

THE CHECKOUT

FALL 2024

ISSUE #10

A REVIEW SOURCE WRITTEN BY LIBRARY
PATRONS FOR LIBRARY PATRONS



A PUBLICATION
OF THE
KENMORE
BRANCH
LIBRARY

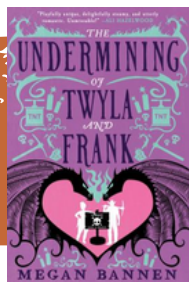
LOYAL FRIENDS AND LITTLE DRAGONS

BY LISA S.

The Undermining of Twyla and Frank

by Megan Bannen

A delightful follow-up to **The Undertaking of Hart and Mercy**, this fantasy romance follows the adventures of Twyla Banneker, a widowed mother and grandmother, and her best friend and neighbor, Frank Ellis. For the past eight years, Twyla and Frank have been marshals patrolling the dangerous mythical land of Tanria, leaving behind the humdrum of small-town life for a new kind of excitement. Their routine takes a twist when they stumble upon a baby dragon – a supposedly extinct species – who promptly imprints on Frank (insert collective “aww” here).



As they care for their new, surprisingly cuddly companion, they uncover a much more dangerous conspiracy that threatens the realm. Twyla and Frank grow closer as the case puts their lives at risk, making them realize how fleeting life can be and prompting them to wonder if their perfect partner has been beside them all along. Celebrating the beauty of later-in-life love, this book balances the excitement of solving a dangerous mystery, while embracing the natural changes and slower rhythms of aging.

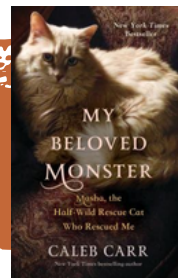
LIBRARY TIP #1



DID YOU KNOW HOOPLA HAS ACCESS TO STREAMING MOVIES AND TV SHOWS? HALLMARK MOVIES, BBC SHOWS, AND MORE ARE AVAILABLE FOR FREE! MAKE SURE TO SIGN UP ONLINE OR DOWNLOAD THE HOOPLA APP TODAY!

HE THOUGHT HE RESCUED A CAT, BUT THE CAT RESCUED HIM

BY KAREN B.



My Beloved Monster

by Caleb Carr

This book tells the tale of a fierce bond between a man and a cat. More than a mere recounting of their life together, it conveys the essence of a strong and abiding interdependency developed between a unique man and a cat who was deemed unadoptable. Their years together were spent in both joy and heartbreak, and both endured many rounds of pain, illnesses, and other troubles. He was her human, and she, Masha, was his “wildling,” a Siberian rescue cat. What makes this story even more interesting is that the author is already a well-known writer of military history (nonfiction like **The Lessons of Terror: A History of Warfare Against Civilians: Why It Has Always Failed and Why It Will Fail Again**) and psychological thrillers (fiction like **The Alienist**). So his insights into fighting and trauma, along with his personal lifelong experiences with and observations of feline behavior, makes this book truly compelling. These added insights give this story such emotional depth that it brings both love and grief for another living being in the form of a cat to a truly momentous level. Sadly, Masha died in 2022, this book was then presumably written in 2023, and then the author himself died in May 2024 when it was newly published. That sequence of events in itself would seem to make this book a fitting legacy to both of their lives. Written in rich and evocative prose and laced with humor, this book will be hard to put down for any reader who lives with, admires, or thinks that they are taking care of cats instead of the other way around.

AN EYE FOR HORROR

BY NICOLE B.



The Eyes Are the Best Part by Monika Kim

This book is a slow boil. As a reader, you know something ominous is building, but the author savors the journey. Ji-won is a young woman in a household that is falling apart. After her father abruptly abandons the family, Ji-won is left to emotionally care for her younger sister and her mother who seems to be a shadow of her former self. When Ji-won's mother eventually finds a (horrible) new boyfriend, his lewd and domineering presence casts another layer of misery on an already broken household. His blue eyes become an obsession for Ji-won – she cannot escape the pull she feels to consume them, and I do mean consume them. Part revenge story, part cultural commentary, this book is wonderfully strange and gruesome. I didn't ever want to put it down because I could just tell something big was coming. And when the point of no return is finally realized, the horror is intense. A perfect read for any time but especially during the spooky season. Highly recommended.

LIBRARY TIP #2 BORROWER'S NAME



CR Consumer Reports

DID YOU KNOW THE LIBRARY
HAS ACCESS TO CONSUMER
REPORTS REVIEWS AND
RATINGS ONLINE?

GO TO WWW.BUFFALOLIB.ORG,
CLICK ON THE "RESEARCH &
RESOURCE" LINK, AND FIND
CONSUMER REPORTS IN THE
ALPHABETICAL LIST OF
DATABASES! BEFORE YOU MAKE
THAT NEXT BIG PURCHASE,
CHECK OUT CONSUMER
REPORTS!

A SUPERIOR READ

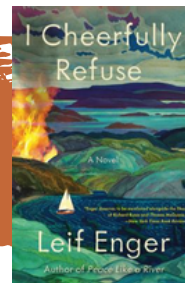
BY SUE K.

I Cheerfully Refuse

by Leif Enger

Leif Enger's newest book **I Cheerfully Refuse** hooked me from the moment I saw the cover. I try not to let intriguing covers sway my reviews of a book but the gorgeous watercolor-like painting of a sailboat on Lake Superior with bright orange flames off to the side catches your eye immediately.

