their dance numbers in case they are rescued in time for the competition. (*Young Adult; Humor*) BM

Charish, Kristi

Owl and the Japanese Circus (2015)

Ex-archaeology grad student turned international antiquities thief, Alix—better known now as Owl—has one rule. No supernatural jobs. Ever. Until she crosses paths with Mr. Kurosawa, a red dragon who owns and runs the Japanese Circus Casino in Las Vegas. He insists Owl retrieve an artifact stolen three thousand years ago, and makes her an offer she can't refuse: he'll get rid of a pack of vampires that want her dead. A dragon is about the only entity on the planet that can deliver on Owl's vampire problem – and let's face it, dragons are known to eat the odd thief. Owl retraces the steps of Mr. Kurosawa's ancient thief from Japan to Bali with the help of her best friend, Nadya, and an attractive mercenary. As it turns out though, finding the scroll is the least of her worries. When she figures out one of Mr. Kurosawa's trusted advisors is orchestrating a plan to use a weapon powerful enough to wipe out a city, things go to hell in a hand basket fast...and Owl has to pick sides. (*Urban Fantasy*) BM

Hillenbrand, Laura

Unbroken (2010)

In boyhood, Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater. Driven to the limits of endurance, Zamperini would answer desperation with ingenuity; suffering with hope, resolve, and humor; brutality with rebellion. His fate, whether triumph or tragedy, would be suspended on the fraying wire of his will. (*Biography*) MR

Hoffman, Beth

Saving CeeCee Honeycutt (2010)

For years, 12-year-old CeeCee Honeycutt has been the caretaker of her psychotic mother, Camille—the tiara-toting, lipstick-smearing laughingstock of an entire town. But when Camille is hit by a truck and killed, CeeCee is left to fend for herself. To the rescue comes her previously unknown great-aunt from Savannah, Tootie Caldwell, who whirls CeeCee into her world of female friendship, strong women, wacky humor, and good old-fashioned heart. (*Domestic*) AS

Irving, John

A Prayer for Owen Meany (1989)

In the summer of 1953, two 11-year-old boys--best friends--are playing in a Little League baseball game in New Hampshire. One of the boys hits a foul ball that kills his best friend's mother. Owen Meany believes he didn't hit the ball by accident. He believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after 1953 is extraordinary and terrifying. He is Irving's most heartbreaking hero. (*Literary*) AS

Jones, Brian Jay

Jim Henson: The Biography (2013)

He was a gentle dreamer whose genial bearded visage was recognized around the world, but most people got to know him only through the iconic characters born of his fertile imagination: Kermit the Frog, Bert and Ernie, Miss Piggy, Big Bird. The Muppets made Jim Henson a household name, but they were just part of his remarkable story. This biography gives the full measure to a man whose joyful

genius transcended age, language, geography, and culture--and continues to beguile audiences worldwide. (*Biography*) JFS

Martin, Paul

Villains, Scoundrels, and Rogues: Incredible True Tales of Mischief and Mayhem (2014)

From the back pages of history, vivid, entertaining portraits of little-known scoundrels whose misdeeds range from the simply inept (like the drunken, ne'er-do-well cop who abandoned his post at Ford's Theatre) to the truly horrifying (America's worst female serial killer ever). (*True Crime; Humorous History*) JFS

Keneally, Thomas

Schindler's List (1982)

A stunning novel based on the true story of how German war profiteer and factory director Oskar Schindler came to save more Jews from the gas chambers than any other single person during World War II. In this milestone of Holocaust literature, Thomas Keneally uses the actual testimony of the Schindlerjuden-Schindler's Jews-to brilliantly portray the courage and cunning of a good man in the midst of unspeakable evil. (*Historical*) AS

Rosenfelt, David

Dog Tags: A Novel (2010)

A German Shepherd police dog witnesses a murder and if his owner--an Iraq war vet and former cop-turned-thief--is convicted of the crime, the dog could be put down. Few rival Andy Carpenter's affection for dogs, and he decides to represent the poor canine. As Andy struggles to convince a judge that this dog should be set free, he discovers that the dog and his owner have become involved unwittingly in a case of much greater proportions than the one they've been charged with. Andy will have to call upon the unique abilities of this ex-police dog to help solve the crime and prevent a catastrophic event from taking place. (*Mystery*) JK

Stabe, Mary

Diary from the Desert (2003)

