

Book Review: 'The Mists of Avalon'



'Much more than a fantasy'

Morgan Damme
Staff Reporter

"The Mists of Avalon" by Marion Zimmer Bradley is a provocative and poignant book. From beginning to end, this book grabs the reader's attention, and takes him or her on an emotional rollercoaster ride. This book is one of the best books ever written, and it stands head and shoulders above the rest in this genre. The story is primarily told from the viewpoint of the women of Camelot.

The story starts with Igraine, mother of King Arthur and Morgan Le Fay. Igraine is a stunning character who is forced to make an impossible choice to save the kingdom, and allow herself to become a pawn of her sister Viviane's plans. Eventually, she marries Arthur's father Uther, after Morgan's father Gorlois dies. Uther is the high king of all of Britain,

and by marrying him, she stopped paying attention to her children. Both children were sent away to be raised into adulthood, Arthur by a lesser king, and Morgaine by Viviane, the Lady of the Lake.

Eventually both children are grown, Arthur as a foster son of a lesser king. Morgaine was raised to be a priestess in the magic kingdom of Avalon, which is hidden from the rest of the world in the mists of a magical lake. Both are content until one day, The High King dies, and Arthur must take his place as king. Viviane, The Lady of the Lake, sets him up to be king by having him participate in a ritual. It's during this ritual when Arthur and Morgaine unknowingly commit incest. When they discover the truth, Arthur is ashamed, and Morgaine is furious at Viviane for setting it up.

From then on, the book starts on a wild thrill ride in which Morgaine

is so furious about what Viviane has done, she renounces her priesthood, and goes to live with her sister in the north until her and Arthur's son, Gwydion is born. From then on, she lives with Arthur and his new bride, without them knowing about Gwydion. Then, little by little, things begin to fall apart. The Saxons approach, relationships are tested, painful feelings must be faced, and things fall to almost ruin when Morgaine flees the court, and disappears for five years. It seems like a lot to take in, but the story is far from over.

This book is amazing, and highly recommended to anyone. It is so much more than a fantasy. The story explores some of the deepest and most painful emotions a person can feel. These characters and their struggles for love, peace, and freedom from eternal damnation in hell are haunting. All of these struggles take

place as Britain struggles with a war, a High King with no sons, a neurotic high Queen, and an omnipresent sinister undertone of something that isn't quite right. Here, the reader can see Britain for what it was, a nation desperately trying to find some unity when Christianity was slowly dominating the Druidic religion that has ruled for centuries. Some people cling to the old ways, but others flock to Christianity, and conflicts arise.

"The Mists of Avalon" is complicated, and deals with numerous emotions, from shame to pride, painful lust, and the utter helplessness of unrequited love. The reader will find themselves caring about these characters, and wanting painfully to find out what happens to them.

This book a solid 4 out of 5 stars. It's only 4 because of the book's length. This book is 876 pages long, with small text. However, if someone cares to take the time, "The Mists of Avalon" by Marion Zimmer Bradley, is one of the best.

Restaurant Review: 'Quiznos'



'An option for students who want to go some place close to school.'

James Bates
Staff Reporter

Juniors and seniors love to go out to eat for lunch. The only problem is deciding where to go when students are hungry.

Quiznos at 2600 S. 48 St. is an option for students who want to go some place close to school. The restaurant has a cool offer available for students.

The Student Lunch Special, which comes with a small sandwich plus chips and a drink, costs only \$3.99. Customers can upgrade to a regular sandwich for \$4.99. Another convenience is that orders can be placed by calling the restaurant or by going online to order ahead of time.

On a recent visit, four employees were working, two were making sand-

wiches and one was working as the cashier. There was one other employee walking around asking the customers if everything was all right, if their food was prepared well, and trying to make the customers feel happy. That was great because most fast food places don't do that.

Despite the crowded atmosphere, the staff seemed to be in a good mood.

It only took them about four minutes to make my sandwich. I ordered a Philly cheese steak sandwich. It was delicious. The American and Cheddar cheeses were perfect, plus with a little peppercorn sauce and honey mustard made it melt in my mouth. I would strongly recommend it to anyone who likes cheese.

The service was great. I was helped out with a smile and one of the employees even told me a joke. Plus the customers were served in record time. I would rate this a four out of five stars.

Movie Review: 'Taken'

'Entertainment is delivered through exciting action shots and a heartfelt story'



Rylee Hall

Ads Manager

Bryan Mills (Liam Neeson) is a retired government operative looking to make up for lost family time in the thriller "Taken" that opened on Jan. 30. His daughter Kim (Maggie Grace) wants to go to Paris with her friend but Mills doesn't feel safe letting his seventeen year old daughter travel abroad alone with her older friend Amanda (Katie Cassidy).

Kim goes anyway and the girls soon become a part of a scheme to

lure vulnerable female tourists into human trafficking. While on the phone her father, Kim sees her friend Amanda being kidnapped by men and fears for her own safety. Her father then tells her to hide. He knows she's going to be taken anyway and he gives her advice to follow.

As soon as the phone clicks, Mills is on the next flight to Paris to find his daughter. He soon finds out, with a little CIA help, that she was taken by human traffickers. Mills kills anyone who he suspects has any information about his daughter and takes the law into his own hands. He causes the French police much trouble because of all the dead bodies that he leaves

"You have a 96 hour window from the time she was grabbed."

"To what?"

"To never finding her again."

-Taken'

behind.

The movie's theme is based on how far one would go to save someone they love. The movie follows Mills as he searches for his daughter.

"Taken" deserves three out of five

stars because although entertainment is delivered through exciting action shots and a heartfelt story, it does become predictable at times and the resources that Mills' utilizes are not realistic. At one point, Mills is able to identify a suspect just from recording their voice and running it through a database. However, for the lovers of action, this movie is a must due to all the action sequences and intense violence.

"Taken" is rated PG-13 for intense sequences of violence, disturbing thematic material, sexual content, some drug references and language. "Taken" is showing at the Lincoln Grand and Southpointe Theaters.

Music Review: 'Maybe I'm Dreaming'

'Beats that listeners will be tapping their toes to'



Emily Bomberger

Staff Reporter

Owl City is the number one band for music fans who enjoy electronica music. Luckily their newest album, "Maybe I'm Dreaming", released in December, has lived up to the expectations of fans.

Owl City is actually composed of a solo artist, Adam Young from Owatonna, Minnesota. Young claims to write and compose all of his music in his basement. Young creates 12 up-beat songs; all consisting of different tunes and beats that listeners will be tapping their toes to. A favorite song off of the album is "The Saltwater Room,"

however every song has lyrics that people will fall in love with. Young has pure talent and this is the first of many albums that will take him to fame and glory.

When checking out "Maybe I'm Dreaming", also consider the album "Of June", which was released two days before the newest album. A favorite song on this album is "Hello Seattle," but again, Young has created a collection on this album that will have you tapping your feet to the beat.

Both albums deserve three out of four stars, because even though they are good, there is room for improvement. Every album is a learning experience and an artist wants to explore new horizons. These were Young's first two albums and he does a terrific job, keeping fans yearning for more albums to come.

Owl City
Maybe I'm Dreaming

