

The Acorn

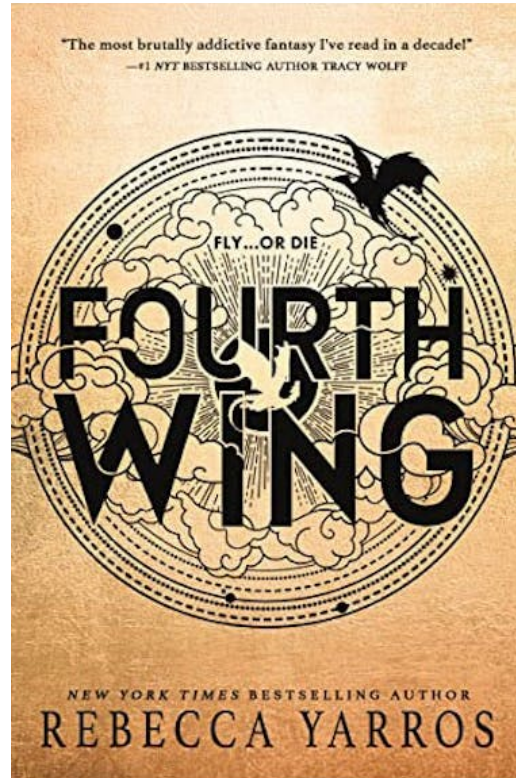
Issue #7 - Wednesday, March 13th, 2024

Fourth Wing: The Book That's Currently All The Rage

By Lola Weinzettl

I'm sure you have heard the book title Fourth Wing thrown around a lot recently. Fourth Wing is the first book in the Empyrean book series and is written by Rebecca Yarros. The sequel, Iron Flame, was released on November 7th, 2023. Fourth Wing has become extremely popular since the release of Iron Flame. The novel achieved viral success on TikTok's reader community BookTok, which propelled it to reach No. 1 on The New York Times bestseller list. There is now talk about an adapted TV show version going up on Amazon in the near future. What makes everyone like these novels so much?

Fourth Wing is a book about Violet Sorrengail, a twenty year old headed for the scribe quadrant. When her mother orders her into the dragon riders quadrant, her life becomes all the more dangerous. Navigating uncharted territories, she meets new friends and makes quick enemies. Rebecca Yarros creates a world that blends fantasy elements with popular well-loved romance tropes. With dragons and magic, this novel is hard to put down and leaves you wishing you had more to read. I very much enjoyed both novels, although, in my opinion, the sequel was not as good as the original.



The Daily Lobo

Club Spotlight: Science Club

By Fernanda

Why did the scientists take out his doorbell?
Because he wanted to win the no-bell prize!

Do you want to be in a place as interesting as that joke? Do you want to meet new people as well as learn about science? Do you want to have fun during lunch with your friends? If you said yes to all these answers, then the Oak Bay Science Club is the right place for you!

The Science Club, founded by Elia Jang, is an open space for anyone interested in science. Taking Discovery Science 9 and 10 inspired her to found the club, so that people with similar interests as her, with a passion

for science, could do more experiments outside of classes. It is also a place where you can meet people with the same hobbies and make new friends.

The main activities are scientific experiments, like the famous Strawberry DNA extraction. They also play science-themed games and talk about opportunities related to science in our community. The topics are biology, chemistry and astronomy based. It is a low-commitment club, so you can drop in anytime! It is open to all grades and knowledge levels.

This club is an amazing opportunity to meet new people, learn more about science and have fun! They meet every Monday in room 234 during lunch. Their Instagram account is: @oakbayscience

Movie Spotlight: The Zone of Interest

By Sophia Schlag

The Zone of Interest, starring Christian Friedel and Sandra Hüller, is a film in German with English subtitles that follows the idyllic life of Auschwitz commandant Rudolf Höss and his family as they live right next to the notorious Holocaust concentration camp. It is made up mostly of domestic scenes: people folding laundry, the Höss family hosting a garden party, the sons playing with toy soldiers. However, juxtaposed with them are far-off screams, a servant cleaning blood of Rudolph's boots, and the buildings of the camp on the other side of the garden wall.

