

# Old fantasy sparks new interest for readers

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Staff Reporter

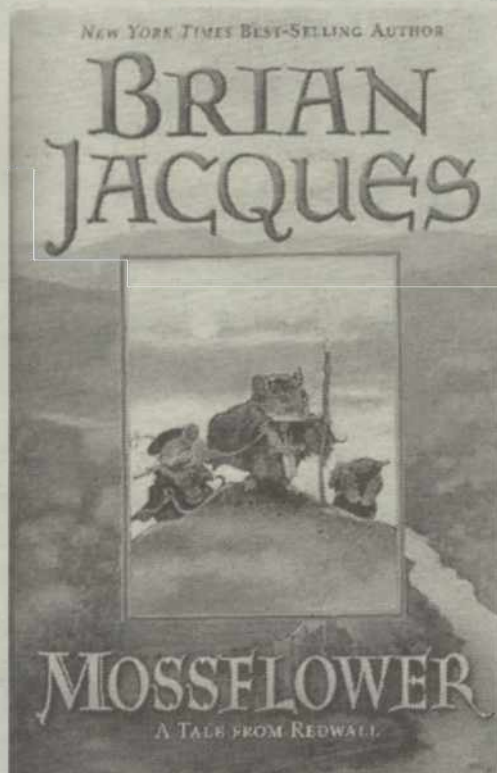
If you love action, fantasy and good clean humor, then "Mossflower" is the book for you. For those of you that have read Brian Jacques' hit novel "Redwall", prepare to jump back into history with his next novel, "Mossflower."

This edition takes place in the forest of "Mossflower" before the creation of Redwall Abbey, when the evil wildcat Tsarina Rules the land from her stone fortress, enslaving the woodland inhabitants and forcing them to work and farm to feed Tsarina's large vermin army. It also

tells the tale of Martin the Warrior mouse when he comes to Mossflower country as mentioned briefly in "Redwall."

Martin is captured by Tsarina, along with Gonff, the mouse thief. After making a dramatic escape, thanks to Gonff and his skills with lock picking, Martin meets the Counsel Of Resistance in Mossflower, a group

of rebelling woodlanders who are fighting to end the evil rule of Tsarina. Martin then sets out to find the mighty Boar the fighter, the mighty badger lord who is believed to be able to save Mossflower.



This tale covers Martin's journey as well as the ongoing battle between the CORIM.

and Tsarina's army. Many loose ends are tied up in this prequel, such as the creation

of Martin's magic sword, how Redwall come to be, and how Martin becomes a great hero fabled in song and story at Redwall.

The "Redwall" series takes place in a fantasy world, where, instead of people, mice and other rodents rule the land. Jacques bases most of the characters on English folklore, and people that he's met. The Redwall series is mostly based on the conflict between the mice, squirrels, otters and other good animals against evil vermin, which are rats, stoats, weasels and foxes. And since eating is very important in England you

can expect to read about at least one feast with innumerable amounts of food, guaranteed to make your mouth water.

I enjoyed this book mostly because of the new setting. With a new villain, a new place, and a different time, you'll be intrigued with the new surroundings. However, it is not perfect, with a plot that is not too different from him previous book, it's not very hard to guess the ending. In a classic story of good and evil and suspenseful action. Borrow this book at the West Linn Library or purchase at the bookstore for \$8.99-30.

## "Dancing at Lughnasa" an intricate, passionate tale

"Dancing at Lughnasa"

