

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

April 2009

Vol. 1 No. 32

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for April/May
New and/or Featured Booklists
Staff Reviews
Focus On: National Poetry Month
Websites for Readers: Poets.org
'Casting About

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

Apr 10 Creature Comforts
Apr 17 t.b.a.
Apr 24 [library closed for staff In Service Day]
May 1 Susan's Picks
May 8 t.b.a.
May 15 t.b.a.

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

Apr 6 An Assortment of Authors
Apr 13 I'll Just Have the Water, Thanks!
Apr 20 Don't Read This Book!
Apr 27 Creature Comforts
May 4 t.b.a.
May 11 East Coast Crime

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

Apr 30 "Lion in the Valley" by Elizabeth Peters
May 28 "The Art of Detection" by Laurie King

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

Apr 23 Machiavelli – "The Prince"
May 14 Tolstoy – "The Death of Ivan Ilych" [season finale]

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.**

Forensic Fiction

Newly updated – The **Forensic Fiction** booklist is for fans of mysteries and thrillers that feature a strong element of forensic science. Think CSI for contemporary titles, or the Brother Cadfael mysteries for historicals. In the process of recently updating this list, dozens of new titles and several new authors have been added.

Authors From Other Countries

Julie B. featured a dozen books from foreign authors in her recent booktalks at Bethany and Gere branch libraries. You'll find several interesting reading possibilities here.

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>

April is National Poetry Month!

Inspired by the success and traditions of Black History Month and Women's History Month, the Academy of American Poets organized publishers, librarians, booksellers, teachers, poets and literary organizations to hold the first National Poetry Month in April 1996. The celebration of poetry has continued annually ever since. The Lincoln City Libraries maintains a huge selection of poetry collections – both by individual authors and collected into thematic anthologies. We also have critical examinations of poets and their works, and biographies of numerous prominent poets. Below, you'll find a selection of recent and/or classic Poetry-related titles available to check out through the libraries. (For more, search our catalog under **Subject: Poetry** and its dozens of sub-headings):

- Gilgamesh: A New English Version edited by Stephen Mitchell [299.92 Mit]
- Teaching With Fire: Poetry That Sustains the Courage to Teach by Sam M. Intrator [371.11 Int]
- Road Trip: Conversations With Writers by Shelly Clark [808.02 Cla]
- The Poetry Home Repair Manual by Ted Kooser [808.1 Koo]
- Poetry for Dummies by The Poetry Center [808.1 Poe]
- Essential Pleasures: A New Anthology of Poetry to be Read Aloud edited by Robert Pinsky [808.81 Ess]
- The Poetry of Men's Lives: An International Anthology edited by Fred Moramarco [808.81 Mor]
- Ten Poems to Last a Lifetime edited by Roger Housden [808.81 Ten]
- The Poets Market by Writers Digest [811.02 Poe]
- Liberating the Limerick: 230 Irresistible Classics edited by Ernest W. Lefever [811.08 Lef]
- Cat Haiku by Deborah Coates [811 Coa]
- Braided Creek: A Conversation in Poetry by Jim Harrison [811 Har]
- Red Bird: Poems by Mary Oliver [811 Oli]
- Ireland's Love Poems A. Norman Jeffares [821.08 Jef]
- The Norton Anthology of Modern and Contemporary Poetry edited by Jahan Ramazani [821.08 Ram]
- Haiku Inspirations by Tom Lowenstein [895.61 Low]
- Walt Whitman and the Birth of Modern American Poetry by Karen Karbiener [Compact Disc 811 WhiYk]
- The John H. Ames Reading Series – 200+ video and DVD recordings of live poetry readings in the library Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors

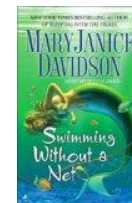


Staff Reviews

Swimming Without a Net by Suzanne Collins

Fans of Davidson's "Undead" series will find the same romantic humor in her "Fred the mermaid" series. This second book in the series finds Fred still torn between two men -- one human and one merman. She also for the first time meets thousands of other mer-people and the royal family who oversees them. Read to the final climatic end where the mer-people decide whether or not make their existence known to the world's human "bipeds."

– recommended by Jodene G. / Walt Branch Library



Romantic Times Book Reviews

Romantic Times is the ultimate magazine for fans of the romance fiction genre. Each monthly issue features profiles of classic and up-and-coming authors, news about the romance publishing industry, columns about writing/editing/publishing romance fiction, interviews, forthcoming publication previews, gossip and discussion forums, where readers can trade



bookstore news, "whatever happened to?" inquiries and praise/complaints about trends in the romance publishing industry. But...the most important and useful feature of each issue of Romantic Times is the reviews. Every issue has several hundred reviews of new romance novels, broken up into helpful categories -- Historical, Mainstream, Teen

Scene, Inspirational, SF/Fantasy, Romance Suspense, Mystery, Contemporary, Paranormal/Urban Fantasy, Series Romances, and Erotica. Although the reviews are fairly short, and only books with relatively positive reviews are featured, this is still an incredible assist to the romance fan on a limited budget.

