

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

November 2008

Vol. 1 No. 27

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for November
New and/or Featured Booklists
Share Your Own Reviews!!
Reviewer Profile: Kay V.
Another Reviewer Index Addition
Staff Reviews
Websites for Readers
'Casting About

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

Nov 7 Rayma's Recent Reads
Nov 14 Vampires From Outer Space
Nov 21 Recent Book Club Books
Nov 28 [closed for Thanksgiving Holiday]

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

Nov 3 Cooking Adoptive Royal Killers
Nov 10 Introducing Mma. Precious Ramotswe
Nov 17 ALA Notable Books
Nov 24 Give the Gift of Books

Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group – South Branch [last Thursday each month. 6:45 p.m.] [441-8530 / 441-8570]]

Nov/Dec -- Group is on hiatus due to the holidays but interested members can still participate via the new [Just Desserts blog](#)
Jan 29 "Partner in Crime" by J.A. Jance

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

Nov 13 Thucydides – "History of the Peloponnesian War"

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.**

[Presidential Fiction](#)

The 2008 Presidential election is taking place as the month of November begins – Check out some of these novels featuring past U.S. Presidents – both factual and fictional!

[If You Like...The Perfect Storm](#)

Looking for a true-to-life story of Man vs. Nature? Inspired by the tale of the men aboard the *Andrea Gale* in *The Perfect Storm*? You may find some of the titles in this booklist right up your alley!

[Ripper](#)

Have you always had a bit of a guilty fascination for the gruesome crimes of history's notorious Jack the Ripper? Take a look at this list of both novels featuring the infamous Ripper, plus a selection of non-fiction titles that explore these unsolved murders!

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>

Another Reviewer Index Addition

We've added yet another 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, and a list of all of the Book Talks they've given in the past four years (added in September), you'll also find a listing of all of the Podcast recordings that each reviewer has participated in. So...if you like the writing style and reading tastes of a particular reviewer on our site, you can connect to even more extensive listings of books that they've enjoyed enough to include in their book talks on the road!

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

welcome to a new... Reviewer Profile



Our featured Reviewer for November 2008 is **Kay V.** Kay has worked for Lincoln City Libraries for several years, and can currently be found in the Youth Services

department at the Bennett Martin Public Library downtown. Her reviews show up regularly on our Staff Recommendations displays and on the BookGuide web site, often focusing on materials for Young Adults.

Reading has long been an important part of Kay's 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 grew up on a farm 10 miles from Woodbine, in southwest Iowa during a time of not-so-plenty. I still have the first book I "memoread": [Dale Evans and Buttermilk](#). It was a Telltale book, published by Whitman in 1956. Our mother used to make the weekly trip into town with cream and eggs to trade for groceries and machinery parts. When she returned, there was usually a box of public library books in the trunk. I could hardly wait until everything had been toted into the house so Mom would step back to the trunk and turn the key to a treasure we could keep for two weeks!



How long have you been an active reader, and were there any particular books or authors or other people that "made you a reader"? Has there been any book or author that "changed your life" or strongly influenced you?

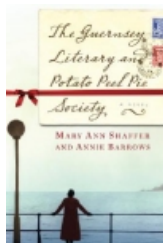
I have been an active reader throughout my life, influenced by my bedtime-story-reading mother and the country school teachers who read aloud after the "noon" recesses. The classic, [Black Beauty](#), took a big grip on me, as well as [Little Women](#). Then there was [Millions of Cats](#) by Wanda Gag, Lenski's [Houseboat Girl](#), the d'Aulaire's [Abraham Lincoln](#), [The Door in the Wall](#) by de Angeli, Farley's [Black Stallion books](#), and the [Red books](#) by Kjelgaard. Poetry also captivated me, as I was especially fond of Rose Fyleman's "Mice" (I think mice are rather nice . . .) and Sandburg's poetry. I remember my older schoolmates playing the card game, "Authors," during bad-weather recesses and thinking Whitman looked rather Santa Clausy while Stevenson seemed sinister. As a much older reader, I have been rather taken with the nonfiction work of Julia Cameron

(The Artist's Way series, etc.), the young adult fiction of Richard Peck, and have quite enjoyed recommended reading by both staff and patrons, including the **One Book One Lincoln** selections.

