

# WOKSAPE

"The Wise Book"

## Catching Fire Is Worth Seeing On The Big Screen



BY HUNTER KOCH

*The Hunger Games: Catching Fire* takes place shortly after Katniss and Peeta win the 74<sup>th</sup> Hunger Games.

Because they are the victors, they must take a tour around the country. However, rebellions have started in several districts, most likely caused by Katniss' defiance during the Hunger Games.

President Snow threatens Katniss, telling her that she must convince the country that her love with Peeta is real, or else she will be terminated.

At first, Katniss does not necessarily give in to the rules of the Capitol, specifically when she expresses sympathy with a fallen tribute's family. Katniss eventually abides by the Capitol's rules and commits to marrying Peeta in the hopes that the country believes their love.

This evidently does not work, as President Snow still feels threatened by Katniss, and he decides to make the 75<sup>th</sup> Hunger



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Games' tributes former victors. In District 12, Katniss and Peeta are chosen. The two tributes quickly impress many other former victors, and they become allies with several.

Within the arena, Katniss and Peeta work with several members to survive. During the games, a plot larger than Katniss or Peeta unfolds, and we see that a major change is on the horizon.

Obviously, seeing the first *Hunger Games* is a requirement to see this film; without it, one really

can't understand the plot. Reading the book, however, isn't necessary. I didn't read the book, but I did enjoy this sequel.

There are clear anti-totalitarianism overtones in the film, and it's obvious that the film advocates freedom and liberty.

These themes aren't buried and are pretty apparent, but the film as a whole isn't meant to be allegorical or even that preachy. *Catching Fire* really is just an entertaining film, and it succeeds at this. This iteration of *The Hunger Games*

is just as visually stimulating, just as suspenseful, and just as fun as the first one, if not more so.

If you've seen the first one, it's a necessity to see the new film. If you haven't seen the first film, I'd recommend watching that and then seeing *Catching Fire*. *The Hunger Games* franchise is just as pervasive and exciting as *Harry Potter* or *Twilight*. Personally, I like *The Hunger Games* better, but regardless, the films are well worth seeing.

## Editor's Note

Thanksgiving is over, and now we anticipate Christmas. Personally, I like Christmas better. Of course I like receiving gifts, but I think because many people like Christmas more than Thanksgiving that the Christmas season is more festive. Families are more likely to get together, and, in general, people just seem happier and more amiable. Also, Christmastime brings with it the possibility of snow and snow-days. Although snow causes slippery roads and gets everywhere, I still look forward to a good blizzard or even a few flurries. Christmas television specials are much better than Thanksgiving specials, too. For Thanksgiving, I can only really recall A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving. However, Christmas has *A Charlie Brown Christmas*, *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*, *Frosty the Snowman*, and *Santa Claus is Comin' to Town*, just to name a few. The Christmas specials are not that great, but they're still fun to watch. I don't really like Christmas music that much, but at least Christmas has legitimate songs. I'm sure Thanksgiving has a few songs dedicated to it, but these are probably obscure; I've never heard a song boasting the merits of Thanksgiving celebration. Christmas songs are sentimental, but people all over the country and even the world recognize basic songs like "Jingle Bells" and "Deck the Halls." Thanksgiving isn't bad (it's good to count your blessings), but Christmas is just more fun. I'm excited for the holiday and the time leading up to Christmas. It truly is the most wonderful time of the year.

Hunter Koch

## The Book Thief Highlights Dramatic Measures In WWII



BY MORGAN TESSIER

Marcus Zusak captures the life of Liesel Meminger, a young girl in Germany during World War II, in the novel *The Book Thief*.

Death narrates Liesel's story as she encounters it many times throughout her life.

Liesel's foster parents raise her in the fictional city, Molching. The title *The Book Thief* refers to Liesel's desire and passion for words after she steals her first book.

Her father teaches her to read, and as Liesel continues on her journey through life the books she pinches play key roles.

The books allow Liesel to form connections with the

people around her.

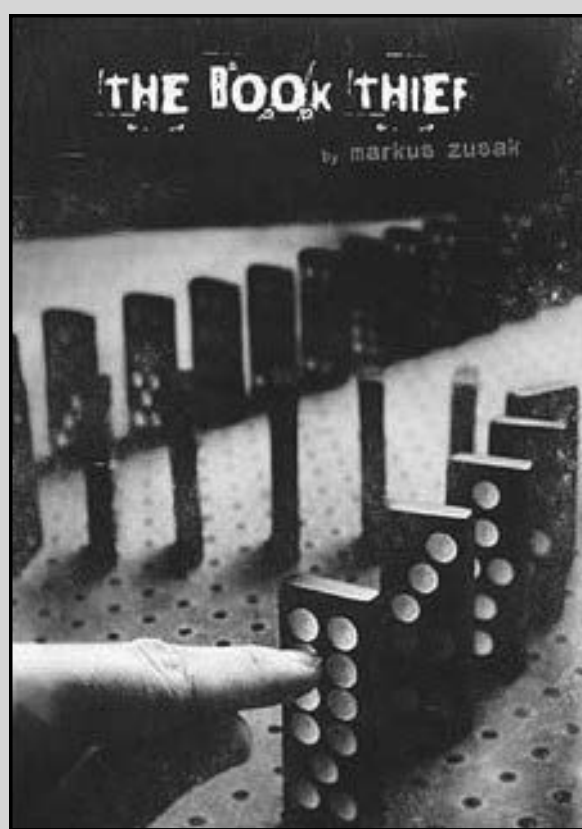
One of the strongest bonds Liesel gains comes with the Jewish man hiding in the basement.

