

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

March 2009

Vol. 1 No. 31

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for March/April
New and/or Featured Booklists
Staff Reviews
Focus On: Women's History Month
Websites for Readers: ISFDB
Reviewer Profile: Mary L.
'Casting About

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

Mar 6 The Unexpected
Mar 13 Rabbit and Other Updike
Mar 20 Books From Other Countries
Mar 27 Polley Picks – Music Books
Apr 3 Eat, Drink and Be Merry!
Apr 10 t.b.a.

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

Mar 2 Do You Remember These?
Mar 9 t.b.a. [Teen specialist Susan from Eiseley]
Mar 16 Books From Other Countries
Mar 23 Silence is Security
Mar 30 Eat, Drink and Be Merry!
Apr 6 An Assortment of Authors
Apr 13 I'll Just Have the Water, Thanks!

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

Mar 26 "The Question of Blood" by Ian Rankin
Apr 30 "Lion in the Valley" by Elizabeth Peters

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

Mar 12 Chaucer – "The Canterbury Tales"
Mar 26 Aeschylus – "Agamemnon"
Apr 9 James – "The Beast in the Jungle"

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.**

[Anchors Aweigh!](#)

Newly updated – Anchors Aweigh is one of BookGuide's most-used booklists. If you're a fan of Naval Adventure Fiction, like the Hornblower novels or the stories of Aubrey and Maturin, you'll find a literal treasure trove of similar titles here.

[Hot Non-Fiction Titles of 2008](#)

When one of our customers commented that BookGuide features lots of fiction booklists but few non-fiction lists, and that they were curious about what the popular non-fiction titles are, we created this list highlighted the hot titles released in 2008.

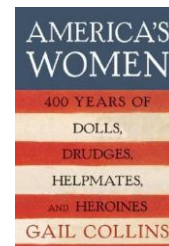
Note to readers seeing this newsletter only as a paper copy – All examples of blue underlined text in this newsletter are hotlinks to pages on the **BookGuide** or **Lincoln City Libraries** web sites. For full functionality, please visit the electronic version of this, and past issues of the **BookGuide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

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

March is Women's History Month!

Since 1987, March has been declared **Women's History Month** in the United States, building on a tradition that dates back to March 8, 1911, in which Europe celebrated *International Women's Day*. In addition to dozens of biographies of prominent women throughout history, the Lincoln City Libraries have a large collection of materials celebrating the contributions of women to society and culture. Here are a just a few noteworthy items about women and women's history available in the libraries' collection (for more search our catalog under **Subject: Women—History**):

- Ladies of Liberty: The Women Who Shaped Our Nation by Cokie Roberts [973.4 Rob]
- Flapper: A Madcap Story of Sex, Style, Celebrity and the Women Who Made America Modern by Joshua Zeitz [305.429 Zei]
- On Liberty and the Subjugation of Women by John Stuart Mill [323.44 Mil]
- Glory, Passion and Principle by Melissa Bohrer [973.3 Boh]
- America's Women: 400 Years of Dolls, Drudges, Helpmates and Heroines by Gail Collins [305.4 Col]
- How to Be Like Women of Influence by Pat Williams [920.72 Wil]
- Warrior Women by Jeannine Davis-Kimball [305.4 Dav]
- Suffragist Sheet Music by Danny O. Crew [Music 781.592 Cre]
- Who Cooked the Last Supper? by Rosalind Miles [305.4 Mil]
- Supreme Court Decisions and Women's Rights by Clare Cushman [342.085 Cut]
- What American Women Did by Linda Miles Coppens [305.4 Cop]
- Uppity Women of the New World by Vicki Leon [305.4 Leo]
- I Dwell in Possibility: Women Build a Nation by Donna Lucey [305.4 qLuc]
- Women in U.S. History by Lyda Mary Hardy [R 305.42 Har]
- Not For Ourselves Alone by Geoffrey Ward [Video 305.42 War]



welcome to a new... Reviewer Profile

Our featured Reviewer for March 2009 is Mary L. Mary is the Youth Services Librarian at the Bess Dodson Walt branch library, and her reviews show up regularly on our Staff

Recommendations displays and on the [BookGuide](#) web site. Reading has always been important to Mary, 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 in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, went to college in Virginia, and since then have lived in Kentucky, Wisconsin, Illinois, and Nebraska. Reading was difficult for me as a child, but I loved listening to my mother read bedtime stories (usually Little Golden Books) to me and my 3 siblings. In fifth grade I read an entire Nancy Drew book on one Saturday and that convinced me that I too was a reader!

