

# Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



October 2010

## CRIME IN A COLD CLIMATE

Stieg Larsson's Millennium trilogy is an international sensation. Beginning with *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and ending with *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest*, these books continue to be among the most popular titles in The Ridgefield Library. They have broad appeal even to those who don't normally gravitate to crime novels or mysteries. Those who have finished the series are now clamoring for readalikes. The allure of these titles differs for each reader. Some are drawn in by the intriguing protagonist Lisbeth Salander, others by the intricately plotted storylines or by the gritty atmosphere Larsson captures.

The Fiction Room is currently featuring a display we're calling **Crime in a Cold Climate**. Our staff has selected titles and authors for Larsson fans looking for a next read. We've also put together a bookmark featuring mystery and

capture the atmosphere of this northern climate. We hope you'll discover some new authors who provide the same reading pleasure as Larsson's Millennium books.



## UPDATES TO NOVELIST PLUS- AN ONLINE TOOL FOR READING RECOMMENDATIONS

NoveList Plus has always been one of our staff's favorite resources for finding both fiction and non-fiction reading recommendations. Recently, it's gone through some upgrades, and we think it's easier to use and an even more valuable tool. If you've never used NoveList Plus or haven't looked at it recently, we hope you'll give it a try. It can be accessed in the Library or remotely from our website.

Here are some of the features available on NoveList Plus:

- ◆ Search for fiction or non-fiction book recommendations
- ◆ Limit searches for books by age level (children, teens or adults)
- ◆ Search for books by authors, title, subject, genre, or find out the order of titles in a series
- ◆ Refine your search by:
  - ◇ preferred storyline (do you prefer a plot or character driven book?)
  - ◇ pace (fast-paced, relaxed tone, etc.)
  - ◇ tone (upbeat, bleak, moving, heart-warming, etc.)
  - ◇ writing style (engaging, experimental, witty, etc.)

(You'll find a complete list of searchable appeal terms on the NoveList website.)

- ◆ Find lists of award-winners
- ◆ Delve into lists of author readalikes
- ◆ Utilize the in-depth book discussion guides that not only provide background information and discussion questions, but also provide insights on how the questions might be answered.
- ◆ Explore lists of recommended books on a wide range of subjects and topics
- ◆ Once you select a book, click on the link to check the its status in our catalog



You'll find all this in an easy to navigate and visually attractive interface. For more information visit the Reader's Resources page on our website. If you'd like a "guided tour" of NoveList, contact Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Pawlowski at 438-2282 x1003 or email at [dlpawl@ridgefieldlibrary.org](mailto:dlpawl@ridgefieldlibrary.org).

472 Main St., Ridgefield, CT 06877—203/438-2282—[www.ridgefieldlibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org)

# NEW FICTION

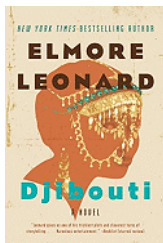
(Annotations from BookLetters)

**A Secret Kept** by Tatiana de Rosnay.  
Already an international bestseller, the latest novel by the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Sarah's Key* plumbs the depths of complex family relationships and the power of a past secret to change everything in the present. By turns thrilling, seductive, and destructive, *A Secret Kept* is the story of a modern family, the invisible ties that hold it together, and the impact it has throughout life.

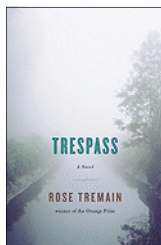


**Djibouti** by Elmore Leonard.  
**BookPage Notable Title**

Dara Barr, a documentary filmmaker, is at the top of her game, but now she's looking for an even bigger challenge. So she and her right-hand-man--a six-foot-six, 72-year-old, African-American man named Xavier--head to Djibouti, on the Horn of Africa, to tackle modern-day pirates. Once they start filming, though, they find more than they bargained for.



**Trespass** by Rose Tremain.  
The celebrated author of *The Road Home* and *Restoration* shares an electrifying novel about disputed territory, sibling love, and devastating revenge.

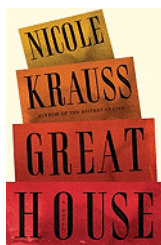


**Nemesis** by Philip Roth.  
**BookPage Notable Title**

In the "stifling heat of equatorial Newark," a terrifying epidemic is raging, threatening the children of the New Jersey city with maiming, paralysis, life-long disability, and even death. This is the startling and surprising theme of Roth's wrenching new book: a wartime polio epidemic in the summer of 1944 and the effect it has on a community and its children.



**The Great House** by Nicole Krauss.  
*Great House* is perhaps best thought of as a series of vignettes centering on four characters whose lives gradually intersect as the novel progresses. Initially the most striking link between these people is a large and imposing desk, which each has owned at some point. This remarkable piece of furniture is the source of both agony and inspiration for each character, acting as an embodiment of sublimated disappointments and desires.



For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit our website at [www.ridgefieldlibrary.org](http://www.ridgefieldlibrary.org)

## STAFF PICKS

### Elise's Picks

**The Blessings of the Animals** by Katrina Kittle.  
Blindsided by the breakup of her 18-year marriage, veterinarian and animal rescuer Cami Anderson has to rally her strength to help her disillusioned teenage daughter and provide for the abandoned and sometimes abused animals she has adopted. Although Cami has a strong circle of friends, they all seem to be living happy and contented lives. Kittle's appealing, insightful novel examines how complicated and fragile relationships are, as ultimately Cami finds solace in both the support she provides her friends and the trust her damaged animals bestow upon her.



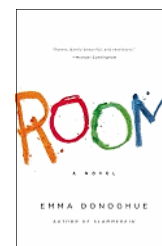
**Faithful Place** by Tana French.

Vividly set in an Irish tenement, Tana French's third Dublin Murder squad mystery is a haunting portrait of one man's struggle to escape his ferocious family. When he was 19 years old two decades earlier, Francis Mackey planned to run away with his girlfriend Rosie Daly, but on the night of their getaway Rosie never showed. Now an undercover detective and totally estranged from his family, Mackey grudgingly returns to his old neighborhood when his youngest sister calls to tell him that Rosie's suitcase has been found buried in the deserted building where they were supposed to rendezvous. In this powerful psychological thriller, author French asks the tough question: "What would you do, and who would you risk to uncover the possibly terrible truth."



### Dorothy's Picks

**Room** by Emma Donoghue.  
Five year old Jack and his Ma are imprisoned in a fortified room in Old Nick's backyard. Ma was kidnapped by Nick when she was 19, and Jack has never been outside their eleven foot square room. Told as Jack's first person narrative, *Room* recounts their imprisonment and the challenges of their subsequent re-entry into the "real" world, which presents a whole new set of challenges for the young boy. While the details make it sound like a ripped-from-the-headlines thriller, *Room* is actually one of most touching, innovative works of fiction to come along in awhile. Both heartbreaking and uplifting, it is the story of a mother trying to provide normalcy for her son under the most unimaginable circumstances.



**How to Be an American Housewife** by Margaret Dilloway.  
Shoku is a Japanese-American who came to the United States after marrying an American soldier stationed in occupied Japan. She has spent decades trying to assimilate and to be accepted in her new home. Now, with a life-threatening heart condition and too weak to travel, she convinces her daughter Sue to journey to Japan to seek out the brother who disowned Shoku when she emigrated. Told from the alternating perspectives of these two memorable characters, this is a charming and insightful exploration of cultural and generational differences. Fans of Amy Tan should consider this debut novel.

