

MONTAUK LIBRARY STAFF BOOK REVIEWS

Orphan Train Escape by Rachel Wesson

"In the late 1800's, a teenage immigrant orphan living in a crowded, dirty and crime-ridden section of New York City is desperate for help. Of her siblings, she is the most responsible and must make a decision for the family's safety. A frightening incident turns her to an agency for advice and assistance. She is encouraged to become a mail-order bride and to accompany a train full of orphans to be placed with families across the country. In the ORPHAN TRAIN ESCAPE, the author, Rachel Wesson, tells the story of Bridget's trek to Wyoming and her deep compassion for the children and hope for future. There are many tender moments in this easy-to-read book and you'll look forward to a happy ending." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4882196>

The Sheltering Sky by Paul Bowles

"This is a story of three travelers, wealthy couple Kit and Port Mosesby and their friend Tanner. The couple are having problems in their relationship. Port seems to be in an existential crisis while hoping this adventure will help salvage their marriage. The time is the late 1940's. They set off to the deserts of North Africa Looking for civilizations unspoiled by the war. This is an intense scary story, as they travel from remote village to village. The people they meet, the very primitive accommodations, the emptiness and isolation of the sun so hot they need to travel at night. Slowly things begin to unravel. there is adultery, disease, kidnapping The author Paul Bowles is a master at crafting his characters. I thoroughly enjoyed this book. It is a book that is hard to put down." Rosemarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/606440>

f Skinny Dip by Carl Hiaasen

" A light, humorous story combining adventure both on land, water and swamp.

The Author utilizes odd parings of some strange characters, some quite opposite allowing for very interesting events. The story moves quickly and is an easy, fun read, especially in these times. In the end the Author's love of his home state is very evident and enjoyable. " Nancy P. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/52408>

The Berenstain Bears Clean House by Stan & Jan Berenstain

"Berenstain Bears always tell a story with morals. I chose The Berenstain Bears Clean House because my little grandson is having a hard time picking up his toys. I thought maybe him looking at this on the computer with me would help. The illustrations are fun, the storyline cute. He had fun, he thought it was neat that grandma was reading a book to him on Facetime. Of course this required using the laptop and iPad simultaneously so that Christopher could see the book that I was reading to him at the same time." Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2678819>

Tomorrow's Treasure by Linda Lee Chaikin

"Tomorrow's Treasure is book 1 of a 3 book series called, East of the Sun. I first picked up a book by this author in the early nineties and she was very quickly doted my favorite author. This historical

fiction book takes you from the local Squire to the diamond mines in Africa. It is a combo of mystery, adventure, education, romance and humor all in one. This series is available through Amazon both hard copy & kindle." Kathleen E.

The Boy from the Woods by Harlan Coben

"This mystery-thriller is truly a page-turner filled with complex characters, wild secrets and even an unexpected political spin. If you're new to Harlan Coben's books...this one will turn you into a fan immediately!" Denise D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4884515>

Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbach

"Explains how a foster child who changes the world of herself and others by the language of flowers. In the flower shop where she works, she explains how each type of flower describes our hearts and souls. The characters stay with you all the way. Very moving, well written book!" Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/537243>

Why Don't Woodpeckers Get Headaches? by Mike O'Connor.

"After answering questions on birding at his Bird Watcher's General Store & writing a weekly newspaper column on birding, the answers were then compiled into this book in Q&A form. His bird knowledge is spot on and his answers are entertaining. An enjoyable read for bird lovers." Kathleen E. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/481654>

Dog's Purpose by W. Bruce Cameron

"A very inspiring story from a dog's point of view, of love and adventure over a number of canine lifetimes. Mixed with both joy and sadness it shows that devotion and love can cover time and a multitude of conditions. The dog's view of life is very on point and is a rewarding story to read." Nancy P. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3091142>

109 East Palace by Jennet Conant

"It is also the address of a nondescript building in Santa Fe, New Mexico, that is the checkpoint for all the people enlisted to work on a top secret project. They are directed to a barren mesa where a hastily built town is being constructed. Under the direction of Robert Oppenheimer, brilliant physicists, scientists, technicians, military personnel and their families arrive to live and work in Los Alamos to research and develop what they call "the gadget." For over two years, surrounded by barbed wire and armed guards, they strove to achieve their goal - the atomic bomb." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/search?query=109%20East%20Palace>

Collared by David Rosenfelt

"I picked the book because of the picture on the front is of two dogs, one having a leash in his mouth of the other smaller dog. It is not at all what I expected. Surprisingly good murder/mystery. Andy is a semi-retired lawyer whose passion is running the Tara Foundation, a dog rescue organization. One morning, a beautiful dog was just left at the shelter. Upon checking out the dog they find he is micro-chipped. This leads to one of his clients for whom the dog was taken from, her

along with her small, adopted child many years earlier. An unsolved case which has many twists and turns with an unexpected ending. I believe that this book falls into the category: "Don't judge a book by its cover!" Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3082121>

Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan

"This book is an easy read if you are looking for something to relax into, yet at the same time intriguing enough to keep you involved. The time is WW2 Anna Kerrigan is working at the Brooklyn Navy Yard to support the war effort and also her mother and handicapped sister. Her father disappeared a few years ago without a trace. After watching a diving instructor and a group of divers she is determined that she wants to become a diver. She has to prove herself since it is a very dangerous job. She also becomes involved with a nightclub owner who turns out to be a mobster and she later suspects he knows something about her father's disappearance. I enjoyed this book's historical references." Rosemarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3225140>

The Girl who Loved Camellias : The Life and Legend of Marie Duplessis by Julie Kavannah

"Opera lovers take note: here's a truly interesting biography about Marie Duplessis who was so celebrated in her time that her life forms the basis for one of Verdi's best loved operas, La Traviata. Before I read this biography, I had no idea that the magnificent opera was inspired by a real person. The opera does not provide a backstory for this remarkable young woman. In fact, the early years of Marie Duplessis were so awful that it doesn't seem possible that anyone in her situation could have overcome the challenges that fate threw her way. In the biography, the author, Julie Kavanagh, not only traces the transformation of a poor country girl into a glamorous Parisian courtesan but also provides a vivid panorama of French society in the 1840s. At thirteen Marie ran away to Paris where at first she eked out a little money doing hard jobs. But her natural beauty and charm did not go unnoticed and eventually she became one of the most admired courtesans of the 1840s. Thanks to the generosity of her wealthy patrons, she had a fine apartment and other luxuries. With her aristocratic ways, elegant clothes and signature camellias, Marie was the focus of attention whenever she was seen in public. Her seemingly glamorous life and her shocking, tragic death at age 23 from tuberculosis made her a legend and inspired Alexandre Dumas fils' to write The Lady of the Camellias. Dumas adapted his book into a play which, in turn, became the basis of Verdi's La Traviata. It also inspired the 1936 film, Camille, starring Greta Garbo who won an Oscar for Best Actress for her role in the film." Carolyn B.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/search?query=The%20Girl%20Who%20Loved%20Camellias>

A Madness of Sunshine by Nalini Singh

"Set in a remote, coastal New Zealand town, this mystery-thriller will keep you at the edge of your seat as the characters, filled with dark secrets from their past, attempt to work together as they search for a beautiful runner who disappeared on what should have been an ordinary run through the woods. The suspense and romance that develops will keep you glued until the very end." Denise D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4629109>

My Dark Vanessa by Kate Elizabeth Russel

"Coming on the tail of the #MeToo movement, My Dark Vanessa is about a 15 year old girl and her English teacher. This book deals with very complex issues of consent, grooming and victimhood. The narration, alternating between teenage and adult Vanessa, shows the lasting effects of abuse and the life struggles the main character endures, due in part to holding herself falsely accountable. The subject matter, combined with Vanessa being unable to see her abuse as anything other than an ill-fated romantic love affair, makes this a difficult read." Lonna T.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4704008>

The Guest Room by Chris Bohjalian

“This story revolves around a bachelor party Richard Chapman throws for his younger brother Philip at his home. The brother and his friends hire some strippers as entertainment. The girls have two Russian bodyguards. Things quickly get out of hand Richard finds himself alone with one of the girls in the Guest Room. He resists however not that it does him any good. Things happen quickly. The drunken men are getting out of hand. The strippers stabbing their bodyguards and running away. His wife leaves him. He can't stay in his home because it's a crime scene. He is on leave from his job. You get to know about the life of the women involved. They are running from the police and the Russian mob. This book is tense and moves along quickly for the most part as well as sad lives of the young victims of human trafficking. It was a good read.” Rosemarie R.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2276214>

LAST LIGHT by Terri Blackstock

“A catastrophic event took place. Was it possibly an EMP, an electromagnetic pulse that knocked out all electricity and everything with a computer in it? This story took you through how one family learned to deal with a new world, their old one completely changed. Cars died in the streets, planes fell out of the sky, modern conveniences no longer existed, and if that was not enough there was a murderer loose in their small neighborhood. The worst and the best came out of people. Hard to put down this book.” Kathleen E. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/80313>

Lady Clementine by Marie Benedict

“If you like historical fiction, Marie Benedict writes of famous women. LADY CLEMENTINE is the story of the wife of Winston Churchill. “Clemmie”, as her husband called her, was a loyal and devoted wife who supported him in their personal and private lives. But more than that, she was his staunch confidant throughout this political life. Although she had insecurities in parenting and occasional bouts of depression, she encouraged her husband in everything he undertook to become a political leader. When he became Prime Minister of England, she played a vital part in encouraging the people during air raids and nightly bombings during World War II. She was involved in international issues as a representative of her country. She was an ambitious complement to her husband. This book is filled with lots of facts and information and made me want to learn more about the era.” Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5008324>

Death on the D-List by Nancy Grace

“After a threat on her life and the murder of her two friends, a southern violent crimes prosecutor comes to New York to rebuild and forget her old life. Working as an anti crime investigator in the Tv industry is just what she needs to fight back crime and seek justice. While in New York she comes upon the murderer of her friends. Story explains how she deals with him and with the mind of a killer. Very interesting crime novel with cop and courtroom drama.” Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/391563>

The Radium Girls by Kate Moore

"This book is a true story of young women new to the workforce, who were employed as luminous watch-dial painters in the early twentieth century.

These women were oblivious to the health dangers of Radium. They would twirl camel-hair brushes to fine points using their lips and tongues. When they began suffering horrible medical problems did something seem wrong? Even when it became evident that radium was deadly, the employers refused to admit liability.

