

by Susan Richardson

Bagar, Gary. LIFE. IS. NOT. FAIR. Clarion, \$11.95

Set in Kansas City in 1959, this is the story of Louis Lamb who desperately wants to change his image in junior high from "dip" to "cool". His friendship with Dewitt, the new black kid, complicates things, and Louis eventually realizes that being different can be good. A novel of hope. Ages 10-14.

Bond, Nancy. A PLACE TO COME BACK TO. Atheneum, \$12.95.

A thoughtful novel about the joys and pains of friendship. Charlotte, Oliver, Kath and Andy of previous books return, but, Charlotte realizes, are changing as they mature. Oliver, a self-reliant son of divorced parents, has been living with his great-uncle. When the old man dies, Oliver is bitter about leaving Concord and demands more of Charlotte than she is comfortable giving. Slow-moving; excellent characterization. Ages 12-16.

Cohen, Barbara. ROSES. Lothrop, \$11.50.

This contemporary Beauty and the Beast story features Isabel, a beautiful and talented high school senior who must work for a hideously deformed man whose youthful extravagances had caused a girl's death. At the same time Isabel's understanding classmate Rob helps her overcome her fear of close, loving relationships. Interesting characters and skillful first person narrative will involve readers in this romantic novel. Ages 13-17.

Dygaard, Thomas. TOURNAMENT UPSTART. Morrow, \$9.50/

A high school basketball story told from the coach's perspective, as a smalltown team battles its way to the state championship finals. There is more than just a battle of physical prowess, however; quarreling among the team members could prevent the team from doing its best. An excellent sports story which successfully creates the tension of tournament play. Ages 12-17.

Highwater, Jamake. LEGEND DAYS. Harper, \$10.89.

Orphaned after a smallpox epidemic wipes out her tribe, eleven year old Amana is taken in by Grandfather Fox, who gives her a warrior's courage and a hunter's prowess. These gifts give her strength as she watches the progressive disintegration of her tribe at the hands of the white man. A poetic story with much symbolism, moving in its description of a race's struggle for survival. Ages 13-17.

Hunter, Mollie. HOLD ON TO LOVE. Harper, \$11.89.

Sequel to A Sound of Chariots, this continues the story of spirited and independent Bridie McShane, whose pursuit of a writing career leads her to her first love. Set in pre-World War II Edinburgh, the descriptions of Scottish life are involving and real. An engaging and satisfying story. Ages 12-16.

Johnson, Annabel. THE DANCER QUOTIENT. Harper, \$12.89.

Casey is a supergenius in an underground colony who travels back in time to 1981 to find out why survivors of a nuclear war are dying. As he becomes involved with the family who takes him in, he realizes that it was his own actions in previous generations which determined their fate and his. A skillfully paced, believable time travel story. Ages 13-17.

Kerr, M. E. HIM SHE LOVES? Harper, 1984. 215pp. \$10.89.

Henry falls in love with Valerie Kissenwiser whose father is a TV comedian. Henry fails to make a good impression on Al Kiss (the father's stage name) and becomes the butt of Kiss' nationally broadcast comedy routines. The characters of this novel are incredibly funny but larger than life, except for Henry. Enjoyable, it is; realistic it's not. Ages 13-17.

Langton, Jane. THE FRAGILE FLAG. Harper & Row, \$11.89.

Georgie of Fledgling fame walks from her home in Massachusetts to Washington DC to personally deliver her entry in a writing contest for children on "What the Flag Means to

Me", sponsored by the President, who is meanwhile the center of controversy over his proposed Peace Missile. Georgie's magical and terrifying vision of the future prompted by an old family flag would be unbelievable in the hands of anyone but this talented author, who makes us believe that a child could really make the difference in our future. Ages 9-13.

MacLachlan, Patricia. UNCLAIMED TREASURES. Harper, 118pp. \$10.89.

Willa and her twin Nicholas live next door to Horace, his artist father, and two eccentric aunts. Willa had hoped to find her true love that summer, and after being sidetracked by other concerns (a new baby sister, and Horace's parents and their tenuous relationship), she discovers her true love was there all along. An ordinary and extraordinary tale, sensitively and poetically written. Ages 12-15.

