The Washington Post

Recently released DVDs

Tuesday, October 5, 2010; 12:00 AM

The following is a list of recently released DVDs. All capsule reviews have been taken from The Washington Post's Weekend section

"The Secret of Kells" (NR, 75 minutes): Now that this winsome, marvelously illustrated folk tale has arrived in domestic theaters, it's easy to see why it dazzled the technicians and artists who nominated it, although it's not nearly as accomplished narratively as it is visually. The story has to do with a young boy named Brendan living in Ireland during the Middle Ages, a time of mystical superstitions and barbarian threats from the north. When Brendan's village is visited by a master book illuminator who carries with him a mysterious, unfinished book, the 12-year-old vows to help him complete the tome, a promise that involves the boy's venturing into a forbidding forest outside the village wall and meeting a beguiling sprite prone to shape-shifting into a white wolf. If filmgoers ultimately feel bogged down in its densely layered fable and allegory, it's a spectacular thicket to get lost in. *Contains fight and battle scenes*.