

Fiction News

The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



April 2016

CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF SHAKESPEARE - FICTION FROM WRITERS INSPIRED BY THE BARD AND HIS WORKS

The Lambs of London by Peter Ackroyd.

For siblings Charles and Mary Lamb, the works of Shakespeare furnish a respite from the boredom and domesticity of their lives, until William Ireland, an antiquarian bookseller, claims to possess a long-lost Shakespearean play.

The Tutor by Andrea Chapin.

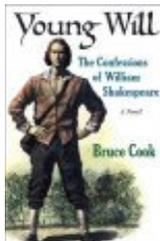
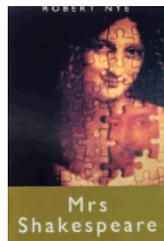
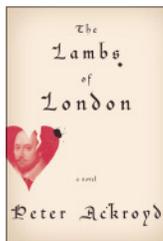
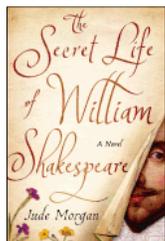
Katharine de L'Isle, a young widow living during Queen Elizabeth's persecution of the English Catholics in 1590, is thrown into turmoil when the family priest is murdered and a new schoolmaster named William Shakespeare arrives.

Young Will: The Confessions of William Shakespeare by Bruce Cook.

An aging William Shakespeare recalls his youth in London as a young playwright and recounts his early meetings with actors and teachers and his attempts at playwriting with the help of his friend, Kit Marlowe.

The Sonnet Lover by Carol Goodman.

Drawn by a letter from a student who dies under mysterious circumstances, literature professor Rose Asher journeys to Italy in search of a missing folio containing what some believe are lost sonnets penned by William Shakespeare.



The Secret Life of William Shakespeare by Jude Morgan.

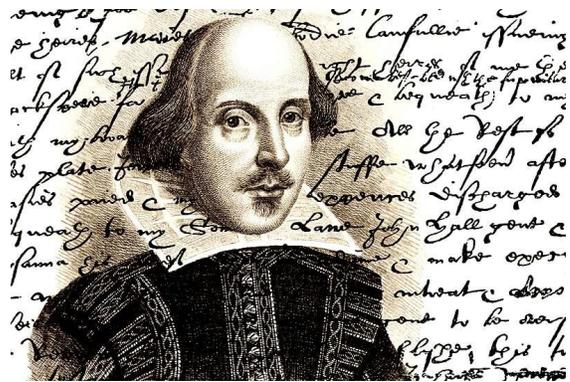
A sumptuously detailed imagining of the private world of the master bard chronicles the transformation of an unwilling craftsman and resentful son into a husband, father and genius playwright in Renaissance London.

Mrs. Shakespeare: The Complete Works by Robert Nye.

Provides a humorous glimpse into the mysteries surrounding Shakespeare's personal life and Dark Sonnets through fictional memoirs and short stories by his estranged wife.

The Tragedy of Arthur by Arthur Phillips.

When their long-imprisoned con-artist father reaches the end of his life, Arthur and his twin sister become the owners of an undiscovered play by William Shakespeare that their father wants published, a final request that represents either a great literary gift or their father's last great heist.

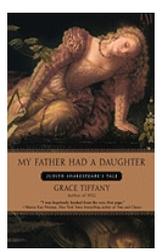
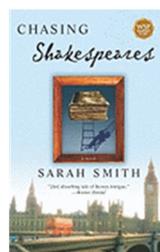


The Dark Ladies Mask by Mary Sharratt.

Disguising herself as a man to escape her loveless marriage and enjoy the exclusive freedoms of men, aspiring writer Aemilia Lanier falls in love and runs away with ragged poet William Shakespeare, with whom she secretly writes plays that bring him fame years later.

Chasing Shakespeares by Sarah Smith.

After two Harvard graduates discover a letter that appears to have been penned by William Shakespeare, the find offers promise to the career of one and challenges the other to prove the letter is a forgery.



My Father Had a Daughter: Judith Shakespeare's Tale by Grace Tiffany.

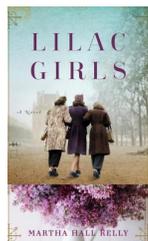
The daughter of England's greatest dramatist, angered over her father's callousness regarding a family tragedy and her own grief, heads for London, intent on sabotaging his new play.

The Gap of Time by Jeanette Winterson.

A modern retelling of Shakespeare's *The Winter's Tale* moves from London after the 2008 financial crisis to the storm-ravaged American city of New Bohemia, in a story of the destructive effect of jealousy and the redemptive power of love.

NEW FICTION

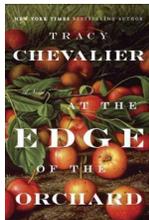
(Annotations from BookLetters)



Lilac Girls by Martha Hall Kelly.