Enter into the life of Mary E. McFarland as she leaves her family farm in Iowa and vividly recounts her experiences in the Army through her letters home. *Diary From the Desert* is not a military account of the weapons or maneuvers of war, but one woman's personal view of survival in the Army. As you follow her through basic training, military intelligence school, and then deployment to the Gulf War, you will discover who she is and become a part of the strong family that shaped her values, beliefs, and longings. Her letters are filled with a breadth of emotions from falling in love and the agonizing separation of newlyweds, to having artillery rumble right over her head. She powerfully describes her fears of war and her feelings of isolation as she describes what it was like to be the only woman among 300 troops. (*Memoir*) MR

Whyte, Jack

The Eagle: the concluding Volume of the Camulod Chronicles (2007)

Beginning with *The Skystone*, the first in his riveting *Camulod Chronicles*, Jack Whyte has embarked on an ambitious and remarkable re-telling of the Arthurian cycle, giving us a fresh and compelling take on a story that has been beloved for centuries.

The Eagle brings us at last to the heart of the tale, the creation of fabled Camelot and the love story that enshrined its glory. Whyte takes us into the minds and lives of Arthur, Guinevere, and Lancelot, three

astonishing but fallible people who were bound together by honor, loyalty, and love. Three who created the glory that was Britain's shining dream...and, some say, caused its downfall. (*Arthurian Legend*) JK

DVDs

Alice in Wonderland (2010)

Alice Kingsleigh is a young woman at a crossroads. Not knowing what she wants from life, she is being pushed, pulled, strong-armed, and confused into doing what everyone expects of her. A marriage proposal in front of friends and family pushes Alice over the edge and down the rabbit hole into a place she hasn't visited since her father died 10 years before. Only problem is, she's now a very different person, has no memories of Underland, and is somehow still expected to be someone she's not. How can she argue with something that's mapped out in full visual splendor in the prophetic Oraculum? With the help of The Mad Hatter, The White Queen, Tweedledum and Tweedledee, Absalom, The Cheshire Cat, and the Bandersnatch, can Alice unlock the mystery of her past and light a path to her future? (*Fantasy Film*) JK

All the President's Men (1976)

While researching a story about a botched 1972 burglary of Democratic Party headquarters at the Watergate apartment complex, green Washington Post reporters/rivals Woodward (Robert Redford) and Bernstein (Dustin Hoffman) stumble on a possible connection between the burglars and a White House staffer. Aided by a guilt-ridden turncoat bookkeeper and the vital if cryptic guidance of Woodward's mystery source, Deep Throat, Woodward and Bernstein "follow the money" all the way to the top of the Nixon administration. (*Thriller; Based on a True Story*) JFS

Indiana Jones and the Raiders of the Lost Ark (1981)

Indiana Jones (Harrison Ford) is no ordinary archeologist. When we first see him, he is somewhere in the Peruvian jungle in 1936, running a booby-trapped gauntlet (complete with an over-sized rolling boulder) to fetch a solid-gold idol. He loses this artifact to his chief rival, a French archeologist named Belloq (Paul Freeman), who then prepares to kill our hero. In the first of many serial-like escapes, Indy eludes Belloq by hopping into a convenient plane. So, then: is Indiana Jones afraid of anything? Yes, snakes. The next time we see Jones, he's a soft-spoken, bespectacled professor. He is then summoned from his ivy-covered environs by Marcus Brody (Denholm Elliott) to find the long-lost Ark of the Covenant. The Nazis, it seems, are already searching for the Ark, which the mystical-minded Hitler hopes to use to make his stormtroopers invincible. But to find the Ark, Indy must first secure a medallion kept under the protection of Indy's old friend Abner Ravenwood, whose daughter, Marion (Karen Allen), evidently has a "history" with Jones. Whatever their personal differences, Indy and Marion become partners in one action-packed adventure after another, ranging from wandering the snake pits of the Well of Souls to surviving the pyrotechnic unearthing of the sacred Ark. (*Adventure*) MR

The Middleman (2009)

Focuses on the titular superhero and his new protégé, an aspiring artist named Wendy Watson. Together, they defend the Earth against 'exotic problems' such as animated terracotta warriors, evil lucha libre wrestlers, extra-terrestrials, trout-eating zombies and more. (*Science fiction; Humor*) BM

To Kill a Mockingbird (1962)

Peck, as a widowed attorney raising two children in the 1930's South, accepts the significant challenge of defending a black man wrongly accused of rape in their racially divided small town. (*Classic; Legal; Coming of Age*) AS