

# BOOK Review

**"Dark Mirror"**  
Diane Duane  
Pocket Star Books  
Grade: B

The book "Dark Mirror," just released in paperback, is an interesting story about the darker side of people.

The setting is in the "Star Trek: The Next Generation" universe. The alternate universe from the original Star Trek's "Mirror, Mirror" episode has decided that it would like to cross over and conquer our universe. And it is starting with this universe's Enterprise.

Picard and his crew must deal with a much nastier version of themselves and the Enterprise in this universe. Most of the book is from the view of Capt. Picard, Lt. Cmdr. LaForge and Counselor Troi as they board the other Enterprise in an attempt to gather more information and conduct a little sabotage.

This is the most interesting part of the book. The characters have to deal with a Starfleet that has assassination as the usual method of advancement in rank.

They also have to deal with people who are twisted versions of their friends. The Troi of this uni-

verse is a telepath who has no problem with reading people's most private thoughts. The Riker is an egotistical bully who has more brawn than brains.

The rest of the book concerns the normal Enterprise as its crew tries to find its way back home to stop the invasion.

The only problem with this book is that the writing is haphazard. During action scenes or dialogue, there is no problem, but the book's narration is written in a past-tense tone that is very heavy in description.

Thankfully, the narration scenes don't constitute a majority of the book. The worst part is in the beginning of the book, where the reader has to get through a page and a half of descriptions before the Enterprise shows up and the story can get started.

Despite some rough spots, this book is very enjoyable to Star Trek fans. To those that are not familiar with the characters, the book will lose a lot of its appeal. The joy in reading it is seeing how different each character is compared to his or her counterpart in the other universe.

— Chris DeKalb

## Three chorus groups to merge their voices in song extravaganza

By Sean McCarthy  
Staff Reporter

Three of Lincoln's finest chorus groups will perform tonight at the Lied Center.

The groups are the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Oratorio Chorus, the Lincoln Civic Choir and the Nebraska Wesleyan University Choir. They will join the Lincoln Orchestra Association Symphony for a performance entitled "Stars From The Met."

The concert will include the chorus of the Hebrew slaves from "Nabucco" and the drinking song from "La Traviata," both by Verdi. Also being performed are the chorus of the cigarette girls from Bizet's "Carmen" and the finale from Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Gondoliers."

LOA conductor Yong Yan Hu will direct the three choirs. The selection of the music and preparation of the choirs were under the joint charges of William Wyman, director of choral activity at Wesleyan, and James Hejduk, an associate professor of music at UNL and director of the Oratorio Chorus.

Hejduk had no problems fitting three separate choirs into one performance, he said. Because the chorus groups have performed together in the past, they retain good relationships with one another, he said.

A total of 250 singers will perform in the concert tonight. Hejduk estimated that nearly two-thirds of the singers would be students. Hejduk said getting the UNL Oratorio Chorus to perfect the Italian, English and French accents in each of the pieces was the hardest task to complete.

"I try to get every person to visualize themselves on stage as a charac-

### Quik Facts

**Show:** "Stars From the Met" concert  
**At:** Lied Center for Performing Arts  
**Time:** 8 p.m.  
**Tickets:** \$27, \$22 and \$18, available at Lied box office; student tickets are half-price

ter in a play, instead of a black blob among 250 performers," Hejduk said.

The only other drawback the groups encountered was rehearsing with the LOA Symphony, Hejduk said. Because of financial constraints, the symphony could only hold one rehearsal before tonight's performance. Working with the symphony was well worth it though, he said.

"I'm privileged to have the opportunity to work with a professional orchestra," Hejduk said.

The privilege to perform in the Lied Center was something that Hejduk was also thankful for. Although the Oratorio Chorus is a part of the UNL School of Music, they do not get many opportunities to perform at the Lied.

Hejduk said that the UNL Oratorio Chorus invited non-student members to join with students. No audition or fees are required.

"If they can put fog on a mirror, we'll take them," Hejduk said.

"Stars From the Met" begins at 8 p.m. tonight at the Lied Center. Tickets are available at the box office for \$27, \$22 and \$18. Student tickets are half-price.

McDowell is the bad guy who knows why the chopper was built, and Scheider is a police helicopter pilot caught in a conspiracy involving this metallic beast.

The helicopter itself is great, and the airborne chases towards the end of the slick are downright incredible. Chalk up two terrific performances for both McDowell and Scheider.

Check it out, even if you don't like flying.

## Newvid

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Starring Roy Scheider and Malcolm McDowell, "Blue Thunder" centers around a helicopter covered in plate armor. It carries a forward-mounted machine gun and sports such nifty features as ultra-sensitive microphones, turbo boosts, computer networks and a whisper mode (silent running).



Courtesy of Twentieth Century Fox

Richard Attenborough, left, tries to convince Elizabeth Perkins' Dorey Walker that he is Kris Kringle in "Miracle on 34th Street."

## 'Miracle' still brings cheer

By Sean McCarthy  
Staff Reporter

Before the original movie begins its continuous broadcast on television, you may want to check out this '90s remake of the holiday classic "Miracle on 34th Street."

