

Find & Feed the Mind

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With textbook readings and internet blogs, finding something decent to read seems like a chore most days. But fear not. For your convenience, we have assembled a fine menu of books for your mind to indulge in.

> *Deathstalker* by Simon R. Green is a stunning science fiction piece that will leave you breathless. With alien races, grizzly battles, and well detailed space travel it does not fail to keep you entertained. The main plot focuses around Owen Deathstalker, a minor historian and how he comes to lead a galactic rebellion. This book is only one in a series of nine for those who love to read.

> *Summer of My German Soldier* by Bette Greene is a touching story set in Arkansas during WWII. Told through the point of view of a young girl named Patty, we see how the lives of the people around her are turned upside down when a young Jewish girl befriends a German POW, and goes against everything her family stands for. You'll see the raw emotion as spirits break, racism soars, and people bond. For those who enjoy romance, this is a must read.

> *Paperquake* by Kathryn Reiss is a shorter book that keeps you on the edge of your seat the entire time in a timeless tale of finding your place in the world. Violet is a girl like any other, except she is deathly afraid of earthquakes, lives in San Francisco and has a secret. She has been finding notes that seem to be addressed to her from decades ago with every earthquake, a mystery that is slowly eating away at her sanity. The phenomenal plot twists will keep you guessing till the very end in this exceptional choice.

> *Beautiful Creatures* by Kami Garcia and Margaret Stohl takes supernatural teen dating to a new level. As a new school year starts in Gatlin, a small town where everyone knows each other, something new happens. Ravenwood, the town shut-in, has his niece move in, rumors fly and one local can't help but shake an odd feeling he gets. When tempers soar and magic hits the air, our hero Ethan Wate comes face to face with a world he could never have imagined. Spells, magic, incubi, and love are thrown into the mix as the ultimate fight ensues. This is definitely worth a read not only for the ladies, but for the gentlemen as well.

> *Anthem* by Ayn Rand is a stunning yet haunting story of life in a far-off future. Individuality no longer exists, and the world is not moving forward as leaders hide the past of what used to be. With most of the character language using 'we' instead of 'I,' a word that is forbidden, the twisting language will put you in the characters' mindset. But what happens when one mind is too curious for its own good? We watch and see as Equality 7-2521, the main character, starts to question things and slowly finds a hidden world, and a freedom that none has ever known.

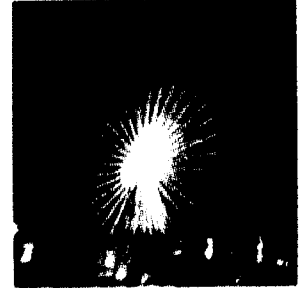
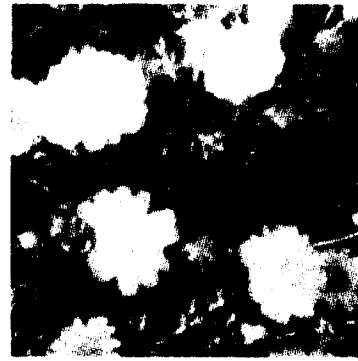
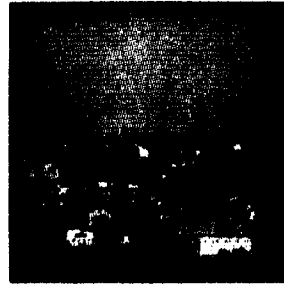
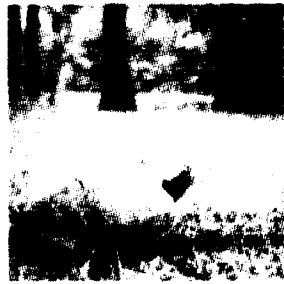
Polaroid redesigns a classic



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CLAIRE BEVEVINO
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Lady Gaga's newest paparazzi: Polaroid. In 2009, Polaroid announced that they were no longer creating film for their instant cameras. For several generations, people have regarded Polaroid as one of the most well-respected and trusted brands in the world, without a doubt, the most recognizable name when it comes to instant photography.

The Polaroid brand was created 70 years ago, beginning with the design of polarized sunglasses. From there, Polaroid developed its famous instant film, as well as the camera and camera accessories. In recent years, the brand has expanded its manufacturing process with the creation of flat-panel digital cameras, handheld digital cameras, and waterproof digital cameras. These new products, as well as the expansion into the digital photography market, have re-created the instant Polaroid, and the camera became viewed as an antique.

