

# The Paw Print

February 2017

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BERLIN  
BRANDENBURG  
INTERNATIONAL  
SCHOOL

Art and Design by Jikang Liu

Dear Paw Printers,

Welcome to the first issue of The Paw Print led by the new editors-in-chief, Nathaniel Beardsley and Suh hye Park. This year, we also have a new secretary, Hye Soo Paik, and two new design editors, Juliette Douet and Jikang Liu. Our plans regarding the contents and layout of the Paw Print will not be changed from what it has been previously done and will bring more and more interesting and important news to the student body. Furthermore, we will be focusing on the even distribution of the newspapers to the whole of student body so that everybody has a chance to read the school's newspaper.

In this issue, we sought to integrate a great number of topics starting from current global issues to entertainment to events taking place in around this school. One of our goals for this newspaper will be to cover a wide variety of issues in a number of areas, so students can stay informed not only as to what is covered by other newspapers, but also to student life here in BBIS.

Some of the notable events that have transpired in school recently was BBIS' first ever prom and the start of the first mocks for the juniors and the last for the seniors. Aanchal Kewalramani, grade 11, has delighted us with a small review of the prom and its ups and downs, while Theresa Heublein, grade 11, has provided us with handy tips on surviving and successfully finishing the mocks. Moreover, in the current events section, Juliette Douet has written about the recent Women's March and its significance in today's society.

We hope that the Paw Print continues getting new contributors, from all different grades, so we can represent the interests and opinions of a wide variety of pupils. We meet once every month in Ms. Barker's room. We hope to see you there!

Have a wonderful break,

*Suh hye Park and Nathaniel Beardsley*





# March Marks Women's Rights as Human Rights

- by Juliette Douet

## The Marches

On the 21st of January 2017, women all across the globe came together to send a message to the new American government on its first day in office. The main mission was to emphasize the fact that women's rights are human rights, no matter your status. Women and men of differing religious faiths, colours of skin, those who identify as LGBTQIA, people with disabilities, and across many generations united together to combat the messages from President Trump they see as threatening their rights. With over 5 million marchers in around 700 marches around the world, the event was a great success. There were not only marches in all 50 states of America, but also in cities throughout all seven continents; including right here, in Berlin. These 'Sister Marches' are solidarity events organised by volunteers, inspired by the Women's March on Washington.

Many celebrities took part in the marches, spreading the message on their social media platforms. These included Katy Perry, Scarlett Johansson, Miley Cyrus, Zendaya, Cher, Lin-Manuel Miranda, Lady Gaga and Amy Schumer. A few of them took to the stage to speak their minds and words of encouragement to the crowd. Madonna, however, may have shared a little too much; the singer spoke about having thoughts of blowing up the White House, which obviously caught the attention of a Trump administration official who said that her comments were 'unacceptable'.

## Visual Protest

The signs made by the attendees were a very big part of the women's marches. Many people criticised Trump for belittling views of women

he has previously expressed; mainly his view that he can "Grab 'em by the p---y. You can do anything." Other people referenced issues related to women's rights and civil rights.

In addition to signs, many marchers wore pink cat eared hats, related to the previous statement. The 'Pussyhat Project' is the movement that created this idea, and had the goal to create a sea of pink at the marches.



## Response

President Trump seemed to be purposefully ignoring the marches, by going in the opposite direction. He attended the National Prayer Service at the National Cathedral, which is an inaugural tradition. Additionally, Trump - when the matter had been brought up by numerous news organizations of inauguration day - vaunted about how many people attended his inaugural speech, but he did not acknowledge the extensive crowds at the women's march. Hillary Clinton was not present at the march herself, however she did show her support through twitter:

'Thanks for standing, speaking & marching for our values @womensmarch. Important as ever. I truly believe we're always Stronger Together.'

## What's Next?

After the marches, a big question on everyone's mind was 'what should we do now?' Well, the organisation that originally created the Women's March on Washington launched the 10 Actions for the First 100 Days campaign at the women's march. The next step is hosting 'Huddles', which are meant to help neighbourhoods figure out what their next step is going to be. For more information, visit <https://www.womensmarch.com/100/action2>.

