

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Selecting Your Next Great Read!"

Every reader has their own way of selecting the books they read. For example, some enjoy novels written by certain authors, some want only those novels found in particular series, and some read only nonfiction texts; however, my way of choosing books is a little more unconventional.

I begin by looking for five books that catch my eye. I then read the beginning paragraphs, hanging on to those that caught my interest. I then go back through the "keep" pile and read a few pages here and there...until I find my next big read!

Though my method is a corky, it has paid off over the years, allowing me to discover novels like "Hatching Magic," "Kenny & the Dragon," and "The Miraculous Adventure of Edward Timberland." My latest find, however, has me really excited, "Neversink" by Barry Wolverton! In Wolverton's tale, readers meet a puffin named Lockley and his expecting wife, Lucy. The pair lives on the island of Neversink along with hundreds of other seabirds. Life on the peninsula is good for this feathered society, except for the looming fact that the island belongs to the owls of Tytonia.

Rarely do the seabirds and owls cross flight paths and when they do, they govern themselves according to the "Peace of Yore," a treaty drawn up by Neversink's ambassador, the Great Auk, and Tytonia's king, the Great Gray Owl.

All is well for the two kingdoms until, Rozbell, a pigmy owl with a big ego, decides that it is time that the smallest of the owls becomes king. One evening, the feathered napoleon flies undetected to the Great Gray Owl's palace and poisons him.

Against its better judgment, the Owl of Parliament crowns Rozbell king. As part of his plan to control of the larger owls, Rozbell plays on their fears and insists that "The Sickness," a plague which killed hundreds of owls decades earlier by sickening their food supply of rodents, has returned. Rozbell then suggests that the owls of Tytonia begin feeding on fish, which will be supplied by the seabirds of Neversink. Not wanting to make waves with the owls, the unhappy seabirds take on the new task.

Within months, however, the fish population begins to dwindle. Rozbell then congers up a better plan for the owls. They will stop eating fish, which the owls never liked to begin with, and start feasting on Neversink seabird eggs...to find out what happens to the puffins and auks of Neversink and to see if Rozbell gets what he deserves, check out Barry Wolverton's new novel, "Neversink!"

If you are in the mood for a great read, venture to the Columbus Public Library and select your next great read! I am sure no matter what book you choose, it will take you on a fantastic adventure! If you have any questions about the titles mentioned or would like help selecting a book to enjoy, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.