

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

September 2008

Vol. 1 No. 26

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for September and October
New and/or Featured Booklists

One Book – One Lincoln

Submit Your Own Reviews!!

Reviewer Profile: Rayma S.

Reviewer Index Addition

'Casting About

Note to readers seeing this newsletter only as a paper copy – All examples of blue underlined text in this newsletter are hotlinks to pages on the **BookGuide** or **Lincoln City Libraries** web sites. For full functionality, please visit the electronic version of this, and past issues of the **BookGuide Bulletin** at:

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/newsletters.htm>



The selected title for the 2008 **One Book – One Lincoln** community reading program was announced in the Lincoln Journal Star and during a live radio promotion on Monday, September 8th. The book all of Lincoln will be reading this year is Diane Setterfield's [The Thirteenth Tale](#). A book that explores the traditions of gothic literature and the concepts of biographical truth when dealing with creative



personalities who are skilled at creating fictional lies. Multiple extra copies have been added to the collection, in regular, large type and book-on-cd formats, and **Book Club in a Bag** sets are available for check-out to Book Groups.

A multitude of book discussion opportunities, as well as special programming events, are scheduled throughout September, October and November at numerous libraries and throughout the city of Lincoln. An informational supplement was printed in the September 21st Journal Star (and is now available to pick up at all libraries). The official 2008 **One Book – One Lincoln** web site also launched on September 8th, and features numerous additional resources for readers interested in learning more about the topics of *The Thirteenth Tale* or the various events scheduled throughout Lincoln as part of **One Book – One Lincoln** this year:

www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/obol/obol2008/front.htm

Two features on this year's One Book web site that we'd like to particularly emphasize are the [One Book – One Lincoln Blog](#), where you can respond to discussion topics related to this year's book, programs and events. And our [Story Starters](#) page – where participants can submit their own biographical snippets or original short stories, inspired by lines from the book or any of a series of evocative black and white photographs. If you're interested in either of these, visit the links above or below!

http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/One_Book_One_Lincoln
<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/obol/obol2008/storystarters.htm>

Reviewer Index Addition

We've added a new feature to our **Index by Reviewer of Staff Recommendations**. Now, in addition to seeing a hotlinked listing of all of the Staff Recommendations that have been shared by each of our reviewers, we've included links to all of the Book Talks they've given in the past four years. So...if you like the writing style and reading tastes of a particular reviewer on our site, you can connect to more extensive listings of books that they've enjoyed enough to include in their book talks on the road!

You'll find this information at:

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/srec/staffrec-indexbyname.htm>

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

- Sep 5 "Cooking Adoptive Royal Killers"
- Sep 12 "Looking to Score: Biographies!"
- Sep 19 "An Assortment of Authors"
- Sep 26 "My Favorite Things"
- Oct 3 "One Book One Lincoln – The Thirteenth Tale"
- Oct 10 "A Bushel of Books"
- Oct 17 "Set Sail to New Worlds"
- Oct 24 t.b.a.
- Oct 31 Boo!

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

- Sep 8 "Recent Book Club Books"
- Sep 15 "A Few of My Favorites"
- Sep 22 "The Arts in Literature"
- Sep 29 "One Book One Lincoln – The Thirteenth Tale"
- Oct 6 "Looking to Score: Biographies!"
- Oct 13 "An Assortment of Authors"
- Oct 20 "The Good Life: Nebraska Authors"
- Oct 27 "Teen Advisory Board presents a Books Talk"

Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group – South Branch [last Thursday each month. 7 p.m.] [441-8530 / 441-8570]]

- Sep 25 "Death at Victoria Dock" by Kerry Greenwood
- Oct 30 "A Study in Scarlet" by Arthur Conan Doyle

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

- Sep 11 Dewey – "Habits and Will"
- Sep 25 Mill – "On Liberty"
- Oct 9 Shakespeare – "Hamlet"
- Oct 23 The Bible – "The Gospel of Mark"

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 and/or seasonal lists we'd like to shine a light on! **Click on the titles to see the full booklists.**

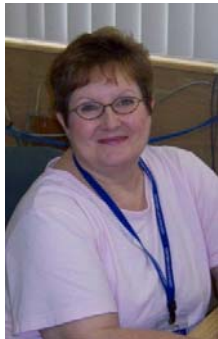
[Looking to Score: Biographies!](#)

Sean's book talk, offered during the summertime Courtyard Book Talks, looked at a selection of biographies of unusual and colorful historical figures.

