

# Check It Out!

Volume 4 Issue 2

Spring 2000



## *Shiloh*

By Phyllis Reynolds Naylor/160 Pages  
Reviewed by Jonathan Hueso

**The Library Staff  
Recommends to Students  
and/or Staff:**

**Cindy:** *Bittersweet* by  
Danielle Steel

**Melissa:** *Daisy Fay and  
the Miracle Man* by  
Fanny Flagg

**Jessie:** *Haveli* by Suz-  
anne Fisher Staples

**Kim:** *Magic Fire* by  
Christopher Pike

**Victoria:** *Care of the  
Soul* by Thomas Moore

*This issue covers*

***Fiction.***

*Our next issue will  
have both*

***Biography  
and Fiction. Com-  
ing Soon!***

The book *Shiloh*, written by Phyllis Reynolds Naylor, deals with a boy and an abused dog. The book was well-written, and I couldn't stop reading it. This was probably the first book I read and did not get bored from it. It was awarded the John Newbery Medal.

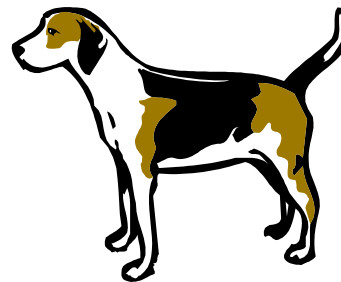
*Shiloh* deals with an eleven-year-old boy named Marty Preston. He loves to shoot his .22 caliber rifle in an open field in Friendly, West Virginia. He usually sets up cans or shoots apples off apple trees. This was when he saw *Shiloh*. That was what the dog was soon to be named because Marty found him near the old *Shiloh* schoolhouse. When he saw the dog, he knew it would have to be his.

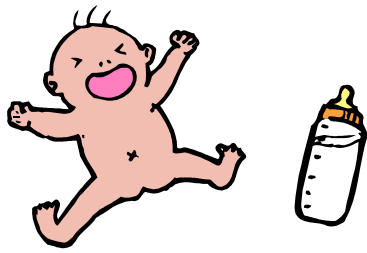
*Shiloh* was a small beagle. He was thin and you could see his ribs. Marty would try to go to the dog and try to pet him. The dog would run away and never let Marty near him. So Marty would see the dog almost every day, and the dog would let Marty get closer and closer. Marty would usually feed the dog scraps so that it would come closer to him. Soon *Shiloh* was Marty's dog. Marty

wanted him more than anything in the world. He built a little fence and kept him in there. The fence was a small square. It was far in the backyard so nobody could see it, because if Marty's dad knew that he had a dog, he would get rid of it. His dad saw it as another expense, another mouth to feed because they were poor and could not afford a dog.

Eventually, we learn that the dog is someone else's, and Marty will have to give *Shiloh* back to the owner. But the owner is a mean man who always kicked the dog. So Marty has to give the dog back—or does he?

You'll have to find out. This is the reason why I enjoyed this book so much. The suspense always seems to build up at the end of each chapter, and therefore, causes you to read more and more. The author did deserve the John Newbery Medal.





# Teen Issues

## *Baby Alicia is Dying*

By Lurlene McDaniel/185 Pages  
Reviewed by Marcela Rodriguez

Fifteen-year-old Desi starts working at a childcare center where her aunt works. This is not an ordinary childcare—it's for babies who are born HIV-positive. Desi meets Alicia and thinks it's totally unfair that innocent Alicia is born with HIV. Eight-month-old Alicia lives at the childcare center because her teenage mother abandoned her at birth. Desi can relate to feeling unloved. Her parents give her everything she needs economically, but there seems to be a wall between her mother and herself.



Working in childcare had helped Desi open up her heart for Alicia. But Alicia is not her child, and there is no cure for her condition. Desi will now be faced with a frustrating situation.

This is a great book, and it is an example of the many consequences of AIDS. In this case, the victim is an eight-month-old baby. This book makes you realize how many lives are affected by AIDS and will get you thinking before making the wrong decisions.

**Editor's Note: Two other titles we have by the same author are *All the Days of Her Life* and *Angels Watching Over Me*.**

## *Get It While It's Hot-Or Not*

By Valerie Hobbs/182 Pages  
Reviewed by Yvonne Dena

I was fascinated with this novel by Valerie Hobbs because of the intense and comical plot of four closely-knit teenagers dealing with pregnancy and sex. Megan, the feature writer for the school newspaper, plans an exposé on the issue of teen sex while aiding her best friend, Kit, who is dealing with the reality of being a mother. Mia and Elaine, who are part of their best friends' group, try and help Kit out, but also find they have to live their own lives.

