

forever the sickest kids

“She kept my feet on the ground, she kept my head in the clouds. She kept my head in the clouds.”

by Caitlin Waring

Well, ladies and gentlemen, Forever the Sickest Kids has done it again. If you thought their last album, Underdog Alma Mater, was the epitome of pop-punk greatness, you were mistaken. The new album, The Weekend: Friday, is incredible. It's got more of a pop sound than the old FTSK, but it still shows the fun-filled teenage attitude the boys always have.

The album begins with “Do

or Die,” a pop song with a techno melody. The lyrics are great, and I promise, you'll be humming along or at least tapping your foot to the beat. The next track, “Tough Love,” is a tad disappointing to me. It's not memorable, and the first high note sounds really off key. Track number three, “She Likes,” is the catchiest. I wake up to it every morning, and it puts me in the best mood. It gets me dancing around my room and singing into my hairbrush, to

be perfectly honest. Towards the end, there's a song called “What Do You Want From Me.” The lyrics are superb, the melody is something that makes you want to dance, but it's a bit repetitive. The EP closes with “Hawkbot,” my favorite song of theirs. It's got a techno hip-hop edge, with some dance beats. I think it's very original, and I cannot possibly sit still while listening to it.

Whether you're a long time fan of FTSK or you only know one

or two popular songs, this EP is a must-have. Even kids who don't usually listen to this type of music loved it. “I really like the beat, and the lyrics are amazing,” says Kaycie Stem, sophomore. And the big fans think it's great too. Josh Koerber, senior, says, “There isn't a bad song on the entire album. It's incredible.” It's definitely going on my Christmas list, and you should put it on yours.

the lovely bones

by Samantha Sole

“Inside the snow globe on my father's desk, there was a penguin wearing a red and white striped scarf.” The penguin was alone in there, I thought, and I was worried for him. When I told my father this, he said, ‘Don't worry, Susie; he has a nice life. He's trapped in a perfect world.’ Young Susie Salmon is now stuck in this world. Sam Pysher, junior, says, “I would probably cry, then become very sad from all the loneliness. I would most likely feel numb because my friends and family are important to me.”

Susie was just a friendly, average fourteen-year-old girl when she was raped and murdered on December 6, 1972. Susie lives in heaven now, which is specified to her own unique tastes. It has every material thing she could ever ask for, except her family. She tells her story as she spies on her friends, family and even her murderer as they all go on with their lives. She struggles to move on.

Brandi Van Patten's opinion of the book was, “was kind of creepy but it made me more aware of how people can act. It is like they don't even have a brain. They have no respect or feelings and compassion for other people and families. I am so very excited to watch the movie as well.”

Sabrina Mikels, freshmen, states, “I would spy on

my family and friends to see what and how they were doing without me. It would be hard to resist checking on everyone.”

Susie regrets how she never got to be in high school and grow up like her little sister now has, that she never got to be with the boy she likes. Susie watches from a gazebo where she can see anyone or anything she wishes. Susie has to try and move on from her family as they try to do the same. Although he knows he must move on, Susie's father keeps trying to prove who murdered his daughter. This relentless struggle leaves their family with many unneeded problems and fighting. As her family pulls apart, all Susie can do is watch helplessly from heaven. “The Lovely Bones” was written by Alice Sebold, and it is filled with drama and tragedy that makes it impossible to set the book down.

This book will make you cry, but it does end with justice. In short, I love this book. It shows love, passion, and how tragedy can affect families. The author, Alice Sebold, was raped also. This is where most of her feelings in the writing of her book came from. This book is touching and you will cry in the climax. This book is coming out as a movie in December. I do suggest seeing it, but I think it is impossible for the movie to be as amazing as the book, so read it first. “The Lovely Bones” is a must read to anyone who loves reading or is just looking for something to spend their time on.



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brothers

by Madison McEvoy

The “Brothers” movie came to theaters December 4, 2009. “Brothers” tells a powerful story of two brothers, Sam Cahill (Tobey Maguire) and younger brother Tommy Cahill (Jake Gyllenhaal), who are complete opposites. Sam is a Marine who embarks on his fourth duty overseas. He is married to Grace (Natalie Portman) and has two young daughters. Tommy is a drifter who just got released from jail and usually gets by with his wit and charm.

The story takes a sudden turn, and Sam is pronounced dead when his Black Hawk helicopter was shot down. Tommy tries to help out Sam's wife and two daughters by taking on his responsibilities. Grace and Tommy get along naturally and start a mutual attraction to each other, until Grace gets a call and finds out that her husband isn't dead.

He has been captured by the Taliban in Afghanistan and is getting medical attention from them. Sam finally returns home to his family and thanks his brother for taking care of them while he's been gone. The mood seems to change in the family ever since Sam arrived home and about Grace and Tommy's friendship. Sam has a total meltdown and decides to confront Tommy, and that's when everything starts to shift. Director Jim Sheridan tells a compelling tale of two brothers who come to terms with issues of love, loyalty, and manhood while the woman is caught in the middle. I asked to people who saw the movie the first night and this is what they had to say about the movie. “Bring a big box of tissues,” Dana explained. Dawn exclaimed, “Natalie Portman is such a great actress and she played this role great.”