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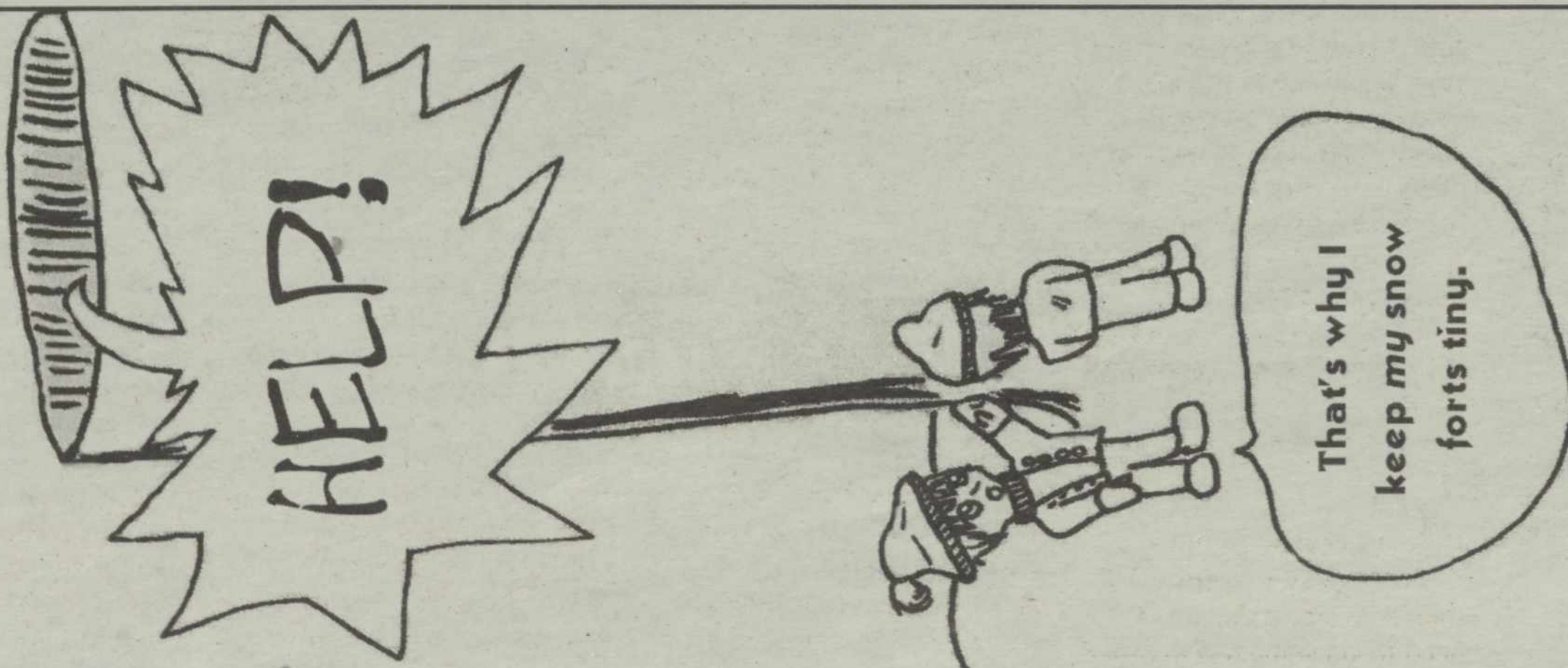
The play consists of extremely intricate characters and complex relationships. The lives of the Mundy family are changed by the influence of a wireless radio and the play is meant to invoke feelings of nostalgia and warmhearted moments. It reflects a current theme in today's society—the economic challenges faced by the family.

"I think one of the things I like about "Dancing at Lughnasa" is the fact that they just got this old radio and it's brought music into their home. It seems like such a simple thing but they're so passionate about it," Kaiser said. "It's really compelling to me because our lives are so complex and filled with so many things, and yet these women value this small thing so much. It makes me long for that kind of simplicity."

"Dancing at Lughnasa" tickets can be pre-purchased online for \$7 for adults and \$5 for students, or at the Box Office prior to the show.

The cast of "Dancing at Lughnasa" (Michael Johnson is on page 14), clockwise: Andra Sturtevant, Addison Benya, Caitlyn Olson, Avery Breyne-Cartwright, Alyssa Aramaki, Anna Stapleton and Corbin Wescott.

Photos by Catherine d'Autremont



Sarah Lund