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Thrilling Escapes*

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*Story of the Titanic*

*Her Name, Titanic*

*The Titanic*

*On Board the Titanic*

*Titanic*

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## *Bless me Ultima*

By Rudolpho Anaya/ 226 pages

Reviewed by Anthony Curtis

Throughout the course of your life, can you remember there ever existing a severe conflict of interest involving you and the two ends of your family? Not an argument over curfew or a party, but an ongoing struggle with regard to your future position in the world? *Bless Me Ultima*, by Rudolpho Anaya, is a novel concerning a small Chicano boy, Antonio Marez, who is caught in constant discord between his mother's and father's sides. His mother and her relatives, the Lunas, are farmers and have been since their valley was young. Each generation of Luna men have dedicated their lives to farming and working the land, and have grown to respect the earth and all it allows them to have. Antonio's mother and her brothers dream that he may grow to be a man of learning and follow in their footsteps to be a farmer, or better yet, a priest. The Marez', Antonio's father's side, are men of the llano, and are, as they claim, not only "free as the wind," but as "restless as the sea" as well. They long to leave their homes on the llano, and explore the vast world around them. Tony's father's dream is to take all four of his sons and move west to California to begin new and better lives. These differences in lifestyle and ideas produce a disharmony that Antonio struggles with constantly .

Tony continually runs into situations where he is caught between two chairs on subjects pertaining to his man-

hood. Fortunately, around every corner there stands Ultima, wise and nurturing, and the one who truly guides Antonio quite a bit to find his true identity. Ultima is the individual who equips Antonio with the valuable knowledge he will need in his lifetime, and thus leads him not by the hand, but gently guides him into the strange and sometimes inexplicable period of his adulthood.

*Bless Me Ultima* is a fascinating story perhaps like no other I have read before. Its smooth and flowing text provide not only for special understanding, but a universal significance by explaining a problem that may be common in our world. I strongly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in Chicano history and lifestyle, and shares a common bond with Antonio in his struggle.

*Fallen Angels*  
By Walter Dean Meyers/309 p.  
Reviewed by Paul Ornelas

Richie Perry is an eighteen-year-old boy getting out of high school. The year is 1967, and the United States is at war.

*Fallen Angels* is a book that follows Richie as he is being flown to Vietnam. When he gets there, he describes his feelings and talks a lot about his mom. Perry, as he is known throughout the book, meets and gets to know a real character in PeeWee. PeeWee is the type of guy that makes fun of everybody, but he never gives Perry a hard time. In a way, PeeWee sort of respects Perry.



grows up. He goes through dealing with death in losing a close friend, Brunner. He fears his own death when he is covered in shrapnel.

This book reminds me a lot of the movies *Platoon*, *Hamburger Hill*, and *Full Metal Jacket*. Those were also based on Vietnam and focused on a certain character and platoon.

*Pittman*

By Ernest Gaines/245p.

Reviewed by Marisol Cortez

I chose to read *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman* since I enjoy being educated on how it was when there was slavery. What attracted my eye was that the book talked about how Miss Jane was one woman who was courageous, and she battled for freedom.

The book deals with issues such as slavery, prejudice, suffering, and sorrow. This is a novel of an African-American woman that has witnessed the Black militancy of the 1960's. Miss Jane has seen almost everything and foretold the rest.

I really admire Jane because she went through a lot of using and abusing and she still stood up strong. Jane had no family to look up to. From her youth, she survived through thick and thin.

*Bean Trees*

By Barbara Kingsolver/ 232 p.

Reviewed by Michelle Manuel

The average high school life of a teenage girl in Kentucky was getting pregnant, dropping out, and being abused. Taylor Green was one of the above average girls. She finished high school and had a steady job at a hospital. After seeing a horrific accident involving a girl she went to school with and meeting the girl's appalling husband, Taylor decides to get as far away as she can.

When she sets off on her journey to her unknown destination, the one thing she is trying to escape from ends up finding her. Read about this courageous young woman and her struggle to make a better life.

*The Autobiography of Miss Jane*

## *Fahrenheit 451*

By Ray Bradbury/179 p.  
Reviewed by Jordan Christensen

*Fahrenheit 451* is a science fiction book set in the twenty-fourth century. It's about Guy Montag, a thirty-year-old "fireman" living an artificial and miserable life with his wife, Millie. Firemen in the twenty-fourth century start fires, by burning books, instead of putting them out. There is no need to put out fires when all houses are fire-proofed with a flimsy plastic casing. These "firemen" are the censors of the state. Montag's job as a fireman is to destroy any home where books have been found. They burn books as a means of preserving social order. These people live in an oppressive society. Without books, there are no ideas and with no ideas, there is accommodation by everyone. This, consequently, should make all people happy, right?