How important are books and reading to you?

I would not have envisioned myself actually working in a library when I was eagerly pulling the books from that box in that dusty car trunk all those years ago. Currently, the bulk of my reading is at the youth level for readers' advisory purposes as well as storytime. Author [Mo Willems](#) stays near the top of my storytime favorites, as well as [Keiko Kasza](#), [Chris Raschka](#), [Gerstein](#), [Yolen](#), Lewin, [Bunting](#)--. Stop me! Reading new books, **Golden Sower** nominees and other award winners is also a goal.

How do you select what books to read next?



Youth Services staff have a certain amount of assigned reading, so that always comes first. But I also rely on the person-to-person reviews I get from friends, relatives and library staff. My daughter, who lives in NYC, is in the Metro book club. A book company sends out books to readers to review before the books are released. She sent me her copy of [The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society](#). I have not yet read her full review, but I am eager to compare it to [the short one I wrote for BookGuide](#) (see below)!

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What do you enjoy about writing book recommendations?

I just love to share a great story!

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?

Remember those paperback book club flyers you used to get in grade school? I know they still exist today, but when I was in school, for the price of a quarter, 35 or even 50 cents (Expensive!), I could buy a book to call my own. I would pore over those book offers and carefully calculate how many titles I could afford for my home "library." I still have a worse-for-wear 40-cent copy of [White Ruff](#) by Glenn Balch...

and finally...

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

I am torn between two. (Sorry!) If you are in need of some **Aha!** nonfiction moments, go with Julia Cameron. If you need to abandon yourself to some laugh-out-loud wit, Mo Willems is your fiction author/illustrator. The pigeon is not just for kids!

[Click here to see Kaye's 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!

Staff Reviews

[The Guernsey Potato Peel Pie and Literary Society](#)

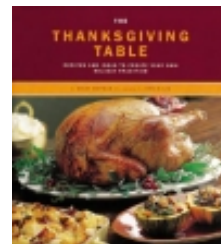
by Mary Ann Shaffer

If you find yourself craving the inspiration of true friendship, synchronicity, and a heaping helping of the indomitable human spirit, pick up this new release. This novel unfolds as letters written between characters and gently reveals the depths of the devastating effects of the German occupation of Guernsey, one of the channel islands between England and France. Not just another war story, the pages of this volume bob the reader about much like the waves of the water surrounding this unforgettable island and its charming inhabitants who turn to literature in a time of dire need.

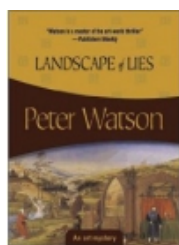
-- recommended by Kay V. -- Bennett Martin Public Library

[The Thanksgiving Table](#) by Diane Morgan [641.568 Mor]

In this seasonal cookbook, Diane Morgan has created some wonderful recipes and ideas for your holiday gathering. She offers recipes in this book that taste so good they will become a part of your traditional thanksgiving meal for generations to come. Grandchildren will remember you for having made these dishes and will ask you for the recipes. They're that good. She offers tips on table decorations and creative serving ideas like serving soup in a hollowed out pumpkin. There are many recipes that can be made ahead of the dinner so your time spent in the kitchen on Thanksgiving Day is more relaxed, and spent in a state of gratitude, which is exactly what Thanksgiving is all about. Three of my favorite recipes in her book are the Juniper Brined Turkey, the Praline Sweet Potato Casserole and the Wild Rice Stuffing with Pine Nuts, Dried Apricots, and Fresh Herbs. Included in this cookbook is a chapter devoted to vegetarian recipes. If the turkey is your main attraction, then Diane Morgan provides every bit of information you'll need to cook that picture perfect turkey you see in all of the holiday magazines. I urge you to leave your comfort zone, and try one of her brined turkey recipes. Eating a brined turkey is a wonderful experience. Thanksgiving is my much loved holiday of the year. If it is your favorite holiday gathering, then the "Thanksgiving Table" by Diane Morgan is the one cookbook you should read.