The controversial story is a face-the-facts look at sex, AIDS, pregnancy, and growing up. I enjoyed reading this novel because it didn't try to sugar-coat the issues. It was a big eye-opener, and I enjoyed every minute of it.



# Mystery and Horror Insert



## *The Baby-Sitter*

By R. L. Stine/167 pages  
Reviewed by Erin Orozco

Jenny goes to a baby-sitting job for the Hagens, who live in a scary old house. On her first night there, someone calls and says, "Company's coming." Jenny reflects on this every time she hears a scary noise. Over the next few nights, the same person calls with scary messages. Jenny doesn't know what to do—she tells herself that someone is just playing stupid tricks on her. Then one night, she sees two cars parked outside the house.

R. L. Stine almost always has a murder in his books. I wish I could talk to Jenny and tell her everything will be OK. . .

## *In Camera*

By Robert Westall/152 pages  
Reviewed by Douglas Artero

*In Camera* is a good book for someone who likes scary stories. This book has five different stories, all of which will make a chill go down your spine. "In Camera," which is the title of the first story, is about a group of people who collect antique cameras. They have just purchased one, but this one is different. It has a roll of film in it. They were interested in seeing what was on the film, but after seeing the picture, they wished they had never developed it. . .

I liked this book because each story has its own little twist.

*Save the last Dance for Me*  
By Dyan Sheldon/240 pages  
Reviewed by Angel Gonzalez

Angel never had an older brother. She didn't have someone always nagging her about the guys she dated or someone listening to her telephone conversations or spying on her. That is until she moved to 52 Bluff Drive. When Angel and her family moved there, they also adopted a ghost, whether they wanted it or not.

B. J. was rude. He was always snooping around in Angel's belongings. But then he met Suze, Angel's best friend. He could see her, but she couldn't see him. Angel was starting to like B. J. and wondered what he saw in Suze that he didn't see in her. Suze was interested in finding out more and more about B. J.'s death. But what she finds out is more than she really wants to know.

## *Dead Air*

By Bob Larson/350 pages  
Reviewed by Alexis Smith



The book *Dead Air* is about a man named Wes Bryant who hosts a radio talk show. One day during his broadcast, a little girl calls in and tells him that mean people are hurting her, and she needs help. He finds out a way to find her, and he witnesses a horrible vision with the little girl. He finds out who's involved and tries to help. While he's trying to help, he falls deeply for the family.

***The Hound of the Baskervilles***  
**A Sherlock Holmes Mystery**  
**By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle/174**  
**Pages**  
**Reviewed by Christian Quiroz**



Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is a fast-flowing mystery that lures the reader in to the point where the reader cannot put the book

down. With one exclamation, "Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!," Doyle opens the reader's imagination. This book is filled with a lot of imagery which gives the reader a clear mental picture of what's going on through the whole book. The best part though, is that every paragraph doesn't repeat everything over and over again, but only goes into detail on key things which help to solve the mystery. Every turn of a page adds new facts or evidence, and because the book is fast-flowing, the reader never gets lost.

The mystery starts with a doctor who asks Sherlock Holmes and his trusty assistant, Watson, to help solve the mystery of the Hound of Baskervilles. The Baskerville Manor is haunted or cursed by a gigantic hound who kills all of the owners of Baskerville. When Watson and Holmes take the case, the last Baskerville has come to London to take back his family home. Watson and Holmes must solve the mystery before the last Baskerville is killed off by the legendary hound. Watson is sent off to watch over the last Baskerville at his house, and what he finds builds the plot so that it seems anyone living around the Baskerville Manor could be guilty of the murders.

Once the mystery is solved, it isn't over. Then comes the climax, the best part of the book! Holmes must stop the hound before it gets the last Baskerville. In this scene, the reader will hold his or her pillow tight as s/he witnesses the outcome.

***Good Night, Sweet Prince***  
**By Carole Berry/235 Pages**  
**Reviewed by**  
**Reyna Hernandez**

The main reason why I enjoyed this book was because it is a mystery. The main character, Bonnie Indermill, has got a murder case on her hands. While moving up from a temporary job to an assistant manager, Bonnie will do anything to find out who murdered a Russian dancer.

