

Barb and Star go to Vista del Mar

BY KRISTINA WALKER

BARB AND STAR GO TO VISTA DEL MAR is a feel good movie. There are a few musical numbers in this movie, but I would not say it is a musical. There are a handful of Saturday Night Live performers in the movie, along with a few other A-List actors. This movie stars Kristen Wiig, Annie Mumolo, and Jamie Dornan. Both Kristen Wiig and Annie Mumolo were in the movie *Bridesmaids*, and Jamie Dornan was in the *50 Shades of Grey* movies.

The movie starts out with a kid riding his bike, lip syncing, and delivering papers; then, he looks at an owl and goes into a tree down to his "mother" (Sharon's) secret layer. Next, it jumps to Star and Barb sitting on a couch gossiping while they are at work. They both end up getting fired because their store is closing. Then, they go to their talking club meeting and get kicked out for lying. Now they have no job, no talking cub, and just each other. They run into a friend on the street who tells them to go to Vista del Mar in Florida.

My favorite part of the movie is when Barb and Star have their first night at the bar in the hotel. They met Edgar and they shared a drink called the hidden treasure.

At the bottom of the drink there was a treasure chest that had three pills in it, and they took them. The whole night the three of them are doing crazy things, and at the end of the night they were literally stacked on top of each other on the bed in Barb and Star's room. This is just one of many well laid out scenes that you do not see coming.

If you are someone who can usually guess the ending of a movie, good luck with this one. There are many twists and turns to this movie that are what make it very funny. The acting is very good and funny. The main characters have different accents and they add another lever to the movie.

I give this movie a 5/5 swords, and I would recommend this movie to anyone who needs a break from the stresses of life right now. It is a carefree and mindless movie that helps you forget about all your troubles for a while. A movie like this is exactly what I needed to take a break from the real world.

Book Review: *Shadow & Bone*

BY REBECCA BEASLEY

Most fantasy series simply don't live up to "The Lord of the Rings," "The Chronicles of Narnia," and "Harry Potter." However, Leigh Bardugo broke that trend when she wrote the Grishaverse trilogy, the first novel being "Shadow & Bone." This trilogy has a sister duology set in the same universe, *Six of Crows* (and more!). While the titles are unabashedly YA, they deserve more attention than your typical "Twilight" knockoff.

Leigh Bardugo has received the Good Reads Choice Awards for best fantasy as well as the Audie Award for short stories and collections. She graduated from Yale University and continues to write Grishaverse books. The trilogy, starting with "Shadow & Bone," is coming to Netflix in April of this year. Fans can only pray that it is not butchered like some CW shows and other Netflix adaptations that shall remain unnamed.

"Shadow & Bone" is a novel that introduces the magical Grishaverse, as well as a girl named Alina. She is the "Chosen One" main character with powers she cannot understand just yet. The book presents the struggle of discovering what makes an enemy. With betrayals, plot twists, and mistrust, "Shadow & Bone" sets itself apart from most YA fantasy. There is no clear enemy throughout the novel, and valuable information is hard

to come by. Readers struggle with deciphering fore-shadowing clues while enjoying the thrill of adventure. This novel rekindled the flame of my love for the fantasy genre. Additionally, what makes the Grishaverse unique is the slightly ambiguous inspiration. Architecture is reminiscent of 1800s Russia, but culture and technology are a mixed variant. For example, there are rifles and other powerful weapons alongside magic, but no electricity. The magic isn't the typical fantasy magic, either, which adds to the novel's superiority above other YA fantasy.

The first time I read "Shadow & Bone," it was recommended to me by an eager librarian in the teen section. I read the novel because I wanted to read something new, but I didn't know where to start. I would recommend this book to people who want to reawaken their love of reading, or people who want to feel the joy of reading "Harry Potter" for the first time again. What makes "Shadow & Bone" so valuable to me is the fact that there are not only two other books to the series, but so many other books set in the same universe. It's like "Fantastic Beasts" released as books (not movies). If you want more of this universe Bardugo created, there is more. You'll have no need to rely on fanfiction with many grammatical errors.

Recipe Review: Beef and Shells Mac and Cheese

BY RICHARD MAHLE

INGREDIENTS/SUPPLIES NEEDED:

1 box of Annie's mac and cheese
 ½ pound of ground beef.
 3 tablespoons of Beef stock or broth.
 6 cups of water (or enough to cover the pasta)
 2 tablespoons of butter or heavy cream/half and half
 1 medium saucepan
 1 colander

Step 1: Boil the 6 cups of water in the saucepan, and then add the noodles and cook for 8-10 minutes or until it is done.

Step 2: Drain the noodles into the colander then add the 2 tablespoons of butter or heavy cream/half and half, 3 tablespoons of beef broth or stock, cheese packet, and the ½ pound of ground beef.

Step 3: Break up, and stir, the ground beef as it cooks. If you wish to season the beef feel free to add a teaspoon of salt, pepper, and oregano.

Step 4: When the beef is mostly cooked, about 3-5 minutes on medium, add the noodles and mix thoroughly. Once everything is mixed how you like it will be ready to eat.

THIS RECIPE IS AN EASY way to make the dish beef and shells. Beef and shells is a simple dish, and this recipe is even simpler because you will be using any box mac and cheese with a slight modification to the listed recipe. For this recipe we'll be using an Annie's mac and cheese box and some ground beef. This recipe will feed 1-2 people.

The cost of this will vary depending on where you obtain the ingredients, but it should roughly cost 6-10 dollars to get everything, and ingredients such as the beef broth/stock, butter, heavy cream, or half and half will have leftovers. Other dishes you can make with beef broth would be vegetable soup, beef soup, ramen, pho, gumbo, gravy, and more. You can use heavy cream for pasta sauce, soups, and many desserts. You should be able to make this dish up to four times if you get more boxes of Mac and Cheese and ground beef. Keep in mind that you can exchange any broth and meat to make variants of this simple dish. Also, you do not even need to add meat.

Other options to add to this recipe: onions, shallots, mushrooms, generic Italian spices (black peppercorn, oregano, thyme, sage, salt, garlic, rosemary), red pepper, or tomatoes. Ways to prepare these other ingredients would be to slice, dice, or mince the veggies, and to prepare your spices you should mix them together really well and sprinkle them on while cooking your sauce.