

Fiction News

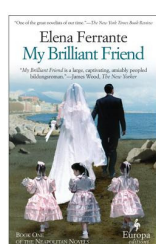
The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter



August 2016

ARMCHAIR TRAVEL - FICTION SET IN ITALY

Here's a way to capture the flavor of Italy and immerse yourself in its rich culture, history, and art as imagined by the many fiction writers who have been inspired by this Mediterranean country. For more suggestions of fiction set in Italy, pick up a copy of the brochure *La Dolce Vita—Fiction Set in Italy* next time you visit the Library or find it on the Readers' Resources section of our website under the "Finding a Good Book" section.



The Almond Picker – Simonetta Agnello Hornby

Exploring issues of identity in modern Sicily, this novel presents the complicated life of Maria Rosalia Inzerillo, a woman born into poverty in Sicily, who becomes the invaluable servant of a wealthy family.

The Leopard by Tomasi di Lampedusa

Lampedusa weaves a colorful and detailed portrayal of Sicilian royalty in the years during and after the Risorgimento.

The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

In 1327, finding his sensitive mission at an Italian abbey further complicated by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William of Baskerville turns detective.

Leonardo's Swans by Karen Essex

Born into wealth amid the political and artistic foment of the Italian Renaissance, worldly and ambitious Isabella and Beatrice d'Este, sisters and rivals, compete for the attentions of the Duke of Milan.

Elena Ferrante

My Brilliant Friend

The Story of a New Name

Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay

The Story of the Lost Child

Ferrante's Neapolitan novels follows the friendship of Elena and Lina over the decades from childhood through adulthood.

Juliet by Ann Fortier

Julie Jacobs inherits a key to a safety deposit box in Siena, Italy, and is told it will lead her to an old family treasure. Launched into a quest to discover the history of her ancestor Giulietta, Julie crosses paths with the descendants of the families involved in Shakespeare's unforgettable blood feud.

Alibi by Joseph Kanon

This historical thriller set in the Venice of 1946 centers around a U.S. Army war crimes investigator who falls in love with a Venetian Jewish woman scarred by her experiences in the war.

Casa Rosa by Francesca Marciano

The lives of three generations of Puglia women: the grandmother who left her husband and fled to Nazi Germany; the mother who lived a happy life in Rome; and the daughters who slowly grow apart.

The Apprentice Lover by Jay Parino

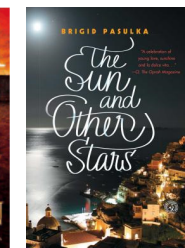
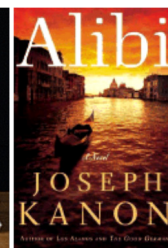
A coming of age novel populated by literary figures and set on the island of Capri.

The Sun and Other Stars by Brigid Pasulka

Adrift in a soccer-obsessed seaside village on the Italian Riviera, a young man who has recently lost his mother and brother struggles to bond with his emotionally absent father before being drawn into the world of a scandalous soccer star and his tough-love sister.

La Cucina: A Novel of Rapture by Lily Prior

Rosa is the only girl from a rural Sicilian family. After losing her true love at a young age, she moves to the big city and loses her love of food and of life. Years later, a mysterious man reawakens her to both.



The Imperfectionists by Tom Rachman

Follows the topsy-turvy private lives of the reporters and editors of an English-language newspaper in Rome.

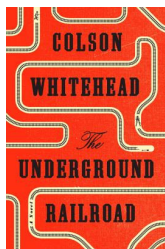
Venetian Stories and Across the Bridge by Jane Turner Rylands

An anthology of twelve stories set in Venice focuses on the lives of characters from different neighborhoods, social and economic classes, and backgrounds, whose destinies intertwine in unexpected ways.



NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters and NovelList)



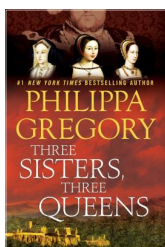
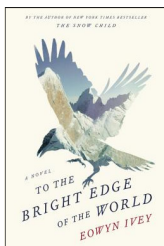
The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead.

The new Oprah's Book Club pick.

From prize-winning, bestselling author Colson Whitehead, a magnificent tour de force chronicling a young slave's adventures as she makes a desperate bid for freedom in the antebellum South. Whitehead seamlessly weaves the saga of America from the brutal importation of Africans to the unfulfilled promises of the present day. *The Underground Railroad* is at once a kinetic adventure tale of one woman's ferocious will to escape the horrors of bondage and a shattering, powerful meditation on the history we all share.