Montag meets an exciting, young neighbor of his. Clarisse McClellan did not conform to an oppressive lifestyle. Her curiosity about simple things in life makes Montag think. She speaks to him of the beauties of life, the man in the moon, and the morning dew. This arouses Guy Montag's curiosity and eventually his change in attitude to saving books.

Bradbury uses a lot of metaphor, simile,

### *Skywalking*

By George Lucas

Reviewed by Mario Vilchez

*Skywalking* is an autobiography about George Lucas, the director and writer behind the movies like the Star Wars Trilogy, The Land Before Time series, and some of the Indiana Jones movies. This book tells all about his life from the beginning when he was a rebellious teen who loved to race cars, to the present as President and founder of LucasArts, his very own company. LucasArts controls merchandise sales, distribution, rights, and all that other legal stuff.

The book also tells about all the work that went into making Lucas' movies, with lots of detail on all his decisions. After

and imagery. So much of it is used that it sometimes can be a little misleading unless the reader stays focused on the story. Also, many hidden images pertaining to fire are included.

If you like science fiction or not, this is the book for you. It deals with censorship and oppression in a visual world of gray and fire. I recommend this book to everyone that wants good reading.

#### Did You Know?

The book we receive the most reviews on is *Fahrenheit 451*. **Marina Torres** describes it as "Sincerely one of, if not the, best books I have ever read."

**Michael Holguin** states: "Run to your nearest library or to the Chaffey High Library and say, 'I want Ray Bradbury! Fahrenheit 451—the temperature at which book paper

you learn what really goes into making a movie, you will look at movies differently, even boring moves. It's not easy to make a movie. This book will tell you why.

I actually thought this was a good book, and I don't even like to read for fun, or on my own time. I would really recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in movie-making, any of Lucas' films, or anyone who has to read a biography and doesn't want to.

Like Sci-Fi? Turn to Pages 4-5 for  
More Reviews!

*The Andromeda Strain*  
By Michael Crichton/289 p.  
Reviewed by Michael C. Martinez

*The Andromeda Strain* recounts the five-day history of a major American scientific crisis. The events played out describe the grim and tension-filled scenario involving the introduction of a catastrophic virus to a small Arizona town and the scientists who tirelessly try to decode the secrets of the new organism.

The story starts in a small Arizona town where an American satellite has crashed and has brought with it an unknown predatory virus. The United States government finds that the entire city has been affected. Those that have come in contact with the virus have had all of their blood coagulated and their organs have hardened. The twist is that there is a survivor, an infant.

The mystery of the virus only becomes greater as the sci-

entists take the virus into a laboratory to learn more about what the virus attacks and what it passes up. They come close to finding the mystery behind the virus until the virus gets out of control and threatens the metropolis of Los Angeles and the world.



modern-day science. Finally, this novel portrays viruses as menacing and projects them as viable threats to humanity. Michael Crichton, once again, puts the human race in the face of science and creates a scenario based on actual events, of a possible Armageddon.

*The Andromeda Strain* demonstrates with captivating clarity the definite possibility of a violent virus emerging in the world. It also shows the vulnerability of the human race as a whole and bursts the human “protective shield” by showing the imperfection and immaturity of

1984

By George Orwell/314 p.  
Reviewed by Kristen McGroarty

What if the past was constantly changing and the future was nonexistent? This was George Orwell's vision of 1984. In a society where thoughts are crimes, a man named Winston challenges the government. He commits the ultimate crime: individual thoughts. He experiences the forbidden emotion: love.

These crimes are punishable by a torturous death. Winston secretly despises the unseen government and hopes that it will be over-

thrown one day. He commits several “thought crimes” and eventually is caught. But what happens to him next is surprising. . .

“My thoughts are like waffles—the first few don't look so good.”  
Marilyn vos Savant

# Sphere

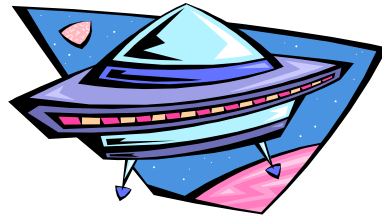
By Michael Crichton/371 p.

Reviewed by John Vasquez

Off the shores of Tonga, in the South Pacific, an unknown spacecraft of some sort has been discovered. It lies, resting on the ocean floor one thousand feet below the surface of the water. So far the United States government or military hasn't determined what the enormous craft could be. A group of ten scientists and naval officers have been assembled to live in a habitat at the bottom of the ocean to research the mysterious vessel.

Could the spacecraft be from another planet, solar system, universe, or time? This is the question that comes to mind to all the explorers as they investigate the craft inside and out. They discover that the spaceship sustained no damage

from the plummeting descent from the sky to the ocean floor. It certainly appeared that the craft wasn't made by humans or at least present-day humans.