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

Being a Youth Services Librarian I especially enjoy children's and teen books and I think a lot of this interest developed from reading to my own children. I was just as



excited as they were when we'd come home from a visit to Gere Library back in the 80's with a bag full of books, treasures to be explored. We'd sit right down on the living room floor and "dig in"!

How important are books and reading to you, currently?

I love reading - for enjoyment, relaxation, and gaining understanding of people in different life situations.

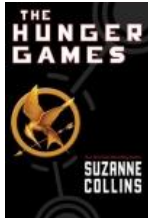
How do you select what books to read next?

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

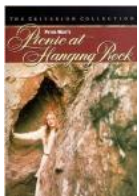
Staff Reviews

[The Hunger Games](#) by Suzanne Collins



Katniss lives in a futuristic dystopia where "The Capitol" keeps the outlying districts under control by forcing each of them to send two teenagers to compete in the annual *Hunger Games* - a big-time TV production of a survival fight to the death. The teens must fight each other as well as the elements, which are controlled by the game handlers. If they are lucky and have been appealing on the pregame interviews, they will have sponsors who will send them supplies to help them survive. Lots of suspense, some romance, and plenty of big questions about government control, make this survival tale by the author of the popular *Gregor the Overlander* series a real page-turner.

-- recommended by Mary L. / Walt Branch Library



[Picnic at Hanging Rock](#)

I first saw this film nearly 20 years ago and was impressed by its moodiness as well as the intriguing story. The setting is Valentine's Day at a private girls' school in Australia, 1900. The girls prepare to go for an outing at a remote location known as "Hanging Rock." Several girls and a teacher mysteriously disappear during the excursion. Is it an alien abduction or a kidnapping? This is a wonderful film to watch if you like unexplained mysteries.

-- recommended by Kim J. / 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



This month we'll focus on an essential site for fans of science fiction and fantasy – frequently referred to by the catch-all phrase "speculative fiction." Our site is [The Internet Speculative Fiction Database](#).

The ISFDB is created "wiki"-style, with numerous contributors adding, editing and formatting the contents. The main entry page is fairly simple – two columns, with some "trivia" type information (authors born on this date or who died on this date), and a listing (including covers) of forthcoming books scheduled for release within the next two weeks. In the left-hand column is a

deceptively powerful search engine, under a little illustration of a library card catalog drawer.

The ISFDB search box allows you to search by **Name, Title, Year, Series, Publisher, ISBN** and Tags. Although the Tags search is pretty-much non-existent, all of the other search categories give you extensive results. You do need to be careful how you enter your search terms, though. A search by name for Lincoln, NE scifi author "Robert Reed" will be successful, but a search for "Reed, Robert" will produce zero results. However, a search by the partial term "Reed" will give you a list of the closest matches, which DO include the Reed you're looking for. The best way to think of it is that "bad terms" will give you no results, but "partial terms" will usually give you something. A title search for "The Green Hills of Mars" fails, but a title search for the phrase "Green Hills" will give you all sorts of info about Robert Heinlein's classic novel "The Green Hills of Earth", plus data about other stories featuring "Green Hills" in their titles.

Once you've got an author's listing up, you'll see all sorts of biographical information about them, then lists of all of their known published works – with connected novels or stories clustered together, so if you're curious about the order in which a *series* should be read, you can find a clue here. If you've searched by a book or story title, you'll find the various formats in which that work has appeared. In the case of short fiction, you can find listings of all the anthologies in which each story has been reprinted. You can also find lots of information about the artists whose work graced the covers of various printings of genre novels, or who contributed interior artwork to various magazines and book publishers.

If the "basic" search isn't helpful enough, you can also click on "advanced search" to call up a search screen that allows for boolean searching – the combining of various different search criteria in a single search.

Finally, back on the main page, in the left column, you'll find a number of specialty pages on the ISFDB – including an author directory, a magazine directory, a genre publisher list and a number of other quirky statistical reports. One subpage I would recommend under ISFDB Lists is the Awards page, which chronicles the winners and (sometimes more importantly) all the nominees for the many SF and Fantasy awards over the past several decades.

So...if you're a fan of science fiction or fantasy, we encourage you to visit [The Internet Speculative Fiction Database](#), hosted at Texas A&M University. Give it a try, and let us know what you thought, at bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org!

Profiled by Scott C. – Bennett Martin Public Library

'Casting About...

As this March 2009 issue of *The BookGuide Bulletin* goes to press, we've got 36 episodes of *BookGuide's 'Casting About* available on-line, plus 28 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! We also encourage you to leave comments on any of our podcasts!

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

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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