# 100 Year Anniversary of the Russian Revolution

- by Emma Schuetze

2017 marks the 100th anniversary of the Russian Revolution, which some argue to be one of the most significant historical events in the 20th century still affecting politics and public opinion today. When the Russian revolution is discussed, the focus is usually put on the February Revolution in 1917, which was the final push that overthrew the 200 year old empire. However, there were many factors leading up to this uprising, including a failed revolution in 1905 and the food shortages that came as a result of WWI. With a lack of industrialization in comparison to other countries at the time, Russia faced more casualties on both the western and eastern front than any other country involved in the war. This loss led to the quick downward spiral of the economy and food supplies which further aggravated large parts of the population.

## February revolution (1917)

The February revolution begins on the 8th of march (Gregorian calendar) with protesters in St. Petersburg blaming the government for the lack of bread. At first these riots do not seem to threaten the czarist government. An account from a New York Times journalist states that "A number of causes, working together,

brought the crisis momentarily to a head, although I do not personally believe there can be serious trouble while the Duma [the Russian legislature] is sitting."

In the following days, however; the protests grow, eventually leading the Czar to order troops to suppress the uprising, who refuse and join the protests themselves. Realising that he has lost control, Czar Nicholas II abdicates the throne to his brother whose refusal brings an end to the czarist aristocracy on March 15th.

## October (Bolshevik) revolution (1917)

After the fall of the aristocracy a provisional government is set in place before elections can be held. This government quickly loses popularity among the population due to decisions such as land reform and the choice to remain in war. During this time, many soviets are elected into councils in cities across the country, slowly gaining influence. This slow reversal of power is led by Vladimir Lenin, who declares Russia to be led by the soviets, who, in contrast to the provisional government, had been elected. With the 'Peace, Bread, Land' slogan, the Bolshevik party quickly gains popularity. Through a combination of this positive public appeal and the coup d'état involving the occupation of several government buildings, the Bolshevik party rises above the provisional government and seizes power with Lenin as its head. The implementation of this communist- inspired government sets a competition against capitalist ideals on the world stage, challenging US - Soviet relations to this day.

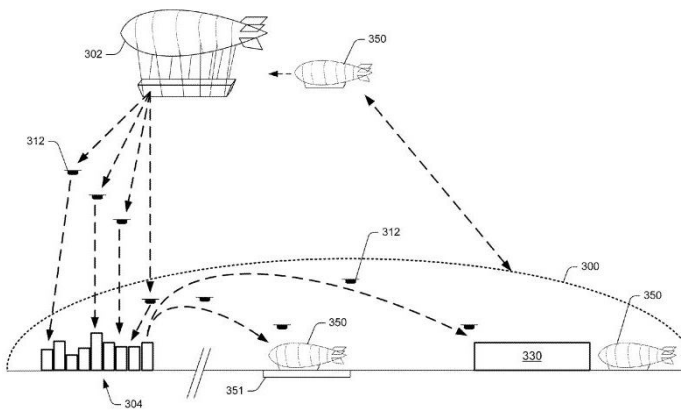




# Amazon's Plan for Blimp-serviced Delivery

- by Nathaniel Beardsley

Amazon, the company which has for many years dominated the online market, has recently patented a design for an elaborate delivery system using blimps hovering above major populated areas. Hovering at an altitude of around 45,000 feet, this "airborne fulfillment center" will, moments after an order has been placed, equip a drone and send it from the airship straight to your home.



While drone delivery has been experimented with before, most notably in Cambridge, where a drone successfully delivered a TV streaming stick and a bag of popcorn to a resident of the area, never has anything of this scale been used. The prospect, however is not too far in the foreseeable future. Some innovations in UAV technology will have to be made before something of this size can be implemented, such as creating drones that will be able to carry packages

heavier than 2.6 kg.