Romantic Times also has an impressive web site (see link below), where you'll find thousands more reviews, as well as information about the RITA Awards for the best romance fiction published each year. The libraries maintain a collection of only the current two years of this title, located at the Bennett Martin Public Library downtown. [Note: We have a [RITA Awards booklist](#) here on BookGuide.]

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

Fireproof

by Suzanne Collins



This movie is very entertaining and well made. The DVD stars Kirk Cameron who plays a man who takes his job as a firefighter seriously, but has had a lot of trouble lately in his marriage. When his wife serves divorce papers, his father shares an idea that may help save his son's marriage. Watch it and see what transpires during the next six weeks of their lives. Bring some tissues, because you may shed a few tears. Rated PG for thematic material and peril. Note: Heavily tied into the novel, [The Love Dare](#), written by this film's screenwriter.

-- recommended by Kathy H. / South Branch 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



Since we're celebrating National Poetry Month in April, it seems only appropriate to turn our attention to a poetry-related web site in this month's "Web sites for readers". In fact, why not look at the site of the actual Academy of American Poets. So...our site for April is <http://www.poets.org>.

[Poets.org](#) features a lot of information for poetry fans or researchers. On the main entry page, you'll find links to poetry writing exercise, collections of thematic poetry appropriate to the season or historical events, the "poem of the day", and weekly highlighted poets, audios, poetic essays and poetry books. You'll also find information about current ongoing projects that the Academy of American Poets is involved with.

More importantly, near the top of the page are a series of drop-down menus labeled **Poets & Poetry**, **Poetry Store**, **About Us**, **Donate**, **Poetry Near You** and **For Educators**. Each of these menus takes you to a treasure trove of useful information, particularly the **Poets & Poetry** and **Poetry Near You**

selections. In addition to the drop-down menus, there are search boxes in the left column that allow you to search by the name of a poet or by the title of a poem. Looking for the text of Robert Frost's classic "Stopping By Woods on a Snowy Evening"? You'll find it easily. Searching for a biography of Langston Hughes and/or a list of the titles of all of his poetry collections -- you'll find it fairly quickly.

Some of my favorite, slightly unusual, features on [Poets.org](#) include: **The Poetry Map**, with which you can select any of the fifty U.S. states and come up with a list of prominent poets from that state, as well as geographical features from that state that feature in the world of poets and poetry. You'll also see a list of upcoming poetry events in the state, plus information about organizations and the support or promote poetry and prominent publishers of poetry for that area. **Audio & Video** -- there is a growing collection of audio and video recordings of poets reading their works or answering interview questions. **Discussion Forums** -- [Poets.org](#) sponsors an extensive forum community, for fans and researchers to share their questions and observations with others of like mind.

The Poetry Store on the [Poets.org](#) site also connects readers with a vast storehouse of poetry collections plus other merchandise that may appeal to poetry lovers.

As with any electronic tool, there are of course some drawbacks. [Poets.org](#) has a fairly extensive collection of information available, but it is still a database that is being added to on an ongoing basis. Although you'll find many (if not most) prominent historical poets listed, there are a lot of recent or contemporary poets who are not included in the database, or who only show up in geographic lists of poets, without full detailed biographical entries on them. Also, you'll find some classic poems in their full text versions, but for other poems, you'll only find listings of their titles in a poet's list of published works. So...[Poets.org](#) is certainly not the be-all and end-all of online poetry research

However...if you're a fan of poetry, or consider yourself to be a poet, and want to learn more about the word of poetry online, we encourage you to visit <http://www.poets.org/>, the official online presence of the Academy of American Poets -- it's a good place to get started with online poetry searching. Give it a try, and let us know what you thought, at bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org! And, as always, if you've got a literary web site you'd like to recommend, we'd love to hear from you, at the e-mail address above.

Profiled by Scott C. -- Bennett Martin Public Library

'Casting About...

As this April 2009 issue of *The BookGuide Bulletin* is being finalized, we've got 38 episodes of **BookGuide's 'Casting About** available on-line, plus 31 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*, *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

Coming Soon...

We'll be announcing the 2009 Finalists for **One Book -- One Lincoln** in the next couple of months, both on the libraries' web site and through the *Lincoln Journal Star*. You can also look forward to another **Adult Summer Reading Program** to accompany this year's programs for youth and teens -- the 2008 premiere of the adult program was highly successful...and this year we hope to make it even easier for readers to share their opinions about what they're reading. **Staff Reviewer Profiles** return with still more inside looks at the library staff members throughout our system that contribute Staff Recommendations to BookGuide. Happy reading!!

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