The plot remains faithful to the original version: A strange old man who insists that he is Kris Kringle (Richard Attenborough) makes his case to a city filled with both believers and cynics. He especially tries to convince Dorey Walker (Elizabeth Perkins), a burned-out single mother, and her daughter (Mara Wilson) of his authenticity.

After spotting him in a crowd, Dorey hires Kringle on the spot to be the official Santa Claus at her department store, Cole. While playing Santa, he wins the affection of thousands of kids.

Cole department store is headed for bankruptcy. While competing with another department store across the street, Cole employees may soon face the unemployment line. Only the power of the kind, old Santa can save this company. Will they be saved? It's a John Hughes production, so what do you think?

Hughes has become the man when it comes to producing and directing children's movies. He directed both hugely successful "Home Alone" movies and has produced such films

as "Baby's Day Out" and "Dennis the Menace." All of these movies come with sometimes unbearably happy endings.

Some stereotypical elements of '90s cynicism have been put into the new "Miracle" version. Dorey Walker is single, overworked and depressed. Everything that she believes in has been proven false. To protect little Susan, she tells her in advance that there is no Kriss Kringle.

While Dorey Walker is doubting Kringle's authenticity, she also is warding off the advances of Bryan Bedford (Dylan McDermott), an earnest lawyer who defends Kringle in court.

Perkins and McDermott give good performances, but it is Attenborough who makes this "Miracle" worth seeing.

An experienced actor, Attenborough plays the perfect Kriss Kringle. He nails Kringle's laugh, physical movements and his belief in the genuine goodness of humankind. When he is not in a scene, the movie begins to stall and break down.

All of the main problems in "Miracle" are resolved in the final courtroom scene. While lawyers, judges and altogether grumpy people try to prove that Kringle is a fake, the people of New York come together to rally behind him. Streets are filled

### Quik Facts

**Movie:** "Miracle on 34th Street"  
**Rating:** PG  
**Stars:** Richard Attenborough, Elizabeth Perkins, Dylan McDermott, J.T. Walsh  
**Director:** Les Mayfield  
**Grade:** B-  
**Five Words:** Hollywood remake better than average

with singing people, and little Susan places her faith in Kringle — yes, this scene is overdone.

The biggest problem with Les Mayfield's direction is that he tries too hard to make both children and adults enjoy this remake. While trying to satisfy kids with Kriss Kringle's humor, he tries to make adults happy by spending too much time on a romantic subplot. The minutes spent on the developing relationship between Dorey and Bryan no doubt will send kids to sleep.

"Miracle" hits more than it misses, though. In a Christmas filled with Star Trekkers, expecting fathers, drop zones and blood-lusting vampires, it is refreshing to have a classic come back to the theaters.

## MUSIC REVIEW

**"John Henry"**  
They Might Be Giants  
Elektra  
Grade: B

"John Henry," the Brooklyn duo's newest release, is a weary joke.

They Might Be Giants has been reexploring the same old themes of quirky life and whimsical death ever since the group's self-titled release, and the guys know it.

A concept band with no new concept, the pair seem as resigned to their fate as the fabled rail man, hammering away at the same old joke until they die.

The band's former trademark of intellectual hilarity collapses into twitchy self-contempt on nearly every new song. New song titles attest to this dour transformation: "Why Must I Be Sad," "A Self Called Nowhere," "The End of the Tour."

Despite a paper-thin glaze of gallows humor, these songs are a confessional of artistic self-disgust.

No song sums up this post-modern Cobainism like the short tune "Window." Easily the most powerful and honest song on "John

Henry," a grinding bass voice complains while backed by destroying, thundering instrumentation:

"I'm checking out the people in the window, I was uncomfortable, now I'm uncomfortable... I thought it was window; it was a catalog of many women, men, the window. Window. Window."

Perhaps John Flansburgh and John Linell need a rest. Everything about "John Henry" makes them seem tired: tired of searching and researching the human dilemma; tired of trying to bridge the broken tracks of modern philosophy with idiotic optimism; tired of thinking.

They Might Be Giants is a great band that's getting worse. Unwilling to formally resort to the old rock standby of nihilism, they have nothing to declare. Nothing besides their willingness to find a simple "end of the tour," if not a happy ending.

The fabled Henry's fight ended when his heart gave out. Hopefully, something better will come along for our modern Johns.

— Patrick Hambrecht

## People

### Crosby receives liver transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP) — David Crosby remained in critical condition Monday after a transplant to replace his drug-ravaged liver.

"The transplanted liver is functioning very well right now. Mr. Crosby is off the ventilator and talking," said Dr. Ronald W. Busuttill, leader of the transplant team.

The 53-year-old member of the rock group Crosby, Stills and Nash received the new organ Sunday at University of California at Los Angeles Medical Center.

Crosby was hospitalized Nov. 2. His liver had hardened and deteriorated because of decades of alcohol and drug abuse.

He had been on a national waiting list for the transplant for 39 days.

"That's about normal in our center," Busuttill said. "He wasn't treated special at all... His time came and he got the liver."

If there are no complications, Crosby could be out of the hospital in two to three weeks, Busuttill said.