I loved this story because it is full of foreshadowing, letting you keep up with the plot. The author uses as much description as possible, which makes you feel like you are in the story yourself.

I had never read a book written by Carole Berry, but now that I have, I'm planning to keep reading the collection. I believe she is a dedicated author who will not bore you. Another good thing is that she brings her characters alive, and you feel that you even know them.

The time has been my senses would have cooled  
To hear a night-shriek, and my fell of hair  
Would at a dismal treatise rouse and stir  
As life were in't.

Shakespeare: *Macbeth* V.v.

Stephen King

*The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*  
 272 Pages  
 Reviewed by Jose Quintero

*The Eyes of the Dragon*  
 326 pages  
 Reviewed by Gabriel A. Copas

Imagine yourself lost in the woods within the wonder of the Appalachian Trail. This is exactly what Trisha McFarland has to face in the unique, vivid and intriguing book by Stephen King



entitled *The Girl Who Loved Tom Gordon*. After separating from her divorced mother and weird brother, during an adventurous trip into the Appalachian Trail, Trisha is forced to meet the dubiousness and fear of being lost, hungry and scared all at the same time. With a shortage of food, injuries in most of her body, and with the fear of dying, Trisha could only rely on images of her favorite baseball player from the Red Sox, Tom Gordon. Most important, she has to keep faith that she will live. King takes us into a voyage of desperation and fear in this excellent piece of fiction.

This book is a science-fiction type. Generally speaking, Stephen King is not my favorite writer and is not a favorite in my household because of his subjects. But when I started to read this book, it caught me in the same way as all the fairy tales that I loved to read.

Although Mr. King goes into great detail, the chapters are short and straight to the point. It takes place in the Dark Ages and there is a hero, a little hero, and even a villain in the story. Peter is the true heir to the throne. Thomas is second in line. The villain, Flagg, was a consultant to the king when he was alive.

This is the only Stephen King book that provides an escape from the real world. I also think it will be a good book for you if you are a Stephen King fan.

Editor's Note: Other Stephen King books that are more fantasy than horror include the *Dark Towers* series and *Hearts in Atlantis*. Please see Mrs. Dietzman in the South Room of the library if you are interested in hearing more.

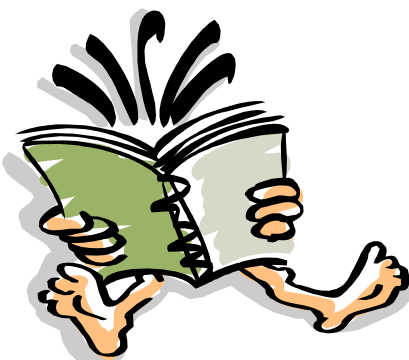


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Reardon and Sarah  
Singer-Nourie

*The Pelican Brief*  
By John Grisham/384 Pages  
Reviewed by Scott Hendrickson

*The Pelican Brief* was such a good book—I liked it more than the last book I read by John Grisham. Although Grisham always writes about lawyers and government, the plot of *The Pelican Brief* is better than *The Firm*. Both have characters in common, including Director Voyles as head of the FBI. This makes it seem more like the real world.

*The Pelican Brief* is very suspenseful because most of the mysteries are not cleared up until the end. In fact, all of the stuff on the page is all of the conspiracies, all of the suspense unravels in the last 50 pages.



*Brief* is very suspenseful because most of the mysteries are not cleared up until the end. In fact, all of the stuff on the page is all of the conspiracies, all of the suspense unravels in the last 50 pages.

*Interview With the Vampire*  
By Anne Rice/346 Pages  
Reviews by Eli Agraz and Vuong Nguyen

*Editor's Note: This book was reviewed by two students, Eli Agraz and Vuong Nguyen. Below is a summary of the book with comments from both students added.*

On a plantation in eighteenth-century Louisiana, Louis is hunted by a vampire named Lestat. This is Louis' story of danger and flight, of love and loss, and of the extraordinary power of the senses.

**Eli:** This book is marvelous. Rice goes into a lot of detail. She makes the characters come to life. Rice makes sure that the reader understands and can see a picture in his or her mind. This book is better than the movie—if you thought the movie was good, you should read it. I give it two thumbs up!

**Vuong:** I enjoyed reading this book because I like vampires. Louis tells his life story, what it's like to be a vampire. The interviewer doesn't understand all the pain and suffering—he thinks it's cool. . .