



OPENS FRIDAY 12/13

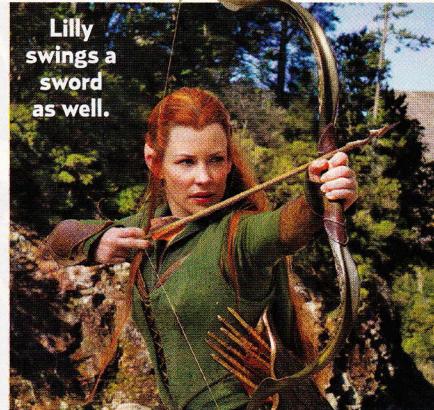
Saving Mr. Banks

★★★★

Forget super. This bighearted and insightful drama, which depicts the making of 1964's *Mary Poppins*, is supercalifragili . . . you get the idea. It turns out that the book's author, P.L. Travers (Emma Thompson), tangled with Walt Disney (Tom Hanks) and

Hanks takes Thompson on a tour of Disneyland.

his team over every production detail, down to the use of the color red. But no villains here: The true-life figures are acutely developed, allowing audiences to empathize with everyone. And when Travers finally sees the finished product, her reaction is as memorable as the classic film itself.



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The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

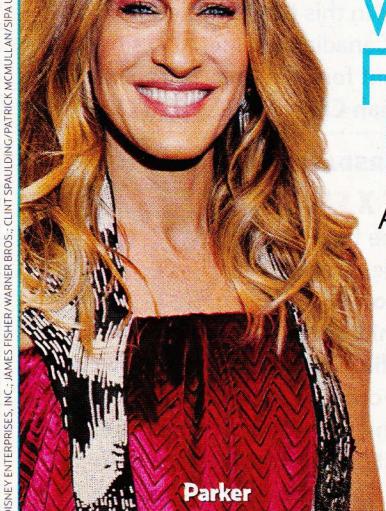
★★★★

Evangeline Lilly saves Middle-earth. Well, almost. But her sensitive warrior adds a dose of estrogen to the male-dominated sequel, in which Bilbo (Martin Freeman) and 13 dwarves continue the crusade to regain their homeland. It's worth slogging through the 161-minute trip with them to reach the finale: Benedict Cumberbatch clearly has a blast voicing Smaug, the sarcastic dragon.

BRADLEY JACOBS

BOOKS

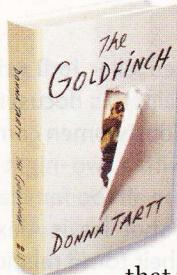
BY ASHER FOGLE



Four Winter Fiction Picks

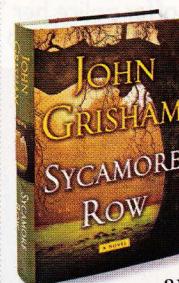
And to all a good read! Get cozy with these celebrated new page-turners

OPPOSITE PAGE: COLUMBIA PICTURES; THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: FRANCOIS DUHAMEL/DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC.; JAMES FISHER/WARNER BROS.; CLINT SPAULDING/PATRICK MCULLAGH/USA



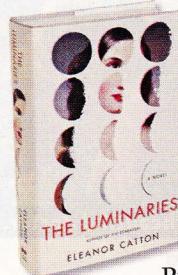
THE GOLDFINCH

Theo, 13, loses his mom in a museum bombing but saves a priceless painting that will later endanger his life. **Sarah Jessica Parker** said this suspenseful tale had her "entirely immersed."



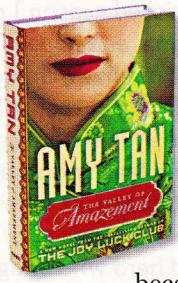
SYCAMORE ROW

It's 1988, and *A Time to Kill*'s hero Jake Brigance is trying to fix his legal career and his marriage. In this sequel, he defends a contested will benefiting a Mississippi millionaire's black maid.



THE LUMINARIES

A hermit dies. A magnate vanishes. A fortune surfaces. In this Man Booker Prize-winning tome of New Zealand's 1860s gold rush, an unlikely group of men unravels the strange events.



THE VALLEY OF AMAZEMENT

From the *Joy Luck Club* author! A half-American teen is forced to become a courtesan in 1912 Shanghai. Freed years later, she seeks her mother and her own lost daughter.