The story then describes the gruesome effects of radiation exposure on these women's bodies and emotional suffering on their families and friends during medical investigations and court battles. While this book was a sad story and very difficult to put down, the strength and resolve of these women is both heartwarming and inspiring." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3082772>

Chasing Midnight by Randy White

"Meet Doc Ford, a marine biologist on Sanibel Island. After being invited on a luxurious yacht, little did he realize what his outcome would be. He gets hijacked by the Russian mafia. They need his expertise on how to genetically modify fish for their illegal caviar business. The boat sinks and the modified fish get away. The book leaves us with what will happen to the marine environment. Very good underwater suspense novel." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/630769>

NEXT YEAR IN HAVANA by Chanel Cleeton

"In the late 1950's, like many of the wealthy merchants of Cuba and their families, the young daughter of a sugar baron with her family quickly leave their spacious mansion and privileged life in Havana to escape an impending revolution. In exile, the family settles near Miami and Elisa lives with the hopes and dreams of one day going back to her homeland, her former lifestyle and her lover. She is never able to return. Sixty years later, Elisa's granddaughter visits Havana to uncover some family secrets. She finds an updated Old Havana that is a haven for tourists, seeking entertainment and recreation. However, the remainder of the city and most of the island is under strict government controls, crumbling buildings, food rations and income inequality. However, during her stay, she unearths a buried box that reveals the secrets that have been hidden for decades. I found the author's description of Cuba's political and social conditions during both periods and its natural beauty interesting." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3444415>

The Woman in the Window by A.J. Finn

"I initially rejected this book because I read a review that said it was a rip-off of the book "The Woman on the Train". I don't agree. Yes they both deal with drunken women that spy on people but that's about it. The story is about Anna Fox homebound because she is recovering from an accident and also suffering from agoraphobia. It seems she is separated from her husband and daughter but on friendly terms they speak on the phone often. She spends a lot of her time looking out of the

window. She knows her neighbors noting their comings and goings. She takes special interest in a new neighbor moving in. She believes she sees a murder in the house except the person she thinks is murdered shows up at her door. This is a good read, easy and straightforward writing. I usually can guess what's coming as far as mysteries go, but this one has a couple of surprises. I give it a definite thumbs up. Enjoy." Roseamarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3242404>

LESS THAN DEAD by Tim Downs

"This is a crime/thriller book and part of a seven book series about a bug man. A quirky entomologist used his bug studies to help the FBI solve a 200 year old murder case. While a local politician was having grounds excavated for the building of a mall, an old unmarked graveyard got exposed. An apparent serial killer hid an extra body on top of old caskets. Good read, good series." Kathleen E.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/603448>

PERFECT LITTLE CHILDREN by Sophie Hannah.

"Why would Beth think something is strange when she meets her old college roommate and realizes her children are the same age as hers - 12 years old - but these children of her roommate look like 6 yrs old? Why is her roommate avoiding her and disappearing all the time? What is she hiding? Family secrets and tragedies finally bring these women together. Very confusing and hard to follow with too many characters." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4728743>

The Other End of the Line an Inspector Montalbano Mystery by Andrea Camilleri translated by Stephen Sartarelli

"The Other End of the Line is the 24th novels in a spectacularly popular series of 25 detective novels written by Andrea Camilleri. The series began in 2002 with The Shape of Water and ends with The Safety Net, published in English in the winter of 2020. (All are available in Kindle editions.) The 93 year old author who died in the summer of 2019, was a prolific writer and screenwriter who had also been a theatre director. His internationally acclaimed best-selling novels - translated into 32 languages - all feature an eccentric Sicilian chief detective, 'Commissario Montalbano.' His jurisdiction on the beautiful southern coast of Sicily provides readers with an array of characters on one side of the law or the other, philosophical musings on the nature of aging, references to Italian literature particularly Pirandello, and a panoply of Sicilian culinary arts.

As the series developed, the author became increasingly concerned about political and economic issues as they affected Italian society particularly in small cities. In The Other End of the Line, the penultimate novel in the series, Montalbano is fed up by the callous attitude of the authorities towards migrants arriving by the hundreds in the harbor of his town and how lack of resources affect regular police duties. In the midst of this international humanitarian crisis, a local tailor is murdered. Solving her homicide by following fragmentary clues is made even more complicated than usual by situations connected with refugees. Since much of the humor stems from Montalbano's frustration with 'the system' and his resistance to change, Camilleri skillfully manages to make readers think while also making them laugh." Carolyn B.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4528173>

The Love of a Good Woman by Alice Munro

"This is the first book by Alice Monro I've read and it will not be the last. I think I like her writing style as much as the content. She brings her characters to life in a way that makes you feel as though

you really know them or someone just like them. This is a collection of short stories full of rich stories about ordinary people that left me wanting more. When a group of young boys discover the submerged car of the town's optometrist with him still in it they first go home for lunch before telling anybody about it. Ms Munro then crafts a picture of each boy's home life which gives you a picture of who they are and will be. The time frames vary from the fifties to around the nineties the main characters are young old and in between she brings the same intimate feeling to all. I found myself thinking about this book long after I put it down and eager to read more. " Rosemarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/227066>

ORIGIN by Dan Brown

"An eccentric, wealthy futurist is revealing to the world his research and findings on the age old questions: where did we come from and where are we going? In an elaborately staged event at the Guggenheim Museum in Spain, he begins to reveal his theory when he is shot and killed. His Harvard professor and the museum director flee the scene. With many twists and turns involving the Spanish royal family, a clandestine religious organization and conspiracy theories, the two find themselves at the location of the supercomputer holding the futurist's research. With the help of artificial intelligence, they uncover information regarding those two questions - that religion and science can co-exist to find the answers. Some parts of this long book (105 chapters) were very readable and interesting. Some had too much scientific and technological terminology. But I kept on reading just to see how the story ended!" Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2969156>

OPEN SEASON by C. J. BOX

"A story set in the wilds of Wyoming, follows a State Game Warden in the performance of his duties. Our main character has a wife and two young daughters. This story deals with corrupt state officials, greed and cover ups in an attempt to profit while destroying both the environment and endangered species. Filled with twists and turns, the story is a very interesting one dealing not only with the eventual solving of the wrong-doing but informative, concerning not only wildlife, but those who enforce the laws meant to protect them." Nancy P.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/461011>

THE SPICE KING by Elizabeth Camden

"This author has a knack for weaving history into charming and intriguing stories. Before the law required that food industries list the ingredients on their products, some companies were using artificial chemical flavoring to save on cost. These cheaper & easy alternatives were proven fatal to some. Loved this truly captivating story, book II comes out in June." Kathleen E.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4661193>

Damage Control by J.A. Jance

"Joanna Brady, Sheriff in a small town in Arizona gets herself in very suspicious murders, mudslides and rain storms bring down trash bags full of human remains *where did they come from?* Group Homes in the area get rid of their clients. In bizarre ways to better finance themselves, family siblings poison their family to get what they think they deserve. Lots of different characters in this book -not a good read." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/171070>

The Woman in Cabin Ten by Ruth Ware

“This is my third book by Ruth Ware. This was just what I was looking for, something light and interesting. Laura Blacklock works for a travel Magazine. She takes an assignment aboard a private luxury Cruise ship. A few days before she is to leave, someone breaks into her apartment while she is in bed.(very scary part). While on board the ship getting dressed for dinner she realizes she hasn't any mascara. She goes next door and a woman answers she asks to borrow some mascara (never borrow mascara, should be hair spray or anything else).Anyway she gets the mascara. During the night she thinks she hears someone fall overboard and believes she sees someone sink under the water. Of course nobody on board believes her since no one is missing and there is nobody in cabin 10. They canceled at the last minute. Ah ha but she has the mascara, alas that goes missing too. There are various suspects. The wealthy owner of the ship has a very mysterious and reclusive wife. All in all it was an entertaining read if you're looking for distraction.” Rosemarie R.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2526344>

MY DEAR HAMILTON by S. Dray and L. Kamoie

“Eliza Schuyler, from a well-known family and a general's daughter, married a impoverished orphaned immigrant from the West Indies, Alexander Hamilton. This story tells of Eliza's love, faithfulness and support for her husband whose successes included becoming a war hero, lawyer, politician and Secretary of the Treasury, as well as one of the most influential founders of this country. During their marriage journey, Hamilton made many trusted friends as well as bitter enemies one of whom he faced in a duel and was killed. After his death, Eliza spent the rest of her life proving to the public her husband's contributions, accomplishments and legacy. The authors present serious research from historic letters while providing enjoyable reading fictionalizing Elisa's life as a daughter, sister, wife and mother.” Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3302187>

The First Conspiracy: The Secret Plot to Kill George Washington by Brad Meltzer and Josh Mensch

“THE FIRST CONSPIRACY is a well-researched book about a secret plot to assassinate George Washington and how it ALMOST happened. Washington's dignity and leadership counted heavily in the ultimate success of the Revolutionary War, despite all the obstacles, danger and double-dealing. Washington was not assassinated, but readers will still find it fascinating to learn how conspiracies, secret missions and espionage took place in the 18th Century. As an NPR reviewer observed, this was “the foiled conspiracy that, had it succeeded, might have killed the American dream before it even began.” In this tale of leaders and losers, we see how difficult it must have been for Washington to *be* the person in charge and how close America came to losing the Revolutionary War. Bestselling author Brad Meltzer teamed up with American history writer and documentary television producer, Josh Mensch, to unravel the true story behind something that most of us never learned in school: an elaborate plot to kill George Washington. Though the book is quite long, the writing style is clear, concise and entertaining and the co-authors skillfully trace how George Washington led his hard-scrapple, underfed, underpaid, under-equipped troops to victory over the most powerful military force in the world.” Carolyn B.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3980793>

I Know This Much is True by Wally Lamb

"I don't really believe in rereading books. I firmly believe in the saying "so many books, so little time". I particularly don't reread 928 page books. But I loved "I Know This Much is True" in 1998 when it came out. HBO was coming out with a mini series. It was a hard decision. Having to stay in my home made up my mind. It was like found time with nothing to do but read. I'm a slow reader so it took me a few weeks to get it done. But I loved it even more on the second read and felt it was time well spent.

It is about twin brothers growing up with a single mother in Connecticut in the 50's and 60's. After going off to college, one of the twins is diagnosed with Schizophrenia. The book deals with the idea of being a twin and truly being your brothers' keeper. This story of multiple generations of his dysfunctional family is full of secrets, heartache and mystery. This book is a truly satisfying read."

