

Fiction News



The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter

February 2017

AUTHORS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



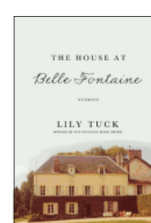
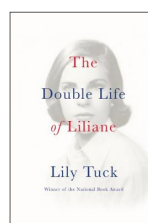
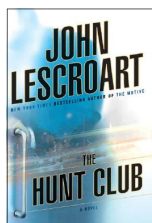
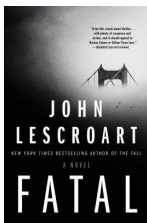
John Lescroart

John T. Lescroart is best known for legal thrillers that offer readers the best of two worlds: catchy police procedural details and edge-of-the-chair courtroom action. Lescroart creates vibrant characters like the glib attorney and dour police detective who star in his Dismas Hardy series. Complex plots treat provocative issues of law, corruption, politics, and personal issues; secondary characters are pulled into multiple cases, exhausting investigations, and outstanding courtroom drama.



Lily Tuck

American novelist and short story writer Lily Tuck won the National Award for Fiction for her novel *The News from Paraguay*. She has lived in Thailand, Uruguay and Peru and says that "living in other countries has given me a different perspective as a writer. It has heightened my sense of dislocation and rootlessness. ... I think this feeling is reflected in my characters, most of them women whose lives are changed by either a physical displacement or a loss of some kind.



Partial list of titles:

Fatal (2017)

A fleeting crush becomes a dangerous obsession for a woman who shares an intense encounter with a man she meets at a dinner party before a chilling act of violence marks the first of a series of horrifying events.

The Keeper (2014)

When one of his wife's clients suspiciously disappears and the woman's husband, a San Francisco jail guard, is accused of her murder, lawyer Dismas Hardy examines possible suspects before discovering evidence of the corruption-related death of an inmate.

Damage (2011)

His career derailed by the vengeful billionaire Curtlee family for his part in convicting one of their number for murder, former homicide detective Abe Glitsky learns that the killer has won a retrial at the same time a star witness has been murdered.

Betrayal (2007)

Taking over the casework of a recently disappeared attorney, Dismas Hardy and detective Abe Glitsky tackle an unexpectedly challenging appeal to overturn the life sentence of a National Guard reservist who has been convicted for a double murder.

The Hunt Club (2006)

In the aftermath of a federal judge's murder, homicide inspector Devin Juhle discovers that the victim had powerful enemies, a mistress, and unsettling ties to a woman with whom Devin's best friend has fallen in love.

Partial list of titles:

The Double Life of Liliame (2015)

As the child of a German movie producer father who lives in Italy and a beautiful, artistically talented mother who resides in New York, Liliame's life is divided between those two very different worlds. A shy and observant only child with a vivid imagination, Liliame uncovers the stories of family members as diverse as Moses, Mendelssohn, Mary Queen of Scots and an early Mexican adventurer, and pieces together their vivid histories.

The House at Belle Fontaine and Other Stories (2013)

This intimate collection of stories, spanning the better part of the 20th century and almost every continent, reveals the passions, secrets, fears and tragedies among lovers, spouses, landlords and tenants and lifelong friends.

I Married You for Happiness (2011)

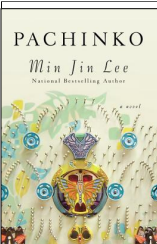
Follows the vigil of Nina at the deathbed of her husband, Philip, during which she remembers defining moments in their marriage while considering the life she imagined and their prospects for a shared afterlife.

The News from Paraguay (2004)

In 1854, while riding through the gardens of Paris, Franco Lopez sees Ella Lynch astride a splendid mare. Soon, he has taken her home to Paraguay, where he begins a flamboyant and ruthless rise to power. Ella will bear his children, ignore his mistresses, and send vivid letters back to her friends in France.

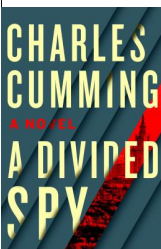
NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)



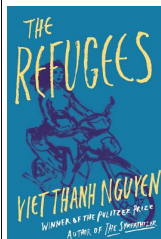
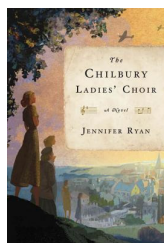
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee. In early 1900s Korea, prized-daughter Sunja finds herself pregnant and alone, bringing shame on her family until a young tubercular minister offers to marry her and move with her to Japan. This saga follows generations of one family bound together by deep roots as they face enduring questions of faith, family, and identity.

On Turpentine Lane by Elinor Lipman. Living a mostly peaceful existence in her small suburban hometown where she struggles to ignore the dysfunctional people in her life, Faith discovers mysterious artifacts that make her question a promising new relationship and everything she believes.