As the story unfolds, the meaning of the cover does as well. Enger was a reporter for Minnesota Public Radio before beginning his fiction career, and his sly wit and crystal clear prose sometimes remind you of that.



This beautiful story pulls you into a near-future, somewhat dystopian, world way off the beaten path on Lake Superior. Each chapter title is a short phrase that will occur somewhere in that chapter as a hook – one of the joys of reading this book was finding the phrase in the chapter as one reads and seeing its significance to the story. This novel sent me back to his other three books, **Peace Like a River**, **So Brave, So Young**, and **Handsome and Virgil Wander**, all of which I highly recommend.



THERE'S SO MUCH HAPPENING AT THE
BUFFALO & ERIE COUNTY PUBLIC
LIBRARIES! SCAN THIS QR CODE TO FIND
AN EVENT NEAR YOU!

A LIFETIME ON CALL

BY SUE K.

On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service

by Dr. Anthony Fauci

Anthony Fauci's memoir **On Call: A Doctor's Journey in Public Service** is an awe-inspiring and concisely written account of one man's very personal dedication to the health of the nation. Fauci details the deeply-felt impulse to serve that he learned from an early age growing up in Brooklyn with a dedicated pharmacist father and a compassionate mother. This impulse continued during his Jesuit education, where the motto was "Men for Others." He served seven presidents and developed close working relationships across all party lines. Even as I lived through the AIDS years, I learned much about the behind-the-scenes heartbreak as a vaccine remained elusive.



Fauci was in Manhattan on 9/11 and worked through the fear of biochemical warfare which many assumed would follow the planes in bringing America to her knees. Zika and Ebola outbreaks and the recent COVID years made clear to Fauci the limits of our understanding of science, as well as the frustrations in trying to articulate to a panicked nation what we do not know. You sense the pain he felt as a natural healer for watching people suffer and die as they waited for answers to science's mysteries. I feel honored to know that men like Dr. Fauci, even in his 80s, still serves us with all his humanity and exceptional skills.

NYC WHO DUNNIT

BY CHLOE S.



The Brownstone House

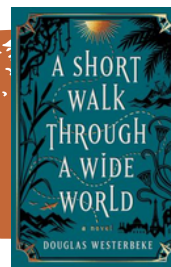
by Rae Foley

Three young women who call themselves the Inseparables due to how close they are start living together in a brownstone that was gifted to one of them by her father. All seems peachy until that very girl falls dead in the house. One by one, they are targeted while heartbreaks, shady business deals, and more cause chaos which culminates in a reveal that you won't see coming.

At just about 200 pages, this is a quick, fast-paced read you won't be able to put down. The author is superb at creating characters with depth, ones that you would believe live outside of this mystery at such a tight page count.

LIFE CHANGING ADVENTURE

BY CHLOE S.



A Short Walk Through a Wide World

by Douglas Westerbeke

This debut novel contemplates the meaning of life through Aubrey, who is cursed with a mysterious illness at age 9 that prevents her from staying in one place for more than a couple days or she will bleed to death. Forced to leave her family in late 1800s Paris, she becomes a famous nomad. Many people are fascinated by her worldliness, but the quest to find a cure for her disease and wondering if she even wants the cure leads her down a mythical quest to the ends of the earth. The metaphors are a bit heavy-handed throughout, but overall it is a great read!

FUNNY SERIAL KILLER DEBUT

BY JULIE ANN D.



Debut thriller from British author Joanna Wallace, **You'd Look Better as a Ghost**, begs the question: What happens when a serial killer becomes the hunted? We are introduced to Claire, a woman who's coping with the recent death of her father. Her character is given substance through escalating flashbacks from her abusive childhood, and we can truly see the unhinged trappings of her mind and the relationship that caused her extreme hobby... killing. Don't worry, she only kills people that "deserve" it! It's comforting that her deviant motivation often feels justified. Triggered by the emotional stress of the funeral, her next kill is an easy choice – the person that emailed her in error, naturally. This particular killing starts a chain of events in which Claire needs to solve a mystery. Little does she know that she's being watched along the way. Small details interspersed with quirky acquaintances from her bereavement group keep the story twisting and turning until it unfolds. Claire's keen observation skills, annoyance of other people, and deadpan delivery make her an original, dark humor protagonist and – dare I say – funny for a sociopath? The person that knows Claire's secret is an unexpected surprise, but through it all she has luck on her side, and it does finally conclude in a happy ending. The story feels fresh and modern, although it starts a little slow. Note that the book features situations of emotional abuse, elder care abuse, and bloody murder. If you like Agatha Christie mixed with Dexter, this unconventional book is for you. I'm looking forward to Wallace's second book, **Dead Friend Project**, that just hit stands summer 2024.

CONFEDERATE SPIES IN NIAGARA FALLS

BY KAREN B.

Rebel Falls

by Tim Wendel

August 1864, Niagara Falls, New York. Americans are weary of a long and seemingly interminable war that shows no sign of ending. Rory Chase, a young woman whose uncle and last remaining relative has been killed fighting for the Union, is restless. A native of Auburn, New York, she is best friends with Fanny Seward, daughter of the current Secretary of State William Seward. Haunted by her earlier work with her mother in helping enslaved people cross the border to freedom in Canada, she finds herself back in the area to work as a spy. Her mission is to find out about a possible Confederate plot to sow mayhem in the Northern border states to distract the Union Army and divert its resources from Southern campaigns.



