

# BookGuide Bulletin



An on-line "readers' services" newsletter from the Lincoln City Libraries

Newsletter

May/June 2009

Vol. 1 No. 33

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

## This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for May/June  
New and/or Featured Booklists  
Staff Reviews  
One Book One Lincoln  
Courtyard Book Chats...in the Garden!  
Websites for Readers: SITE  
'Casting About

## Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

May 1 Susan's Picks  
May 8 What's So Funny?  
May 15 t.b.a.  
May 22 East Coast Crime  
May 29 Tempting, Tantalizing, Enticing Titles

### Courtyard Book Chats [Tuesdays 12:15 p.m.] [441-8530]

June 2 The History of the Victorian Age...  
June 9 East Coast Crime  
June 16 Eat, Drink and Be Merry  
June 23 Bess Streeter Aldrich – Nebraska Author  
June 30 Susan's Picks

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

May 4 What's So Funny?  
May 11 East Coast Crime  
May 18 Polley Picks

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

May 28 "The Art of Detection" by Laurie King  
June 25 "The Bishop at the Lake" by Andrew Greeley  
July 30 "Bubbles Betrothed" by Sarah Strohmeyer

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

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.**

### [Top 20 Titles from the 2008 Adult Summer Reading Program](#)

Take a look at the top 20 titles read by participants in the 2008 Adult Summer Reading Program.

### [Heart-Land](#)

Looking for a little romance, but want to keep it close to home? Then you might want to sample some of these Heartland romance writers...many from Nebraska!



**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>



### [Return of the Adult Summer Reading Program](#)

Adults can join the kids and teens in their family again this year by participating in the Lincoln City Libraries' [Adult Summer Reading Program](#).

You can register to take part in-person or on-line (click the logo at left or the link above to get to our resources page). Using the booklet you'll receive, keep track of the books you read this summer. Stop in at any library and get your booklet stamped for each of the first four books you've read.

The theme for this year's Adult Summer Reading Program is "Master the Art of Reading."

For every book you read, you can fill out an entry slip to be eligible for drawings at each branch for a Book Lovers bag of goodies – a \$10 book store gift certificate, a coffee mug, poster, a set of pencils and a small sketchbook. Once you've read four books, you can turn in the entry form in your stamped booklet to be eligible for the Grand Prize drawing – A family membership to the Lux Arts Center.

This year, we're encouraging participants to be interactive with us. Readers are invited to submit short reviews of the books they're reading. We'd also love to see **where** you're reading – visit our web site and submit a digital photo of yourself reading at your favorite reading spot – on the beach on vacation, in the stands at your nephew's soccer game, or in a hammock in your own back yard!

### [One Book One Lincoln – 2009](#)

The countdown has begun...

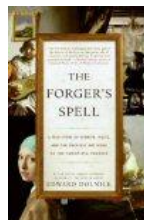
The five finalists for the 2009 **One Book – One Lincoln** community reading program will be announced on **June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2009**, in the Lincoln Journal Star, and on the libraries' web site.



If you'd like to be one of the first to find out, you can join the [One Book One Lincoln e-mail list](#), use your feed reader to follow the [One Book One Lincoln blog](#), or if you're on Facebook, you can become a fan of the [One Book One Lincoln Facebook group](#). All five finalists will be available in mass quantities at the library, including our popular **Book Club in a Bag** – so your reading group can enjoy discussing any or all of the chosen titles. And don't forget...if you need a discussion facilitator, the library would be happy to provide one.

Tune in on-line on June 15<sup>th</sup> for more details...

## Staff Reviews



### [The Forger's Spell](#) by Edward Dolnick

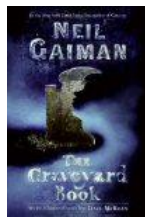
Every wonder how a forged painting by a famous artist winds up in a renowned gallery? Well, here it is! Dolnick systematically chronicles the real, yet fantastic story of Han van Meegeren, a mediocre Dutch painter who fooled not only Herman Goering, but many others into believing that his works were previously undiscovered Vermeers. Dolnick tells us how such forgeries are produced, how they are marketed, and why otherwise rational people purchase them. Set against the chaotic

backdrop of World War II and the Nazi quest to pilfer all the great artworks of Western civilization, this book provides a vast amount of insight into the phenomena. Sure to entertain as well!