Sally K. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/22916>

STILL LIFE by Louise Penny

"Still Life is the first book in the Louise Penny series about Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Surete du Quebec and his team, who are called in to investigate a suspicious death in the small village of Three Pines, located South of Montreal. People who reside in Three Pines are a very interesting mix of likable characters, including a Poet, Book store owner, Artists and a gay couple who run a B&B/Bistro. After a series of investigations which have some twists and turns, a path slowly leads to the guilty party. I found this book to be an enjoyable read and left me waiting for the next in the series." Nancy P. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/513688>

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver

"This book was the April Book Group choice for the Montauk Library Book Group. Nine of us got together to discuss it via Zoom. I really loved the book "The Poisonwood Bible" by Barbara Kingsolver that came out in 1998 and was glad to have an opportunity to read another book by the author. This book did not disappoint. She is a wonderful writer who really draws you into her world and gives you characters that are not stereotypical. The heroine is a restless farm wife who gave up her own dreams when she became pregnant at seventeen. After 10 years of a disappointing marriage and 2 children, the unprecedented arrival of Monarch Butterflies on nearby property changes her life by bringing scientists into her community and tempting her to seek the life she always wanted. An underlying theme in this book is how nature is being perverted by global warming and man's disregard for the environment." Sally K.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/1042563>

A LONG PETAL OF THE SEA by Isabel Allende

"This is the story of two people who find themselves in the midst of turmoil when Franco and his Fascists regime take over Spain in the late 1930's. Since they are forced to flee their homeland, they travel a precarious journey across the Pyrenees Mountains into France. He is a doctor and she is pregnant with the child of his dead brother. In the confusion of being held as unwanted refugees in a concentration camp, they marry in order to be eligible to get on a ship that will take 2,000 of these desperate people to Chile. They always hope to return to Spain and to their family, their culture and their country. They begin a life in their new country - Victor, as a well respected doctor and Roser, as

a talented pianist. Political consequences strike them again under a right-wing government in Chile and they are forced once again to flee. Through all the tests of survival and endurance, they find love for each other and return to their "new country" and life in the land now called home, Chile, *The Long Petal of the Sea.*" Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4857373>

The Backyard Homestead Book of Building Projects

"This is a How-To book with character. The Backyard Homestead is easy to follow; anyone who can read can do it kind of book. It was an especially nice book as some of the real homesteaders had written excerpts on what projects they undertook and what failed and how they finally ended with something that works. They also had little stories about their family and pets and how these different projects helped them on their homesteads. The book includes pictures and a complete pattern for each item on how to construct whatever you may want to build for your yard. Containing complete shopping lists on all of the parts, the kinds of materials (different lumber, screws, etc.) that would be best. Their instructions on which tools to use, like how to use the circular saw and why that is better than a jigsaw for some projects is helpful if you aren't tool savvy. They also give a reason why these particular materials work the best as through their stories of their trial and error. They have taken the time to show you step by step through laymen's terms to complete your project. The assembly instructions for each project are well laid out and easy to follow. This is also how to make your home more self-sufficient. The graphics are simple. The ideas send a light bulb effect into your brain. You end up thinking, oh wow that's how it's done and why. At the end of the book the authors have provided the reader with many pages of resources' names, books, emails, phone numbers, websites to visit to further your information. Reading this on **Livebrary** is fantastic as you get to read through this particular kind of book before you purchase it for your do it yourself library." Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/1634844>

I don't know what that line is there!

CHATEAU OF ECHOES by Siri Mitchell

"I purchased this kindle book because I liked the title (...it did not disappoint!) I enjoyed everything about the chateau, from the antique decor to the hidden secrets of its past, and the menus posting its daily French cuisine. As the story unfolded, journals from the fifteenth century were discovered on the land. Employing these as a means of creating local history, the author paralleled stories from the past with situations the present owner faced in her dealings with a guest who was a well-known author and was there to write a book about the chateau's history. A fun and captivating read!" Kathleen E.

THE SOCIALITE by J'nell Ciesielski

"In order to escape the strict rules of her domineering father, one of the sisters of a privileged English family flees to Nazi-occupied Paris. Her life in Paris is filled with opulence and luxury because of her involvement with a Nazi major. Her dutiful and obedient sister searches for her in

Paris. While there, Kat meets a man who owns a bar patronized by many of the German soldiers. The bar is a cover for his work in training Resistance fighters but Barrett, the owner, has also been hired by the sisters' father to return them home safely. There are many details of elaborate parties and propaganda events in Paris, going to Germany associating with high-ranking officials and even dinner with Hitler. Soon the willful daughter realizes she's been betrayed and is convinced to go home. Their desperate escape from the watchful eyes of Nazi guards to the French countryside and the help of the villagers is filled with tension. There are many threatening twists and turns in this book which makes it exciting and page-turning. Finally, when the trio arrives in England, life becomes serene and leads to a happy ending." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4815170>

THE CITIES BOOK published by Lonely Planet

"This is much more than a travel guidebook. It is an alphabetical listing of 200 cities throughout the world from Abu Dhabi to Zanzibar. Under each listing is a description of the location, some historical facts, the people, best time to visit, and a good deal of additional information such as its traditional food and drinks, plus the best and worst of the city. There is even a section called "How to Spend a Perfect Day". You might be interested in visiting Victoria Falls in Livingstone; a Starbucks in Chiang Mai; Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima; or, outdoor storytellers and snake charmers in Marrakesh. You will find cities you have been to, cities you would like to visit and cities you only dream about. In the wishful-thinking category, my favorite city is Valetta, the capital of Malta, an island country with nine World Heritage Sites. During this period of #STAYHOME, reading from this book was a great diversion and a needed temporary escape." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3617973>

Need To Know by Karen Cleveland

"This was a great read. I was completely involved beginning to end. It's a story about a woman who works for the CIA. She is married to the love of her life. He is the perfect husband and father. Except for money flow issues. Except one of their children has health and developmental issues. They have a perfect life. She makes a desperate mistake trying to preserve their family. A mistake that could put the country in danger. Her world spirals down as she tries to cover her mistake. Her husband isn't who she thought he was. The Russians threaten her child. It's a gripping story well written I'm sure you will enjoy. Also, the author is a former CIA analyst." Rosemarie R.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3368978>

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES (1908) by L. M. Montgomery

"Probably the least likely candidate for international acclaim has to be L. M. Montgomery's ANNE OF GREEN GABLES (1908). In one of the first book reviews of *Anne of Green Gables*, the reviewer rejected the idea that someday Anne Shirley would live on in sequels based on her character: "Having sown her wild oats, 'the Anne-girl' could never be so attractive as the little witch, half imp, half angel, whose mental and spiritual growth is vividly set forth in these genial pages." (The

Spectator, March 13 1909). In fact, *Anne of Green Gables* is a book that generations of readers have loved and passed on to their children and grandchildren. The first novel was followed by seven other sequels in what is known as the Avonlea Series. There have been dozens of translations and millions of copies sold, even a graphic novel. Readership was expanded by numerous film adaptations, the first of which was a silent film written by Oscar-winning screenwriter Frances Marion (b.1888 -d.1973).

Anne of Green Gables is a story about a red-headed, freckle-faced, high-energy, opinionated girl who often feels out of place. She's feisty and tough, but apologizes when she does or says the wrong thing. This makes her someone readers can identify with, like Louisa May Alcott's Jo of *Little Women* or Lois Lowry's *Anastasia Krupnick*. One of the most important aspects of the book is the author's depiction of the simplicity of life on Prince Edward Island at that time. Reading *Anne of Green Gables* allows us to step away from our stressful times into a tranquil world. The tranquility of life in rural Canada is in sharp contrast with Anne's inability to fit the mold of proper female behavior. She is tough and resilient, having been raised in an orphanage where rules of etiquette don't work for her. She was sent by mistake from the orphanage to the elderly Cuthbert siblings who needed a boy to help them with their farm. So it's no wonder that everything starts off on the wrong foot. But the Cuthberts treat her with kindness, and so the more Anne interacts with them, the more she mellows." Carolyn B. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/342804>

MASKED PREY by John Sanford

"Lucas Davenport, Federal Marshall, is the latest book in John Sandford's Prey series. The story points out how those on the fringes of normal can so easily be led into violent unspeakable acts and their attempts to direct attention away from their deeds. Only through exhaustive investigation by Davenport and his team, along with a few false leads, can the case be solved. Looking forward to the next book in the series." Nancy P. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4896520>

Body Line by Cynthia Eagles

"When two medical doctors from England get together at a conference, they decide there are better ways to make money than just being family doctors. They get involved with the Middle Eastern countries to do importation of human organs to their wealthy clients, who will pay anything for a healthy organ. People get suspicious at the hospital and they seem to get eliminated all at once. English authorities get involved and bring the two doctors to justice. Very slow moving book." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/593948>

TWO FROM THE HEART by James Patterson and co-authors.

There are two novellas in this book. "TELL ME YOUR STORY" is about a women photographer whose cottage on the beach is destroyed by a hurricane. In desperation and despair, she takes a road trip to collect stories of people from her past and others she meets along the way with the intention of publishing them in a book. Happily, she succeeds with a gallery opening displaying her photographs, sales of her published book and the appearance of someone she never imagined she would see again.

