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New in Paperback

Janet Francis

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New in Paperback

by Janet Francis
 Juvenile Literature Cataloger
 Harold B. Lee Library
 Brigham Young University

The following books have recently appeared in paperback, either for the first time or after a long absence from the marketplace. All are recommended.

- Agee, Jon. *Dmitri The Astronaut*. Harper Trophy, 1998. 0-06-205925-4. \$5.95. Unpaginated. Grades 2-4. A funny picturebook dealing with the ephemeral nature of fame and science. The colored visual jokes are easily as funny as the text.
- Block, Francesca Lia. *Girl Goddess # Nine*. 1998. 0-06-447187-X. \$4.95. 181 pages. Grades 10-12. A collection of nine stories, this is vintage Block with unforgettable characters in California situations, seen through skewed eyes. A groupie favorite.
- Bottner, Barbara. *Bootsie Barker, Ballerina*. Harper Trophy, 1998. 0-064442461-1. \$3.75. 39 pages. Grades 2-4. Bootsie Barker has found ballet a good staging for terrorism, but she finally gets her come-uppance in this funny, brief book.
- Ewing, Lynne. *Drive-By*. HarperTrophy, 1998. 0-06-440649-0. \$4.50. 85 pages. Grades 5-7. Tito and Mina see their brother, Jimmy, die from a drive-by shooting. Then the shooters move in to make a collection. Upfront scary with betrayal and necessary courage on every page. Fairly easy reading.
- Lee, Marie G. Lee. *Necessary Roughness*. HarperTrophy, 1998. 0-06-447169-1. \$4.95. 228 pages. Grades 6-10. Chan and his twin sister, Young, experience living in an alien land without ever leaving the U.S., when their parents move them to Minnesota without any warning. Football, school, and friends all fill gaps, but when Young dies in an accident, even life seems alien.
- Martinez, Victor. *Parrot In The Oven, Mi Vida*. HarperTrophy, 1998. 0-06-447186-1. \$5.95. 216 pages. Grades 9-12. Mexican-American adolescence has all the regular hard stuff plus more. Especially if you want to be something more than a no-respect farm worker. There's real substance here. Winner of the National Book Award.
- Pullman, Philip. *The Golden Compass*. A. A. Knopf, 1998. 0-679-89310-5. \$10.00. 399 pages. Grades 7-12. Raised with a sort of familiar privilege in the Jordan College, Lyra is bright and nervy, destined to a life of astonishing adventure in this horrendous universe, just a little off-kilter from real. The first volume in another trilogy by this imaginative author.
- Schwartz, Howard & Rush, Barbara, editors. *The Diamond Tree*. HarperTrophy, 1998. 0-06-440695. \$4.50. 103 pages. Grades 2-6. Jewish folktales from the Middle East. Some are different versions of the familiar, others new and witty, all with a flavor of that life.
- Slawson, Michele Benoit. *Apple Picking Time*. Dragon fly Books, 1998. 0-517-88575-1. \$6.99. Unpaginated. Grades K-3. Evocative of fall days and hard, crisp apples as well as long days of picking fruit, this picture-book gives insight and is a reminder as well.
- Staples, Suzanne Fisher. *Dangerous Skies*. HarperTrophy, 1998. 0-06-440683-0. \$4.95. 231 pages. Grades 5-7. Buck and Tunes share

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the best friendship there is: fishing and talking and learning from each other. The tragedy of evil and prejudice destroys that wonderful time, and almost destroys them.

Walters, Eric. *Diamonds in the Rough*. Stoddart Kids, 1997. 0-7736-7470-5. \$5.95. 252 pages. Grades 8-12. Sky is abandoned—again; Cole has abandoned everything, but life puts them together to make a family for the younger kids. A good read.

Yep, Laurence. *The Case of the Goblin Pearls*. HarperTrophy, 1998. 0-06-440552-4. \$4.95. 179 pages. Grades 4-6. When Lily's legendary Great-Aunt Tiger Lil comes to visit and make arrangements for the Chinatown parade, fireworks are not confined to the parade route. This is the first of a new series by Yep: Chinatown, Mystery 1.