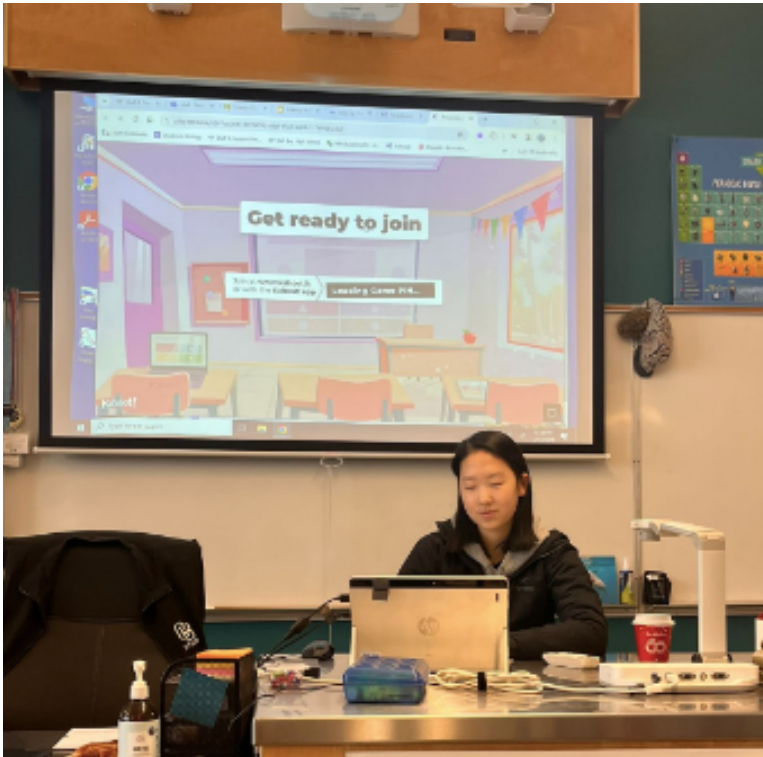



Photo By Fernanda



IMDb

If it makes you feel uncomfortable, good. British director Jonathan Glazer made the film with the message that you can be an ordinary human being and do atrocious things at the same time. Rudolph is a father who loves to go



rowing in the river, and yet he happens to also be the man who makes decisions about what crematorium design the camp should go with.

I cannot say that I liked this movie, as it has a terrible story surrounding it; nonetheless, the cinematography is very interesting, with mostly still shots from cameras stuck to walls, no crew a few feet away. The actors were all in the house, really pretending to be the Höss family. The sound design is super eerie and well-done, and it all comes together as a film that really keeps you from being a passive viewer.

The Zone of Interest has received many awards and nominations. Just last Sunday, it won the *Best Sound* and *Best International Feature Film* at the Oscars. During the latter win, Jonathan Glazer addressed the war in Gaza in his acceptance speech, and said:

“Our film shows where dehumanization leads at its worst. It’s shaped all of our past and present.”

Ski Provincials

By Katie Lindsay

A little over two weeks ago, 450 skiers and snowboarders from all over the province gathered at Sun Peaks to compete in the annual Provincial Ski and Snowboard Races. When asked what the highlight of ski provincials was, many racers on the Oak Bay team said this: the atmosphere of the starting lines. It could be described as hundreds of athletes crowded around two fenced entry gates, awaiting their races in -17 degree weather. For many, this competition marked the last time they would ever ski race.

As could be expected, anticipations were high and the nerves could be felt even far beyond the two race line ups. Many of the teams warmed up with their winter jackets on top of their speedsuits, so that they were ready to take off when it was their time to race. Closer to the starting gates, the shouts of encouragement could be heard among the clangs of cowbells, and supporting teammates gathered to cheer.

When a racer pushed up to the gate a volunteer would announce into their walky talky: “Racer ready”. On the shout of “GO”, the racer would rush through the metal bars, and for a long 50 seconds they heard nothing but the rushing of the wind around them and the carve of their skis digging into the tightly packed snow. There was a series of blue and red flags set up for racers to speed around, and spectators could see when a racer came through the finish, because they would zoom through held in a tight tuck position. The final stretch was marked by two coloured blocks, and was placed just before the timing line that would decide the racers’ placement.

Captain Mya Johnston-Stewart comments that her favourite part of competing is “how it brings everyone together. Everyone can talk about how they’re feeling nervous and anxious, but everyone is still excited to try and do their best.”

