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New in Paperback

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New in Paperback

by Janet Francis

Following are titles of books that have recently appeared in paperback, either for the first time or after a long absence from the marketplace. All are recommended as decent reading.

Christopher, Matt. *The Lucky Baseball Bat*. Little Brown, 1991. ISBN 0-316-14260-3. \$3.95. 58 pp. Grades 3-4. Martin's skill in baseball seems to depend on his lucky bat. But sometimes things happen to baseball bats. What then? A revised edition of the 1954 book.

Ferguson, Alane. *The Practical Joke War*. Avon Camelot, 1993. ISBN 0-380-71721-2. \$3.50. 90 pp. Grade 5. Taffy, Russell, and Eddy are three Dillons who can make the gunslinger seem like a Sunday School teacher. From the Ping-Pong eyeball to the feathered cat—one great explosion of laughter.

Greenfield, Eloise. *Talk About a Family*. HarperTrophy, 1993. ISBN 0-06-440444-7. \$3.95. 60 pp. Grades 2-5. Is there any way to fix a broken family? Genny can't find it—if it can't be fixed, maybe it can be new?

Harrah, Madge. *No Escape*. Avon Camelot, 1993. ISBN 0-380-76569-1. \$3.50. 104 pp. Grades 4-5. When Carole, Mom, and Skipper head for New Mexico to stay with Uncle Jake, they don't expect to find ghosts, jewel thieves, rattlesnakes, and canyons named for dead people.

Landsman, Susan. *Survival in the Desert*. Avon Camelot, 1993. ISBN 0-380-76601-9. \$3.50. 132 pp. Grades 4-7. A map and a complete description of the deserts of the world and what to expect from them. There are a series of these books on different types of areas.

Manes, Stephen. *Some of the Adventures of Rhode Island Red*. HarperTrophy, 1993. ISBN 0-06-440358-0. \$3.95. 117 pp. Grades 3-5. The rollicking adventures of Rhode Island Red, a miniature version of Paul Bunyan, with chicken connections.

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Naidoo, Beverley. *Chain of Fire*. HarperTrophy, 1993. ISBN 0-06-440468-4. \$3.95. 242 pp. Grades 5+. In a land overcome with hatred and fear, Naledi has to learn that life cannot be worth having at the price of freedom and integrity.

Peel, John. *Night Wings*. Grossett & Dunlap, 1993. ISBN 0-448-40526-1. \$1.99. 156 pp. Grades 10-12. Rob's life is saved, after a catastrophic car wreck, and doctors give him a stainless steel neck. No one anticipates the path his life will take as a vampire killer in Romania. It's pretty hard to identify the hero here. One of the Shocker series.

Qualey, Marsha. *Everybody's Daughter*. Houghton Mifflin, 1991. ISBN 0-395-65746-6. \$4.95. 201 pp. Grades 9-12. Beamer's whole life has been community property, right from the day she was born. Now she has to decide whether she needs commitment or variety.

Shusterman, Neal. *What Daddy Did*. Harper/Keypoint, 1993. ISBN 0-06-447094-6. \$3.95. 230 pp. Grades 8-12. Preston Scott's family was close and normal—even down to the occasional fight. Then things changed dramatically, and his father became a murderer.

Stolz, Mary. *Go Fish*. HarperTrophy, 1993. ISBN 0-06-440466-8. \$3.95. Unpaginated. Grades 2-5. Thomas doesn't wait patiently for Grandfather to go fishing or enjoy outside life on the Gulf of Mexico.

Stolz, Mary. *What Time of Night Is It?* Harper/Keypoint, 1993. ISBN 0-06-447093-8. \$3.95. 209 pp. Grades 6-12. Take a look at Taylor, Tony, B.J., and Jem—all set adrift by their mother's desertion, each seeking his or her own anchor in a gorgeous world of ocean birds, beach, and sun.