Although a work of historical fiction, the realistic setting of this novel in time and place resonates, as does its plot which does have some basis in reality. It also includes real-life figures such as the two Confederate spies, John Yates Beall and Bennet Burley, who were involved in planning acts of sabotage. The character of Rory Chase is a good foil for these two, because she is believably drawn as a woman of both conviction and courage. And the Lake Erie setting will likewise be of interest to many readers from this area who can immerse themselves in what it might have been like to live here in that tumultuous time. Recommended for all local history buffs!

MOON, THE UNIVERSE, AND A RECIPE FOR MAGIC

BY MELISSA F.



How Moon Fuentez Fell in Love with the Universe by Raquel Vasquez Gilliland

Moon Fuentez is resigned to being the sister in the shadows while her fraternal twin, Star, enjoys fame and followers as a social media influencer. Moon directs and takes the photos that Star posts, and she's never the subject of any of them (though her family doesn't know about the popular social account Moon keeps for her own nature-inspired photography). Star's digital success attracts their mother's blatant favoritism, while Moon experiences only alternating indifference and abuse. This all creates a dark and distorted perception of herself as Moon struggles to find an avenue of escape from her current life.

While trudging along on a sponsored summer road trip with Star and a busload of other popular social media figures, Moon finds ways to explore the confidence and creativity that she never before allowed to blossom. From expanding her photography skills with enchanted nature-infused tarot cards and portraits, to arguing with the infuriating (and ridiculously attractive) chef Santiago Phillips, Moon starts to realize there is more within her than she ever realized. More strength, more light, and more love than she ever thought possible.

This story echoes with lyrical text, magical realism, and a heroine who isn't perfect but is perfectly loveable exactly the way she is. The book also includes topics relating to physical disabilities, purity culture, LGBTQ+ representation, and emotional and physical abuse.

DON'T JUDGE A BOOK BY ITS SYNOPSIS

BY REBECCA K.

When I got the notice that **Sipsworth** by Simon Van Booy was at the library, not only did I not remember requesting the book but, after looking at the beginning of a synopsis, I wondered why I requested it at all. "This book explores themes of aging, loneliness and grief." This past year of my life has been filled with aging, sickness, loss, loneliness, and grief, and quite frankly, I was going to skip this book entirely but I really needed something to read. Thankfully it is so much more. The main character, Helen, moves back to the street in a rural English village where she grew up after living most of her life in Australia. Helen has a well established, solitary routine in a fairly drab, bare bones house basically waiting out the end years of her life, thinking of how things were, until she meets a mouse. This mouse, Sipsworth, completely changes the trajectory of the sequestered life Helen thought she wanted. Before you wonder, no this is not some saccharine story where the mouse begins to talk and they frolic and have wonderful conversations.



It's a funny, honest tale that includes aging, loneliness, and grief but most importantly concludes with achievement, companionship, and connection. No person should live in a vacuum only thinking of how things were or what they have lost. Instead, there should be that acknowledgment along with recognition of what has been achieved and what can continue to be experienced. That the cliché "no person is an island" is true. Daily connections, no matter how mundane, can lift the soul and lead you to places you didn't think you needed. **Sipsworth** lifted my soul.

LIFE, LOVE, AND LONELINESS

BY MELISSA F.



Meredith, Alone by Claire Alexander

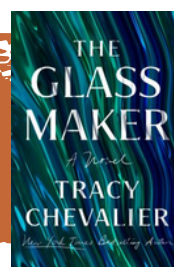
Meredith Maggs is almost 40 and hasn't left her house in 1,214 days. She isn't lonely, though, relying on visits from her best friend Sadie and chats with an online support group of others with similar mental health struggles. Meredith reads, bakes, and completes jigsaw puzzles with her beloved orange cat Fred at her side. She also tries to avoid all contact with her estranged mother and sister, and hides from any triggering thoughts of the painful event that left her trapped inside over three years ago. Meredith isn't quite ready for the new challenges – and new relationships – that the world seems to want to throw her way. But ready or not, she'll start to deal with it all: ghosts from the past, family trauma, and even the possibility of stepping out the front door. Life is tough, but – as Meredith is realizing – so is she. This is a beautiful, tragic, funny, and emotionally complex story full of hope, strength, and acceptance.

Content & sensitivity: This book contains brief scenarios and descriptions of emotional and physical abuse, mental health issues, self-harm, and sexual assault.

ARTIST EXAMINED

BY SUE K.

Tracy Chevalier's newest book, **The Glassmaker**, is an intimate portrait of a glass-making family on the island of Murano, near to but not a part of Venice. Chevalier has a real talent for entering the lives of her subjects, often artists. Her brilliant book **The Girl with the Pearl Earring** laid bare the household and personality of Vermeer, painter of the famous enigmatic work. I highly recommend all her books especially the artist-based ones. Not only do we receive interesting views of the worlds they lived in, but also an education in novel form in art history. The character of Orsola Rosso, a woman born into the male-dominated industry of the "glass houses," makes her artistic mark despite the prejudice of her brothers and husband.