In "WRITE ME A LIFE" a billionaire businessman and tech wizard, who works 24/7 and has no relatives nor friends, hires a mediocre author to create a life for him. The wealthy executive finds himself in a remote town in the desert called Nada. As the author writes, a skilled tech team makes his words a reality. Friendships and relationships are made as he experiences ordinary everyday

events and his life is transformed. This is an enjoyable easy-to-read book waiting for a day at the beach. It is definitely not a typical Patterson thriller.” Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2952536>

A MOSAIC OF WINGS, by Kimberly Duffy “This is a story of a father who poured a wealth of knowledge into his daughter, training her in the field of entomology. Later, she achieved greatness through her college studies, earning top-of-the-class status. When an opportunity arose for a six month, field trip to India, her professor chose a male rival and herself for the position(s). This enjoyable book, left you wanting more!” Kathleen E.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5294449>

THE WONDERS OF SOLITUDE, edited by Dale Salwak, distinguished philosophers, poets, authors and many others share their thoughts on being alone. “During the past few months, many people have been isolated and secluded feeling downhearted and lonesome. Here are a few examples: “A certain amount of quiet alone time, whether it is spent meditating, exercising, reading, listening to music, or being creative is, I think, essential for the mental health of most human beings.” (B. Powell, psychologist);

“I lived once in the American desert. The solitude opens up. It becomes an enormous surrounding comfort.” (V. Gornick, professor);

“When I begin to sit with the dawn in solitude, I begin to really live. It makes me treasure every single moment of life.” (G. Vanderbilt, fashion designer):

“What a lovely surprise to finally discover how unlonely being alone can be.” (Ellen Burstyn, actress);

and my favorite, “Of all the gifts of a place by the sea, perhaps the greatest is “the gift of solitude.” (Anonymous). There are many more quotes and short essays in this book. You might find some uplifting and inspiring.” Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/712216>

Treason by Stuart Woods

“Domestic and foreign intrigue novel. English author impersonates himself as a Russian mole to get insider information about the FBI. Captains with their own planes get involved with women pilots (who are also traitors to their government). A lot of confidential information is leaked out by people you thought you could trust. Little slow moving book.” Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4680948>

Past Perfect by Danielle Steel

“A family from New York moves to California to start up a financial company. They buy an old house that’s been vacant for 100 yrs - or so they thought. They realize that the people who lived there are still there - their spirits are still around. This family is trapped in a time zone with these spirits and ghosts. They actually dine with them and think they’re real and share their family stories together.

Poorly written story- guess it's ok if you believe in ghosts and spirits." Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3295699>

Blackberry Winter by Sarah Jio

"Little Daniel gets lost in a snowstorm, or does he? His mother works in a fancy hotel and meets very well to-do people. Gets pregnant with a rich socialite - except this man's family doesn't want her kind in their family. One of the members of the family kidnaps little Daniel and raises him as her own. Years later we find that Daniel is still alive and the truth comes out- thanks to a very competent police force." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/899649>

CARNEGIE'S MAID by Marie Benedict

"Clara Kelley falsely assumed the identity of a trained ladies maid who died during a voyage of Irish immigrants to America. It was her good fortune to be hired as the personal maid to Margaret, mother of Andrew Carnegie, one of the wealthiest men of his time. She developed a relationship with Andrew and although she had no formal education, she gave him clever and intelligent suggestions concerning his business dealings, always reminding him of the plight of the poor and indigent immigrants who were uneducated. What began as a casual relationship in the shadows of the mansion, their bond deepened. When it was noticed by his mother who strongly objected because of their class differences, Clara was fired. Andrew searched but was unable to find her. Since he was greatly influenced by her concern for the poor, his focus changed from amassing great wealth to becoming a philanthropist by establishing free public libraries and other educational institutions. The author is a writer of historical fiction and the book was informative as well as enjoyable." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3531689>

Sarah's Child by Linda Howard

"In the book Sarah's child, Sarah wanted not much in the world , but the white picket fence, loving husband, children and just to be happy. This didn't happen as Sarah fell in love with the wrong man, her best friend's husband and she could not choose between the two so she didn't. She stayed far away. An accident then takes her best friend and her children, they died horribly. Along comes her friend's husband all alone reaching out for her still in mourning. He's trying to close up and sell his house and some of his late wife's things he wants to give to Sarah. The sparks are there but..... This book was a light easy read that gave hope." Jane D.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3088116>

Prince Lestat and the Realms of Atlantis

"The Realms of Atlantis. I like Anne Rice's books. Follow Prince Lestat, the undead prince. The Prince travels all over the globe -- every book is a different adventure. Tales of old- the undead leading lives of passion. Souls when they're not supposed to be. Drama, hate, fear, and love from the Prince who has, in his power, the ability to kill you or to bring you to his side for eternity." Jane D.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2882723>

The Eleventh Victim by Nancy Greene

"A psychopathic serial killer of prostitutes is on the loose in Atlantic, Georgia. When interviewing a pole dancer, they finally get the evidence they need to bring him to trial but the judges Are too lenient on these cases and there's a lot of pay-offs among judges. A lot of court scenes in this story. Very long and drawn out story." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/249282>

Little Friend by Donna Tartt

"I choose this book after reading Donna Tartt's The Goldfinch. Harriet Cleve Dufresnes is 12 years old and lives with her mother and sister in a small town in Mississippi. Her family is still suffering from the death of her brother Robin who was found hanging from a tree twelve years earlier. Her mother stays in bed most of the time her father has moved out and lives with another woman. She basically is cared for by her Grandmother and aunts. Harriet is a loner except for her friend Hely Hull. She is obsessed with solving her brother's murder. Precocious and headstrong she and Hely are soon way in over their heads. My take on the book is mixed. Tartt is a wonderful writer setting the story with attention to details though it makes for a slow read. However I felt compelled to finish the book. I enjoyed The Goldfinch much better." Rosemarie R.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/647383>

The Art of Keeping Secrets by Patti Henry

"When a wife's husband's plane crashes into the mountains with a woman on board, the wife thinks the worst - infidelity- but here it is not the case. The pilot was trying to help a woman escape from an abusive husband during Hurricane Hugo. This book is about love, families and that there are still good, loyal people in this world." Tina O <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/612993>

Hemingway's The Snows of Kilimanjaro and Other Stories

"This little book is a delightful read. Each story is a gem. I was looking for something new and came upon this little book. Hemingway is the master of the short story. The opening story takes place on a safari gone horribly wrong. The next is about a small cafe with its waiters and an old patron. A small sick boy and his doting father were so very touching I nearly cried. Each story was a varied insight to the human condition. No holds barred no judgment. This book started with a safari and ended with a safari, the last totally shocked me. This particular collection of stories is available as a young adult book. Sometimes it's good to go back to the masters." Rosemarie R.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/18769>

Quietly in Their Sleep by Donna Leon

"A young nun from the nursing home where she works in Venice contacts the local police about strange things that are happening in her facility. Priests and Mother Superior are talking the elderly people into leaving their money to the church and different types of orphanages. A lot of spiritual blackmail is going on in this novel. Guess you can talk people into anything if you have the right technique!" Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/1271944>

SOLD ON A MONDAY by Kristina McMorris

"When a cub newspaper reporter's photograph of a sign reading "2 CHILDREN FOR SALE" was published, readers sent donations to help the impoverished family. The reporter, Ellis Reed, tried to bring the money to them but found the family had disappeared. He and a former co-worker, Lillian, attempted to discover the whereabouts of the little brother and sister as well as their mother. The pair found that a rich banker purchased the children and that their sick mother was in an institution. They devoted a great deal of time investigating the situation in order to reunite the family. There are many surprises involved in the search, including jail time, illegal entry and some intimidating and frightening occurrences. In the words of one of the characters, "more loops and

turns than the Cyclone on Coney Island." This book is sometimes sad, sometimes exciting, while giving some insight to the struggles of so many lives during the Great Depression." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4067121>

The Drowned Boy by Karin Foss

"After giving birth to a child with Down's Syndrome, the mother can't handle it - she's afraid of what her friends would think. This 16 month child is found in a nearby pond- mother claims he must have ran outside by himself - police don't think so. The mother claims she has epilepsy and sometimes forgets things and blacks out. This woman is very smart and manipulated everybody - but of course there's one piece of evidence she forgot about. The ending is a twister, but a sad story." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2028560>

Dead Run by Erica Spindler

"This book takes place in Florida during the 1960's. We find a very strange story involving teenagers trying to find themselves by joining cults and spiritual evil doings. The New Testament Pastor and the local authorities are behind everything. Very evil, spooky story." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/205166>

Effective Procedures by Merry Jones

"Jen and her friend go to Mexico to have cosmetic surgery done. The Surgeon has a beautiful wife who was involved in a terrible car accident which left her deformed terribly. Now with the surgeon's clients, he tries to make them look like his wife which never works. Not much of a story here."

Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3439900>

THE ATOMIC WEIGHT OF LOVE by Elizabeth J. Church

"A young student at the University of Chicago falls in love with a professor, moves to Los Alamos where he works on the Manhattan Project and begins an ordinary life. Her education has been put on hold. She struggles with her stalled dreams of becoming an ornithologist and the conventional life she leads. Although she never attains her educational goal, she finds solace in discovering the beauty of her surroundings in the mesas of New Mexico while studying the behavior of crows, drawing and recording their habits and characteristics. In time, she meets a Vietnam veteran who helps her find happiness and fulfillment outside her mundane existence. The underlying theme of this book is the dilemma faced by women to balance their intellectual pursuits with the cultural mores of that period." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2356894>

Burned by Carol Higgins Clark

"There's trouble in paradise as a couple stumbles upon a local Hawaiian news reporter with a missing shell lei that was stolen from the royal family years ago. A lot of stolen items were found in the manager's office of the hotel. Luckily, the shell lei was returned to the museum where it was stolen from." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/65970>

Transgressions by Sarah Dunant

"Elizabeth is a smart independent woman, still trying to get her bearings after a failed relationship of seven years. She and her cat Missy live alone in a beautifully restored Victorian house in London. She works as a translator for a publishing firm and has been burying herself in her work to the concern of her friends. The book is already a best seller, full of sex and violence. One day her favorite CD is missing, then she wakes to find things rearranged. Is it her ex? Is she losing it? more things are moved. She calls the police, has the locks changed. Someone suggests its spirits. She goes to a church to see about an exorcist. She will soon find out it comes in the night. This is a tight well written book that moves right along. Scary and like the book she is working on lots of sex and violence. A good summer read on the beach." Rosemarie R.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/69377>

Iced by Carol Higgins Clark

"Million-dollar paintings have been stolen from wealthy people in Aspen, Colorado. The real art thieves are framing the peoples' caretaker - who has nothing to do with it. The real big heist is scheduled for New Years, but of course that falls thru - thanks to the private investigator who is on the case. Interesting story - easy read." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/155440>

THE NEW GIRL by Daniel Silva

"A young girl is kidnapped from an elite private school in Switzerland. It is thought that she is the daughter of a wealthy businessman. Her father is, however, the crown prince of Saudi Arabia. In order to have her released, he is threatened by the kidnappers to give up his right to the throne as ransom. With the help of a museum curator in New York and former CIA operative, the Chief of Israeli Intelligence is hired to pursue the matter. Gabriel Allon believes that the prince will modernize his country; allow more rights for women; less reliance on an oil economy and curtail radical Islam. He and a team of spies and agents travel from country to country to track down the abductors. This book is very fast paced and brings to light global politics, espionage and intelligence arms of governments. What will stun you is the ending!!!" Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4347676>

