

# '80s classics return on DVD

## Heatherann Price

The Clackamas Print

"Cowabunga!" shouts the TV, along with a child up early on a Saturday.

As the morning goes on, more shouts are heard coming from the television, always joined by the child:

"By the power of Grey Skull!"

"Eye of Thundera, give me sight beyond sight!"

There are those, depending on age, who know this scene from having been that child. Others cannot relate. Luckily for both sets of people, '80s cartoons are back.

Everything from the old *Dungeons & Dragons* to *Rainbow Brite* are greeting viewers on DVD. Take a look at Best Buy or Amazon.com; cartoons from every decade will flood the screen.

For those who missed this magical time, taking a look at these oldies could clear up a few things. Like, why everyone is so excited to see the new Transformers movie – go find the vintage one and see why your older friends are so hopeful.

There are many cartoons one could indulge in watching. *She-Ra: Princess of Power* or *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles*, *G.I. Joe: A Real American Hero* or *Strawberry Shortcake*, *Ghostbusters* or *The Real*

*Ghostbusters*, and so many more are all waiting to amuse and confuse.

Anime was around back then, too. Check out *Voltron*; the younger bunch may find it surprising familiar. (It couldn't have anything to do with the Power Rangers, could it?)

How much will these beauties cost? *Rainbow Brite: The Special Collectors Edition* will run you \$97.50. *G.I. Joe Season 1 Part 1* weighs in at \$68.99. The original Transformers movie ranges anywhere from \$5.99 to \$21.98, depending on whether the customer wants the special 20th Anniversary Edition or a used DVD.

So, now that the three-week vintage cartoon binge is over, what's next?

Accessorize that new movie collection with clothes to match.

That's right – just Google the word "shirt" and a

favorite show or character. Don't be surprised by all the options that emerge. Expect to spend about \$15 for a *Dungeons & Dragons* shirt and about \$25 for a *Legend of Zelda* shirt, depending on what

shop, online or at the mall.

So, "transform and roll out" to the store, or your computer, and give these old toons a try. Now you know, and knowing is half the battle.



Internet Photo

From left to right: '80s girls She-Ra, Rainbow Brite and Strawberry Shortcake celebrate their recent DVD releases.



THE VISUAL LITERATURE

by David Stark

## 'Drive' foolishly run off the road

What the hell is wrong with Fox, and why do they keep canceling good shows?

I speak not of *The Lone Gunmen* or even *Family Guy* (which was canceled only to be returned to production a few years later).

I am speaking of *Drive*, a ongoing storyline and underlying mysteries that could have made it Fox's answer to ABC's *Lost* or NBC's *Heros*.

The show was about a secret, illegal, cross-country road race. Participants must solve the location of the next checkpoint along the way.

The primary protagonist in the show was Alex Tully (Nathan Fillion, *Firefly*, *Serenity*, *Slither*), who was coerced into joining the race when the race managers kidnapped his wife. Since most of the contestants were in teams, Tully was joined by Corinna Wiles (Kristin Lehman, *The Chronicles of Riddick*, *The Sentinel*), whose parents were killed in a prior race.

The show featured a number of other competitors in the race, from a father-and-daughter team, to two half-brothers getting to know each other, to hurricane Katrina survivors. The characters really drove the story along and are what made this critic a fast fan.

What was perhaps most irksome about Fox's decision to cancel *Drive* was how quickly the decision was made. The first episode premiered on April 15; the show was canceled on April 25. That's 10 days – 10 days in which only four episodes aired.

I'll refrain from giving opinions about the mental faculties of Fox's executives and simply state that the show was good and it shouldn't have been pulled off the air.

I can't actually say that I'm surprised. Fox has the habit of pulling truly great shows from the air. Just look at *Firefly*, *Arrested Development*, *Titus*, *Wonderfalls*, *Tru Calling*, *The Tick*, *Space: Above and Beyond*, *Malcolm in the Middle*, or even *Futurama*, just to name a few.

That isn't to say that Fox doesn't have any good shows. *House* manages to retain my appreciation, despite its formulaic episodes, because of the growth of characters and relationships. *The Simpsons* has managed to stay on the air for 18 years and, for the most part, has been quite enjoyable, but I'm afraid that it should end. Something can be done for only so long before all possibilities have been exhausted.

So, please, if you enjoyed *Drive*, or at least enjoy the thought of good shows on Fox, write in and ask them to bring back the show.

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## 'Hyenas' is no scavenger

### Jess Sheppard

The Clackamas Print

Everyone loves a good political conspiracy, and Brad Geagley's *Year of the Hyenas* is just that: a startling look into a world rotting with corruption.

We begin with the murder of an elderly woman who leaves her house late at night and never returns. The inspector assigned to solve her brutal murder quickly finds himself twisted from all sides by corrupt government officials, suspicious craftsmen and a woman who may or may not be his doom.

But most unsettling of all is that the closer he comes to the truth, the higher the stakes rise. What starts as the murder of an old woman becomes a race to stop a deadly coup who threatens the life of the most powerful leader in the world.

Another subject anyone can appreciate is ancient Egypt, and that is exactly where this book takes place. The year is 1453 B.C.E., one thousand years before the reign of Cleopatra VII. The unlikely protagonist, a sharp-tongued, miserable man named Semerket, struggles to stop the assassination of Ramses III, the last of the great pharaohs.

This gripping plot could take place in any time period of history and still be believable, but in ancient Egypt, against the backdrop of the oldest court records in history, the

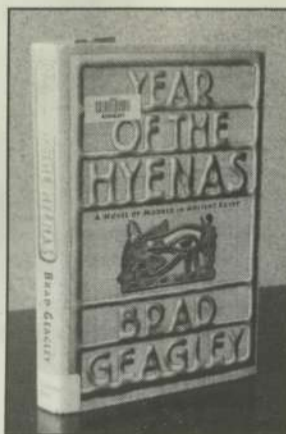
story takes on a richness that is hard to find in modern settings. In addition, *Year of the Hyenas* has a certain eerie familiarity behind its political intrigue, driving ambition and leering greed.

*Year of the Hyenas* is Brad Geagley's first novel, though he has written a number of screenplays for both film and the theatre. He is also a film producer and has worked on many classic films, including *The Little Mermaid*, *Who Framed Roger Rabbit* and *Beauty and the Beast*. His most recent work is his second novel, *Day of the False King*, which takes the reader back to ancient Babylon – lesser known than Egypt, but no less majestic.

The sequel returns to Semerket as he continues in his duties as the Clerk of Investigations and Secrets. However, the dark forces of conspiracy, murder and intrigue know no bounds and follow him even to Babylon, intent on snaring him once again.

Finally, possibly the aspect that gives *Year of the Hyenas* its edge: The major events are all drawn from actual history. Of course some artistic license has been taken, such as combining events that historically did not occur at the same time, but all deviations either play off each other or fill already-existing gaps in history. After all, this is still a work of fiction.

In short, *Year of the Hyenas* drags the reader into a labyrinth of intrigue, and the only way out is to finish the book... and immediately go in search of *Day of the False King*.



Adam J. Manley Clackamas Print