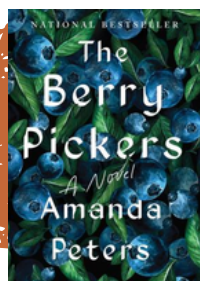
Unlike her other novels which center on a very specific artist's lifetime, Chevalier gives Orsola a lifetime of over 300 years, giving us a glimpse of changing eras and attitudes. I loved all the information that premise provides, but felt that the magical realism of the novel was not as successful. However, Chevalier has a huge story to tell and I highly recommend this and any of her earlier novels.



ARTWORK BY SUE K.

A FAMILY UNBROKEN

BY
ELIZABETH
O.



This summer, I read an intriguing debut novel, **The Berry Pickers** by Amanda Peters. Peters, of Mi'kmaq and European ancestry, weaves one family's story through alternating first-person narratives of a brother and sister. Set in Nova Scotia, Maine, and Boston, we follow the lives of a Mi'kmaq family of five siblings, their parents, extended family members, and others whose lives overlap through the years.

When I saw this book at the library, I thought, "Who are the berry pickers?" The story begins in the early 1960s. A Mi'kmaq family has traveled from Nova Scotia to Maine in midsummer. They join a larger group of mostly Indigenous people from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick at a summer camp in Maine. All are employed by non-Indigenous land owners to pick berries until summer's end.

As Peters reveals through the narratives, an event occurs during this summer that irrevocably changes one sibling's life. While weaving through this book, readers have an opportunity to gain knowledge and understanding about Indigenous-settler history and relations in Maine and the Maritime provinces. Through her characters, Peters addresses issues Mi'kmaq people encounter when endeavoring to maintain Indigenous identity, sovereignty, and traditions within a settler society. Readers are drawn into the personal spaces of an extended group of people, both Indigenous and settler, as they experience loss, grief, joy, loyalty, learning, and consciousness.

In her acknowledgements, Peters closes with "And lastly to anyone who may have stumbled upon this book, I hope you enjoyed the read." I did enjoy the read, and recommend you give it a try.



AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT: EDITH WHARTON

BY MARY M.

Edith Jones was born into Manhattan's High Society in 1862. Her family was wealthy and socially prominent – the phrase "Keeping up with the Joneses" was based on them. She wrote and told stories from a young age. Edith rejected the standards of fashion and etiquette expected of young women at that time, but was a very keen observer of social rituals. Having grown up in an upper-class, late-19th-century society, she became one of its most astute critics.

In 1885, Edith married Teddy Wharton, and they lived on Park Avenue in Manhattan. They bought a summer home in Newport, Rhode Island, and she worked with the decorator to design the interior.

The Whartons built "The Mount" in Lenox, Massachusetts in 1902. Edith worked extensively with the architect, decorator, and landscaper to design the home and surrounding 113 acres. When construction completed, she co-wrote the book **The Decoration of Houses**.

Unfortunately, their time residing in the home was short due to Teddy's progressive mental illness. Edith moved to France in 1911, and she and Teddy were divorced in 1913.

Edith started the Children of Flanders Rescue Committee in 1914, and throughout World War I she continued working in charitable efforts. In recognition of her dedication to the war effort, she was given the country's highest award, the Legion of Honor.

Despite not writing her first novel until the age of 40, Edith had a prolific career. In 1921, she was the first woman awarded the Pulitzer Prize. In 1927, 1928, and 1930, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. Over her career, she wrote 15 novels, 7 novellas, 85 short stories, numerous books of poetry, as well as books on travel and design, and a memoir.



LOVE IN THE MARGINS

BY LISA S.

The Rom-Commers by Katherine Center

Emma Wheeler dreams of becoming a successful screenwriter, and she has the chops to do it, especially when it comes to romantic comedies. But caring for her dad full-time has kept her from chasing her dreams – until the chance of a lifetime drops into her lap. Emma’s screenwriting hero, creative genius, and Hollywood darling, Charlie Yates needs help rewriting his shockingly bad romantic comedy and her agent thinks she’s perfect for the job. Setting aside her raging imposter syndrome and the fact that Emma may or may not have multiple pictures of Charlie on her vision board, she sets out to L.A. to whip his script into shape. One small hiccup, Charlie doesn’t know his agent has brought Emma on to rewrite his work, or that she’ll be staying with him for the next six weeks.



Watching these two stubborn writers navigate their differences, challenge their assumptions, and find camaraderie in it all is quite the journey. But it can be hard to love these two main characters at times. Emma is brilliant and selfless, but seeing her constantly undervalue herself is frustrating. Charlie is meant to be comically difficult, but at times crosses the line when it comes to Emma. It’s a rocky road to a happy ending, making you wonder if these two are really meant to be together. But maybe that’s the author’s whole point. Maybe her intent was to write flawed characters, like real people, who find a way to make it work. This sage advice from Emma’s dad at the close of the book helps encapsulate this idea: “Choose a good, imperfect person who leaves the cap off the toothpaste, and puts the toilet paper roll on upside down, and loads the dishwasher like a ferret on steroids – and then appreciate the hell out of that person. Train yourself to see their best, most delightful, most charming qualities. Focus on everything they’re getting right. Be grateful – all the time – and laugh the rest off.”

CAPTAIN THURIDOR

BY KAREN B.

