

Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



August 2011

AUTHORS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Peter Spiegelman

Peter Spiegelman is the Shamus Award-winning author of four novels that feature private investigator and Wall Street refugee John March. Prior to embarking on a career as a writer, Spiegelman spent over twenty years in the financial services and software industries, and worked with leading banks,

brokerages and central banks around the world.

Ridgefield Library and Books on the Common present:

An Author Talk with Peter Spiegelman

Thursday, September 22

7:30 PM

Dayton Program Room

Please register at www.ridgefieldlibrary.org

Books will be available for sale and signing.

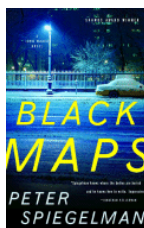
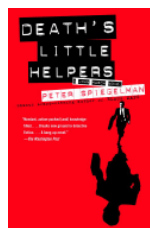
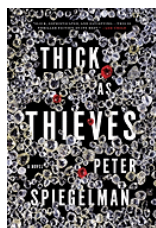


Mary Doria Russell

Mary Doria Russell writes literary fiction set in a number of genres, including historical fiction and science fiction.

Using evocative descriptions and developing complex characters with which readers can deeply identify, she explores conflicts that arise from human

relationships and failures of communication. Her vividly described settings and effective use of detail complement the narrative thread.



Doc (2011)

After the burned body of a mixed-blood boy, Johnnie Sanders, is discovered in 1878 Dodge City, Kansas, part-time policeman Wyatt Earp enlists the help of his professional-gambler friend Doc Holliday.

Dreamers of the Day (2008)

A forty-year-old schoolteacher from Ohio still reeling from the tragedies of the Great War and the influenza epidemic comes into a modest inheritance that allows her to travel to Egypt and the Holy Land. Arriving at the Semiramis Hotel, site of the 1921 Cairo Peace Conference, she meets Winston Churchill, T. E. Lawrence, and Lady Gertrude Bell.

A Thread of Grace (2005)

In September 1943, Claudette Blum and her father flee across the Alps into Italy with other Jews seeking refuge, only to find an open battle ground among the Nazis, Allied forces, resistance fighters, and ordinary Italians struggling to survive.

Children of God (1998)

A priest named Emilio Sandoz embarks on a quest to demystify God's providence that leads him to question the possibility of faith.

The Sparrow (1996)

The sole survivor of a crew sent to explore a new planet, Jesuit priest Emilio Sandoz discovers an alien civilization that raises questions about the very essence of humanity, an encounter that leads Sandoz to a public inquisition and the destruction of his faith.

Thick as Thieves (2011)

Reluctantly heading a lucrative heist involving diamonds, money laundering, and extortion, former CIA agent Carr worries about the recent death of the con group's former leader, inaccuracies in their bought intelligence, and his lover's personal agenda.

Red Cat (2007)

Private detective John March comes to the aid of his brother, David, who is being stalked by a woman he met on the Internet and with whom he enjoyed a few brief but torrid encounters, and who is threatening to reveal everything to his wife and boss.

Death's Little Helpers (2005)

Hired to find missing Wall Street analyst Gregory Danes, private detective John March uncovers a deadly web of financial deception as his investigation leads him through the corrupt inner workings of the financial world.

Black Maps (2003)

Manhattan P.I. John March takes on the case of Rick Pierro, a successful banker, who is on the verge of losing everything to a blackmail attempt that threatens to engulf him in a money-laundering scheme under federal investigation.

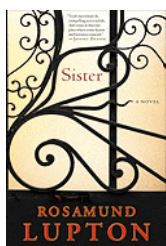
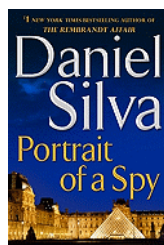
NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)



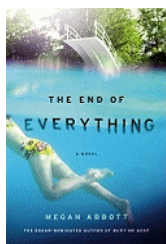
Next to Love by Ellen Feldman.
A story of love, war, loss, and the scars they leave, *Next to Love* follows the lives of three young women and their men during the years of World War II and its aftermath, beginning with the men going off to war and ending a generation later, when their children are on the cusp of their own adulthood.

Portrait of a Spy by Daniel Silva.
The #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author delivers his most spellbinding novel yet featuring Gabriel Allon, art restorer and assassin, in a story of true courage in the face of an unimaginable evil.