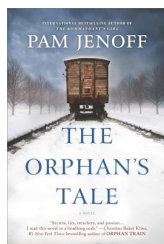
A Divided Spy by Charles Cumming. Former M16 officer Thomas Kell thought he was done with spying. Then Kell is offered an unexpected chance at revenge. Taking the law into his own hands, he embarks on a mission to recruit a top Russian spy who is in possession of a terrifying secret. As Kell tracks his man from Moscow to London, he finds himself in a high stakes game of cat and mouse in which it becomes increasingly difficult to know who is playing whom.

The Chilbury Ladies' Choir by Jennifer Ryan. As England enters World War II's dark early days, the women of Chilbury defy the Vicar's stuffy edict to shutter the church's choir in the absence of men and instead carry on singing. Resurrecting themselves as "The Chilbury Ladies' Choir," the women of this small village soon use song to lift themselves up. This ensemble novel will charm and inspire, illuminating the true spirit of the women on the homefront, in a village of indomitable spirit, at the dawn of a most terrible conflict.



The Refugees by Viet Thanh Nguyen. The Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer* presents a new collection of stories, written over a 20-year period, which explores questions of home, family, immigration, the American experience and the relationships and desires for self-fulfillment that define our lives.

The Orphan's Tale by Pam Jenoff. Sixteen-year-old Noa, forced to give up her baby fathered by a Nazi soldier, snatches a child from a boxcar containing Jewish infants bound for a concentration camp and takes refuge with a traveling circus, where Astrid, a Jewish aerialist, becomes her mentor.

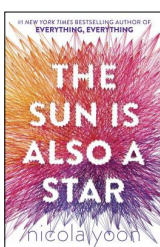


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STAFF PICKS

Elise's Picks

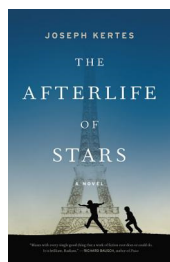
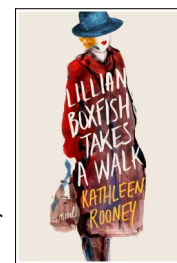
The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden. This enchanting historical fantasy transports readers back to the wild northern regions of medieval Russia, where Vasya, a fearless young girl, is locked in a deadly battle with her jealous stepmother, and her village's newly appointed, ambitious priest. Vasya, who has inherited her grandmother's magical powers, cherishes "the old ways" and knows that the wood spirits protect her people. The priest fears them, and his efforts to cast them out, bring hunger and suffering to her father's kingdom. Steeped in Russian folklore, and set in a time when orthodoxy and ancient beliefs collided, this vividly imagined fairy tale with its terrifying dark forces, icy but lush landscape, and a heroine as beautiful "as a new flown hawk," makes the perfect fireside companion for a cold winter's night.



The Sun Is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon. Over the course of one fateful day in New York City, two talented high school students, Natasha and Daniel, on their separate ways to critical meetings, cross paths and decide to spend the day together. Under intense pressure from his Korean-born parents to go to an Ivy league college and become an M.D., poetic Daniel is reluctantly keeping an appointment with a Yale interviewer. Natasha would love to go to a prestigious college and pursue a career in physics, but her family is 12 hours away from being deported back to Jamaica. This bittersweet, sophisticated novel, a National Book Award finalist (for Young People's Literature), tackles tough topics like parental expectations and immigration and has been a crossover hit that appeals to adults as well as teens, and to cynics as well as idealists.

Dorothy's Picks

Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk by Kathleen Rooney. It is New Year's Eve in 1984 and Lillian Boxfish, now in her 80s, celebrates the end of the year by embarking on a walking tour of Manhattan, her long-time residence. She traverses the city, frequenting some of her old haunts. Memories surface of her career as an author and an ad writer for Macys, which made her the highest paid women in advertising in the 1930s, and of her decision to marry and have a child, effectively ending her high-power career. Based on the life of Margaret Fishback, this is a sparkling yet poignant portrait of a talented and ambitious woman challenging the social mores of her time, and a tribute to the lure of New York City in a bygone era.



The Afterlife of Stars by Joseph Kertes. Ten-year old Robert and his 13-year old brother Attila, become refugees when their family, who survived the Holocaust, is forced to flee Budapest during the 1956 Hungarian uprising. Robert narrates the events surrounding his family's journey from Hungary to Paris, where they take refuge with his great Aunt Hermione, whose operatic career was tragically cut short during World War II. Attila, a budding philosopher and bright beyond his years, is determined to uncover his family's secrets about the dark days of the war and recruits his brother to help him uncover the events surrounding his family's rescue and survival. A captivating and often surprisingly humorous coming-of-age story of two young boys trying to make sense of a world gone mad.