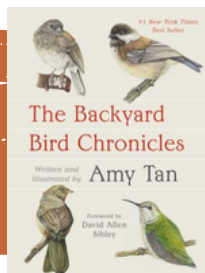


Woman, Captain, Rebel: The Extraordinary True Story of a Daring Icelandic Sea Captain by Margaret Willson

This book is a compelling biography of a real woman who lived a long, adventurous, and unconventional life in Iceland. Called “Captain Thuridor” by her contemporaries because she was a sea captain, she was born in poverty in the southern part of the country in 1777 and died a pauper back in her place of birth in 1863. In between the two end points of her life, however, she lived amazing adventures that encompassed both poverty and wealth through seafaring, farming, and seeking justice through the courts on behalf of herself and many others. She started working as a deckhand at age 11 for her father and became so good at fishing that she earned the respect of many men who later asked her to captain their fishing crew boats. Meanwhile, she also farmed first for others and then later as a landowner herself. Caught up in property laws that determined whether or not a woman could marry, she fought on behalf of many other women while also weathering her own storms through marriage, divorce, and motherhood. Unconventional in behavior, she also chose to dress like a man in trousers, tailcoat, and top hat throughout her life. She further moved between the worlds of the poverty-stricken landless class who earned their keep in fish and farm animals, and the merchant middle class in larger towns who worked for wages. Written as narrative nonfiction, this book is fully based on authentic records of her life that were collected, assembled, and coherently presented as a life story by the author who is a cultural anthropologist. Fascinating reading on many levels!

BIRD WATCHING

BY KEN W.



The Backyard Bird Chronicles by Amy Tan is a journal of birding experiences in her California backyard. There are journal entries and illustrations of the creatures noted in that entry. As a fan of Amy Tan's works, this book proved to be a unique endeavor for her to undertake compared to her other written works. What quickly becomes apparent is a lifelong interest in the natural world as well as a love of drawing. Tan's novels always appealed to me and her history as shared in memoirs has fostered an even greater appreciation of these stories. She uses family experience to create well-constructed characters and stories. In this journal, we read observations about the birds in her yard. In the beginning she can only identify three birds. This knowledge increases and eventually facilitates the ability to identify over 60 birds, their physical features, and how they behave in their environment. A deeper understanding of these birds and the way they relate evolves through what she saw in addition to knowledge learned from experts and other bird lovers. Her illustrations require a deeper understanding of bird anatomy and physiology. In observing, she learns to draw more accurate representations of feathers, beaks, and other bird parts. This work shows the unfolding relationship with Tan's new interest. An in-depth awareness of these creatures is fostered by these observations. The illustrations help to add depth to the information noted in the text. Besides the information about birds, there is insight into her observations. There is a deep interest and involvement with the natural world as well as the motivation to pursue this interest. There is also a great deal of humor, awareness of the realities of life for these living creatures, and what makes them physical beings.



WITCHY & WITTY: A COZY FALL ROMANCE

BY LISA S.



The Ex Hex

by Erin Sterling

This book opens as witch Vivi Jones nurses her broken heart with vodka, weepy music, and a seemingly harmless curse on her ex-boyfriend, Rhys Penhallow. But nine years later, when Rhys, a descendant of the town's magic ancestors, returns to recharge the local ley lines (think invisible magic power lines), things quickly go wrong. A series of strange events start to happen around town – possessed toys, a vengeful ghost, and Vivi's cat apparently can talk now. Spoiler: the cat uses his new voice to beg for treats incessantly. The town is falling apart and Vivi believes her "ex hex" is to blame. Vivi and Rhys are forced to put aside their frustrating past and lingering chemistry to work together to break the curse and save their home. This book is a charming autumn read with a great small-town vibe. The sharp, witty banter between our main characters had me giggling my way through the book. Plus the supporting cast feels like real friends and family. I've never been so excited for a cat's dialog. If you're looking for a short fall read, **The Ex Hex** is for you! And if you can't get enough, check out book two in the series, **The Kiss Curse**.

THE NEVERBEGINNING STORY

BY STEPHEN



The NeverEnding Story

(1984, directed by Wolfgang Petersen)

Recently my wife and I decided it was time to introduce our 10-year-old to the magic of **The NeverEnding Story**. We popped the popcorn and settled in for a night of nostalgia for us and, hopefully, an indelible memory for him. My confusion began about 10 minutes into the movie. The main character, Bastian, looked so much younger than I remembered, and also he was a different actor. It was then that I realized I had never actually seen this movie. My memories were of **The NeverEnding Story 2**, which according to Rotten Tomatoes is 70% worse than the original despite my fond, and incorrectly attributed, recollections.

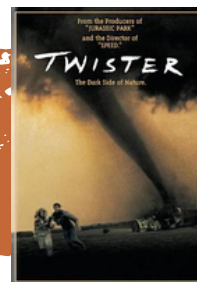


All that being said, I can now say I came to this movie with fresh eyes 40 years after its release and found it delightful. We follow Bastian as he finds a magical book that describes a fantasy world being threatened by a force called “The Nothing” and the only hope is a young warrior named Atreyu. As Bastian hides out in the attic of his school the story unfolds until ultimately he becomes part of the story within the story.

The NeverEnding Story is a wonderful fantasy tale that keeps adults and children alike enthralled. As far as the sequel goes, my 7-year-old self highly recommends it apparently, but he can’t be trusted.

TORNADO ALLEY

BY CHLOE H.