When the company finally announced that Polaroid would be no more, they were met with a loud defiance from the camera's fans. This outrage gave rise to The Impossible Project, founded by Florian Kaps, a man described as a "crazy Austrian inventor."

The goal was to achieve the impossible: to get factory workers to re-invent the instant film business back to its original intent of the camera's devoted fans. These and his impossible goals have been surprisingly successful.

"The Impossible mission is not to rebuild Polaroid film, but to develop a new product with characteristics consisting of optimized components and produced with a streamlined modern setup. It is an innovative and fresh analog material, sold under a new brand name that will perfectly match the global re-positioning of Polaroid Film," Kaps said.

As of September 2009, their website stated that they had produced their first "complete and stable" instant picture.

In October 2009, Summit Global Group, a licensee of the Polaroid brand, announced they will be distributing instant film and are working with the Impossible Project. Summit will manufacture instant cameras such as the One series, while the Impossible Project will manufacture the film for them.

This inevitably lead to the production of the new Polaroid 300 camera steadfastly promoted by world-famous pop star, Lady Gaga.

Lady Gaga exploded onto the cultural landscape last year with her electro-pop anthems and her art inspired fashion sense. She has sold more than eight million copies of her debut album worldwide, making her the biggest breakout star of the decade.

The affiliation with Lady Gaga is the most recent in a string of partner announcements by PLR IP Holdings, the new owner of the Polaroid 300 brand. In the past few months, PLR has assembled a vast array of Polaroid partners for product development, such as The Impossible Project, to market distribution and licensing. Building upon Polaroid's rich background, the Polaroid partnership network will support enthusiasts and users of the classic camera, as well as deliver products to a

new generation of customers while staying true to the brand's long-standing values of entertainment and simplicity.

As Lady Gaga commented at the Polaroid booth at the 2010 Consumer Electronic Show, "I am so proud to announce my new partnership with Polaroid as the creative director and inventor of specialty projects. The Haus of Gaga has been developing prototypes in the vein of fashion/technology/photography innovation—blending the iconic history of Polaroid and instant film with the digital era—and we are excited to collaborate on these ventures with the Polaroid brand. Lifestyle, music, art, fashion: I am so excited to extend myself behind the scenes as a designer, and as my father puts it—finally have a real job."

The style of the camera has changed immensely since Lady Gaga's partnership with Polaroid. The camera can be found in three colors: red, blue, as well as the traditional black. The Polaroid 300 camera, along with the film, can also be purchased in a number of outlets worldwide. Anywhere from Urban Outfitters to Target now carry the brand. The film comes in packs of ten, each photo about the size of a small post-it note.

So it's true: the camera will never be the same charmingly chunky device that it once was. With Polaroid's new design, the camera itself seems to be revolutionized. In an age when everything is digital, it's difficult to imagine anyone using an instant camera, but those photographers who appreciate this reliable camera know that Polaroid will always deliver that fun, instant gratification that the brand has maintained for so long.

Wolf gives readers a breath of fresh air

JULIE MORRISSEY
copy editor

In his 2008 novel *A Wolf at the Table*, Augusten Burroughs uncovers the personal

trauma of growing up with an alcoholic father and a pill-popping, schizophrenic mother. It is a personal, very frank memoir about what a lack of family can do to a child. For instance, Burroughs openly re-

calls eating canned Nutella for breakfast, sleeping with a bag full of his father's used clothes, and wearing a dog costume constructed out of paper and tape.

The sorrow unfolds into strangeness as the reader begins to familiarize with Augusten's off-the-wall family life.

For instance, the household consisted of a loony mother who made tuna sandwiches for dinner and wrote poetry late into the night, an older brother with asperger's syndrome and a compulsive desire to blow things up, who flees the household at 16, and, most importantly, a

sociopathic father who is constantly seeking out to mentally and physically murder his son, the author.

These exhaustive relationships leave the reader terrified, extremely troubled, and of course, furiously turning the page for more. *A Wolf at the Table* is the darkest novel written by Burroughs; many critics complained that it was devoid of all of the author's usual wit and playfulness that fans have grown accustomed to. This forewarning initially turned me off, as I am a die-hard Augusten fan myself. The critics, I found, were wrong, for the darkness he

uncovers still leaves traces of Burroughs' charismatic lightheartedness—except with a much more tender and youthful tone.

Point is, even if you're not one to curl up to such troubling sob stories like *A Child Called It*, you should still consider *A Wolf at the Table*. It is definitely a must-read, especially for all of those *Twilight* fans that read nothing but mushy, charming love stories. Finally here is a breath of fresh air: humor mixed with the deep recesses of human emotion.

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