He allows Liesel to come to an understanding to which she otherwise would not arrive.

The Jewish man in the basement also heightens the drastic measures that must be taken in the situation in Germany and the reality of it all.

As story continues the relationship between Liesel and the Jewish man grows and the action of the story rises.

I would highly recommend this award winning book. Anyone who has any interest in the Holocaust would love *The Book Thief*.



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## Gazelles' Basketball Team Starting The Season With A New Offense And Hoping For Success



BY JACOB SELGESTAD

"Success is a process." Those words sum up Girls basketball head coach Doug Pesicka's plan for this year's season. This year's team comes in with something to prove, as they aren't viewed as a contender this year for reaching the state tournament or winning ESD.

Despite those who doubt this year's team, there are only a few things stopping them from reaching their overall goal of the state tournament. It all comes back the aforementioned "process" that Coach Pesicka believes in. According to Pesicka, the team has already been improving by leaps and bounds in the early stages of the season.

If the team continues to improve at the rate at which it already has the doubters will soon be silenced. Pesicka himself claims, "Our teams biggest roadblock is our lack of size. Our loss of players such as Kelsey Fitzgerald has caused us to change our offensive philosophy."

Changing offenses is never easy, but, if the Ga-

zelles are able to execute to their full potential and be the best team that they are capable of being, the sky is the limit. Although many teams possess a significant size advantage over the Gazelles, if the new offense is able to be executed there's few teams in the state, let alone ESD, that will be able to outshoot the Gazelles.

Worst case scenario for the season is that the current players are not able to make up for their lack of size and game-in-game-out the team is dominated around the basket. However, the Gazelles practices have shown that those concerns will soon be a thing of the past.

The far more likely outcome for the season is the Gazelles fully embrace the new offense and are able to score points in bunches. Those baskets will in turn lead to wins, those wins will in turn lead to the transformation of the Gazelle's from an underappreciated team to ESD contenders. Come time for district play and the State Tournament, if the Gazelles are playing their best basketball you can be sure they won't be overlooked.

## Eminem's New Album, The Marshall Mathers LP2, Employs Classical Rock Rhythms



BY DAVID ALLEN

Classic rock rhythms and up to date melodic beats are the backbone to Eminem's eighth album "The Marshall Mathers LP 2"

Produced by musical geniuses, Rick Rubin and Dr. Dre, the album is Eminem's best since his 2004 release "Encore".

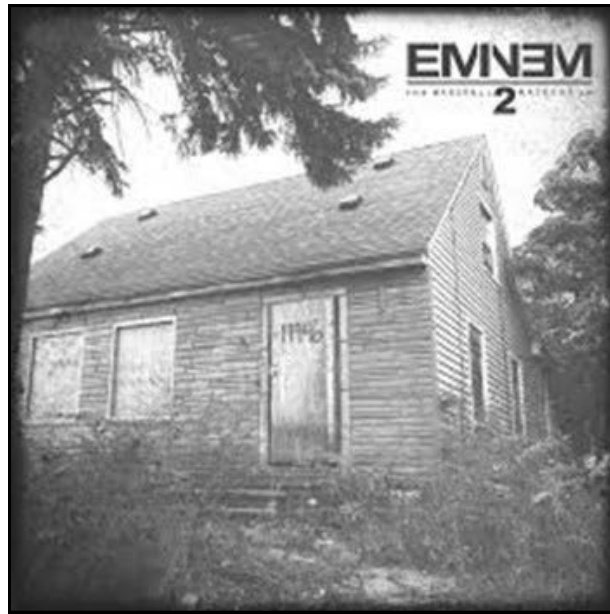
"The Marshall Mathers LP 2" starts off with "Bad Guy", a seven minute fusion of a beat that makes a deaf man hear and rhymes that would make a poet blush. "Bad Guy" turns from a nice rap into a story told by Eminem's fictional character Stan's brother, Matthew. Matthew wants Eminem to know that the reason why Stan killed himself was because Eminem never replied to fan mail.

The album has many ups and down within it. The best songs are later in the album with songs like "So Far" and "Love Game" which features rap super star Kendrick Lamar. Even the critically acclaimed "Rap God" is track nine on the album.

It is a smart ,though, to

have people listen to the full album and not just skip to the popular songs. Other featured artists on this album include pop goddess Rihanna, who is on the latest single off of the album "The Monster", singer songwriter Skylar Grey, on track seven, and Nate Ruess, leader singer from the band Fun., who sings parts in the song "Headlights"

The good thing about this album is that it features Eminem's comical rap style from his early roots and also his more depressing type songs from the later 2000s.



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