Twister

(1996, directed by Jan de Bont)

Mid-America’s Tornado Alley came into the spotlight way before **Twisters** (2024) in this original film starring Bill Paxton, Helen Hunt, Phillip Seymour Hoffman, and more. A group of scientists create a sensor, fondly called Dorothy, to try to get better data on a tornado’s funnel structure and wind speeds with the hopes to prevent destruction of human life before it touches ground, like it did with Hunt’s character Dr. Jo Harding’s father. With one of the strongest weather fronts of 50 years approaching Oklahoma, the group must face up against their own fears, as well as other storm chasers, to get Dorothy to fly.

You can’t beat a fun and classic watch like this, especially before seeing the new film out now!



ARTWORK BY SUE K.

WHOOPI'S LIFE

BY KEN W.

Bits and Pieces: My Mother, My Brother, and Me

by Whoopi Goldberg

Whoopi Goldberg's biography about her family proves to be a highly informative work. She tells us a great deal about the family she grew up with in New York. They were fairly poor and her mother sacrificed a great deal to provide for her two children.

The title, **Bits and Pieces: My Mother, My Brother, and Me**, gives us the main cast of characters. There are some other family members mentioned but these three people are the ones that dominate the text. Her mother and brother seem to have had the most influence on her life and continued to be big players in her story until they each passed away. Her mom was a single mom who worked hard to provide the necessities of life but always seemed to try to add some special touches to their existence. Her father left them when she was very young and didn't seem to provide much assistance in their support for her mom. Her brother was older and very protective of her. He ended up working for her when she became successful. He had a huge influence on the person she became.



Whoopi is a no-nonsense person and she certainly is not afraid to speak her mind and forward her opinions. She expresses her sadness about losing both of these people much sooner than she expected.

For me, this was a glimpse into the life of a famous individual I always found interesting. It very much enhanced any previous knowledge known to me.

OF NOTE

BY STUART R.



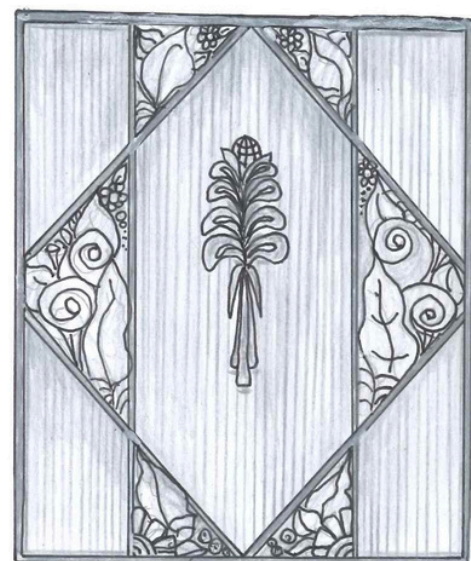
The War Before the War: Fugitive Slaves and the Struggle for America's Soul from the Revolution to the Civil War

by Andrew Delbanco

Great writing by an acclaimed historian. All you want to know about the conflict between pro- and anti-slavery advocates, which extended from the American Revolution until the Civil War in 1861.

ALSO...

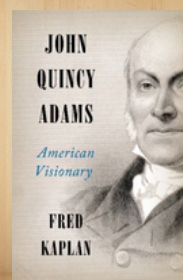
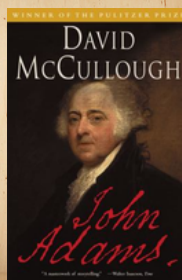
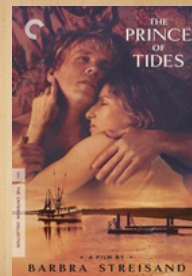
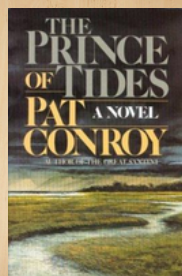
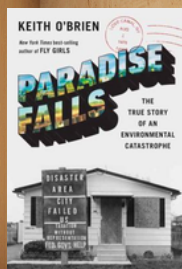
Attention all book lovers! The 9/1/24 edition of the **New York Times Book Review** entitled "The Hundred Best Books of the 21st Century" is available in Kenmore's great magazine and periodical section. The polling was done by experts and other book lovers, and the list contains short reviews of every book and profiles of esteemed writers like Elena Ferrante and Edward P. Jones.



window
decoration
Municipal Building

ARTWORK BY SUE K.

QUICK TAKES



Paradise Falls: The True Story of an Environmental Catastrophe

by Keith O'Brien

Impeccably-researched book detailing the entire local environmental crisis and its lasting impact.

A Well-Behaved Woman

by Therese Anne Fowler

Fictionalized telling of Alva Vanderbilt's life, a woman before her time that marries into the esteemed family. Although it may spend more time in societal parties and frivolous situations than taking a more feminist approach to her story, it is still a nice, light read.

The Prince of Tides

by Pat Conroy

I read the book but I actually much preferred the movie – it has a great soundtrack, beautiful cinematography, a super storyline, and great character development. Starring Barbra Streisand and Nick Nolte.



X-Men

by Stan Lee

A Penguin Classics collection of some of the first issues in the original story run of the Marvel comic throughout the '60s along with cultural commentary from authors like Rainbow Rowell.