HIDDEN VALLEY ROAD: Inside the Mind of an American Family by Robert Kolker

"Hidden Valley Road" is the true account of a family with twelve children, half of them diagnosed with schizophrenia. Sometimes truth is stranger than fiction and this account is so well-written I found it riveting. It tells the story of the family going back a few generations to look at some previous mental illness then follows the parents in what should be an idyllic life on "Hidden Valley Road". The account of the six boys that were ill is only part of the drama. Life for the other six children, particularly the two youngest girls, is a nightmare. As well as telling their story, there is much about the history and treatment of schizophrenia and I learned quite a bit about the research being done." Sally K. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5037972>

The Dutch House by Ann Patchett

"Ann Patchett has been an author I enjoy ever since I read Bel Canto many years ago. Although this is not her best book, she is such a good writer that she carries you merrily along on what is

somewhat of a fairy tale. It is a story about a family and their love for a house. There is a missing mother, a father busy with work, a wicked stepmother and some stepsisters, whose quality remains to be seen. The children who are the main characters win your heart, as do the loyal servants who care for them and see that they grow up loved. In the days of covid19, it was a nice break to read a grown-up fairy tale with a happy ending that is so well crafted." Sally K.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4617767>

Golden in Death by J.D. Robb

"Pediatrician, Dr. Abner, receives a package to his home. As soon as he opens it, toxic airborne fumes envelope him and in minutes he's dead. Now it's time to get the Hazmart team involved. This doctor caused a lot of resentment during his college years while teaching these rich, upper class students. Story was interesting in the beginning, but then it got redundant. A disappointing read." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4681235>

A Reasonable Doubt by Philip Margolin

"Two famous magicians meet up at Las Vegas for the finale of the famous "magic Illusion" show, only to cause trouble among themselves. One starts to reveal the secrets out to the audience, and that causes a lot of rivalry. Loan sharks enter the picture, since these magicians borrowed too much money. One Magician doesn't have to worry who gets the final act, since he winds up dead during one of his acts. Lots of interesting and strange characters in this story. Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4754114>

FIRST FAMILIES by Bonnie Angelo

"This book gives some insight into the personal lives of past presidents and their families. Some of the facts were known to me but so many were not. Did you know that Grover Cleveland at age 49 married his twenty-one year old bride, Frances, in the first and only presidential wedding in the White House; the Bush teenage twins bitterly complained about dating under the surveillance of the Secret Service; Helen Taft planted the first cherry trees around the Tidal Basin, a gift of the Mayor of Tokyo; James Buchanan was a life-long bachelor and never married; Jackie Kennedy worked to preserve the beauty of Lafayette Square as well as restoring the White House; Barbara Bush founded a children's hospital in Maine? There is no order to the subjects described. They are scattered throughout but there are so many bits and pieces of information that are interesting especially since Election Day is only a few months away." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/220652>

The Splendid and the Vile: A Saga of Churchill, Family, and Defiance During the Blitz by Eric Larson

"Winston Churchill From 1940-1941. On his first day as Prime Minister Hitler invaded Holland and Belgium. Churchill was a leader who loved his country and its people. Larson's research gained from diaries as well as news and official papers brings you into the hearts and minds the people. How he helped them cope with daily bombings and the loss of thousands of lives. Also, an inside look at his family. Their everyday lives: funny, surprising and sad. This is a very human story and a thrilling book. I highly recommend it to all." Rosemarie R.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4825577>

MONTAUK by Nicola Harrison.

“This book takes place in Montauk, NY. (A town where I call home) It is the summer of 1938, when an educated, high society woman named Beatrice and her husband stay at the Montauk Manor. The novel involves many places in town that I have heard about and some that I have seen. Bea and her husband have a rocky marriage. He is away most of the weeks, working in the city and she is left to her own devices and in hopes of rekindling their marriage. She was raised more of a country girl and is more at ease with the common worker folk in town than the elite, self-centered snobs that are staying with her in the Manor. There is love, conspiracy, tragedy, and hope in this book.” Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4347896>

The Girl from Widow Hills by Megan Miranda

“Twenty years ago, Arden was rescued from an underground drainage pipe while sleepwalking. It was a miracle she was found alive. Now years later, we find out that her drug-addicted mother, who Arden thought was dead, is very much alive. The mother was the instigator in a made up story to get money from the media to support her habit. Good story in the beginning, but then it fell apart in the end.” Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5042555>

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

“This book has been recommended to me so many times I could not put off reading it any longer. It is the story of two boys, Hassan the son of a servant and Amir the son of a wealthy man. They lived in Kabul, Afghanistan around 1970. The boys are friends until an incident that changes their lives. Governments are changing and it is not safe, Amir and his father come to America. The story is told by Amir and reads like a biography it tells of war and culture differences. But the underlying theme is the character and principles of the boys and the guilt and need for redemption of one. I had the opportunity of listening to this story with my husband, and discussing it as we went along. In the end, while I felt it was a good read story wise it lacked something maybe in translation. If you want a change of pace give this a try.” Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/88383>

The Vanishing by Jayne Ann Krentz.

“Years ago in Fog Lake, an explosion in a cave system released a lot of gases. This caused the people in that little town to hallucinate. The government was sent out to discover that the residents and scientists were doing random experiments in these caves, dealing with paranormal and psychic energy to cure special diseases. Interesting how the author put this together, but I don't believe in all that psychic power.” Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4692591>

COUNTDOWN 1945 by Chris Wallace with Mitch Weiss

“This book is relevant because in August this year, the bombing of Hiroshima, Japan, was commemorated. It was the 75th anniversary of the “event that changed the world.” In this book, the authors chronicle the 116 days leading up to this historic occurrence. They tell of Harry Truman becoming president upon the sudden death of President Roosevelt and that he had no knowledge of the secret project that had been developed over the previous few years. They describe the lives of the scientists who worked on producing the controlled nuclear chain reaction that developed Little Boy, the first atomic bomb; the women who worked to separate uranium isotopes whose jobs were so secret even they did not know what they were working on; Paul Tibbets, who piloted the plane

that dropped the bomb; and, one of the Japanese girls, ten-year old Hideko, who survived the destruction of her city. As the day drew closer to the actual bombing, our country's leaders justified their approval indicating that hundreds of thousands of American soldiers' lives would be saved instead of an all-out invasion of their enemy. In the words of William Laurence, a NY Times reporter at that time, "Never before had so much brain power been focused on a single problem." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5186044>

As Time Goes by Mary Higgins Clark

"News Anchor, Delaney just got a big promotion for her 6 PM segment, but her mind can't comprehend this new assignment, since her main goal is tracking down her birth parents. Very disappointing and boring story." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2565665>

Cover of Night by Linda Howard

"In a small town nestled in the mountains in Trail Stop, Idaho, a young widow and mother of two rambunctious boys, Cate Nightingale, has settled in. She owns and operates a Bed & Breakfast. Quite often she seems to need the help of the town's handyman, a shy and rather dull, Calvin Harris. When a bunch of vicious criminals invade her Inn, demanding the possessions of a guest who vanished days before, Cal proves much bolder than Cate would have ever expected. Cate sees him differently. He doesn't seem so dull after all. While the first attempt gets rid of the criminals, they come back with a vengeance, shutting down the town from the outside world and holds its citizens hostage." Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/85587>

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

"This book is a fascinating read on many levels, the fact that it's true, the painstaking efforts of the newly formed FBI, and the skillful efforts of the author gathering all the information and weaving it into this shocking book. The Osage Indian nation in Oklahoma was very rich after oil was discovered on their land. Then one by one they were killed off. As the death toll reached twenty-four the newly formed FBI was called in. As shocking as the murders were the prejudice towards the American Indians which allowed the murders to go on for so long. This book is totally involving. I highly recommend it." Rosemarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3015073>

Fire by Joseph Finder

"A family owns a large pharmaceutical company that manufactures oxycodone - the daughter wants to stop the company from making these drugs, since they are killing people. She wants her family to set up clinics to help these addicts recover. A lot of clinical trials are involved with other rival drug companies in competition with each other in this novel. Everything is always about making the money. Good story about what goes on around these drug companies." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4704784>

DEATH AT LA FENICE by Donna Leon

"One of the Venetian police commissioners, Guido Brunetti, is assigned to investigate a crime at the opera house. A highly respected musical conductor has been poisoned and found dead. There are numerous suspects and as Guido interviews each one, he obtains more information into the

background of the deceased. He finds that the victim was disliked by many, had a past Nazi involvement and had many personal biases. As a policeman, he has an innate ability to gather information in a casual manner by observing facial expressions and nuances in the responses of those interviewed. The author writes of Brunetti's personal life, telling of his relationship with his successful wife and two typical teenage children, how he enjoys leisure time reading the classics, the food and wine he prefers and how he balances his professional and family life. In addition, I enjoyed the author's description of the city of Venice, its neighborhoods, canals, and residents. This was Donna Leon's first crime novel about Brunetti so if you like this novel, there are over twenty more to read." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/1268244>

Crooked River by Preston & Child

"Why would 12 pairs of green identical sneakers with human feet still in them wash up on Sanibel Island? - because migrants from Mexico were promised if they participated in psycho experiments they would be brought to the United States. These drugs made them do crazy things, like amputating their own feet - of course they felt no pain since they were all doped up - eventually they never made it to the states. Very bizarre, gruesome story." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5294807>

NEXT TO LAST STAND by Craig Johnson

"Craig Johnson's sixteenth novel in the Walt Longmire series does not disappoint. Combine George Custer, The Sioux Nation, The Battle of The Little Big Horn and a swatch of a painting along with a shoe box with a million dollars in hundreds and you have the ingredients for a story that does not fail to grab you.

Into this mix we find faithful friends, Henry Standing Bear, Under Sheriff Victoria Moretti and the inhabitants of the Absoroka County Sheriff's office. When an old pal of Walt's succumbs to a heart attack leaving behind the piece of a painting and a million in cash, the mystery deepens.

