



hooked on books

compiled by Mari Connors

CHILDREN'S BOOK

Jackie And Me A Very Special Friendship

by Tania Grossinger

Right off the bat (pun intended) I was captivated by the beautiful, colorful pictures. Catching my attention after watching the movie "42", I was eager to see how Grossinger tackles sharing her Jackie Robinson story, and I was not disap-



pointed. This is a great story that I believe many children will appreciate, particularly those who have feelings of not quite fitting in. A wonderful biography that details the friendship between a young girl and a baseball legend. Targeting children in kindergarten through grade 4, I'd say Grossinger hits a homerun with this book. Jackie and Me is definitely child-friendly and easy to understand. I will say, however, that block print would have made it easier for the younger child to read. Priced at \$16.95, this book is a must-have for any sports-minded elementary student, who will be captivated by the pictures and the storyline. **A Hooked-On Books thumbs up.**

CHILDREN'S BOOK

The Well-Kept Secret

by Ginette Ausman

According to the cover, "The story makes readers travel between the reality and fantasy worlds of children. It makes readers believe in the pure trust, harmony, and love that only



The Well-Kept Secret

Written by Ginette Ausman
Illustrated by Rebecca Pratt

young children can share with open hearts and minds. It shows children's attachment to family, the role of grandparents in their lives, and the knowledge they share. It teaches values and consistency in relationships with family members. The characters represented are ordinary people dealing with normal life situations. The Well-Kept Secret is simple and easy." I believe the target age for this book is probably 10-13. While the book certainly does promote family unity and harmony, I think the target reader would likely find it to be a bit too wordy, with little action. In this age group, children generally will view the reward at the end of the book to be lacking. *The Well-Kept Secret* is a 34 page paperback book. I feel the price is a bit steep, listing at \$20.99. I like that the book has a pretty wholesome message, however I did not find it to be the easy read that it was touted to be. Ultimately it would receive better reviews if it contained more illustrations which help to draw young readers into the story.

YOUNG ADULT

Wake-Up Calls

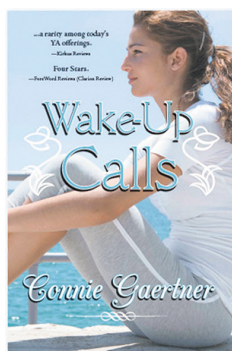
by Connie Gaertner

This coming of age book is definitely for teenage girls. The story is about seventeen year

old Krista, her first summer job, her interests in boys, making new friends, family relationships and self-discovery. This book is an easy read that I believe will appeal to teens who enjoy romance novels. And the kicker...it is a wholesome novel that does not contain an ounce of sex or vampires in the story line. Set in the Great Lakes during the heat of summer break, the reader will go on an adventure filled with boating, beach parties and tough decisions that could determine a young person's entire future.

Krista finds that she has strong feelings for two different men and ultimately has to make a decision which path she will take.

I found that I was able to identify with Krista, recalling my own journey into young womanhood. This is a book that I would feel comfortable recommending to mature teen readers as young as 14. Listing at \$12.95 this read will likely **get your teen daughter Hooked on Books.**



BUSINESS/ECONOMICS

Personal Finance Simply Understood

by Chris Simber

This is the book I should have read 40 years ago. It really is an easy read because it is written in a vernacular we can all understand. When I was first approached about reviewing this book, I thought it is probably going to be boring and that will make it a difficult read. NOT SO! In fact, quite the contrary. It is loaded with graphs and charts, lending real credence to "a picture paints a 1,000 words."

This is a book that should be found in every home in America. Why? Because we cannot get by any more doing the same things, the same way as we did them in the past. It is best said on the back of the cover: "...learn why financial crises like stock market crashes, housing market bubbles, and bank failures happen, so that you can minimize your exposure to risks and capitalize on big opportunities." Simply put, get the financial guidance you need to avoid financial pitfalls. We no longer live in a world of "if" financial troubles come! A more accurate picture is "when" financial trouble come! Will you be prepared? Get Hooked on Books - this one - and discover the prudent strategies for setting and achieving financial goals. Less than 200 pages for \$18.95, **a real winner!**

