

# Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



January 2012

## AUTHOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### Ann Patchett

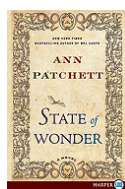


Ann Patchett writes contemporary literary fiction and non-fiction. Her work features complex characters, whom she never judges, even when they don't make the "right" decisions. Her writing style has been described as graceful and compassionate, as she probes social, political, and psychological issues and the complexity of human relationships.

### Fiction

#### *State of Wonder* (2011)

A researcher at a pharmaceutical company, Marina Singh journeys into the heart of the Amazonian delta to check on a field team that has been silent for two years--a dangerous assignment that forces Marina to confront the ghosts of her past.



#### *Run* (2007)

Struggling with single parenthood and a scandal that cost him his political career, Bernard Doyle fights his disappointment with his adopted sons' career choices before a violent event forces the members of his family to reconsider their priorities.



#### *Bel Canto* (2001)

When terrorists seize hostages at an embassy party, an unlikely assortment of people is thrown together, including American opera star Roxanne Coss, and Mr. Hosokawa, a Japanese CEO and her biggest fan.



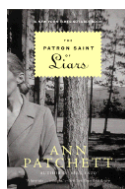
#### *The Magician's Assistant* (1997)

After the death of a homosexual magician, his female assistant journeys from Los Angeles to Nebraska in search of the man's hidden past and discovers his estranged family, as well as the love she has always been denied.



#### *The Patron Saint of Liars* (1992)

Pregnant and alone, Rose seeks sanctuary at St. Elizabeth's, a home for unwed mothers in Habit, Kentucky, where she at last finds a place to put down the roots she has never felt she had.



### Non-Fiction

#### *Truth & Beauty: a Friendship* (2004)

#### *What Now?* (2008)

## BEST BOOKS 2011

Visit the Fiction Room on the second floor of the Library or our website to get our "Best Fiction of 2011" flier in which we've compiled the titles chosen by *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Bookmarks*, and others as the best fiction of 2011. Among last year's most widely acclaimed novels are *The Marriage Plot* by Jeffrey Eugenides, *The Art of Fielding* by Chad Harbach, *State of Wonder* by Ann Patchett, *The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern, *The Tiger's Wife* by Téa Obreht, *11/22/63* by Stephen King, *1Q84* by Haruki Murakami, and *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes.



## DOWNLOADING LIBRARY EBOOKS AND AUDIOBOOKS - 101

Want to know how to download eBooks or audiobooks from the Ridgefield Library? Join us in the **Dayton Program Room** anytime between **2 PM and 4:30 PM on February 11th** when members of our staff will be offering both an overview and one-on-one assistance in how to download eBooks and audiobooks from our OverDrive service.

Don't have an eReader and considering purchasing one? Drop in for some "hands on" time with a Kindle, Nook, Sony Reader, or iPad.



**Saturday, February 11**  
**Drop in between 2 PM and 4:30 PM**  
Refreshments will be served.

Note: Due to software restrictions, owners of some devices will not be able to transfer downloadable books to their devices inside the library. However, a staff member will demonstrate the steps and provide printed instructions on how to download from a home computer.

# NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)



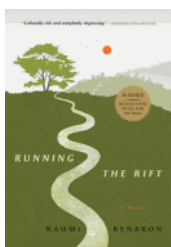
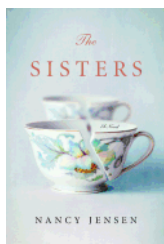
## *The Artist of Disappearance* by Anita Desai.

Award-winning, internationally -acclaimed author Anita Desai ruminates on art and memory, illusion and disillusion, and the sharp divide between life's expectations and its realities in three perfectly etched novellas. Set in India in the not-too-distant past, the stories' dramas illuminate the ways in which Indian culture can nourish or suffocate. All are served up with Desai's characteristic perspicuity, subtle humor, and sensitive writing.

