

Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



February 2010

EXPLORE THE READER'S RESOURCES PAGES ON OUR NEW WEBSITE

The Ridgefield Library's new website has just been launched! As part of our new design, we've expanded the list of resources devoted to helping our patrons in "Finding a Good Book." Access this page by clicking on the Reader's Resources link on the menu bar from any page on the website at www.ridgefieldlibrary.org.

Here are some of the many tools you'll find:

- **Novelist Plus** and **What Do I Read Next?**- Resources for both fiction and non-fiction reading recommendations based on your interests.
- **KDL What's Next** - Looking for the order of books in a series? You'll find it here.
- **Meet the Author** - Find out more about your favorite authors and then check the Library catalog for title availability.
- **Lists of bestsellers and award-winners.**
- **Websites for booklovers** - our staff has compiled some of their favorite websites to keep readers abreast of what's happening in the world of books.
- **Reader's Lists** - copies of the brochures and bookmarks of reading recommendations compiled by our staff are now available online.
- **Resources for Book Clubs** - looking for information on starting a book group or need help selecting a title? You'll find help here along with resources for discussion questions, links to publisher's websites, sources for book reviews, book critiques, and more.

Anything you'd like us to add to our Reader's Resources pages? Contact Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Pawlowski at dlpawl@ridgefieldlibrary.org with your suggestions.

Novelist Plus

This is an easy-to-use database with great books (fiction and nonfiction) selected just for you. You'll find books to help with school projects and books to read for pleasure. There are recommended reading lists and read-alike suggestions tool.



KDL What's Next

Thanks to our friends at the Kent District Library you can find titles of books in series. No more wondering what the title of book four of the Harry Potter series is. Just click on the KDL link; they've done all the work for you. Searches can be made by author, title, or series. What's Next?: Books in Series™ Database of Kent District Library.

What Do I Read Next? (Gale)

Search by author, title, genre, or design a custom search.

Meet the Author

Read interviews with authors and browse a listing of their books.

Websites for Booklovers

Selected internet sites especially for readers.

Readers' Lists - Explore Our Collections

Explore awards lists, find bestsellers or browse a wealth of book lists created by our librarians and organized by subject and genre.

Personalized Reading Recommendations

Take a few minutes to tell us about your reading interests, and we'll send you a list of books we think you'll enjoy.

Sign Up for Bookletters

Readers' lists delivered straight to your inbox.

Fiction News

Read the Ridgefield Library's monthly newsletter for fiction-lovers for more reading ideas.

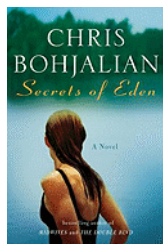
Want a Guided Tour of the Reader's Resources on the Library's New Website?

Join us for our next Books & Breakfast on Monday, March 8th at 10:30 AM in the Dayton Program Room. We'll be featuring a "guided tour" of the new Reader's Resources pages on the Library's website. As always, we'll start out by sharing some of our favorite new books and hearing about yours. Beverages and snacks will be provided.



NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)

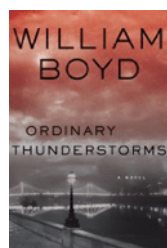


Secrets of Eden by Chris Bohjalian.

From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Midwives* and *The Double Bind* comes a novel of shattered family ties, intimate secrets, and the nature of sacrifice. Few writers can manipulate a plot with Bohjalian's grace and power.--*New York Times Book Review*.

The Wife's Tale by Lori Lansens.

Over the years, disappointment and worry have brought Mary Gooch's life to a standstill. But when her husband disappears, Mary is startled out of her inertia. What she finds out in the world fills her with an inner strength she's never felt before.

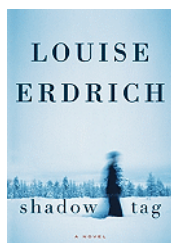


Ordinary Thunderstorms by William Boyd.

Boyd's electric follow-up to his award-winning work *Restless* is a profound and gripping novel about the fragility of social identity, the corruption at the heart of big business, and the secrets hidden in the underbelly of every city.

Shadow Tag by Louise Erdrich.

When Irene America discovers that her husband has been reading her diary, she begins a secret Blue Notebook, as much the truth about her life and her marriage as the Red Diary is a farce. Alternating between these two records, *Shadow Tag* is an eerily gripping novel.



Wild Child by T. C. Boyle.

In the title story, Boyle has created a vivid and original retelling of the story of Victor, the feral boy who was captured running through the forests of Napoleonic France. The tale is a powerful investigation of what it means to be human.

The Three Weissmanns of Westport by Cathleen Schine.

Jane Austen's beloved *Sense and Sensibility* has moved to Westport, Connecticut, in this enchanting modern-day homage to the classic novel.



Point Omega by Don DeLillo.

From one of the country's greatest living writers comes a brief, unnerving, and hard-hitting new novel about a secret war advisor and a young filmmaker.

For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles visit our website at www.ridgfieldlibrary.org

STAFF PICKS

Elise's Picks

Privileges by Jonathan Dee.

Dee's acclaimed fifth novel follows the social and financial ascendancy of a charmed couple. Adam and Cynthia Morey seem to have it all, a devoted if insular marriage, two attractive children, a Manhattan apartment, and a second home in the Hamptons. Adam is clearly a supremely successful provider, a natural deal maker, and the heir apparent to the founder of his hedge fund-until he risks it all on insider trading. This fascinating and timely look at the temptations and perils of the privileged life is an insightful, chilling, and very entertaining read.



The Lieutenant by Kate Grenville.

In 1778, a young Marine lieutenant signs on as an astronomer with the first British fleet sailing to transport prisoners to New South Wales. A shy loner, Daniel Rooke separates himself from the base camp and builds an observatory in the hills to study the southern stars. Here he befriends a group of Aborigines and tries to both understand and transcribe their language. But his talents as a translator come to the attention of the authorities, and he is ordered to join a "punitive mission" sent to avenge an attack on the Governor's gamekeeper. Rooke is forced to choose between his duty as a soldier and the native culture he has come to admire and respect. Written by a noted Australian author and based upon real events and journals, *The Lieutenant* is a lyrical, poignant and ultimately uplifting historical novel.



Dorothy's Picks

Alice I Have Been by Melanie Benjamin.

Alice Liddell Hargreave is widely believed to be the model for Charles Dodgson's (aka Lewis Carroll's) heroine in *Alice in Wonderland*. Told from the imagined perspective of the 80 year-old Alice, this novel recounts the events of her privileged childhood and speculates on how her complicated relationship with Dodgson effected the rest of her life. The author presents a fascinating historical novel and coming-of-age story, exploring the disturbing aspects of the relationship between Dodgson and his young muse.



The Good Soldiers by David Finkel.

I don't often cite non-fiction works in "Fiction News," but this book has haunted me since I read it. In 2007 during the surge in Iraq, Finkel, a *Washington Post* reporter, was embedded with Army Battalion A-216 in Baghdad for 8 months. The average age of the soldiers in the battalion was 19. In compelling prose, Finkel describes the harrowing day-to-day life of these soldiers, and how the experience changed them and altered their views of their role in Iraq. It has deservedly been picked as one of the top non-fiction books of 2009 by multiple publications. Though not an easy book to read, *The Good Soldiers* deserves a place in the canon of classic titles about soldiers and war.

