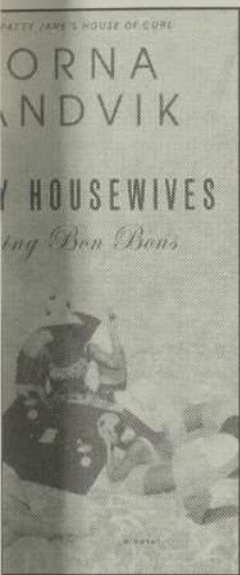


Landvik delivers all but consistency



INTERNET PHOTO

Jennifer Trank
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

"Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons," a novel that explores the various roles of women and their relationships with both their friends and families, is somewhat less of a treat to read than the bon bons in the title would be to eat.

While perusing this saga by Lorna Landvik, the reader faces a bumpy struggle to find rhythm in her writing.

Landvik introduces five women—neighbors on Preesia Court, a dead-end street in Minncapolis—who start a book club and become lifelong friends. Kari, the oldest of the group, loses her husband prematurely to illness and longs for the baby they were never able to conceive. Audrey, the

self-proclaimed sex expert, is fun loving and a bit on the wild side. Slip is a spunky political activist with the strength of an ox. Merit is an insecure beauty who suffers the abuse of her husband in silence. And Faith, who seems normal on the surface, hides the misery of a past life filled with disappointment and shame.

The novel follows the lives of these women from their youth to old age, spanning births of children, ends of marriages and deaths of loved ones. The love of good friends and a plate of brownies assuage many of life's crises.

The most troubling aspect of this novel is that Landvik wrote in the third person for some characters and the first for others. This is not only confusing, but seems to have no logic, as some of the characters

speaking in the first person seem to be less central to the story than some of those presented in the third.

While most readers are likely to be drawn to one or more of the women, some characters are not developed enough to captivate the reader's interest or compassion. It is also difficult to relate completely to one character or another, as they tend not to deviate from the personality given to them by Landvik, making them a bit unbelievable.

In addition, each main character has so many children and other family members they are difficult to keep straight without slowing to a snail's pace when reading about a neighborhood barbecue or Christmas party. It's tough at times to remember, for example, whether Grant is Audrey's son or her gay neighbor.

Although it may take a while (the

first hundred pages or so) to be drawn into the novel and feel compelled to reach for the book to see what happens next—it eventually provides sufficient entertainment to encourage the reader through the four-hundred-plus pages. While not masterfully written, it is frequently engaging, occasionally touching and seldom a bore.

"Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons" can be purchased online or at most bookstores for \$13.95.



LANDVIK

Screenplay proves to be true disaster as Emmerich can't weather own storm

Jeff Sorensen
THE CLACKAMAS PRINT

"The Day After Tomorrow" was Emmerich, the man who brought us "Stargate" and "Independence Day," and the film stars "The Rookie" himself, Dennis Quaid. So the question is: What the heck happened?

Conceptually, this movie has all the necessary elements for a good natural disaster flick. A talented cast, a promising director and a method for destroying the world that hasn't been done in recent memory. The trouble is, as it has been said: writers shouldn't direct, and directors should never write.

As director, writer and producer, Emmerich seems to have forgotten this. Scene after scene is disturbingly reminiscent of his '94 and '96 alien films. Upon further research, in fact, it appears that the vast majority of the camera angles and movements were identical.

The movie begins with a scene where our hero, the dashing, distin-

guished meteorologist from Washington, D.C., nearly falls to his doom from a perilous crack in the glacier where he and his fellow doctor-types have set up camp. He proceeds to present his findings in front of several leaders of the world and urges them to take immediate action to prevent the next ice age, presumably anywhere from 100 to 1,000 years away.

Meanwhile, the doctor's son, who has joined an academic triathlon team for his prestigious private school, leaves for New York to compete alongside the beautiful girl he joined the team for in the first place and their brilliant-yet-quirky teammate.

Meanwhile, back in D.C., our hero finds himself begging the president to reconsider allowing him access to the computing technology he needs to determine exactly when this disaster is going to occur.

Meanwhile, the doctor and his group of fellow doctor-types figure out, through hours (minutes) of research that the coming "ice age" is actually not 100 years away; it's

about six to eight months away. Did they say six to eight months? Oops, they meant six to eight days.

Then we see a series of mandatory "gasp* rain!" as the doctor's son (like *trapped in the New York Public Library with his friends and they fight to keep warm.

Meanwhile, the meteorologist's wife, a doctor at a cancer research and treatment facility, talks to her 10-year-old patient about the "trip" his parents have taken to an unknown island for an unexplained reason while he reads "Peter Pan," the story of the boy who never wanted to grow up.

To be frank, the writing was so incredibly redundant that it's hard to accept as a decent screenplay, even by Hollywood standards. Emmerich has produced incredible sci-fi movies in the past, but with credits like "Godzilla," it's a wonder he didn't figure it out before.

It's like I said ... writers should never direct, and directors like Emmerich should never, ever write ... unless there are aliens.

Your Horoscope for today

Dr. James Tombe, Master of the Stars

Apr 21 - Apr 19) Is that star shining down on you tonight or a police helicopter? Try not to kill tonight to be sure.

May 21 - Jun 21) You deal with existential angst and inability to understand "existential angst."

Aug 23 - Aug 22) You will receive a gift for prophecy recurring "no pants" is true.

Oct 23 - Oct 23) You make financial risks this week. Your lucky numbers are 39, 40, and 7.

Nov 22 - Dec 21) A family reunion will be the featured episode of "Jerry"

Jan 20 - Feb 18) Who is your true love? Was just a true love?

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) You will get into an interesting situation involving a bathtub full of gelatin, a glue gun, and a hamster named Harold.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) In a moment of Zen enlightenment, you will turn in a blank essay. Unfortunately, your instructor will be neither enlightened nor amused.

Virgo (Aug 23 - Sep 22) Time to get a new animal companion this month (don't even ask about what happened to your pet hamster Harold).

Scorpio (Oct 24 - Nov 21) You will gain nationwide fame. Watch "America's Most Wanted" for details.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) You will read your horoscope today.

Pisces (Feb 19 - Mar 20) You will find happiness in the only place someone like you can—the dictionary.

Note: James Tombe is not a real doctor, and therefore should not be taken seriously. Any actions based on these predictions are solely the poor choice of the reader, and will warrant nothing less than condescending snickers from the staff of this paper.



INTERNET PHOTO

Media heartthrob Jake Gyllenhaal (FRONT, CENTER) plays Sam Hall, with newcomer Emmy Rossum (RIGHT) as love interest Laura Chapman. The couple, having nearly been washed away with a taxi cab, run up the steps of the New York Public Library from a tidal wave.

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