welcome to a new... Reviewer Profile



Our featured Reviewer for October 2008 is **Rayma S.** Rayma has worked for Lincoln City Libraries for many years, including a lengthy stint in the former Reference Department at the Bennett Martin Public Library downtown. She is currently the Branch Supervisor at the South Branch Library. Her reviews show up with some regularity on our Staff Recommendations displays and on the BookGuide web site. Reading has long been a part of her life, as she indicates in her 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 was born and raised in Lincoln, NE. I can't remember when I wasn't a reader. I more or less taught myself because my grade school insisted on keeping everyone in very easy readers. I forged ahead and soon my teachers didn't know what to do with me because I could read better than the other kids. My first favorite books were a kid's series about a character named Cowboy Sam. He wore bright yellow chaps, rode horses, and had marvelous cowboy adventures.

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 dearly loved Nancy Drew books because she was smart, fearless, and always figured out the crime. I guess my love of mysteries comes from that. I also loved books by Louisa May Alcott. I was drawn to the independent, rebellious Jo and her fun loving sisters. The Oz books were another favorite. I especially liked the ones where Princess Ozma was a featured character. The Bobbsey twins were also among my favorite characters.

How important are books and reading to you?

Currently, I read about a book a week. It's not unusual for me to have one book at work, one at home, and one in the car. You never know when you might need to entertain yourself. I **love** mysteries-the bloodier the better :-]. Biographies, especially of old time movie stars or entertainers, are a favorite choice of mine as well as anything historic. I love to read about the Tudor period of English history or any good historical non-fiction work. And of course, absolutely anything about genealogy peaks my interest. Date of publication is no detriment to me. I've read some really old titles lately that I think have been unjustly neglected.

How do you select what books to read next?

I select my reading material from reviews. I read several book review magazines a week and I like the book review sections of **People** and **Time** magazines. I have also come to rely heavily on our own **BookGuide** and all the newsletters, lists, reviews, etc that it provides. Word of mouth is also important. I'm currently reading two books recommended by my customers here at South branch.

What do you enjoy about writing book recommendations?

I like to talk about books I've read and I tend to be kind of opinionated, which those who know me can attest to. Staff recommendations that I make are a good way to get the word out beyond the parameters of my branch. Having to write about

them makes me focus on why the book is good and why it would appeal to certain readers.

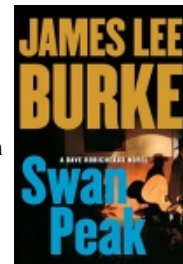
Are there any interesting book- or reading-related stories or bits of trivia in your past that you'd like to share with our readers?

One of my fondest childhood memories was being allowed to walk by myself to the downtown library which stood where Bennett Martin is now. The old Carnegie library seemed beautiful and mysterious to me and the kids' area had all kinds of little nooks and crannies where you could curl up and read to your heart's content. I still have my old summer reading certificates which have to be over 50 years old by now. (Can I possibly be that Old?) I was the "flashlight under the covers kid" of our family. I get antsy and out of sorts if I don't have enough reading time. I'm also a dedicated book buyer and have quite the library of my own.

and finally...

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

Being asked to pick a favorite author is like being asked to pick a favorite child. If I had to choose today, I think I would select James Lee Burke. I have never read an author who can bring you into the sense of a place like he can. In his latest title, **Swan's Peak**, some of his descriptions of his natural surroundings took my breath away. I re-read several because they were so amazing. He also has a unique way of describing his characters and why they think and do the things they do.



[Click here to see Rayma's full Review Profile, plus links to her past reviews on BookGuide](#)

To see previous profiles of other BookGuide reviewers, try visiting the **Staff Recommendations Index by Reviewers** page on the BookGuide web site, and clicking on the **Staff Profile** links next to the reviewers' names!

'Casting About...



'Casting About' is an all-original weekly series of podcast recordings, featuring library staff from throughout the Lincoln City Libraries system – talking about books, recorded books, DVDs, magazines and much, much more. As this issue goes to press, we've got 16 episodes of 'Casting About' available on-line, plus 17 podcast recordings of branch book talks, **One Book – One Lincoln** talks, or **Courtyard Book Chats** downtown. You can find them all either on the BookGuide site – look for the blue graphic (at left) next to the titles of **Books Talk** presentations at the second link below, on the booktalk booklists page (third link) – or on the main Lincoln City Libraries site – click on the **Blogs and Podcasts** link at the top of the page to get started. You can also add the Podcasts feed to your RSS feed aggregator if you'd like to automatically receive future **Books Talk**, **Courtyard Book Chats** and 'Casting About' Podcasts, as soon as they become available!



