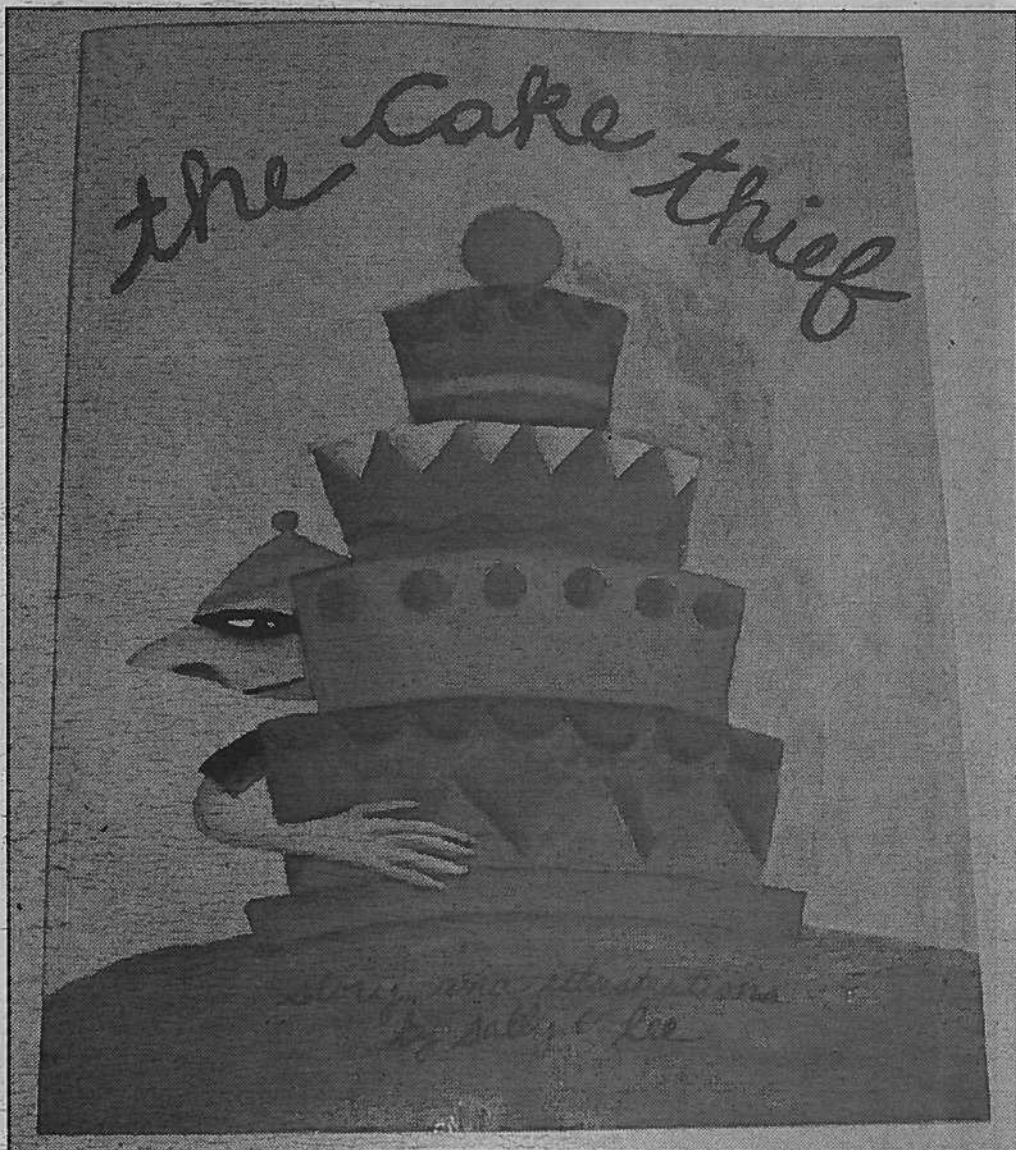


Reviews of books
and movies

Entertainment Realm

Your guide to
entertainment



(© Staff photo by Jodelle Greiner)

'THE CAKE THIEF' — "The Cake Thief" is a clever little book by Sally O. Lee that teaches a lesson in a fun, colorful way. Little kids will enjoy Lee's illustrations, as well.