Centerpiece is the famous painting by Cassilly Adams, thought to have been destroyed in a fire in 1946 of The Battle Lost by Custer. As things progress it would appear that the field is crowded with a number of people after the same thing. As always, the story moves quickly and the reader will be rewarded with the conclusion." Nancy P. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5273793>

THE BANKER'S WIFE by Cristina Alger

"There is a connection between Annabel, the wife of a banker living in Geneva and Marina, a journalist from New York. Annabel's husband is reported to have been killed in a plane crash. On the same day, Marina's editor and mentor was murdered. Separately, both men had been investigating the actions of a bank holding illicit deposits. The plot of this book is very suspenseful as each woman follows dangerous trails to uncover the cause of the two deadly events. They find illegal money is kept in numbered accounts in Swiss United, a bank whose funds are from corrupt politicians, tax evaders, international criminals, terrorists as well a huge Ponzi scheme. This is a fast-paced book and gives some insight to offshore banking." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3631115>

Honeysuckle Summer by Sherryl Woods

"What an awesome, lighthearted book. In Serenity Falls, Raylene Hammond was back in her hometown safe and living with friends. She is surrounded by the Sweet Magnolias, a cherished

group of women who banded together and stood up for each other. Raylene, now divorced from her abusive husband Paul who is in jail for the time being, has severe agoraphobia. Then, Carter Rollins, a police officer comes into the picture. He is completely smitten with her, but she is very afraid. Is she still in danger from her ex husband? Can she ever get over her fears?" Jane E.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/340959>

The Shop on Blossom Street by Debbie Macomber "Lydia opens up a yarn shop in her town and teaches knitting to the local ladies. These ladies all discuss their lives and troubles among themselves. A lot of these discoveries they find out about each other lead to long-lasting friendships. Very good story - easy reading, nice women's story." Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/131551>

f The Law of Similars by Chris Bonjolian

"This novel centers around a lawyer, a homeopath and the tragic death of one of the homeopath's patients. People go to these people thinking they have a better chance of healing themselves. The problem here is the lawyer that represents the homeopath has feelings for her and has a hard time defending her, since her patients took her remedies, instead of listening to their own doctor and they passed on. As the case goes to trial, the homeopath disappears and leaves the lawyer (her lover) behind and all her friends never to be heard from again. Very strange story." Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/34788>

f The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides "This is a story about a seemingly happy, successful couple Alicia and Gabriel Berenson. She is an artist and he is a photographer. Six years ago Alicia shot her husband five times in the face. Since the murder, she has not spoken another word. Why did she do it? Why can't she speak? Enter Theo Faber a physiotherapist. He is obsessed with helping heal her and finding out why she did it. This is a good story. A well-written psych thriller. Slowly building in intensity. I highly recommend it." Rosemarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3994836>

THE GIVER OF STARS by Jojo Moyes

"There have been many novels written about books, book clubs, bookstores and more but this one is unusual. THE GIVER OF STARS tells the story of five women who were enlisted in a program instituted by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1935 as part of the WPA - Works Projects Administration. Known as the Packhorse Librarians in a small town in eastern Kentucky, they delivered books to the rural poor and illiterate residents in the surrounding area. They went on horseback and on mules traveling on remote and dangerous trails, often under harsh weather conditions. Each of the main characters had her own personal difficulties and challenges but found friendship, companionship and meaning to her life by belonging to this project. Although criticized and demeaned by the locals in town, they were determined to succeed. In the words of Mrs. Roosevelt, "A woman is like a tea bag. You never know how strong she is until she gets in hot water." Marie S.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4570450>

Camino Winds by John Grisham

"The owner of a rare bookstore gets caught up in a devastating hurricane in Florida. He goes around checking on his neighbors and finds out that his friend, a famous book author is found dead outside of his home. A perfect setting for a murder - the hurricane but it wasn't the storm that killed him. This author was writing about Medicare fraud, defense contractors/etc. and someone didn't want

that book published. As always, a little investigation gets the culprit. Interesting read from John Grisham." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5116053>

Silent Night by Mary Higgins Clark

"A young mother from the Midwest comes to NYC with her two little boys to see the Xmas tree and to bring her husband to a good hospital for treatment. While in NYC, mom's wallet gets stolen. Little Brian who is six runs after the culprit. The Saint Christopher medal that his family treasures and Brian's good luck was in that wallet. He has to get it back. He finally catches up with the culprit and everything turns out ok. This is a nice holiday, family story and shows how you have to have courage to do what this little boy did for his family." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/13770>

SINS OF THE FATHER by J. A. Jance

"J. P. Beaumont is a retired Seattle policeman and now a private investigator. One day a past associate approaches him with a baby in his arms. He asks Beau to help him find his daughter who has given birth to a girl but abandoned the baby in the hospital. He wants to have custody of the child but needs the mother's consent to keep the child from foster care. On the path he takes to find the baby's parents, Beau discovers real estate fraud, inheritance wrongdoings and murder. He also discovers something else. A photograph of the missing mother shows a resemblance to his own daughter. So just who is the baby's grandfather? Despite too many details of Seattle highway detours and traffic, this book was entertaining and kept my interest." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4501249>

Choppy Water by Stuart Woods

"This story starts off with an assassin attempt on President-elect Holly Baker. The Secret Service is trying to protect her, but there are people who don't want a woman President. Lot of conspiracy involved in this story. Working on the Presidential campaign is tough, white supremacist groups are ready to take over, but the plant is an FBI officer who figures all this out and the President is saved. Interesting how the campaigns work. Good read." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5231245>

The Flaming Tree by Phyllis Whitney

"While walking along the highland cliffs in Carmel, California, at night with his Mom, a little 6 yr. old boy sees a spooky looking tree with limbs that look like a ghost and he runs away from his Mom, only to fall off the cliff. Mom gets help, but the little one now needs occupational therapy to get his speech back and help him walk again. The family hires Kelly, a therapist who is very helpful, but of course, falls in love with the boy's father. This is an old Gothic novel with a lot of dark family secrets. This is a very old fashion story. You can tell by the author's way of writing it." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3382447>

BIG LAW by Ron Liebman

"A young man who, after working many hours and long days as an associate, was made a junior partner at a prestigious law firm in Manhattan. Large law firms recruit from Ivy League universities, hire hundreds of graduates, have many offices throughout the country and the world. Carney Blake, however, attended a less than top tier law school and comes from a dysfunctional

family. Now as a new partner, he suddenly receives a huge salary and lives an upscale lifestyle in Manhattan, much different from his Hell's Kitchen neighborhood of his youth. His boss assigns him to a class action suit involving an explosion in a chemical plant in India owned by a US company. Before he realizes, Carney becomes involved in an unethical scheme and is criminally charged with fraud. After filing countless motions and pleadings, two of his associates from his former firm who are defending him, his family and friends rally around him during the tense moments waiting for the jury's decision. The suspenseful moment - is Carney GUILTY OR NOT GUILTY?? This book did not have too much legalese in the narrative and gave some insight into the workings of big law firms." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2686200>

Moral Compass by Danielle Steel

"One drunken night at St. Ambrose (an elite private school) could ruin the lives of many scholars- just because your parents are rich and powerful, doesn't mean you can buy yourself or your children out of a tragic accident that occurred on Halloween night. Everyone wants to protect each other. One stupid night ruins all the scholarships and awards these kids were entitled to. The Judge was very lenient on these students since this was their first offense. Just gave them a short sentence just to teach them a lesson. So many lives have been affected and bright futures wasted just by drinking and abusing one of their students." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4837113>

Brazen Virtue by Nora Roberts

"When mystery writer Grace comes to visit her sister, she's in for a shock. Her sister is living in a rundown neighborhood, plus she's fighting a custody case. To make ends meet, she joins Fantasy Inc. and works as a phone sex operator, which leads to disaster, since one of her clients starts to track her down thru his computer. After he finds her, he starts stalking others in that company. You can find anyone by your computer skills. Not much of a story here." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/489924>

NORTH RIVER by Pete Hamill

"Dr. Jim Delaney returned from World War I to his lower West Side neighborhood adjacent to the North River. His wife had disappeared long before and one day his estranged daughter left her three year old son on his doorstep. With no one to attend to the little boy while Jim was practicing his profession, he hired an immigrant Italian women to help with the household. Jim attended to all the sick and ailing people of his community, while dealing with the criminals and local mobs. Rose attempted to create a warm and loving family for the three of them. They always worried if the child's mother would reappear putting an end to their tender moments of happiness. I had read only one of Pete Hamill's books so when I learned that he died in August, 2020, I decided to read another. His detailed depictions of Manhattan's neighborhoods, local needy characters, and the poverty experienced by many during the Great Depression give you a grasp of the misery endured at that time. The author has a talent for telling old New York stories that will hold your interest." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/131852>

Black Water Sound by James Hall

“The Braswell Family has it all, money & power... and they own a computer chip company that deals with electro-magnetic energy that (if they want) they can shut down all power plants and anything else that uses electric current. Until, they lost their son on a marlin fishing trip when the marlin pulled him overboard. Now the family is working on a ray gun that will kill this fish. This tragic story changes the entire family and makes them all evil and dysfunctional- very bizarre story.”
Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/510972>

CHRISTMAS FROM THE HEART by Sheila Roberts

“Pine River is a small town in Washington State where Olivia runs a nonprofit organization called Christmas From the Heart. All during the year she attempts to get as many donations and gifts as possible to share with needy families to make their Christmas holiday merrier and brighter. She has always depended on Guy Hightower who had been a generous donor for many years but this year he refuses to contribute because of budget problems within his own company. She becomes very angry and insulting. One night on his way to his grandmother’s house, his car breaks down and he is stranded. Coincidentally, Olivia is passing by and assists him to a car repair shop. Since the part for his Maserati is not available, he must remain in town for a few days. Because they had never met personally, he soon realizes who Olivia is so does not reveal his true identity. So for the few days he is in town, “Joe” helps with all the town’s traditional holiday events and they spend a great deal of time together. Eventually, they begin to fall in love but Morris who has been in love with “Livia” for many years adds a complication to all their lives. This is a lighthearted story with a happy ending and will bring some cheerfulness into a covid-clouded day.” Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4680824>

The Eye of the World by Robert Jordan

“Ancient mythology but having somewhat of a present and futuristic time. In what is called the Westlands, which are multiple kingdoms of city and states separated by the east with mountain ranges. The west are all made up of deserts. Warriors and farmers making up different clans. In this there are the physical time and people’s destinies all awhile in a parallel universe. Dreams are the only thing that can connect the worlds and only through them can you enter these different worlds. Only the special and gifted people can and are allowed to dream. There is an Aes Sedai, Moiraine, a high priestess all knowing and magical and her Warder, Lan, which is like her right hand man. Also helping along their travels in the town’s Wisdom, Nynaeve Al’Meara, she is in training to become an all knowing AES Sedai. They help three young men flee their home in the Three Rivers from the Trollocs (flesh eating warrior monsters) to a safer place on the other side of the mountain range where they can find safety in a place called Tarvalon. The three young men who are farmers are Rand Al Thor, Martin Cauthen and Perrin Aybara. They are also trying to search out which of these 3 men is the Evil Dragon reborn, which has yet shown itself to its host. The other 2 men are foreseen to be instrumental in ridding the parallel worlds of this evil. But not even the all knowing Aes Sedai knows who it is until they reach their destiny. The small band travels over 3000 miles by foot dodging the Trollocs and trying to stay ahead of them. All the while learning that each one has different “channeling” powers. This is to be the “Last Battle” the Prophecy says, the one where the Evil Dragon is gone forever never to be reincarnated.