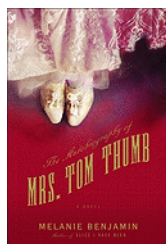
Sister by Rosamund Lupton.
BookPage Notable Title
As one woman risks everything to uncover the truth about her sister's last moments, this debut novel with a knockout twist shows that nothing is as durable--and as exceptional--as the bond between sisters.

Iron House by John Hart.
A *New York Times*-bestselling author delivers his most devastating novel yet--the remarkable story of two orphaned brothers separated by violence at an early age. When a boy is brutally murdered in their orphanage, one brother runs and takes the blame with him. Twenty years later--a seasoned killer--he returns to North Carolina.



The End of Everything by Meghan Abbott.
Thirteen-year old Lizzie Hood and her next-door-neighbor Evie Verver are inseparable. And then, one afternoon, Evie disappears. Haunted by dreams of her lost friend, Lizzie uncovers secrets and lies that make her wonder if she knew her best friend at all.

The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb by Melanie Benjamin.
Benjamin shines a dazzling spotlight on a fascinating 19th-century icon and inspiration whose most daunting limitation became her greatest strength. *The Autobiography of Mrs. Tom Thumb* is the irresistible epic of a heroine who conquered the country with a heart as big as her dreams.

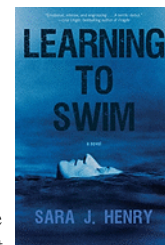


For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit our website at www.ridgefieldlibrary.org

STAFF PICKS

Elise's Picks

Learning to Swim by Sara Henry.
Acting on impulse, an athletic young woman dives from a ferry to rescue a small boy she sees fall into the icy waters of Lake Champlain. When Troy pulls him to safety, she discovers that he was trussed up in an adult sweatshirt and that no one has reported him missing. Fearful that the child may be returned to an abusive parent, she decides to shelter him until she can figure out who he is and who tried to kill him. Set in the Adirondacks and Ottawa, Sara Henry's impressive debut novel introduces a fascinating new lead for a suspense series. Like many young women today, Troy Chance is an outdoorsy, tech-savvy free spirit who also has both a highly developed sense of right and wrong and strong protective instincts. Gripping from the start, *Learning to Swim* is a moving and emotionally satisfying mystery that will leave readers eagerly awaiting the planned sequel.

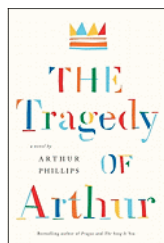
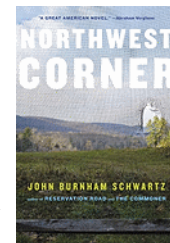


The Best American Short Stories 2010 edited by Richard Russo.

Nearly 100 years old, this esteemed series has been a bulwark in the preservation of the short story genre. In his wonderful introduction to the 2010 collection, guest editor Richard Russo explains that he used Isaac Bashevis Singer's saying that the purpose of literature "is to entertain and to instruct" (in that order) as his criteria for choosing these 20 finely crafted stories. The selections are an eclectic mix of style and subject matter. Some are stunners, some meditative, and some are laugh-out-loud funny. As always, this anthology provides opportunities to savor "the best of the best" authors you have been curious about, and discover some promising newcomers. And don't miss the Contributors' Notes at the very end, which provide insights into the authors' inspirations for their stories.

Dorothy's Picks

Northwest Corner by John Burnham Schwartz.
This sequel to the author's *Reservation Road* picks up twelve years after the tragic events set off by a hit-and-run car accident resulting in the death of a ten year-old boy. Two families are still dealing with the fallout of that fateful event on a Connecticut road. Dwight Arno has been released from prison and is trying to start a new life in California. Then, after being involved in an incident that makes him question his own moral fiber, Dwight's estranged son Sam shows up on his father's doorstep. Told from the perspective of multiple characters from Schwartz's earlier novel, *Northwest Corner* stands on its own as a masterful work about the bonds of family and about what time can and cannot heal.



The Tragedy of Arthur by Arthur Phillips.
In this literary romp, Arthur Phillip's father bequeaths him a copy of a long lost play by Shakespeare, aptly entitled "The Tragedy of Arthur." Is the play genuine, or is it the last act of artifice of Arthur's father, a master forger with a passion for theater and the Bard? The contemporary Arthur provides an "introduction" explaining how he acquired the work, and the full text of the play follows. Looking for something different? This is it.