Power, however, should not be a problem. As the patent filing states, the drones should be able to descend from the airship using little power, only making occasional adjustments to their flight path so they arrive at the correct destination. Once the drone has ascended back to the airship, it can recharge and await another delivery.

Amazon has also come up with a plan for creating docking stations for the drones out of lampposts and other everyday infrastructure, so that for deliveries far from populated areas, the drone can make it all the way without running out of power. The blimp-station itself would be restocked with smaller shuttles, which, given from the diagram, would likely be blimps as well, capable of docking onto the station itself.

Naturally, the air-traffic control laws would have to be meticulous if Amazon ever got around to fulfilling the dream. Given that the height the stations will be hovering at will be roughly the same as that at which airplanes fly, Amazon will have to ensure these stations do not interfere with existing flight patterns.

Nonetheless, the prospects of this becoming a reality look hopeful, and the uses would be many. At baseball games, for instance, members of the crowd could order food and drinks and have them delivered in minutes to where they are sitting. Not to mention the convenience of being able to have all sorts of packages containing electronics, food, apparel, books, etc. arrive at your doorstep nearly as soon as you order them. Even if laws prevent such a thing from occurring in the next ten years, it's safe to say that progress such as this is, ultimately, inevitable, and that within our lifetimes it's very likely we may see such innovation at our doorstep.

# BBIS Prom

- by Aanchal Kewalramani

From best dressed to customary slow dances, BBIS prom boasted an array of treasured traditions, while bringing to light its very own schoolwide musings at BBIS' first ever school prom.



Berlin's Titanic Chaussee hotel was met with flurries of anxious and excited teenagers, as BBIS' student council made last minute preparations for the big night. At first glance, a sense of awkwardness permeated the room at the odd sight of seeing our peers dressed in gorgeous gowns and dapper suits as we examined the embellished ballroom. The starry theme, true to its name was exquisitely decorated, dripping with trimmings of sparkling lights and stars, accompanied by an array of silver toned balloons. The ballroom as well as the students glowed for a night of excitement.

As soon as we were given the go ahead to enter the ballroom, the teenagers typically rushed to the food, partially to fill our stomachs but mostly to give us something to do while everyone arrived and the night really got started. Hors d'oeuvres of decadent brownies and sweet watermelon were first to go, before our beloved DJ Jonja, pressed play on the first song of the night.



The beat of a popular chart topper encapsulated the room, as the brave first few made their way to the dance floor accompanied by Jonja's very own enthusiastic dance moves; one could already tell this night would sway between humorous and extraneously enjoyable. It wasn't long before most of the student body made their way to the dance floor and got lost in the rhythm and exhilaration. Girls began to kick off their shoes, losing all inhibitions and thrashing their perfectly made up heads, while the boys loosened their bowties and surrendered to the debatably popular (or perhaps cringy) music. Looking at fellow students in such a foreign state evidently caught us by surprise, but nothing could prepare us for our very dear teachers tearing up the dance floor.



Mr. Kopkas and Mr. Hand absolutely stunned all of us with their ridiculously amazing dance moves as we watched in complete awe and



# BIMP

- by Suh hye Park

humor (maybe even horror), but neither could compare to the very wonderful Ms. MK showing all of us up with her decidedly cutting edge moves. This was followed by the announcements for best dressed Grade 11 and Grade 12, won by the deserving Isabelle and Mitch as well as Cheeku and Isabella. As with tradition, the winners had to do a customary slow dance to the oh so classic "Careless Whisper" accompanied by slashings of inelegance, humor and overall joy sparkling in their eyes.



Soon after, we were told the night would be coming to an end, and if I do say so myself, the last thirty minutes were undoubtedly the craziest. We laughed our way through the "Macarena" and "Cha Cha Slide" as we fumbled through the simple moves and tried to salvage the enjoyable night. The room vibrated by our feet and shook with the sheer adrenaline flowing through our veins. Alas, as cheesy as it sounds, all good things must come to an end, and as the night halted to a close, the students left the twinkling ballroom with a sheen of sweat on their brows as a reminder of the crazy antics, and a slew of memories to continually replay of the first (and hopefully not last!) BBIS prom. Without the tireless effort of the student council and all the teachers involved, the night wouldn't have been as perfectly thrilling as it was, for everybody who was initially apprehensive of the event, experienced a night to remember, a treasured tradition which we will continue to cherish, for it was truly a starry, starry night.