## *The Sisters* by Nancy Jensen.

### BookPage Notable Title

In the tradition of Marilynne Robinson's *Housekeeping* and Elizabeth Strout's *Olive Kitteridge* comes a dazzling debut novel about the family bonds that remain even when they seem irretrievably torn apart.



## *Running the Rift* by Naomi Benaron.

Winner of the Bellwether Prize, *Running the Rift* follows Jean Patrick Nkuba, a gifted Rwandan boy, from the day he knows that running will be his life to the moment he must run to save his life, a 10-year span in which his country is undone by the Hutu-Tutsi tensions.

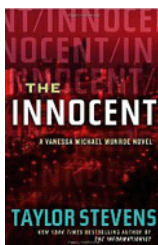
## *The Time in Between* by Marian Dueñas.

The thrilling, internationally bestselling novel about a haute couture seamstress who becomes an undercover spy for the British Secret Service during World War II, *The Time in Between* has taken readers by storm with its unforgettable tale of adventure, tragedy, love, and war. Readers will fall in love with Dueñas' inspiring heroine, Sira Quiroga.



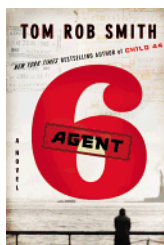
## *The Innocent* by Taylor Stevens.

Stevens returns with another blockbuster thriller featuring the fearless Vanessa Michael Munroe. Tautly written, brilliantly paced, and with the same evocation of the exotic combined with chilling violence that made *The Informationist* such a success, *The Innocent* confirms Stevens' reputation as a thriller writer of the first rank.



## *Agent 6* by Tom Rob Smith.

Former secret police agent Leo Demidov is thrown into a foreign conflict and is forced to question and confront everything he ever thought he knew about his country, his family, and himself.



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 Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern.

A mysterious nocturnal circus arrives unannounced in towns and cities all over the world. The décor is elegant, the acts unique, and the tents are filled with wondrous exhibits like an ice garden that actually blooms. Le Cirque des Reves is truly a Circus of Dreams, but it is also a battleground for a deadly rivalry between two aging magicians and their talented protégés. Beautifully imagined, this impressive debut novel conjures up an enchanted world – one you will be reluctant to leave.



## *The Barbarian Nurseries* by Héctor Tobar.

Following an ugly fight over family finances, an upscale couple flee their Orange County gated community. Neither tells the other they are leaving, and each assumes the other is home with their sons. Instead the boys are left in the care of Araceli, their Mexican live-in maid. In this country illegally, Araceli is afraid to contact the police. After four days and no parental contact, she sets out with the boys to try and find their estranged grandfather “in a distant land called Los Angeles.” Written by a Pulitzer-Prize winning California journalist, this humorous and humane social novel is a West Coast *Bonfire of the Vanities*... with sympathetic characters.

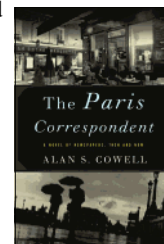


### Dorothy's Picks

## *The Paris Correspondent: A Novel of Newspapers, Then and Now*

by Alan S. Cowell.

With decades of experience behind them, Ed Clancy and Joe Shelby are veteran journalists of an English-language newspaper based in Paris. Clancy has always worked from the home office, while Shelby is a legendary old-school reporter, with a reputation built on daring, risk-taking, and hard-living in covering war zones from Vietnam to the Middle East. Confronted with the new reality of shrinking budgets and the internet news cycle, Clancy and Shelby struggle to fit into a changing landscape without losing their own identities and way of life. This highly entertaining tribute to a dying breed of journalists is written with razor-sharp wit and style.



## *Then Again* by Diane Keaton.

After Keaton's mother Dorothy died of Alzheimer's disease, the actress read the journals her mother had kept for most of her adult life. This memoir alternates the story of Keaton and her mother at comparable stages of their lives from youth through maturity. While Keaton was able to fulfill her wildest dreams, her mother's ambitions were largely thwarted, and Keaton compares the challenges each faced in light of their paths. This is a moving exploration of mothers and daughters, of youth and aging, of the search for self-knowledge, and, of course, of the acting life.

