

Hollywood turns pages



Jeff Friesen, library link

● Pioneer Memorial Library director

The movie “300” opened March 9 as the highest ever grossing movie in a March debut — raking in \$70 million.

Based on the graphic novel 300 by Frank Miller, the movie portrays a fictionalized (and sensationalized) account of the Battle of Thermopylae during which 300 Spartans fended off an overwhelming number of invading Persians in 480 BC. The movie, starring Gerard Butler, is the latest in a string of graphic novels that have been turned into movies.

One of the most striking aspects of the movie “300” is the visual effects. In a graphic novel, the tone of the story is set by the visual effects. In the same way, the special effects of the corresponding movie attempt to parallel and recreate the tone set in the graphic novel.

The mood created throughout the movie “300” is set by an ominous, yellow-hued background. This emulates the mood and coloring in the graphic novel “300” by Frank Miller.

A visual parallel can be seen in a number of other graphic novels that have recently been turned into movies.

Take for example, two movies that the library has available for checkout. “Ghost World” (2001) is based on the graphic novel “Eightball” by Daniel Clowes. The movie uses a technique known as spot coloring to recreate the feeling of Eightball. Spot coloring uses vibrant colors against duller colors to draw attention to certain parts of the screen.

The second movie “Road to Perdition” (2002) is based on the graphic novel “Road to Perdition” written by Max Allan Collins. The movie uses shadows and dark imagery to parallel the mood created in the graphic novel.

With graphic novels experiencing a major resurgence in popularity, it is interesting to see how a two-dimensional graphic novel is turned into a three-dimensional movie blockbuster.

For more on this, check out or interlibrary loan some of the other recent movies that have been turned into graphic novels including “American Splendor” (2003) based on the graphic novel by Harvey Pekar, “The League of Extraordinary Gentleman” (2003) based on the graphic novel by Alan Moore and Kevin O’Neill, “V for Vendetta” (2005) based on the graphic novel by Alan Moore and David Lloyd, and “Sin City” (2005) based on the graphic novel by Frank Miller. (and yes, movies can be borrowed using interlibrary loan just like books)

Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. Fourth St. and open seven days a week.

Winter hours are Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

For information call the library at 460-4470 or visit our web site at www.colbylibrary.com.

As always, we are here to serve you.

Codependency; facing loss of family

Dear Dr. Brothers: I’ve recently been staying with an aunt, who’s now in her late 50s. I’ve always liked her but hated her abusive husband, and have never been able to understand why anyone would put up with his bullying behavior. He seems to take delight in insulting her and constantly putting her down, making her feel worthless. She’s a sweet woman who could be very pretty if she ever took the time to fix herself up instead of waiting on him like some kind of obedient servant. They have no children. What on earth keeps her here? I’ve asked her this, and she admits she’s miserable, but then quickly adds that he couldn’t get along without her. Then she goes on about all his ailments and problems.

— F.E.

Dear F.E.: It sounds as if this is a classic case of what’s known as co-dependency, a pattern that usually begins in childhood of painful dependence on compulsive behaviors and of a desperate need for approval from others. Your aunt’s self-worth has been trampled on, probably long before she met or selected this particular man. People who suffer from this, like your aunt, become so wrapped up in the needs of others that they have no time to focus on their own needs or to solve their own problems. Such people are also often relentlessly nice, and in a sense get some pleasure from having others see them as a victim. They want desperately to please others.

Most came from dysfunctional homes. There is treatment for this problem. There is a support group called Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDA), based on a 12-step recovery program similar to the Alcoholics Anonymous program.

* * *

Dear Dr. Brothers: My closest girlfriend is going through a terrible time because recently her mother, her only living relative, passed away. Like me, she’s in her early 20s and in a strange city where we’re both searching for jobs. We recently graduated, and although we worked hard and managed to get our degrees, still she feels isolated and totally alone. My parents like her and have been of comfort and let her know she’s always welcome, but she’s worried about the rest of her life. I’d feel just as frightened in her position. I’ll always be there for her, but I know that’s not the same as her mother.

— M.G.

Dear M.G.: Of course, it



Dr. Joyce Brothers

● Ask Dr. Brothers

couldn’t be exactly the same as a mother-daughter relationship, but it will help her to know your feelings, and it will be a great comfort as she gradually works through this period of mourning. The affection of your family will also give her strength.

Naturally, she’s concerned about her future. In many ways, the loss of her mother and the memories of her will always be with your friend. Recent research shows that as we age, it’s the bonds of friendship, not family, that add most to our emotional and physical health over time. It was found that those who lived the longest were those who had the largest number of friends. They were able to show that in the long run, it’s the friends, rather than the children and other relatives, that add the most to our lives in terms of survival.

* * *

Dear Dr. Brothers: My husband and I have to work for financial as well as personal reasons, and both I and our 2-year-old son are in a state of near panic because the nanny who’s always been with us and lived in our home has left because of family problems of her own. My husband and I have finally found someone who’s well-qualified and seems good, but my son still screams and wants no one other than the former woman. That’s impossible. What can we do? Is this change going to mar him for life?

— D.D.

Dear D.D.: It shouldn’t, but it’s bound to be a difficult transition for you and your son. You need to feel reassured and calm in order for your son to start feeling secure. If he sees your panic, it can only make the situation worse.

One of the ways you can relieve some of his anxiety is to try to keep everything else as normal and routine as possible. Avoid any unnecessary changes — in food, in your overall routine and schedules. Include him and give him some explanation of why the former nanny had to leave, and in simple terms, try to explain that change isn’t always a bad thing. Give your new nanny the leeway to include an occasional treat for your son. This might help him to realize that this change might not be all negative.

(c) King Features Syndicate