This was in audiobook format. Book 2: The Wheel of Time each book has 14 discs 30 hours each book. I sometimes fast forwarded it because it was getting too technical and boring at times. It's a good solid fantasy with the narrator having a voice perfect for this time period." Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/509206>

THE LAST TRIAL by Scott Turow

"Alejandro "Sandy" Stern is an aging but still prominent lawyer. Along with his daughter on his legal team, he accepts a case defending his longtime friend, Kiril Pafko, who is a Nobel Prize winner for his work on developing a cancer drug. Because the drug saved Sandy's life, he feels obligated to defend his friend. However, some of the patients died in the testing of the drug. Upon receiving knowledge of these deaths, Kiril falsified the drug results and sold a large amount of his ownership in the company's stocks. The defendant is charged with insider trading, fraud and murder. As the trial progresses, Sandy uncovers many moral flaws and weaknesses in his client but he is determined to uphold the law, as this may be his final appearance in a courtroom. Although there are many dull details on how drugs are researched and FDA approved, they can be overlooked if you enjoy courtroom drama." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4948223>

A Walk Along The Beach by Debbie Macomber

"A scenic quaint seaside town along the Washington coastline, home to 2 sisters, Willa and Harper Lakely. They are the very opposites of each other but since their mom had died when they were teens and their dad had just lost all hope and ambition they relied heavily on each other. Harper had been a sickly teen almost losing her life and Willa stayed by and nursed her back to the picture of health. Family, or what they have left, of it is everything to these young women. Now as they are getting on with their lives, Willa opened and runs a small coffee shop and bakery whilst Harper is becoming daring. Life has a way of running away from you and to reign it back in sometimes a walk along the beach puts everything back into perspective whether it be what you want it to be or not." Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5043021>

MIST OF MIDNIGHT, by Sandra Byrd

"In this gothic mystery set in 1858, a wealthy family from England with two young children left their comfortable life in Hampshire to become missionaries in India. During a local uprising, the couple was murdered. Their daughter, whose older brother took sick & died, while in India, returned home to Hampshire intending to assume rightful ownership of her late parents estate. However, before her return, an impostor tried to claim ownership of all that was hers. Riddled with twists & turns, it took all of the daughter's amateur sleuthing skills to set things right. I loved this book, it held my interest, start to finish!" Kathleen E. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2142493>

Santa Cruise by Mary Higgins Clark

"Captain Weed of the ship "Royal Mermaid" picks out a group of people who are always donating to different organizations. He sponsors this Free "Santa Cruise" to certain groups and they are thrilled, except there are 2 stow-sways on board. While having a Santa Claus event aboard the ship, these 2 criminals have escaped and they are pretending they are part of the 8 Santa's aboard. The captains nephew set this all up (trying to hide them on board) for a certain price- money. These crazy crooks

are stupid and eventually get caught. - silly story." Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/144030>

THE LOST JEWELS by Kristy Manning

"A goldsmith jeweler in 1660 London keeps his inventory in a box buried beneath his house. The building is destroyed by the Great Fire. Three hundred years later construction workers uncover the cache consisting of hundreds of pieces of jewelry and gems. All those pieces disappear. Living In present day Boston, Kate Kirby, a jewelry historian and writer, is hired by a magazine to research a collection called Cheapside Hoard held in the Museum of London. Kate finds there are similarities between some of the items and sketches belonging to her great grandmother, a poor Irish immigrant who left London abruptly never to return. Kate and a photographer, Marcus Holt, begin their experience traveling to London, India, Sri Lanka, Paris, to determine the origin of this treasure and to research the mining, jewelry trading and designing of this famous treasure. This novel is based on a true story that includes some history, some mystery and some romance - a trifecta!"
Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4896569>

Such a Perfect Wife by Kate White

"Sharon decides to go for a jog in her little town of Lake George like she always does, but this time, she never returns. Crime Writer Bailey gets on the family's case, only to discover the beverage company Sharon's family owns is distributing more than beverages. The reporter discovers that there are always secrets that the town residents are hiding and people are not what they appear to be on the surface. Unfortunately, you never know what your neighbors are involved in. Distribution of drugs are every where, even in a little town like Lake George. " Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4156287>

Tell Me Your Dreams by Sidney Sheldon

"Who are Ashley, Toni and Alette? Do we know? Of course not, since all three of these women are the same person with multiple personalities. The problem is that she is a serial killer. These women blame it on their alto egos that did the killings. She finally agrees to get treatment for her problem - but it takes a while. Interesting concept how people and doctors have to deal with all of these multiple personality problems real people have." Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/347864>

The Guest List by Lucy Foley

"A prestigious wedding takes place off the creepy coast of Ireland, with castles and cemeteries of long gone people. A lot of resentment and jealousies arise among the guests. The guests are jealous of the well to do couple. They always had trouble among the couple during their high school days and now this is a great spooky place to get back at them and pull some spooky tricks which gets out of hand. A lot of strange characters in this novel - bride, groom, wedding party and a body. Very

dark, strange plot to this story. Didn't like the writing and the characters were all strange - hard to follow." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4884323>

SPYING ON THE SOUTH: An Odyssey Across the American Divide by Tony Horwitz

"In *Spying on the South*, Tony Horwitz, an award-winning reporter and author, follows routes taken by Frederick Law Olmsted in the early 1850s down the Ohio and Mississippi Rivers and into Texas and Mexico. Olmsted, a northerner, was a keen observer of nature and his antebellum trip to the South enabled him to study the relationship between man and nature in a region that was foreign to him. In time, he would become the designer of Central Park and other notable sites and this trip would be an important facet of his professional development as a landscape architect. When Olmsted embarked on his arduous trip through the South, he observed not only the natural environment, but also the "peculiar institution" of slavery. (His travel notes were published in Northern newspapers and later took book form as *The Cotton Kingdom: a Traveller's Observations on Cotton and Slavery in the American Slave States*.) Throughout *Spying on the South*, Horwitz frequently quotes Olmsted and expresses admiration for him as both prophet of and counterpoint to what has evolved in the region in subsequent decades. *Spying on the South* is highly recommended for its insightful and often entertaining reporting on the history, economy and values of the communities Olmsted had visited long ago, and for shedding light on misinformation and biases that continue to divide this country in our own day." Dan Elliot
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4281406>

STORIES FROM SUFFRAGETTE CITY Edited by M. J. Rose and Fiona Davis

"This is a collection of fictional short stories by twelve well-known, present day authors about thousands of women who marched in New York City on October, 1915, in support of the 19th Amendment, the constitutional amendment allowing women the right to vote. Up to that point, women were considered second-hand citizens and thought to lack enough intelligence to cast an informed vote. The accounts described women from all paths of life: society ladies, poor immigrants, factory workers and more. One memorable account by Christina Baker Kline tells of a young girl in a line to board the Orphan Train. The matron heading the line is distracted by the exciting sounds of an approaching parade. Kira realizes this is her chance to run away. She picks up a discarded banner which says "VOTES FOR WOMEN" and steps in with the marchers. The implication is that young Kira's life will change from scavenging for food, sleeping on rags and hiding from authorities to the potential of a brighter, better future. This book was interesting and informative and since the centennial of the ratification of the 19th Amendment was noted in August, 2020, it was also relevant." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5186111>

All The Devils Are Here by Louise Penny

"The narrator, Robert Bathurst, is wonderful! What first seems to me romantic setting in Paris, France -- the City of Lights surrounded by museums and art. There you find a little boy named Armand and his godfather, Stephen Horowitz. This young child lost his parents in an accident and he was raised by his grandmother. He spent a great deal of time with his godfather, Stephen Horowitz in Paris. It was a wonderful time filled with strolling through parks and eating ice cream, visiting the patisseries and conversations. Armand's favorite park is Rodin and oddly enough in front of the statues named the Gates of Hell is their favorite bench. His godfather would always say the devils are all here. But young Armand never paid that much attention to his godfather as he was always eager for cream-filled pastries. They visited city of lights every year although they all lived in Montreal, Canada. Stephen was a very big and unassuming presence in financial sector of

the world. People respected him as much as they feared him. They feared him as he would take down the wrong-doers.

This audio book has an air of mystery around the holocaust, Germany and France. Armand grows up to become chief inspector of the Surette de Quebec.

Fast forward to present time when Armand and his wife, their children and grandchildren are all together in Paris. Stephen (now a billionaire) is 93 and still a great presence in the financial world. They are all meeting together for a reunion dinner as Armand's daughter is due to have a baby any day now. They had just recently moved from Montreal to Paris. Armand's son Daniel, has just been appointed to oversee a high security job in Paris.