-- recommended by Patty L. -- Walt Branch Library



[Landscape of Lies](#) by Peter Watson [M]

Clues to lost treasures once belonging to a monastery in England are hidden in a painting. Its owner and an art dealer interpret the symbols, but a rival is also after the valuables. The real meat of this book is the meaning of the symbols and the research that the hero and heroine conduct to move on to the next clue. As such, it is more cerebral than most mysteries, but not too arcane -- most mystery readers will be rewarded by the book.

-- recommended by Rianne S. -- Bennett Martin Public Library

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

Web sites for Readers



Stop, You're Killing Me!

A website to die for ... if you love mysteries.

www.StopYoureKillingMe.com

www.stopyourekillingme.com is an essential web site for mystery fans. SYKM is a central clearinghouse for information about the mystery publishing field, especially for those readers who are wanting to stay on top of mystery series featuring ongoing characters.

SYKM features over 2,600 different mystery authors, with over 29,000 titles from those authors, both series and stand-alones. You can search the site alphabetically by author or by series character. In addition to these standard searches, SYKM also has indexes that allow readers to search by Geographic Location, Character Profession, Historical Period, and Ethnic Diversity. SYKM features extensive lists of Award Winners in the mystery field, plus a monthly "What's New" feature that clearly identifies what's been added to the SYKM site (or updated) recently.

One of the most useful features, as far as I'm concerned, is SYKM's "forthcoming releases" schedule, which identifies mystery fiction in hardback, paperback and recorded books, for the next 5 to 6 months. Curious to know when the next Kathy Reichs hardback is coming out? Want to know if the next J.A. Jance title is coming out in Book-on-CD format simultaneous to its print release? Just have to find out what month the next volume in The Best American Mystery Stories is coming out? You'll find the answers to all of these questions at www.stopyourekillingme.com.

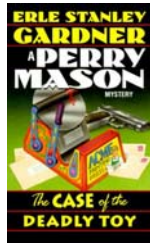
Winner of a 2008 Agatha Award for the Best Mystery Website or Blog.

Profiled by Scott C. -- Bennett Martin Public Library

MYSTERY FANS!! JUST DESSERTS THE BLOG

Mystery fans – take note! November sees the launch of a new specialized blog on the Lincoln City Libraries site – the [Just Desserts Blog](#). Every month, following the meeting of the **Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group**, the mystery novel discussed at that month's meeting will be posted as a new entry on the **Just Desserts Blog**. Any and all mystery fans, whether they're able to attend **Just Desserts** or not, can then leave their own thoughts and opinions about that book as a comment on that entry in the **Just Desserts Blog**.

Readers are especially encouraged to visit and post on the Just Desserts Blog during November and December. The discussion group takes a holiday hiatus in these two months, but we've posted a discussion thread about the works of classic mystery novelist Erle Stanley Gardner (creator of Perry Mason), for mystery fans to discuss...virtually...until the group reconvenes in January 2009!



We'll see you at...the [Just Desserts Blog!](#)

www.lincolnlibraries.org/Just_Desserts/

'Casting About...

As this issue of *The BookGuide Bulletin* goes to press, we've got 22 episodes of **BookGuide's 'Casting About'** available on-line, plus 20 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 Talks*, *One Book One Lincoln* programs and **'Casting About'** Podcasts, as soon as they become available!

www.lincolnlibraries.org/Podcasts/Podcasts.htm

or

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

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

Share your own reviews!!

Reader Rating

★★★★★
(4 reviews)

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

can submit a **Customer Review** of any material owned by the library system, at any time. Both systems allow users to share their thoughts and feelings about books, dvds, music and other library materials with each other.

Customer Reviews
Read Reviews and Contribute Your Own

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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