

BookGuide Bulletin



A monthly "readers' services" newsletter from the Lincoln City Libraries

Newsletter

August 2007

Vol. 1 No. 15

[Looking for a good book? Each month the BookGuide site has new fiction and non-fiction reviews.](#)

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for August/September
Featured Booklists
Review Profile: **Sean S.**
Staff Reviews
Focus On: **The Boys of Summer – Batter Up!**
One Book One Lincoln 2007

Nebraska Author Robert Reed

Lincoln, Nebraska science fiction author Robert Reed has been a full-time author of genre fiction since the late 1980s. Reed has two current *Hugo Award* nominations for works published in 2006, and will find out in the first week of September whether he has won his first Hugo. In the meantime, you can take a look at his novels and short story collections in our Nebraska Author booklist dedicated to local wordsmith.



FOCUS ON: THE BOYS OF SUMMER – BATTER UP!

The crack of the bat, the roar of the crowd, the hucksters with their hotdogs and fresh roasted peanuts. The Boys of Summer are entertaining us with their feats on baseball diamonds across the country at this time of the year...why not in the pages of our fiction, too? Here's a selection of some well-known and lesser-known baseball-themed novels:

- *Strike Zone*, by Jim Bouton and Eliot Asinof
- *Blue Ruin: A Novel of the 1919 World Series*, by Brendan Boyd
- *Havana Heat*, by Darryl Brock
- *The Speed of Light*, by Ron Carlson
- *Sport*, by Mick Cochrane
- *Play for a Kingdom*, by Tom Dyja
- *Columbus Slaughters Braves*, by Mark Friedman
- *A League of Their Own*, by Sarah Gilbert
- *Shoeless Joe* by W.P. Kinsella
- *Ring Around the Bases* by Ring Lardner
- *Wild Pitch* by Mike Lupica
- *The Natural* by Bernard Malamud
- *Slideball* by Patrick Robinson
- *For Love of the Game* by Michael Shaara

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

Bethany Books Talk [Fridays 10:30 a.m.] [441-8550]

- Sep 7 Books to Keep You Up at Night! (not scary)
- Sep 14 Recent and Re-readable
- Sep 21 'Tis a Tale Too Sweet
- Sept 28 Solve It at the Library!

Courtyard Book Chats – Central Courtyard – Downtown [Tuesdays Noon-1 p.m.] [441-8560]

- Aug 7 "Biographies & Memoirs"
- Aug 14 "Cruel and Unusual: Twists on Standard Genre Fare"
- Aug 21 "It's All About Me – Self-Help and Self-Improvement"
- Aug 28 "Murder by Gaslight: Mysteries in the Victorian Era"

Gere Books Talk [Mondays 2:30 p.m.] [441-8560]

- Sep 9 t.b.a.
- Sep 16 t.b.a.
- Sep 23 t.b.a.
- Sep 30 t.b.a.

Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group – Downtown [last Thursday each month. 7 p.m.] [441-8530]

- Aug 30 – "The Maltese Falcon" by Dashiell Hammett
- Sep 27 – "Black Betty" by Walter Mosley

Great Books Discussion Group [Gere Branch, Thursdays 6:45-8:45 p.m.] [co-sponsored by the Lincoln City Libraries]

- Sep 13 Plato – "The Crito" (complete)
- Sep 27 Dewey – "The Virtues"

Visit [Book Talks and Book Discussion Groups](#) for more info

Featured Booklists

The following are either "new" booklists added to the BookGuide site recently, or older lists we'd like to shine a light on!

If You Like...Robert Ludlum

With the release of the third Jason Bourne movie in theaters, the attention of avid readers returned to the books the movies were originally based on – the thrillers of Robert Ludlum. If you're a fan of these tightly-plotted and exciting political action adventure books, you might be interested to sample some books by similar authors...available in this "If You Like..." booklist!



A joint venture of the *Lincoln Journal Star* & Lincoln City Libraries

On August 27th, the Lincoln City Libraries and the Lincoln Journal Star announced the selected title for the 2007 One Book – One Lincoln community-reading project. The chosen title for this year is Timothy Egan's National Book Award-winning non-fiction title, The Worst Hard Time.

This richly-detailed book looks back at one of the worst ecological disasters in the history of the United States – the Dust Bowl years – and at the hardy and determined folks who survived the era. Many readers may already be familiar with the Okies, like the characters in John Steinbeck's novel *The Grapes of Wrath*, who fled the Midwest to seek employment in California. But not as much attention has been paid to the individuals who stayed behind and tried to ride out such events as the Black Blizzard of April 14, 1935.