The team had incredible success on the hill throughout all categories, especially girl’s snowboarding (who came 5th in the province). Boy’s snowboarding placed 4th in Terrain, Boy’s skiing coming 9th, and Girl’s skiing coming 13th. Highlights of the races were Dallas Batty finishing 7th in girl’s snowboarding, Calum Parker placing 4th in boy’s snowboarding terrain, and Yoyo Deng coming 6th in boy’s ski. Grade 9 skier, Gabby

Baker, also had a commendable race, finishing top 3 for Oak Bay in the first race.

For the first time ever, Provincials held a Park Jam event that scored the block and rail abilities of skiers and snowboarders. Oak Bay was very excited to participate as several athletes spend most of their free time in the Terrain Park, specifically Archie Hotsenpiller who was previously trained in the Terrain area. Although Oak Bay did not win, participants had a blast showing off their skills. Cayleigh LeBlanc and Mia Silva-Jenson were both very courageous to enter the scarce girls part of the competition with little previous experience, yet both performed quite well.

Getting back onto the island was quite the adventure. After the challenges earlier in the season with the bus breaking down, many injuries, and the lack of snow, the team was ready for anything. Several accidents on the highways leading back to Vancouver caused closure of the Coquihalla and other routes, and so the team ended up taking an alternate detour to the Princeton to Hope highway past Manning Park. They stayed in a hotel in Richmond overnight before then taking the ferry back in the morning. Despite the many obstacles on the trip back, the team remained positive throughout the journey home and was especially thankful that there was a pool at the hotel. Ski team captain, Jeremy Hunter says, "Provincials was an incredible experience."

Having success at provincials came down primarily to the work all the athletes, coaches, chaperones, and supporters put in during the lead up time in both Mt. Washington and in Victoria. Throughout the season the coaches are busy organizing and planning every aspect of our training and trips, the chaperones are grocery shopping and assembling our many food requirements,

and the captains are helping wherever needed (ordering team gear, dryland, group bonding). So thank you to everyone who helped to make the ski team possible! Without so many supporters, these amazing provincial results would not be possible.

Interviews:

Gavin Bayley:

Gavin was one of the most successful boy skiers, if not the top boy ski racer for the OB ski team this season. He did an outstanding job as one of the team captains (both on and off the hill), and even after being injured later on in the season, continued to support the team by coming to help with the provincial races.

What is the most important thing you have gained/learned from your experience on the ski team over the past 3 years?

"The most important thing I have gained has been the friendships I've made over the last three years, so that's what I think is super cool from Ski Team. Normally in my peer groups I am generally just friends with people my age and in my grade, yet with Ski Team, I've made so many friends with people older than me and younger than me. Just the whole community that gets made around the ski team is just so inviting and just such an awesome time."

As a captain this year, you have taken on much more responsibility in leading the team and organizing different aspects of the season - which qualities do you believe have made you a great team captain?

"I think as a captain you need to just be confident because you can lead everyone into the absolutely wrong spot and fail miserably, but if you're confident at it, you're going to do a great job, whether it's right or wrong. So

it's just kind of believing in yourself and being confident, which by doing that I think will grow your other skills like leadership, problem-solving, all that other stuff that is entailed with being a captain. It's just being confident and you know, wanting it are two big aspects."

What was the most challenging obstacle you tackled this season?

"It would probably be a lot of the planning and organization that gets done, as being a captain. So we have to organize rooming lists, ski lists, we need to organize all the hoodie orders. And there's a lot of kind of behind the scenes things that have to be done that you don't really realize when you're on the team, but kind of become apparent when you become a captain that can be quite challenging and take quite a bit of time."

What was your favorite memory from provincials?

"I think that kinda comes back to my answer on the first question. It is really just being able to be with a lot of really cool people in such a cool place. Like being that provincials is at Sun Peaks makes it awesome, but whether it was Sun Peaks or Mount Washington or Mount Kane, just being with all my friends on the ski team and being able to hangout with them, ski with them, and play with them would be the best part for me."

Mya Johnston-Stewart:

Mya is one of the few grade 12 athletes who have been a part of the ski team since their grade 10 year (grade 9 was during COVID). She has continuously shown incredible results throughout her three years, including finishing as the top skier on our team in the provincial GS race placing 43rd!



What was your mindset going into provincials (having gone through a similar experience the past two years)?

"I think when going into provincials this year I already knew what I was expecting because I've already done it twice before, and I was just really excited to do it one last time with all my friends. It was really cool to go back to Sun Peaks too, so I was pretty excited."