To the Bright Edge of the World by Eowyn Ivey.

An atmospheric, transporting tale of adventure, love, and survival from the bestselling author of *The Snow Child*. In the winter of 1885, Colonel Allen Forrester leads a small band of men of an expedition up the Wolverine River in the vast, untamed Alaska Territory, leaving behind Sophie, his newly pregnant wife. On her own at Vancouver Barracks, Sophie chafes under the social restrictions and yearns to travel alongside her husband. She does not know that the winter will require as much of her as it does her husband. Can her exploration of nature through the new art of photography help her to rediscover her sense of beauty and wonder?

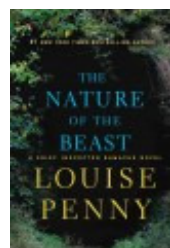
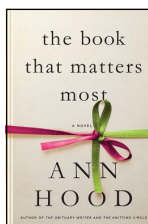


Three Sisters, Three Queens by Philippa Gregory.

From the *New York Times* bestselling author *The White Princess*, a gripping new Tudor story featuring King Henry VIII's sisters Mary and Margaret, along with Katherine of Aragon, vividly revealing the pivotal roles the three queens played in Henry VIII's kingdom.

The Book That Matters Most by Ann Hood.

Ava joins a book group, not only for her love of reading but also out of sheer desperation for companionship. The group asks each member to recommend the book that matters most to them causing Ava to search for a mysterious book from her childhood. Ava's mission to find that book and its enigmatic author takes her on a quest that unravels the secrets of her own past.



A Great Reckoning by Louise Penny.

This is the eleventh book in Penny's popular Chief Inspector Gamache series. "All our old friends are back in Three Pines where a young boy with a compulsion to tell tall tales tells one true story with disastrous results. But which story is the truth and why is it so threatening? Exquisitely suspenseful, emotionally wrenching and thoroughly satisfying."

Library Reads

For a more extensive list of new fiction, mystery, and science fiction and fantasy titles, visit www.ridgefieldlibrary.org

STAFF PICKS

Elise's Picks

Modern Lovers by Emma Straub.

Already starting to feel hemmed in by middle age, three long-time friends and former Oberlin classmates become alarmed when they discover that their teenage children have become lovers and that a Hollywood studio intends to make a movie about the famous fourth member of their briefly successful college band. Nostalgic for the intensity of their own youth, the close knit group starts to unravel as old secrets emerge, friendships are frayed, and "steady-ish marriages" are re-evaluated. Set in gentrified Brooklyn, this urbane, deliciously witty novel is both bighearted and psychologically perceptive. *Modern Lovers* would make a terrific vacation companion and a thought-provoking book club choice.



Before the Wind by Jim Lynch.



Scattered all over the globe, a legendary sailing family comes together for one last try at the prestigious Swiftsure international racing trophy. Outsized characters all, the Johansen clan is a grand and turbulent bunch. Gramps (affectionately known as Grumps) founded the boat building business with his son, but Bobo pushed his three children too hard and his dynastic dreams derailed when Ruby, the youngest and most talented sailor, scuttled her chances for an Olympic slot. Now, after many years working in Africa for humanitarian agencies, Ruby is back with a plan to reunite the family and save their failing business. Author Jim Lynch grew up sailing Puget Sound with his parents and siblings, and he has written a highly entertaining, knowledgeable novel that captures both the adrenaline thrills and the obsessive pitfalls of the sailing life.

Dorothy's Picks

The Light of Paris by Eleanor Brown.

Going back and forth in time, this novel alternates the stories of Madeline and her late maternal grandmother Margaret. Escaping from her troubled marriage, Madeline returns to her childhood hometown in Arkansas to help her widowed mother in preparations to sell the family home. In the attic, she discovers her grandmother's diaries. Recounting her adventures in 1924 Paris, Margaret's journals reveal a bohemian past and a crisis that offers striking parallels to Madeline's own conflicts about the direction her life has taken. This is an intelligent summer read that explores the issues faced by women torn between family expectations and their own desires. Margaret's storyline offers a compelling look at Paris in the 1920s.



Miss Jane by Brad Watson.

Born in 1915 rural Mississippi, Jane Chisolm is burdened with a rare urogenital defect that affects her ability to control her bodily functions and precludes her ability to have children. Based on the true story of the author's great aunt, *Miss Jane* is a tribute to the resilience of a woman who meets life's obstacles head on. Along the way, she is helped by a compassionate family doctor who provides emotional support as she hopes for a surgical cure. This moving portrait of a life of quiet dignity will resonate with fans of John William's modern classic *Stoner*.