'The Cake Thief' is winner

By **JODELLE GREINER**
Lifestyles Editor

"The Cake Thief" by Sally O. Lee teaches a valuable lesson: it's easy to steal things, but more satisfying when we learn how to do things for ourselves.

Clarence likes to steal cakes. He steals all kinds of cakes from all kinds of people all over town.

Then one day when he goes to steal a cake, he finds an invitation to a cake party.

Clarence is in a quandry. He wants to go to the party, but where will he get a cake to bring? His only option is to make one. Clarence has lots of experience stealing cakes, but absolutely none at making them. How will his cake-baking venture turn out?

This compact little story is cute and engaging enough to hold even squirmy youngsters' attention, as will the colorful illustrations that Lee did herself, and they might even learn something along the way.

What parents should learn from this book is to teach their kids how to do things

Title: The Cake Thief
Author: Sally O. Lee
Illustrator: Sally O. Lee
Publisher: BookSurge Publishing
Genre: children's fiction
Age appropriate: all ages
Language/Sex: None.
Violence/Behavior: Thievery.

Comments: Sally O. Lee has also written "Lucy and Seymour's Circus", "Magdalena finds the Golden Pear", "Seymour's Masquerade Ball", "The ABC Coloring Book" and "Nightie, Night, Lucy!"

For more information, visit www.booksurge.com online.

so they will have the satisfaction of accomplishing something, instead of just acquiring it.

"The Cake Thief" by Sally O. Lee is a good addition to any library with small children.

Arthur still shines

Sony Pictures Home Entertainment released "First Knight" last Tuesday to video retail and rental outlets. This release, shot in 1995 is, in my opinion, a fairly good adaptation of the King Arthur tale. I can recommend seeing, and even purchasing, the DVD.

"First Knight" is an interesting adaptation of the myth of Arthur Pendragon. There is no magic, no Merlin, no Morgana, no sword in the stone and no referral to Arthur's past. The Arthurian legend is plunked down, rather realistically in the countryside after King Arthur has built Camelot and formed the round table, but immediately before he decides to seek a wife.

Remember, this is a DVD. This isn't a history class. This isn't made to be realistic but entertainment. As entertainment, it fills the bill. If you want the legendary story, or the realistic story, get a book or find a documentary.

This is a true "popcorn movie", the kind you put in your DVD player for a nice evening of "no thinking, just enjoying". This is a Hollywood family movie, with 3 great stars, fancy costumes, beautiful scenery, great music, clean language and no overt sexual content.

This is a straight adventure story, too — and without the sorcery seen in many of the Arthurian legends — it could have actually happened this way. Nice values here, too, with the importance of prayer in life emphasized for the knights.

The extra features are worthwhile also. Now, I sometimes tend to nod off during the commentaries — especially the third time around, but, I can say I enjoyed, pretty much, the "Arthurian Legend" Commentary.

The "In Shining Armor" feature showed martial artists trying to re-construct the training, exercises and techniques by studying ancient manuals and guides. As one of the teachers noted, they were trying to learn something hundreds



(Courtesy photo)

'FIRST KNIGHT' — The legend of King Arthur gets a new spin in "First Knight" with Sean Connery (left) starring as Arthur Pendragon and Julia Ormond as Lady Guinevere. Richard Gere stars as Sir Lancelot. The Critical Couch Potato says this is a "true popcorn movie" and a "Hollywood family movie".

**T Critical
H Couch Potato**

By: J Osborne

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The "Creation of a Kingdom" feature explained some of the outrageous costume designs — for instance, the knights of the round table look like they're dressed in Star Trek shirts. The designer also explains how each of the locations of the film also tells a story about the people living there.

In spite of some of the costuming, I do recommend the movie.

Cast: Sean Connery, Richard Gere, Julia Ormond, and producer Hunt Lowry.

sweeping romantic drama "First Knight" on April 29. Starring Sean Connery, Richard Gere and Julia Ormond, "First Knight" presents a new vision of the tale of King Arthur's Camelot and the love triangle between King Arthur (Connery), Lady Guinevere (Ormond) and Sir Lancelot (Gere).

The Special Edition DVD and Blu-Ray™ Disc include all-new audio commentary with Zucker and