The Bright Sword

by Lev Grossman

A hefty but fast-paced novel about what happens to Britain after King Arthur dies, eventually. This story has it all: humor, sword fights, conflicts, fairies, knights, magic, religion, mysticism, love, and anachronistic timelines. A thoroughly enjoyable and thought-provoking read.

John Adams by David McCullough

John Quincy Adams: American Visionary

by Fred Kaplan

I loved the biography of John Adams – it's one of my favorites and extremely well-written. There was much information about Adams's son John Quincy Adams, who was described as brilliant, principled, and highly competent. It motivated me to learn more about John Quincy Adams. My initial impression is that he is one of the most underrated presidents. I'm looking forward to completing the book.

SHROUDED IN MYSTERY

BY CHLOE H.

The Mist

by Stephen King

The Mist (movie)

(2007, directed by Frank Darabont)

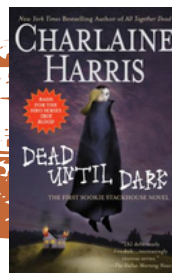
One of Stephen King's many novellas set in his hometown of Maine, **The Mist** tells the tale of a small town engulfed in mist that takes victims as soon as they step out of a building. It comes on suddenly, while David Drayton and his son are in the grocery store trying to recover from a prior severe thunderstorm that brought down trees, powerlines, and more to its residents. While waiting to check out in a line similar to what we all experienced at Wegmans or Tops early on in the pandemic, the mist comes in along with strange and hostile creatures that traps everyone inside the store. Tensions quickly rise amongst the townsfolk trapped, with several failed attempts to escape, and David embarks on a fight to get back to his house where his wife is and keep his son safe throughout all the unknowns.

The film adaptation differs vastly in its ending. The book ending is very ambiguous, true to King's other works, but the film has a very definitive, brutal finale. King has said in the past that he prefers the film ending to his – watch and read to see if you agree with him!



UNDEAD DRAMA

BY CHLOE H.



Dead Until Dark (Sookie Stackhouse #1)

by Charlaine Harris

True Blood (TV series)

(2008, directed by Alexander Woo)

The small fictional town of Bon Temps, Louisiana from the hit TV show **True Blood** was based on a book series following Southern waitress Sookie Stackhouse and her misadventures with all kinds of supernatural beings – particularly vampires. Vampires recently came out to the world as real, with some trying to co-exist peacefully with society by “mainstreaming,” which involves drinking synthetic, non-human blood called True Blood. Bon Temps has yet to see a vampire in the flesh until Bill Compton walks into Merlotte's, the bar where Sookie works. Sookie, a telepath who can read minds, picks Bill out of the crowd because his vampiric state prevents her from reading his thoughts. Bill's mind is quiet in the noisy bar and Sookie is drawn to him because of that. She goes to hand him a bottle of True Blood and the two form a connection that leads them down an exciting and perilous path that spans 13 books and seven seasons of the HBO show.

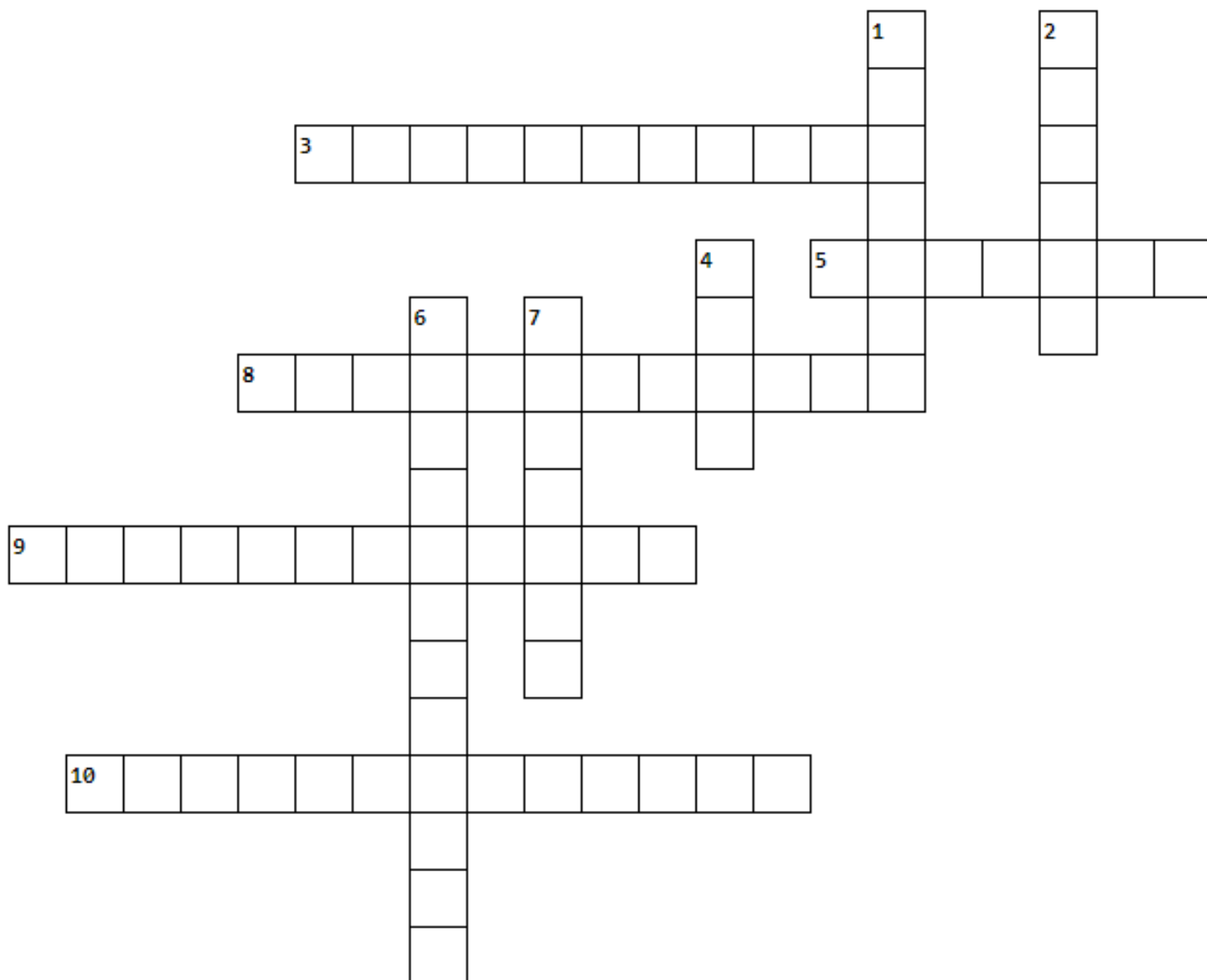
Although the show maintains the same premise and some of the larger events earlier in the book series, it is definitely not a strict adaptation. Reading and watching both has been fascinating to see what was left out and what was done better in the show and vice versa. The show was created by Alan Ball, who also created the HBO series **Six Feet Under** and won an Academy Award for his screenplay **American Beauty** (1999), and you can definitely see his influence throughout. The books can be more on the comedic side than the show at times and tends to lose the mystery and vampire-centric story millions loved as you get further in, but are the perfect choice for anyone looking for a fantasy drama.