The annual BIMP (Berlin International Music Project) is around the corner again. This project, spearheaded by Ms. Panni in BBIS, has come a long way since it was founded in 2010. It aims to foster a community that can be as one through music and the performance of such music. The participants are students from various schools around and within Germany as well. The students get to know and connect with each other through this big project, the BIMP.

BIMP is divided into five parts, the senior and junior orchestra, the senior and junior choir, and the jazz/pop ensemble. Each student participates in one of the groups and goes to rehearsals on designated Saturdays until the day of the performance, which is set in March this year. The songs are set by the leader of that certain group and the orchestras usually perform classical pieces, while the choir usually does the same. At the end, the orchestra and the choir come together to perform a number together.

One of the great things about BIMP is that through music the students and the teachers participating all feel a sense of unity and community. There is a certain pride in people's hearts after a very good performance; the congratulatory thanks and gifts from parents and friends all add to that heart-warming feeling and amiable ambience. As well as this, seeing the junior orchestra and choir perform has been one of the highlights of the concert. Seeing the tiny middle and elementary children performing and conducting their own orchestra and choirs will melt the hearts of whoever sees them.

Mark your calendars because we hope that you can make it to this year's BIMP gala concert in March 18-19!

# Mock Exams

- by Theresa Heublein

Ah yes, mocks, or as they are known to IB students, the destroyer of hopes and dreams. With all the sleepless nights that are spent either studying and stressing over the upcoming mock exams or trying to figure out if dropping out and becoming a hobo would be better than having to go through the emotional trauma that mocks bring (this might sound fun), there are better ways that one can prepare for mocks.

Following this delightful introduction to the mock exams is a helpful guide on how to study efficiently for mocks (The guide might not work for everyone though so just a heads up).



1. **Start studying early** - You don't want to pull an all-nighter and fuel

yourself up with RedBull just to pass out on the very next day. Instead give yourself time, start by setting out a timetable for your study. Write down how many exams you have and the days on which you have to sit them. Then organize your study accordingly.

2. **PAST PAPERS** - It can't be stressed enough how helpful practice exams/past papers are. You see IB has the tendency to just reuse some questions from older exams. Now did those not mean that you should go through all the past papers, however, you should write some past papers as it will give you an idea of what is expected from you in your exams.

3. **Study with your friends** - Who said you need to have a mental breakdown all by yourself? Study groups are great because you can share your emotional trauma with your friends. Study groups are also great in the fact that you can ask your super smart friend Jason a question about that one nasty math equation when in doubt ask Jason, Jason knows everything.

4. **Take breaks** - Your brain is already on the edge of a breakdown; you don't want to fry your brain up further by pushing it past its limits. So, give it some rest and relax for a day.





# The Student Council

- by Suh hye Park

In the previous months, the student council has undergone a very significant change as the new President, Jacob Eisnach, and Vice President, Amalie Skjerven, were elected by the student body. As the newly elected figures, I have gone and interviewed them for a few points.

## What is the student council? What role do you think does it play in this school?

We voice the concerns of the students to the administration as well as plan special events to build community and raise school spirit. We work together with the administration to make sure the students thoughts and concerns are heard. Also, we plan events to engage students in other activities outside of school, and raise the school spirit.

## As the new president, what are your aims and goals for this year's student council?

There are several goals we would like to pursue this year to further the student council. These include the following:

1. More coherent and more transparent communication between the student council and the students which allows for an effective set up of the student council holistically.
2. Fun events that challenge the status quo and build school spirit – connect students and faculty like the dodge ball tournament.
3. Pushing for student agendas on Wi-Fi, cafeteria lines, free period freedoms etc., follow through on initiatives of previous cabinet to establish "IB Lounge".
4. Empowering homeroom reps and other HS members to be active leaders of the high school.
5. Acknowledging the efforts of HS students on all fronts.