What are some of the thoughts that were running through your mind right before racing?

"The main thoughts running through my mind was how it was the last race ever. Especially because ski racing is something I just do with school, I don't do it outside of school. So, I was just really thinking about how I might never race again after this. Like: this will be my last race ever."

In your opinion, what is the best part of competing?

"I'd say how it brings everyone together. Everyone can talk about how they're feeling nervous and anxious, but everyone is still excited to try and do their best."

What was the highlight of provincials for you?

“I’d say definitely hanging out with all the grade 12s for the last time. It was really nice cause we all got to stay in the same cabin, so we just got to hangout together for one last time. And we’re all really good friends, so it was just nice to be with everyone.”

Calum Parker:

Calum is a very talented snowboarder who placed incredibly well during both provincial races. His attitude and sociability off the hill carry through into his snowboarding race achievements.

How long have you been snowboarding for? And how does it compare to skiing in your experience?

“I’ve been snowboarding for about [...] four years, and compared to skiing, I’ve been skiing since I was like two up until I switched to snowboarding about four years ago. It’s a lot more natural because my whole family snowboards, and I’m a lot better at snowboarding than I was at skiing.”

You did incredibly well at provincials, placing 4th in terrain and 14th in GS. How did it feel while you were racing and to succeed immensely after having picked up snowboarding relatively recently?

“I already had racing and other things in the background, and just like I wasn’t stressed or I wasn’t thinking too much about the race. It’s like once I was in the line up, I was fine. But when the person in front of me is about to go then I just completely just go silent and I just focus on the race and I don’t. And after the race is finished all I care about is how I did, like if I podiumed or if I got top five or top ten.”

(Interviewer) “Especially with instant results it’s easy to be expectant right afterwards.”

“Exactly, and I was down at the bottom reloading the page over and over just checking which place I got. And then when I found out, I freaked out.”

What is your favourite snowboarding song or song you listen to before racing?

“I have a whole album that I share with my friends that we all put our own songs on. My favourite song is “Straight outta compton” by N.W.A.”

What is your favourite part of being on the ski/snowboard team?

“Probably just snowboarding and being out with my friends and like making new friends and just having fun, and sometimes doing stupid stuff. Overall, spending time with my friends.”



PBH Ski Team Instagram

Valedictorian Speak-off

By Victorino Kade Fleasapf

Today was a big day for Oak Bay High grads; the valedictorian speak off!!!! The class of 2024 was tasked with the tough decision of voting for the one student who would represent all their aching worries on the upcoming big day. There were a number of great candidates going out for the task, but only one group could succeed. Let's review who these exciting runners were.

To start us off was the first head of gotcha, Alice Wu, and Brett Smit. Their presentation encompassed witty banter and crafty jokes that commented on the hardships we have faced as a grad class, especially through COVID-19. Secondly, we witnessed Enzo Marcy share his appreciation to all factions of our school, such as the athletics department. Third, we had the dynamic duo of Jenny Lambert and Kylee Trumble, who made us laugh with their relatable jokes and reminisce about high school with a heartfelt message. Fourth, Moko Marcal delivered his genuine message on individuality and authenticity with a sprinkling of "cheeky" humour. Second to last were Abbey Carver and Nate Smith who emphasized their dedication to representing every grad, garnished with smoldering delivery of all of Nate's lines. Finally, Elisabeth Foss and Fiore Montiel ended this series of speeches by once again

speaking on the tough times we have faced together and highlighting their qualifications for valedictorians.

After a plethora of amazing speeches, everyone cast their votes! The Acorn is here to announce the winners of this year's 2024 valedictorian speak-off: JENNY LAMBERT AND KYLEE TRUMBLE!! Congratulations to all the participants!



Presenter Media



Worst things about school

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- STUDYING
- MONDAYS
- IN CLASS ESSAYS
- SIGFIGS
- TESTS
- SHORT LUNCHES
- BAD SUBSTITUTES
- EXPONENTS
- EARLY MORNINGS
- NOVEL STUDIES
- MEMORIZATION
- HAND CRAMPS
- REPORT CARDS
- BAD WIFI
- GOSSIP



Editor in Chief: Lena Dietsch
 Editors: Lili Spencer, Ariel Fischer
 Formatter: Ariel Fischer