-- recommended by Jim W. / Gere Branch Library

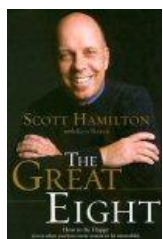
## The Graveyard Book

by Neil Gaiman



Neil Gaiman's latest -- a current Hugo Award nominee for best novel -- is ostensibly a "young adult" title, but can be appreciated by readers of most ages. As usual with Gaiman, this is a modern-fantasy work, set in our traditional world, but with elements of the fantastic woven throughout the fabric of the novel. The novel begins some time ago, as a mysterious killer attempts to assassinate the members of a small British family. Unbeknownst to the killer, a toddler has escape from his crib and wandered out of the house...into a graveyard down the street. The ghosts inhabiting the graveyard recognize the threat to the child and, knowing his parents are dead, adopt the lad -- naming him Nobody Owens, or "Bod" for short. Bod grows up in the graveyard, receiving his life lessons from the dead, and guarded by the mysterious Silas, a man who is neither living nor dead. As Bod grows up, the threats to him from the outside world continue, and the wonders he experiences in his odd world continue to amaze the reader...with both elements culminating in a dark confrontation before the book concludes. Overall, I found this Newbery Award-winning book to be an interesting read, though not quite as enjoyable as Gaiman's previous youth book -- Coraline. But, still definitely worth reading to keep up with one of today's master fantasists.

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



## The Great Eight: How to Be Happy (Even When You Have Every Reason to be Miserable) by Scott Hamilton

Figure-skating icon and cancer patient Scott Hamilton presents a guide to finding happiness for your life, even in times of despair. Using concepts that draw from his

newly refined Christian beliefs, combined with generally accepted self-help ideas, he presents his positive approach to life and talks about his own struggles to be happy and healthy. Who knew that ever-smiling "Scottie" Hamilton had so many things troubling him? A unique feature of this book is the running analogy between skating techniques and tools and facing both the everyday challenges and the dire circumstances of life, with special significance given to "figure 8s".

-- recommended by Becky W.C. / Walt Branch Library

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

## *Casting About...*

As this May/June 2009 issue of *The BookGuide Bulletin* is being finalized, we've got 41 episodes of *BookGuide's 'Casting About'* available on-line, plus 35 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 on the [Book Groups page](#), on the [booktalk booklists page](#) -- 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!

## **Courtyard Book Chats...in the Garden!**

Lunchtime book talks return to the downtown library this summer, and once again we're taking them on the road a bit -- or at least across the street! Every Tuesday, in June, July and August, we'll be at the **Lincoln Community Foundation Garden** (1415 "N" St. -- Across "N" St. from Bennett Martin Public Library) over the lunch hour.



So...if you're munching on your bagged lunch in the downtown area between Noon at 1:00 p.m., join us at the **Lincoln Community Foundation Garden** every Tuesday. Book Chats begin at 12:15 and should end by 12:45. Each presentation has a specific theme...and here's this year's topics:

**Jun 2 -- The History of the Victorian Age Will Never be Told...**

**Jun 9 -- East Coast Crime**

**Jun 16 -- Eat, Drink and Be Merry**

**Jun 23 -- Bess Streeter Aldrich -- Nebraska Author**

**Jun 30 -- Susan's Picks (from Eiseley Branch's teen specialist)**

**Jul 7 -- Authors From Other Countries**

**Jul 14 -- Tempting, Tantalizing, Enticing Titles**

**Jul 21 -- Authors I Have Met**

**Jul 28 -- What's So Funny?**

**Aug 4 -- Fantasy Fiction by Female Authors**

**Aug 11 -- Polley Picks -- Recent Music Titles**

**Aug 18 -- Charlotte's Picks**

**Aug 25 -- Scott's Picks**

## *Web Sites for Readers*

We've got a couple of really simple, but useful, reader-related web sites to recommend to you in this issue of [The BookGuide Bulletin](#).



First up -- Have you ever been curious about the pseudonyms under which your favorite authors have written? Some, like Stephen King and Robert Ludlum, have used other names because they would otherwise flood the market with too many books at the same time. Some, like Eleanor Alice Hibbert, have used different pseudonyms for different writing styles.

The [a.k.a. \(also known as\)](#) site is a very simply and cleanly designed site that allows visitors to search for either the actual names of authors (and then see a list of their known pseudonyms), or for a known pseudonym and see what the author's true identity is.

There aren't a lot of bells and whistles to this site, but there is one fun feature. On the front page, there's a "Top Ten" link that will take you to a list of authors who've used 10 or more known pseudonyms. Who's on top? Edward Alexander Crowley -- 150 names!



Published by the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, the [Prairie Schooner](#) is a nationally renowned literary quarterly, featuring works by writers both famed and unknown. Their website archives much of the content of past issues, as well as indexes, and submission guidelines for writers hoping to make it into the "big time."

Profiled by Scott C. -- Bennett Martin Public Library

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