Naylor, Phyllis Reynolds. NIGHT CRY. Atheneum, 1984. 154pp. \$10.95.

Haunting story, skillfully written. Often left alone on their Mississippi farm when her father becomes a travelling salesman, Ellen must face both real and imagined fears, and finally realizes she can have confidence in herself. The suspenseful climax is absorbing and real. Ages 10-14.

Orlev, Uri. THE ISLAND ON BIRD STREET. Houghton Mifflin, \$10.95.

A moving story of the Holocaust. Eleven year old Alex is left on his own in an empty Polish ghetto when his mother disappears and his father is "selected" by the German army for a work camp. Showing amazing survival skills, Alex manages to hold out until his father miraculously returns. A story of courage, all too realistic in its grim details, but inspiring and thought provoking. Ages 11-15.

Paulsen, Gary. TRACKER. Bradbury, 1984. 90pp. \$9.95.

A Minnesota author tells the haunting story of thirteen year old John who must hunt a deer for his family's winter

meat. This is his first hunt alone because his grandfather is dying of cancer and cannot go with him. John stalks a doe but cannot kill her--his tracking becomes a metaphor for life, death and letting go. Simple but powerful. Ages 12-16.

Petersen, P.J. HERE'S TO THE SOPHOMORES. Delacorte, \$13.95.

A sequel to Would You Settle for Improbable?, this features the same cast of characters, only now the focus is on non-conformist Warren and his refusal to attend high school assemblies. His friends, Michael and Margaret, become involved in the resulting ruckus. An ending that's a trifle too pat, but excellent dialogue and serious issues, well tempered with humor make very enjoyable reading. Ages 12-16.

Sutcliffe, Rosemary. BONNIE DUNDEE. Dutton. \$12.50.

An excellent historical novel, following the author's tradition of effectively weaving fact and fiction. This is the story of young Hugh Herriott who follows Claverhouse, leader of the King's Cavalry in 17 Century Scotland, even though it means Hugh must forsake his own family, religious Covenanters who oppose the King. Rich in dialect and evocative in descriptive prose, this book will be much appreciated by readers who make the effort to read its tiny print. Ages 12-up.

Sweeney, Joyce. CENTERLINE. Delacorte, \$14.95.

An abusive, alcoholic father forces the five Cunning boys to steal the family car and run away from home. Each brother is a distinct, believable character, and although each is not always likeable, during the course of the novel all become very real. This story has all the ingredients of a classic YA novel: adventure, physical conflict, family problems, and a little sex. Very reminiscent of Hinton's The Outsiders. Ages 14-up.

Tenny, Dixie. CALL THE DARKNESS DOWN. Atheneum, \$11.95.

Morpha Owens is an American Student at a college in Wales who is trying to unravel the mystery surrounding her Welsh

mother's background. The mystery takes on supernatural elements but the mix of fantasy and reality is skillfully accomplished. Excellent storytelling--both compelling and satisfying. Ages 13-17.

Voigt, Cynthia. BUILDING BLOCKS. Atheneum, 1984. 128pp. \$10.95.

Brann Connell travels back in time through a fortress of building blocks, and meets his father as a ten-year-old boy. Seeing his father's family--a bullying father, an ineffectual mother and four mean siblings, Brann comes to understand his father's quiet ways and seeming lack of confidence. The incredulous time warp is skillfully written in a completely believable manner. Ages 10-14.

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A SELECTION OF BOOKS FOR YOUNG ADULTS

by Rebecca Rapport

Alexander, Lloyd. THE BEGGAR QUEEN. Dutton, 1984. 248pp. \$11.95.

The climax to the Westmark trilogy. The war with Regia has ended but Westmark is still a place filled with conflict, albeit internal. Some surprise twists, a bitter-sweet, ironic ending to the story of Mickle, now Queen of Westmark. Many moral issues dealt with in a complex, no-simple-solution manner. For those readers who enjoy intrigue, adventure, politics, romance and masterful storytelling. Ages 11-16.

Asimov, Isaac, Martin Greenberg, & Charles Waugh, eds. YOUNG MUTANTS. 256pp. \$10.89.

Another in a series of fine anthologies of science fiction stories. In these all the children have special powers, sometimes inspiring. Collection includes stories by Ray Bradbury, Alan E. Nourse and other well known science