

Fiction News



The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter

August 2010

COMING THIS FALL... RIDGEFIELD READS THE GRAPES OF WRATH

The Ridgefield Library in conjunction with The Ridgefield Playhouse is pleased to present **The Big Read** of John Steinbeck's *The Grapes of Wrath*. We encourage everyone to become involved in some way. To get started just check out a copy of the book at the Library or purchase a copy at **Books on the Common**, which is offering a 20% discount on *The Grapes of Wrath*.

During September and October there will be numerous Big Read events. **The Library will be offering multiple book discussions.** Check our website or stop by the Library in the coming weeks for dates and times and to sign up to participate. Copies of *The Grapes of Wrath* will be available to borrow.

We also are reaching out to local book groups and organizations to sponsor a discussion of The Grapes of Wrath. The Library will provide books and all the support materials you need to facilitate your discussion. If you are interested in hosting an event, please contact Adult Services Librarian Dorothy Pawlowski at 438-2282 x1003 or at dlpawl@ridgefieldlibrary.org.

Other Big Read events this fall include:

- ◆ Concerts
- ◆ Movies
- ◆ Art Exhibits
- ◆ Lectures
- ◆ Special Programs and more!

Check the Library's website for a schedule of all the The Big Read public events.



The Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the Institute of Museum and Library Services and Arts Midwest.

A special thanks to all our 2010 Adult Summer Readers. If you're looking for a reading recommendation, stop by the Fiction Desk or the Reference Desk to read the reviews submitted by your fellow readers.



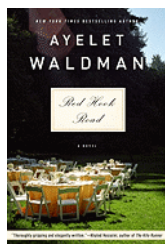
NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)

Red Hook Road by Ayelet Waldman.

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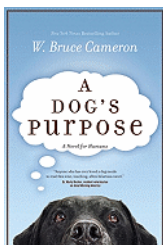
Set on the coast of Maine over the course of four summers, *Red Hook Road* tells the story of two families and of the ways in which their lives are unraveled and stitched together by misfortune, by good intentions and failure, and by love and calamity.



A Dog's Purpose by Cameron W. Bruce.

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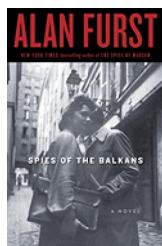
Surprised to find himself reborn as a golden-haired puppy after a tragically short life as a stray mutt, Bailey wonders if he will ever find his purpose, in this beautifully crafted work that teaches that love never dies and that every creature on Earth is born with a purpose.



Spies of the Balkans by Alan Furst.

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As the Nazi invasion threat looms in Greece, a detective undertakes various secret missions in this latest from the master of European spy fiction. Except for John le Carré, there is really no worthy competitor for the master of the historical spy novel,



The Island by Elin Hilderbrand.

A woman, her two daughters, and her sister spend the month of July on rustic, charming Tuckernuck Island off the coast of Nantucket. Secrets and intrigue soon make their way to the surface, as Hilderbrand (*Nantucket Nights*) once again weaves a masterful story of summer suspense.

The Red Queen by Philippa Gregory.

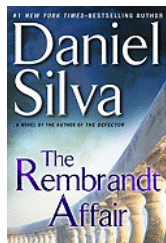
In her second book of the Cousins' War series, #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author Gregory moves to the Lancaster side, and the story of a determined woman who believes she is destined to shape the course of history.



The Rembrandt Affair by Daniel Silva.

Gabriel Allon returns in the spellbinding new novel from a #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author. It has been six months since Gabriel's showdown with Ivan Kharkov. Now, having severed his ties with the Office, Gabriel has retreated to the Cornish coast.

But an unspeakable act of violence once again draws Gabriel into a world of danger when an art restorer is brutally murdered and the newly discovered Rembrandt on which he has been working is taken.



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

The Cookbook Collector by Allegra Goodman.

Allegra Goodman has quipped that her latest novel could be described as “Sense and Sensibility for the digital age.” Set in Berkeley and Boston, it’s the story of two seemingly different twenty-something sisters – Emily the elder is the rational pragmatist and Jessamine is the passionate romantic. Emily and her boyfriend are about to launch new dot.coms, while Jess, a philosophy major works part time at an antiquarian bookstore run by a former Microsoft millionaire. Despite their differences, both women are idealists. So when Emily’s company develops a possibly sinister data monitoring system and Jess convinces a lonely recluse to part with her priceless collection of cookbooks, both sisters must struggle to find the principled path. Allegra Goodman has succeeded in creating a masterful hybrid – an old-fashioned comedy of manners blended with a very modern tale about the temptations of technology and dot.com wealth.



Heart of the Hunter by Deon Meyer.

Heart of the Hunter is the American debut of one of Africa’s premier crime writers. This fast-paced and sophisticated spy novel pits an uncommon common man against the full force of South Africa’s new Police Intelligence Unit. Descended from Xhosa kings, Thobela Mpayipheli is a former ANC freedom fighter who has renounced violence and settled down to a quiet life in Capetown. But when a former close comrade is kidnapped and his daughter begs Thobela to deliver the ransom, he feels honor bound to help. If you are going through Stieg Larsson withdrawal, Meyer’s thrillers have a lot of the same appeal: exotic settings, adrenaline action, and powerful conspiracies with unique complex characters.



Dorothy's Picks

American Music by Jane Mendelsohn.

This novel is part love story, part mystery, and part meditation on the power of music. Honor is a massage therapist assigned to Milo, a despondent soldier partially paralyzed in the Iraq War. When Honor touches Milo’s skin vivid images and, at first, seemingly random events appear to them both. The stories of a jazz musician in the 1930s, a doctor’s wife in the 1970s, and a 17th century courtesan in Turkey emerge and eventually converge. This is inventive fiction as its best, thought-provoking, haunting, and beautifully written.



Remembering Bliss by Frank Deford

Known as a sports writer and commentator, Deford is also the author of numerous works of fiction. Here, his protagonist is an 18-year old member of the 1936 American women’s Olympic swim team, in a novel that is only tangentially about sports. Told as a flashback, an 86-year old Sydney Stringfellow recounts her love affair with a German protégé of Leni Riefenshal, the documentary filmmaker Hitler chose to film the Berlin Olympics. While not Deford’s most polished work, this is an intriguing love story with a plot twist that will keep the reader guessing until the end. Deford shows the peril of judging the actions of those in the past through the lens of the present.

