



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.



Lilly swings a sword as well.

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The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug

★★★★

Evangelina 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

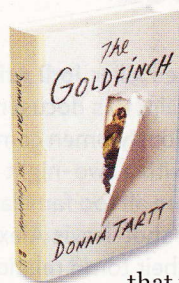
BY ASHER FOGLE



Parker

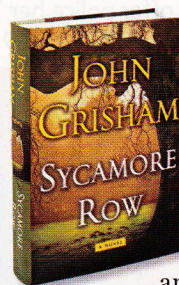
Four Winter Fiction Picks

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



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."



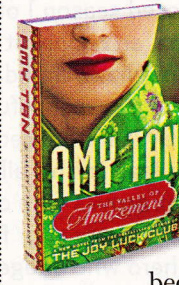
SYCAMORE ROW

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.

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