The Worst Hard Time serves as the launching point for a series of special programming events tied in to the themes and subject matter of the book. Readers can participate by exploring a traveling photo exhibit on Dust Bowl history, touring the Lester F. Larsen Tractor Museum on UNL's East Campus, or listening to presentations on such topics as: The Dust Bowl experience (with Bill Ganzel), and the weather and farming conditions that led to the Dust Bowl. Additional special events include an expected showing of *The Grapes of Wrath* at the Rococo Theater, and a live teleconference with author Timothy Egan – although the latter is still being arranged as we prepare to deliver this issue of The BookGuide Bulletin.



You can find out more about all the special programming, as well as the locations of over 30 different places you can join book discussion groups, by visiting our official One Book – One Lincoln – 2007 web site at:

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/obol/obol2007/front.htm>

Reviewer Profile



Our featured Reviewer for August 2007 is **Sean S.** Sean works at the Eiseley Branch Library, and his reviews show up regularly on our Staff Recommendations displays and on the BookGuide web site. Reading has always been a part of his life and career, as he indicates in his answers to our questions about books and reading:

Would you care to share any personal info with our readers -- such as where you grew up, what you read as a child, etc.?

I grew up in Crete, running around the public library where my mother was a volunteer librarian. I was always encouraged to make my own choices in books and I know that it was for that reason that I became an avid reader. There's nothing quite like making your own choices.

How long have you been an active reader, and were there any particular books or authors or other people that "made you a reader"?

I've been reading as long as I can remember. The first books that I really remember reading diligently were the Hardy Boys. I made it through the series in a few weeks. During my teen years, I mainly read fantasy books: Piers Anthony and Robert Asprin were some of the writers. Fantasy was great to inspire reading at that age because of the titillation factor (fantasy readers will know what I'm talking about).



How important are books and reading to you?

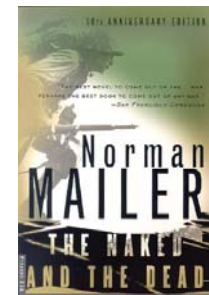
Very. I feel like the individual I've become is a direct result of the books I've read. They've shaped me and given me insight into the world. I read a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction, and am always left with something to take away from each book.

How do you select what books to read next?

This is the million dollar question. I use databases like NovelList, stumble on books while working, and often go to the shelves and randomly pull a book. Lately, I've found some great new fiction in the magazine Mystery Scene. Although, just as anyone, I go through dry spells where everything seems not-so-good. I have no problem releasing a bad book.

What do you enjoy about writing book recommendations?

I read a lot of authors and across a variety of genres, so making recommendations is a chance to remember some of the books that I've been through and hopefully make a memorable experience for another reader.



and finally...

If there was only one author you could convince people to read, that author would be:

Norman Mailer. He's one of the authors I enjoy the most, because he writes about anything, and does it well. He's written a first person narrative of Christ's life, books on the CIA, death-row, and war.

He's a writer who's feisty and full of himself, which I think any great writer should be. And, he loves to take risks.

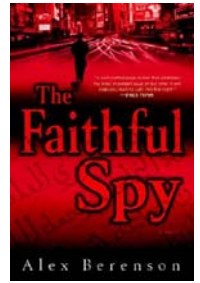
Staff Reviews

The Faithful Spy

By Alex Berenson

This is a new thriller with an espionage theme seemingly pulled from today's headlines. The Faithful Spy is a book about the first U.S. operative to infiltrate al-Qaeda and his journey, which races towards an explosive climax. This post 9/11 suspense novel investigates motives and scenarios perhaps possible, perhaps not. Berenson was stationed in Iraq as a correspondent for the New York Times and drew inspiration from his time there.

If you like Cold War spy novels, you'll like the new face of espionage in the 21st century.



Reviewed by Sean S.
Eiseley Branch Library

You can see other new reviews, every month on the [Staff Recommendations page](#) at the BookGuide web site!



The Just Desserts mystery fiction discussion group continues to meet month, from January through October, at 7:00 p.m. on the last Thursday of every month, at the downtown Bennett Martin Public Library. Mystery fans are encouraged to all read the same pre-selected mystery novel, to be discussed as a group, and then we spend some time at the end of each meeting sharing our recent recommended mystery reads with each other. In keeping with our Just Desserts theme, attendees are invited to bring a small sampling of a dessert to share with other mystery fans – coffee and juice are always provided.

Mystery readers are encouraged to attend even if you haven't read our "assigned" title for the month...we've enjoyed meeting several new group members in recent months that just stopped by to check us out! Our selected title for August 30th is Dashiell Hammett's classic "*The Maltese Falcon*". Our selected title for September 27th is Walter Mosley's "*Black Betty*". We will be selecting our title for the final (October) meeting of 2007 at our August 27th meeting. We hope to see you there!

You can see a listing of the books we've discussed in the past by clicking on [our Just Desserts Archive page](#).

Feedback...

We're interested in hearing from you regarding what you'd like to see here in our e-newsletter each month. What have you enjoyed in our first year's issues? If you have any suggestions or comments to offer us about *BookGuide* or the *BookGuide Bulletin*, please drop us an e-mail at:

bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org



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