www.lincolnlibraries.org or
www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/bookgroups.htm or
www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/lists/booktalkbooklists.htm

Staff Reviews

Hollywood Pilot by Don Dwiggins [B M314d]

Dismissed from United States Army flight school for recklessness in 1927, Paul Mantz moved to California where he eventually became Hollywood's foremost stunt pilot. He made a specialty of flying planes through open doors of large buildings. He was a friend and collaborator with Howard Hughes and Amelia Earhart. Mantz died while flying the cobbled together plane that was the subject of the movie "Flight of the Phoenix". Fascinating biography of a true aviation pioneer.



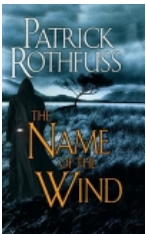
-- recommended by Rayma S. – South Branch Library

[King Con](#)

by Stephen J. Cannell

Television's super-producer (he created, wrote for or executive-produced over 30 different series, including *The Rockford Files*, *Baa Baa Black Sheep*, *Hardcastle and McCormick*, *The Greatest American Hero*, *Wiseguy*, *Profit*, *Stingray* and *Silk Stalkings*) has become a full-time novelist, with fourteen novels to his credit. [King Con](#) was one of his earliest, and is still one of my favorites. Cannell was well known for his snappy dialog and quirky characters on TV, and King Con seems to capture that writing style more effectively than any of his other novels to date. Con man extraordinaire Beano Bates teams up with an aggressive female New Jersey Assistant Attorney General to run a series of small cons, leading up to a "big con" against the notorious Jersey gangster who nearly killed him. John Travolta was rumored to be in the running as Bates in a possible movie version of this story, scripted by Cannell, which never came to be. So, in the meantime, enjoy this fast-paced thriller, filled with extremely quirky characters and powered by snappy dialog.

-- recommended by Scott C. -- Bennett Martin Public Library



[The Name of the Wind](#) by Patrick Rothfuss

[Name of the Wind](#) is a book for those that love being lost in descriptive worlds of nuance and good storytelling. The book is part coming-of-age story, part autobiography, and part myth. The story is about Kvothe, a larger-than-life figure known to be a powerful magician, bard, genius, and legend. He is also thought to be dead. But, one day a man named Chronicler discovers his whereabouts and begs for him to tell his story. Told in voices reflective of the different periods of his life the reader is drawn into all Kvothe has to offer. Those that enjoy richly drawn worlds with a touch of magic will love the easy-to-read storytelling style of Rothfuss.

-- recommended by Sean S. -- Virtual Services

[Click here to see more Staff Recommendations from this month plus an archive of all past Staff Recommendations by title or reviewer](#)

Submit your own reviews!!

Don't forget...you now have two ways to submit your own review of books or other materials owned by the Lincoln City Libraries. On the [BookGuide](#) site, under the category [Reader](#)

Customer Reviews

Read Reviews and Contribute Your Own

[Connections Online](#), local patrons of Lincoln City Libraries can submit a **Customer Review** of any material owned by the library system, at any time. You can also submit brief reviews directly through the library's online catalog. When looking at the entry for any item in the library catalog, you should see a small **Reader Rating** graphic in the left column (reproduced here at right), showing from 1 to 5 stars, if any readers have thus far submitted a review and rating score for that title. This system, which includes ratings/reviews from library users across the country. Both systems allow users to share their thoughts and feelings about books, dvds, music and other library materials with each other.



Coming Up...

Starting next month in **The BookGuide Bulletin**, we're going to look at some popular and useful web sites that should appeal to readers. We've already got several picked out to shine a light upon, but we're also looking for your suggestions as well.

So...do you have any favorite web sites that focus on the world of books and reading that you would recommend to fellow Bulletin subscribers? Do you hang out at [www.stopyoure Killing me.com](#)? Is [www.whatshouldireadnext.com](#) bookmarked in your favorites? Have you tagged [www.uchronia.net](#) on your del.icio.us account? Which do prefer to catalog your personal books on...**LibraryThing**, **GoodReads** or **Shelfari**? We'll start profiling these, and others from our own records and from your suggestions, in upcoming issues of **The BookGuide Bulletin**!

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 past issues? If you have any suggestions or comments to offer us about the **BookGuide** site or the **BookGuide Bulletin**, please drop us an e-mail at:

bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org



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