## As the new vice president, what are your aims and goals for this year's student council?

Our aims for this year is to:

1. Continue the events we have after school going, and create new fun ones.
2. Improve the communication between us and other students.
3. Keep everyone in the student council engaged and let the council be a place for open and constructive discussions.

## What are some of the events you have planned for this month and the coming months?

There are several events we have planned for the coming months and these include:

1. Dodge ball tournament – boosting teacher and student connectivity as well as school spirit
2. 9 – 10 grade dance
3. Lip sync battle – like the TV show. Teachers and students perform lip sync performances with fun choreography. Live jazz band as well as Jimmy Fallon esc MCing. It could possibly be happening in the MPR.

## What are the greatest challenges the student council will have to face this year?

First of all, the 12 graders leavin. They were a very active class in the council and we will miss them. However, the meeting after they leave we plan to –for the first time ever - ask 8th grade house leaders to attend meetings if they want to. Secondly, fulfilling students' desires on issues at the school. Last year we argued against the changing Wi-Fi system, and before that the council argued against the abolishment of Trip week. Communicating and negotiating with the administration is not always easy. And lastly, keeping the momentum going. We had a fantastic prom event and dodgeball tournament – we have to keep the energy going and keep students involved.



# Racism Has Reached its Limit

- by Hye-Soo Paik

Racism has reached its limits over the world; for example, many have expressed the view that Donald Trump, who has recently been elected as the 45th president of the US, has expressed “racist views” towards some religious and ethnic groups such as Muslims and Mexicans. Furthermore, over the course of the past year, race-related riots have broken out not only in the US but in a number of countries around the world.

The online dictionary, ‘Dictionary.com’, announced that they selected ‘xenophobia’ as the word of the year 2016. Xenophobia is a word combining Xenos (which means stranger) and Phobos (which means fear), creating a term used to describe a fear of foreigners. The 21-year-old site defines xenophobia as “fear or hatred of foreigners, people from different cultures, or strangers.” And it plans to expand its entry to include fear or dislike of “customs, dress and cultures of people with backgrounds different from our own.”

‘Dictionary.com’ also announced that searches for xenophobia on the site increased by 938 per cent from June 22 to June 24. Lookups spiked again that month after President Obama’s June 29 speech in which he insisted that Donald Trump’s campaign rhetoric was not a measure of “populism,” but rather “nativism, or xenophobia, or worse.”

The word ‘xenophobia’ is often associated with racism. Xenophobia and racism are linked because both refer to the fear of the “other” in some way. Xenophobia is the fear of people

that are outside from one’s ethnic group, while racism roots from fear of the physical traits that differ from one to the other, causing one to feel superior to others who are different. Then how can xenophobia be a part of racism? Because we define ‘racism’ as ‘a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human racial groups determine cultural or individual achievement, usually involving the idea that one’s own race is superior and has the right to dominate others or that a particular racial group is inferior to the others’ (Dictionary.com).

Racism is happening to the whole world nowadays, not only in the US. Most countries are aware of racism when it takes place, but they do not try to solve problem, or even ask ‘why’.

I believe that awareness should be raised on the serious issue of racism, even by participating in activities nearby. For example, in BBIS, there is an ECA called ‘School Without Racism (SWR)’ and it is a grassroots project initiated and coordinated by young students themselves, in which the population of a school votes to position itself actively against racism. When at least 60% of the student population has signed the “declaration against racism” or “the Call”, the school receives SWR status.

Therefore, regarding this issue, we will visit different homerooms around the school soon and project a presentation to the students so we can collect signatures. Please be attentive and cooperative, and do your best to contribute to ending racism around you, and raising awareness about racism in the range of your school!