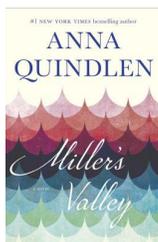
Rich with historical detail and riveting to the end, *Lilac Girls* weaves the lives of three astonishing women into a story of extraordinary moral power set against the harrowing backdrop of Europe in thrall to Nazi German. Inspired by the life of a real World War II heroine, this powerful debut novel reveals an incredible story of love, redemption, and terrible secrets that were hidden for decades.

The Edge of the Orchard by Tracy Chevalier. Settling in the swamps of early 19th-century northwest Ohio, the Goodenough family works relentlessly to establish an apple orchard that reflects respective dreams before their youngest child heads to Gold Rush California to collect seeds for a naturalist.



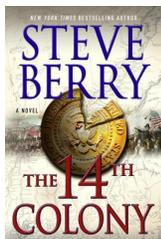
Miller's Valley by Anna Quindlen.

In a small town on the verge of big change, a young woman unearths deep secrets about her family and unexpected truths about herself. Filled with insights that are the hallmark of Anna Quindlen's bestsellers, *Miller's Valley* is an emotionally powerful story about a family you will never forget.



The 14th Colony by Steve Berry.

What happens if both the president and vice-president-elect die before taking the oath of office? Shot down over Siberia, ex-Justice Department agent Cotton Malone is forced into a fight for survival against Aleksandr Zorin, a man whose loyalty to the former Soviet Union has festered for decades into an intense hatred of the United States. Before escaping, Malone learns that Zorin and another ex-KGB officer are headed overseas to Washington D.C. Noon on January 20th Inauguration Day is only hours away.



The Excellent Lombards by Jane Hamilton.

Frances "Frankie" Lombard is fiercely in love with her family's sprawling apple orchard and the web of family members who inhabit it. She desires nothing more than for the rhythm of life to continue undisturbed, but Frankie is forced to shed her childhood fantasies and face the possibility of losing the idyllic future she had envisioned.



Most Wanted by Lisa Scottoline.

When a woman and her husband, desperate for a baby, find themselves unable to conceive, they decide to take further steps. Since it is the husband who is infertile, the heroine decides to use a donor. And all seems to be well. But a shocking revelation occurs when she discovers that a man arrested for a series of murders is her donor - the biological father of the child she is carrying.



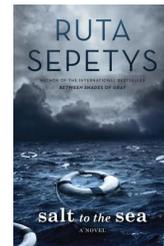
For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit our website at www.ridgfieldlibrary.org

STAFF PICKS

Geri's Pick

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys.

Historical fiction at its finest. Sepetys looks at an area of World War II that is not often talked about: the end of the war and the evacuation of refugees from East Prussia. The story is told through multiple points of view, and the desperation of the refugees is palpable. This may be marketed as a YA book, but fans of *All The Light We Cannot See* should not miss this one.



Mary R's Picks



The Lost Landscape by Joyce Carol Oates.

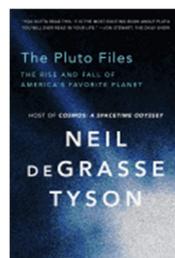
Even if you are not a regular reader of Oates' phenomenally prolific output, this is a very readable and resonant account of coming-of-age as a woman and a writer in mid-20th century America. For those familiar with her writings, there is the added fun of identifying the source of some of her signature literary terrain.

The Museum of Extraordinary Things by Alice Hoffman.

Alice Hoffman is a prolific writer and is always well-received by readers and critics but rarely breaks out into headline status. Her latest incorporates her trademark strong female characters, who often exhibit an other-worldly talent of some sort, set against the backdrop of turn-of-the-20th-century New York City. The popularization of Coney Island, the development of photography and the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory fire are just a few of the intriguing historical tidbits that figure in the story.



Hope's Pick



The Pluto Files by Neal DeGrasse Tyson.

The back story of how Pluto became 'downgraded' to a dwarf planet. Laugh out loud funny at times!

Dorothy's Pick



As Close to Us as Breathing by Elizabeth Poliner.

In the 1930s and 1940s, Bagel Beach in Woodmont, Connecticut was a Jewish summer enclave. Told from the viewpoint of Molly Leibritzky, this novel looks back on the summer of 1948 when she was 12 and her extended family congregated at the Bagel Beach bungalow inherited by her mother Ada and her aunts Vivie and Beca. The accidental death of Molly's younger brother becomes a pivotal moment for the family that changes the course of each of their lives going forward. Molly gradually reveals the consequences of that loss for each family member as she narrates the events of that fateful summer and of the subsequent decades. This is a beautifully written and insightful novel about the bonds of family in the face of loss.