LIBRARY TIP #3

DID YOU KNOW THE KENMORE LIBRARY HAS STUDY ROOMS AVAILABLE? TWO SEMI-PRIVATE AND ONE PRIVATE ROOM CAN BE RESERVED IN PERSON OR BY CALLING THE LIBRARY AT (716) 873-2842.

FALLING FOR FALL

BY REBECCA K.



Across

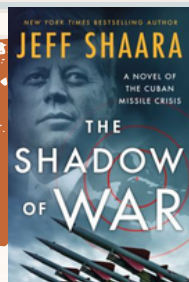
3. This disappears in leaves revealing their true colors
5. Not only the earliest term for the season but what farmers do this time of year
8. Protagonist in Washington Irving's spooky tale
9. This date became set after the Great Depression
10. Came from an Irish myth, the first were carved out turnip with a hot coal inside

Down

1. What visitors come to see in the northeast US each autumn
2. _____ born in Fall tend to live longer
4. Before candy Americans used to send these for Halloween
6. Frank Lloyd Wright house in Pennsylvania
7. _____ for apples began in the UK as a dating

CRISIS AVERTED

BY SUE K.



The Shadow of War by Jeff Shaara

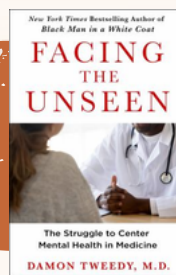
For those of us born in the mid 50s, our experience of the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis are pretty much confined to nuclear drills at school where we huddled under our desks with our hands over our heads. Jeff Shaara, whose father Michael wrote the brilliant novel *Killer Angels*, lives in Gettysburg and until now I only knew him from his Civil War novels. His newest book, *The Shadow of War*, takes on a more current near-war in the Cuban Missile Crisis. His portraits of the key players, RFK, JFK, and Nikita Khrushchev are brilliantly detailed and follow moment to moment as the near-disaster takes place on Cuban soil. Neither leader wants to appear weak or indecisive, but both are surrounded by advisors encouraging them to go all out and start World War III. Fidel Castro also figures into the mix with potentially disastrous results. I don't think I realized just how close to the literal end of the world we came in that encounter. Hiding under desks was definitely not going to keep us alive.

HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

BY STUART R.

Facing the Unseen: The Struggle to Center Mental Health in Medicine by Damon Tweedy M.D.

A heartwarming memoir about a psychiatrist who goes the extra mile for his patients in spite of often having to overcome bureaucratic obstacles. This book talks a lot about systemic inequities having to do with the fact that psychiatry and mental health get short shrift in our healthcare system.



INTERESTED IN JOINING OUR STAFF?
MEETINGS ARE HELD THE 1ST
THURSDAY OF THE MONTH AT 7PM AT
THE KENMORE LIBRARY

CROSSWORD (ANSWERS)

ACROSS

3. Chlorophyll, 5. Harvest, 8. Ichabod Crane, 9. Thanksgiving
10. JackOLanterns

DOWN

1. Foliage, 2. Babies, 4. Card, 6. Fallingwater, 7. Bobbing

THE CHECKOUT STAFF

Christina L., Chloe H., Jill J., Karen B., Ken W., Lisa S., , Nicole B., Rebecca K., Sue K., and Stuart R.

WANT TO SUBMIT A REVIEW?

SUBMISSIONS WILL BE POSTED PER DISCRETION OF THE LIBRARY.
SUBMISSIONS MAY BE EDITED FOR CONTENT OR LENGTH.

