

Arts and Entertainment

Dragon Boats A celebration
by Pat Barker
(Raincoast Books)

This large hardcover book, Dragon Boats A Celebration, examines the fast growing sport of Dragon Boat Racing. Written by an ex-dragon boat racer, this coffee table book covers the history, building, racing, festivals and the future of dragon boats. Printed in full color Dragon Boats is filled with photographs and sketches including designs for two dragon boats. Definitely an elegant book it makes a good introduction to Dragon Boats for those who may be new to the concept and the sport.

Coralie Gill

Mermaids: An Anthology of Verse and Prose
ed. Helen Sudell
(Lorenz Books)

A handsome coffee table book, Mermaids: An Anthology of Verse and Prose contains a variety of prose, poetry and art. The artwork is published in full colour and boasts painting and drawing of mermaids by such artist as John William Water house, Peter Paul Rubens and Emile Jean Horace Vemet. Literary content include sections of Oscar Wilde's "The fisherman and his soul", Lord Alfred Tennyson's "The mermaid" and Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Sea Maid". As reading material this book only leaves enough to be interesting. However, as an art book, it can be a feast for the eyes. Mermaids is excellent as an introduction to these mythical creatures. It offers bits of poetry, bits of prose and paintings, as a result leaves the reader wondering where the rest is.

Rating: ***
Coralie Gill

52 Fun Party Activities for Grown-ups
by Lynn Gordon
(Gift works/Chronicle Book)

If you have ever been bored silly at a party, wanted to throw a bash that "no one" would forget, or just felt like reverting to your childhood, 52 Fun Party Activities for Grown-ups may be exactly what you need. This compact card set contain 52 weird, crazy silly strange and familiar party ideas to mix and match. Suggestions include a "Party Triathlon" Crazy themes (under the sea, haunted brothel, etc), and R&R parties complete with hand, foot and face massages. On the other hand one could do a random pick of cards and combine 'Dares for Dollars' with a 'Bavarian Fest' (complete with pretzels, sausages, beer and yodelling contests!?!). Party guests could even revert to childhood to play with finger paints and Play-Doh. Although this card set is not for everyone, a little creativity and a few of these ideas could make a party to be remembered.

Coralie Gill

Backstreet Boys
Backstreet Boys
(Zomba/BMG)

Yikes! It's New Kids on the Block reincarnated into the hip-hop studs Backstreet Boys. The physical similarities between the two groups are remarkable- so is their musical ability. Here is a prime example of a designer band- five guys thrown together simply to appeal to throngs of unsuspecting young females who eat this stuff up. These pretty boys, ranging in age from 16-24 do not write their own music, lyrics or play musical instruments. But they sure can groove their thang with the best of them 'cuz ya know they got it goin' on. Give me a break. The sad thing is, these guys do have really nice voices, but they sound like dozens of other young hip-hop dance groups already on the market. You've probably already heard their "smash" hits one too many times: "We've got it goin' on" and "Get Down (You're the One For Me)". The best (worst) part of this album is that the rest of the songs sounds exactly alike. How exciting. Get down with yo' bad self!

Rating: **
Emilie Adams

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