What struck the explorers as even more surprising is that the spacecraft is estimated to be three hundred years old—at least.

*Sphere* is a science-fiction thriller whose concepts and theories are mind-boggling and thought-provoking to the

reader. These include the belief in alien intelligence and the theory of space-time. Michael Crichton is a talented author and storyteller who is extraordinary at creating strong images in your mind that describe the plot and setting as well as the characters. *Sphere* is a fast-paced, suspenseful novel that makes you turn page after page to find out what happens next. I highly recommend *Sphere* to anyone who enjoys an intense science-fiction adventure.

## *The Best Friend*

By R. L. Stine/147 p.

Reviewed by Carissa J. Thompson

When Honey Perkins moved in next door, she claimed that she was Becca's old best friend. But Becca was sure that she'd never met Honey before. Soon, Honey moved into Becca's life and copied Becca in every way. Accidents began to happen to Becca's other two friends. Becca is terrified that Honey may want much more than being best friends.

This is a good book, filled with suspense. But the ending is unsatisfying. If you want to satisfy yourself with the story, continue on reading the other book by R. L. Stine, *The Best Friend 2*.

**Did You Know?**  
**Michael Crichton, R. L. Stine, and Dean Koontz are our most frequently reviewed authors.**

## *The Voice of the Night*

By Dean Koontz/339 p.

If you like suspense, mystery, and drama, this is the book for you. The story takes place in the tranquil California town of Santa Leon. The main

Reviewed by Marsha Reed

character, Colin, moves to Santa Leon and becomes best friends with the most popular kid, Roy.

Colin is confused by Roy's friendship. Colin is a brainy, skinny, unpopular fourteen-year-old. Yet he and Roy become blood brothers and promise to be friends forever. Then one day Roy asks Colin, "You ever kill anything?" From that day on, the two boys are together in a terrifying game, too irresistible to stop.



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Next Issue: Reviews of Fantasy,  
Main Stream, and Sports Fiction.

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*"We are made whole by books,  
as by great spaces and the stars."*

*The Picture of Dorian Gray*  
By Oscar Wilde/192 p.  
Reviewed by DiJa Dowling

How much is your soul worth? Can you put a price on it? Would you sell it for a billion dollars, or trade it in for eternal beauty?

*The Picture of Dorian Gray* is one of the most thought-provoking and morally challenging books you can read. It's the story of a beautiful, charismatic

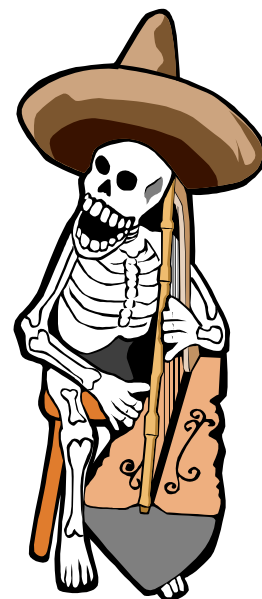
young man whose charms truly corrupt him.

Guided by Lord Henry (a pompous friend), Dorian Gray looks at a portrait of himself, and realizing that his glories may not remain the same as portrayed on the canvas, he makes an idle wish. He wishes that while his physical beauty would never fade, that all the corruption in his soul would only show on his portrait. Unfortunately for Mr. Gray, this wish comes true. His life is mortally altered.

*Chronicle of a Death Foretold*  
By Gabriel Garcia-Marquez/143 p.  
Reviewed by Bin Varughese

His name was Santiago Nasar and he was going to die. *Chronicle of a Death Foretold* by Noble-Prize Winner Gabriel Garcia-Marquez is an intriguing report of a death that should never have taken place. The setting is in a small Caribbean town. A place where everyone knows each other and honor comes at an expensive price. A price which an innocent man had to pay, for an unspeakable crime he had never committed.

This is a story like no other. Almost a mystery told backwards. It is already revealed in the first chapter who is going to die and who would be the killers; but what is truly captivating is the description of the events that lead to it. Events ironic and amazing enough to make it seem that this was truly the destined fate of Santiago Nasar. I recommend this book to all those skeptics that don't believe in the existence of fate. It may not change your mind, but it will certainly make you think.



*Under the Blood-Red Sun*  
By Graham Salisbury/246 p.  
Reviewed by Teresa Madrigal

*Under the Blood-Red Sun* is a book about a Japanese family who live in Hawaii during 1941 when Japan attacks Pearl Harbor (World War II). Tomi, a thirteen-year-old boy learns that his father and grandfather are arrested simply for being Japanese. Tomi has to grow up and mature to help out his mom and the babysitter.

This is a magnificent book, a winner of the Scott O'Dell Award. If you want to know more of what happens in the story, I recommend this book to all those who like details and a great, easy-to-read story.