

## **MORE NEW PICKS FOR 2008**

Sandell, Lisa Ann. **SONG OF THE SPARROW**– Told in free verse, from the point of view of Elaine, also known as The Lady of Shalott. In this version, Elaine lives in the camp of Arthur’s men, is infatuated with Lancelot, until Gwynivere arrives. Elaine decides to secretly follow the men to battle, ends up wounded and realized she has loved Tristan all along.

Paulsen, Gary. **LAWN BOY**. 12-year-old unnamed narrator gets an old riding lawnmower from his grandmother and starts mowing lawns. The business expands until he has more lawns than he can mow. He meets Arnold, a stock broker who works at home, and his business and finances expand. A study in economics using lawn mowing.

Peet, Mal. **THE PENALTY**. When Puerto Rican teen soccer star El Brujito disappears after a missed penalty kick, sports reporter Paul Faustino finds himself trying to figure out the mystery. Slavery and the occult are involved in the outcome.

Cooney, Caroline. **ENTER THREE WITCHES**. Macbeth told from a variety of teen viewpoints but primarily from that of 14-year-old Lady Mary, ward of Lord and Lady Macbeth. Interspersed with verse from the play, readers race along the path of destiny finding evil and power, romance and hatred.

Crutcher, Chris. **DEADLINE**. 17-year-old Ben tries to keep his terminal cancer a secret, but discovers that it is not easy as he thought.

Kadohata, Cynthia . **CRACKER! THE BEST DOG IN VIET NAM**. Cracker is a German Shepherd. He is paired with handler, Rick to sniff out booby traps in Vietnam. They end up separated during a battle. Will Cracker make it home? Also explores the feelings of Willie, the boy who raised the dog, but couldn’t keep her. Gritty and heart-wrenching at times.

Marr, Milissa. **WICKED LOVELY**. Aislonn sees fairies and tries to keep her sight a secret until the Summer King chooses her as his queen. Romance and fantasy combine for a steamy read.

Pinkwater, Daniel. **THE NEDDIAD: HOW NEDDIE TOOK THE TRAIN, WENT TO HOLLYWOOD, AND SAVED CIVILIZATION**. Traveling from Chicago to live in L.A. in the 1940’s, Neddie ends up being the keeper of the stone turtle, an artifact that may just save the world. Bad guys want it and Neddie and an assortment of colorful characters make sure the good guys prevail.