A crime has been committed against Stephen and he hangs onto life by a thread. It ultimately ends up involving Armand and his family. They must uncover lies and deceptions and find the clues in the past and present as to why this crime has been committed and by whom. They have to stop the ultimate cover up before it happens. There are a lot of influential people standing in their way. The clues are within conversations and places that go back many years." Jane D.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5233416>

The House by Danielle Steel

"An old house in San Francisco has been left to a young attorney who has helped this elderly man with his financial and medical problems. The house is an old mansion - 13 bathrooms! She hires an architect to help her restore this house and make it livable again. This is the young attorney's dream - to restore old houses. She is very courageous on taking on such a big project. By inheriting this wonderful gift, she realizes that there are good people in this world, and it actually changes her life and gives her more confidence in herself by taking on this challenge." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/221863>

THE EXILES by Christina Baker Kline "The Exiles by Christina Baker Kline is about a penal colony during the 19th century known as Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania, today). During that time in Britain, people who were accused of petty crimes were sent to this penal colony by ship on months-long voyages. This story centers on three characters. Evangeline, who, after her well-educated father died and was left with no income, found work as a governess. Attracted to the family's son, she became pregnant, falsely accused of stealing a ring and sentenced to the convict ship. Another of the ship's passengers is Hazel who was charged with the petty crime of stealing a silver spoon. Having knowledge of midwifery and herbs, Hazel assisted passengers with health needs as well as delivering Evangeline's baby. During the trip the two women bonded and protected each other. Also included in the tale is Mathinna, an eight year old Aboriginal girl, who was taken forcibly from her tribe by the colonial English governor. The governor's wife considered Mathinna a "curiosity" to be tamed and civilized, only to abandon her upon returning to England. The little girl ends up in Van Dieman's Land, alone and afraid. The story describes the cruelty and brutality these characters endured including grueling hours of hard work as servants and laborers. The Exiles is a stirring account of survival under barbaric and inhumane conditions, and poignantly depicts the strength and determination of the human spirit." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5167679>

A Walk Along The Beach by Debbie Macomber “This is a very depressing book about a family’s life and two sisters who are very close, until the other sister gets terminally ill, and the one sister leaves her small coffee business and her own life to take care of her sister. Of course, there’s always a little romance involved here, but it doesn’t work out, since the caretaker sister is too much involved in her family, then to think about having a life of her own. Not much of a story here.” Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5043021>

Don’t Look For Me by Wendy Walker

“This is a story about a family coping with grief after a mother accidentally runs over her 6 year old child in their driveway, Mom takes off and leaves the rest of her family, only to run out of gas on a dark lonely road during a storm. A trucker stops and picks her up and then things get interesting. Her family finally tracks her down and everything turns out fine. A lot of twists and turns in this thriller. Really holds your interest. Very well written and spooky at times.” Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5254945>

The A-List by J.A. Jance

“Dr. Ed and his nurse run a fertility clinic in California. To make ends meet, he decides to offer his own sperm and her eggs to their prospective clients. They show these clients the high school yearbook with nice looking candidates to be matched up with the soon to be parents. Everything was running smoothly, until one of the parents saw a young boy who looked exactly like her son and she started investigating this fertility clinic. All the medical records were destroyed back then, but now we have DNA, so now they don’t have a chance of hiding anything. They finally get the doctor and his nurse and they get jail time. Interesting story about what’s involved in infertilization.” Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4265010>

UNDER THE TULIP TREE By Michelle Shocklee

“An unemployed writer, Lorena, is hired by the Federal Writers’ Project under a program established by President Roosevelt during the Great Depression. Her assignment is to interview people who lived during the period of slavery before the Civil War. Among those she interviewed was Frances “Francie” Washington, age 101. As a six-year old daughter of a slave, Francie was beaten by the plantation owner’s wife, was punished for reading a book, taken from her mother, and was sold to clean a warehouse. After the Yankee soldiers arrived in Nashville, she was placed in a “contraband camp”, a place for refugees. She attended to the wounded retreating Confederate soldiers whose families had been slave owners. As she relates her past, many sad memories are recorded by Lorena who forms a bond with the former slave. A deep relationship is established and a surprising connection is discovered between the families of these two women. This is another tale of survival and the will to live under cruel punishments and conditions. It is a meaningful story particularly during February, Black History Month.” Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5318414>

Sunset in St. Tropez by Danielle Steel

“The plot of this story revolves around 3 very close couples who are planning a trip to France for the holidays, when one of the couple’s spouses unexpectedly passes. This changes everything. The friends try to talk the husband into still coming with them to France. He decides on coming, but brings a younger woman with him. His friends don’t approve - they are afraid he’s being used by this young woman. As long as he’s happy, it really doesn’t matter, does it? This story shows how special

friendships heal and change our lives forever.” Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/105270>

All the Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr

“I personally found this book hard to get in to. It was a winner of a Pulitzer Prize and one of the New York Times top ten books. The cover was intriguing. While the narrator was well spoken, I didn’t like how he sounded in telling this story. The story was about a blind French girl, Marie-Laure, and an orphaned German boy, Werner Pfennig. It takes place when the Nazi’s are occupying Paris, and Marie-Laure and her father escape to a citadel by the sea, where she meets Werner.” Jane D.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/1395881>

Give Me Your Heart by Joyce Carol Oates

“This is a collection of short stories billed as mystery and suspense. First let me say the author is a master at what she writes. Her characters are believable and well defined. However I found the stories dark and disheartening. Creepy in a way.

The lead story is about a middle aged woman writing to a lover from her past;(her college professor) prompted by a news article that said he wanted to leave his body to science when he died. She reminds him of their love, his love for her. How he had said his heart belonged to her. Science could have his eyes, his lungs, his liver but his heart belongs to her and you feel she doesn't want to wait.

I can't say I found these stories enjoyable, compelling, but not enjoyable; they all had a feeling of dread about them.” Rosemarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/573582>

The Merman’s Kiss written and narrated by Tamsin Ley

“This book is in the Mates for Monsters series. After the loss of her unborn child, Briana thinks her life as she knows it, is over. It was a wasted journey for her and her husband. She wants to commit suicide. Zantu, is a Merman, at the wrong place in the nick of time. Mythical, mystical, unexpectedly erotic, and cold blooded. Humans to Mer-creatures with secrets.” Jane D.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4686723>

The First Patient by Michael Palmer

“The President of the U. S. Private physician has disappeared and has to be replaced ASAP. What is going on in the White House? The President is slowly being poisoned through his inhaler - making him crazy and slowly killing him and now it’s up to his new physician to follow up on all the tracks to discover who the culprits are. Of course, the Vice President is always next in line. He’s a shady character anyway. Could it actually be him after all? Interesting characters and a lot of political knowledge to learn from this novel of what goes on in government politics.” Tina O.
<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/514226>

The Merman’s Quest written and narrated by Tamsin Ley

“Even Monsters Need a Mate - This book was a light easy story about a Merman, Rubac, trying to escape his curse and a human woman, Madison, nearly colliding together at sea. Madison is on a boat doing research about a hybrid dolphin. As she is looking for this elusive dolphin, she comes across this beautiful, green eyed, mythical creature. While it starts out as a sacrifice to escape a dreadful curse put upon Rubac from his dead mate, a mermaid, it ends up to be extremely steamy!!” Jane D. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/4765925>

Home by Harlan Coben

"10 yrs. ago, 2 wealthy 6 year olds were kidnapped during one of their play-dates and held for ransom. The kidnappers never followed through on their demand. What did these kidnappers want and where were these children all this time? We go back 10 years and find out that one of the little boys found a gun and accidentally shot his friend. The parents of that boy covered this up and moved to London. This was very emotional for both families. This was a very confusing, mixed up story. Sad story how a family can do something like that and try to cover it up and the emotional outcome of the little boy who was involved in this tragic story." Tina O.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2624819>

FORTY AUTUMNS by Nina Willner

"At the end of World War II, the country of Germany was divided into two parts, East and West. The author's extended family lived in East Germany where they were governed by the policies of Russia. From 1949 to 1989 every aspect of their lives was restricted. The people were forbidden to leave the country, conversations were monitored, mail was read, no one could be trusted and their daily existence was surveilled by the secret police. Most people gave up hope as they lived under East Germany's brand of communism. As a young woman, the author's mother, Hanna, attempted to escape several times, finally succeeded and was able to get to the United States. She was always melancholy and saddened when she thought of her parents and many siblings left behind, hoping someday they all would be reunited. Over the years through sporadic communications, she learned of her family's hardships. In this book, along with stories about her family members' struggles of living under a totalitarian regime, the author relates many historical details of these four decades. There are many spy novels about this period in history but the personal recollections in this book were more interesting and thought-provoking." Marie S.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2552640>

The Canterville Ghost by Oscar Wilde

Audiobook narrated by Rupert Degas

"This book started out very formal. An American family buys an ancient mansion in Canterville Chase, Europe. The mansion is said to be haunted by a ghost. This ghost has put many a servant into the asylum from his haunting. This is where new meets old. While the aristocrats were terrified of the Canterville Ghost, the Americans were not. The poor ghost tries and tries to do his haunting properly, complete with real blood, decomposed bodies, etc.. The narrator is hilarious in the way he transposes his voice and the sound effects he adds to the story." Jane D.

<https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/717151>

The Coast to Coast Murders by James Patterson

"Michael and Megan were orphans until psychologists Dr. Bart and Dr. Rose adopted them. These siblings had a very clinical upbringing with these doctors. They experimented on them as lab rats to change their personalities. Michael is the target in this story, but it's not really him - it's his alter ego,

which you can figure out is really his sister Megan. Very strange story to follow. Too much detail going on here that wasn't necessary." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/5208429>

Girls in the Garden

by Lisa Jewell

"This is an entertaining suspense story. Straightforward writing, and clearly defined characters. The story revolves around a private communal garden surrounded by apartment buildings and private homes. Clare and her two preteen daughters have just moved in, after experiencing an as yet to be revealed tragedy. They soon meet Adele and Leo and their three daughters and Leo's father. A small group of young teens Dylan, Tyler and Max also hang out in the park. There is a bench in the park with a plaque dedicated to a young girl who died twenty years ago. An elderly neighbor says it was Tyler's aunt. Not long after, Grace, Clare's daughter is found unconscious in the park. Did someone try to kill her? Is history repeating itself? Plenty of suspects. An easy read perfect for a rainy afternoon." Rosemarie R. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/2461124>

The Breakdown by B. A. Paris

"The story is about a woman having a nervous breakdown after she's driving home in a rain storm and sees a car idling on the road with a person just sitting there. She thinks nothing of it until she hears on the news the next day that they found a body in that vehicle. Afraid if she reports it, the authorities might think she knows something. She starts taking pills and booze to make her forget everything. Then she starts hallucinating to make matters worse. Very emotional, psychological thriller with strange people involved." Tina O. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/3027806>

WHEN LIGHT BREAKS

by Patti Callahan Henry

"A young community volunteer regularly visits a 96-year old woman at an assisted-living facility to provide companionship and conversation. As old as Maeve is, her stories are filled with beautiful descriptions of Ireland, her homeland, some fanciful myths, legends and her young lost love. Kara, the visitor, has a great job, is engaged to a golf pro and is planning her wedding. One day, however, it occurs to Kara that there may be a parallel between Maeve's tale of young love and her own. She once loved Jack deeply who left their hometown abruptly years before. Kara's emotional conflict is should she continue with her current plans to marry or search for Jack. I enjoyed this book with its pleasant details of Ireland particularly during March, the month of things Irish." Marie S. <https://livebrary.overdrive.com/media/258624>