- School Without Racism -





# Review of La La Land- (Beware of Spoilers!)

- by Helen Kim



I went to watch the movie without expecting anything because the trailer didn't excite me too much. To my surprise, the opening of the movie interested me enough to keep watching. The bright, beautiful colors, dancing, and musical-like singing truly made the movie a lot more exciting and fun to watch. However, some scenes of the movie - for example, the singing and dancing moments between Sebastian and Mia, the two main characters - were quite cliché. It seemed like they were trying too hard to create a 'magical' theme. While the storyline was relatively realistic, a few moments were too 'Disney-like'- for example, when they were floating in the air. As Felix Vasquez Jr. from Cinema Craze has critiqued, *'The cinematography and special effects are fantastic, but don't actually compensate for a weak storyline, and forgettable musical numbers.'*

This brings me to discuss the music of the movie. Even though I was somewhat satisfied with the opening music; probably due to the support of the bright colors and dancing, the other songs, especially the ones sung by Sebastian and Mia, weren't all that memorable. Their theme song became way too repetitive until the ending scene, where it managed to improve and become more enlightening, mainly due to the 'happy', alternate storyline that was playing with it. Personally, I prefer their duet *'City of Stars'* because there weren't any special effects, fancy clothes, or dancing when they performed it, but there was still natural chemistry between Sebastian and Mia.

Finally, the ending is what truly impacted my thoughts on the movie overall. To be honest, right after watching the ending, I was angry. I felt like the whole storyline and the emotional scenes of the movie tricked me. It almost brought me to conclude that I hated the movie, but then I realised that even though the music and performances were very fantasy-like, the storyline was realistic all along, even for the ending. I realised that no matter how cliché this may sound, the storyline had the message *'Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened.'* I was so lost in the magic and colors of the movie that I didn't think about the realistic events and endings, but the 'happily ever after' endings. As Alejandro Alemán from El Universal has critiqued, *'Under the inherent optimism of musicals, La La Land hides a melancholic flow that will inevitably captivate the audience.'*

In conclusion, while La La Land may not satisfy you during, or momentarily after, watching the film, the storyline and cinematography of it leaves a pleasant but blue aftershock that has you thinking about not just the film itself, but also the realism of life.

# Review of *Lemony Snicket's "A Series of Unfortunate Events"*

- by Nathaniel Beardsley

Netflix's new show, *A Series of Unfortunate Events*, starring Neil Patrick Harris, has been named one of the most binge-watched shows of 2017 so far, and has gotten great reviews across the board. As I've been a fan of the book series for about as long as I can remember, watched the entire 8-episode season, caught all the Easter eggs, and am fervently awaiting season 2.

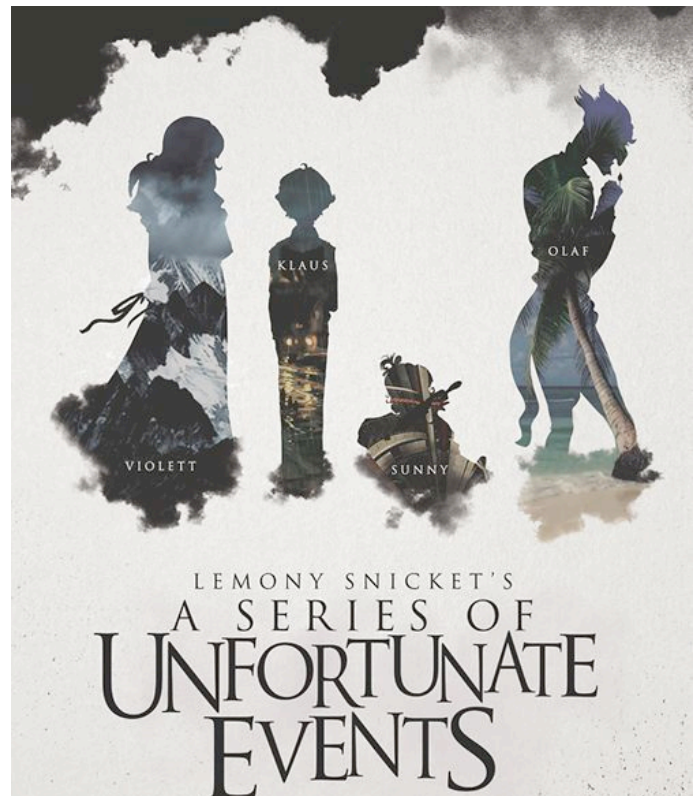
The show is strange, that's for sure. The theme song playing at the beginning begs viewers to "Look away," but that's precisely what makes many unable to do so. The bizarre, steam-punk-gothic atmosphere of the sets is beautiful to look at, and the dry, monotonous voice of the narrator, portrayed by Patrick Warburton, immediately perks your interest.

Many may be aware that *A Series of Unfortunate Events* has been adapted for screen before, with a movie starring Jim Carrey having come out some years ago. But most fans of the books argue that this didn't quite live up to the books. This show, on the other hand, certainly does. In many places, the dialogue is exactly quotable, and it's clear that the actors have read the books and know the characters they are portraying. One of the reasons for this is that Daniel Handler, the author of the book series, is an executive producer of the show,

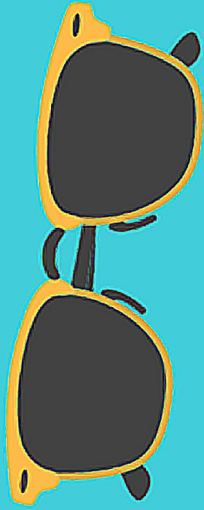
having been kicked off the original movie.

That is not to say that the show is perfect. The use of CGI is heavy in places, which can be quite frustrating, and the soundtrack is nowhere near as good as the original movie. There is one scene in particular, in episode 6, where the music makes it sound as if the characters are at a circus rather than trying to escape a house about to fall off a cliff. But these problems are almost negligible for most of the show, as the richness of the sets and dialogue are an absolute delight. It seems that in every frame there are things to discover in the background, and the characters often make quick statements with references only true book fans would understand.

Overall, the series is definitely worth watching, especially if you are a fan of the strange, witty humor present in the book series. I wouldn't personally recommend binge-watching, simply because it'd be hard to take everything in in such a manner, but nonetheless, as is so common with Netflix shows, not doing so can often be difficult. The plot twist at the end of the season and the explosive finale will leave viewers panting for season 2, which will likely come out next year.







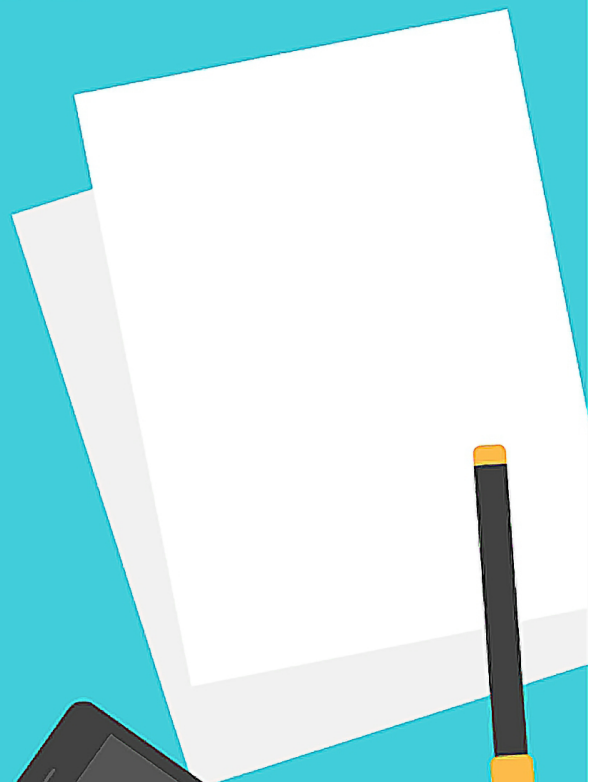
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# **THE PAW PRINT**

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PEOPLE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE IN  
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