

Fiction News



The Ridgefield Library's Fiction Newsletter

February 2018

AUTHORS IN THE SPOTLIGHT



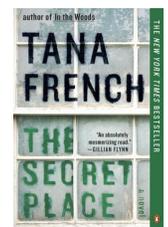
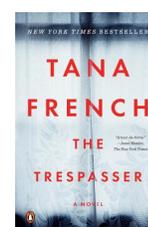
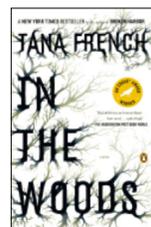
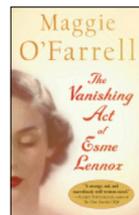
Maggie O'Farrell

Orange Prize-winning author Maggie O'Farrell has a gift for taking the little events that make up seemingly normal lives and weaving them into a complex and revelatory tale of human relationships. With her elegant prose and vibrant descriptions, she's especially fond of exploring familial bonds of the less than healthy variety.



Tana French

Irish mystery writer Tana French garnered uncommonly good reviews and wide critical praise with her debut, and has continued to impress critics and popular readers with each new book about the fictitious Dublin Murder Squad. In her finely plotted police procedurals, grim realities of social class, police politics, and human violence give the stories a dark tone, while the vividly drawn character portraits of the protagonists add emotional depth.



Partial list of titles:

I Am, I Am, I Am: Seventeen Brushes with Death (2018)

Presents a memoir told entirely in seventeen near-death experiences stemming from a dangerous childhood illness, accidents, an encounter with a disturbed person, and the author's daily efforts to protect her daughter from the vulnerabilities of a high-risk condition.

This Must Be the Place (2016)

Daniel Sullivan, a young American professor reeling from a failed marriage and a brutal custody battle, is on holiday in Ireland when he falls in love with Claudette, a world famous sexual icon and actress who fled fame for a reclusive life in a rural village. Together, they make an idyllic life in the country, raising two more children in blissful seclusion until a secret from Daniel's past threatens to destroy their meticulously constructed and fiercely protected home.

Instructions for a Heatwave (2013)

When a recently retired family patriarch clears out his bank account and disappears during a sweltering summer in 1976, his three children converge on their mother's home for the first time in years and track clues to an ancestral village in Ireland, where they uncover illuminating family secrets.

The Vanishing Act of Esme Lennox (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.

(Annotations from *NoveList* and *BookLetters*)

The Dublin Murder Squad Novels:

In the Woods (2007)

Twenty years after witnessing the violent disappearances of two companions from their small Dublin suburb, detective Rob Ryan investigates a chillingly similar murder that takes place in the same wooded area.

The Likeness (2008)

Detective Cassie Maddox is still scarred by her last case. When her boyfriend calls her to a chilling murder scene, Cassie is forced to face her inner demons.

Faithful Place (2010)

Detective Frank Mackey finds himself straight back in the dark tangle of relationships he left behind twenty-two years ago when the suitcase belonging to his first love, Rosie Daly, shows up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place.

Broken Harbor (2012)

After a brutal attack that left a woman in intensive care and her husband and young children dead, brash cop Scorcher Kennedy and his rookie partner, Richie, struggle with perplexing clues.

The Secret Place (2014)

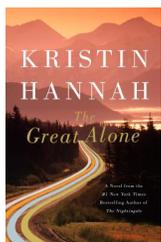
Examines the ways in which teenagers and adults can be wily, calculating, and backstabbing, even with their friends.

The Trespasser (2016)

Being on the Murder Squad is nothing like Detective Antoinette Conway dreamed it would be. Her partner, Stephen Moran, is the only person who seems glad she's there.

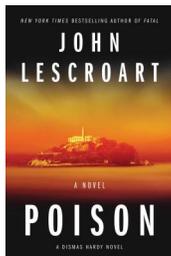
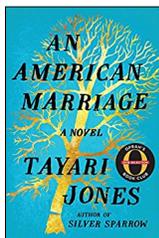
NEW FICTION

(Annotations from *NoveList* and *BookLetters*)



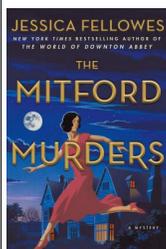
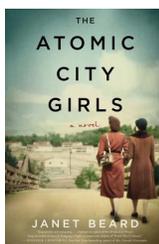
The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah. Ernt Allbright, a former POW, comes home from the Vietnam war a changed and volatile man. When he loses yet another job, he makes an impulsive decision: he will move his family north, to Alaska, where they will live off the grid in America's last true frontier. *The Great Alone* is a daring, beautiful, stay-up-all-night story about love and loss, the fight for survival, and the wildness that lives in both man and nature.

An American Marriage by Tayari Jones. Newlyweds Celestial and Roy are the embodiment of both the American Dream and the New South. He is a young executive, and she is an artist on the brink of an exciting career. But as they settle into the routine of their life together, they are ripped apart by circumstances neither could have imagined. This is Oprah's latest pick.



Poison by John Lescroart. In this riveting new book by "master of the legal thriller" (*Chicago Sun-Times*) John Lescroart, attorney Dismas Hardy investigates the murder of a wealthy man whose heirs are all potential suspects.

The Atomic City Girls by Janet Beard. "Focuses on the little-known realities behind the Manhattan Project Readers who enjoyed Martha Hall Kelly's *Lilac Girls* will appreciate this glimpse into the beliefs and attitudes that shaped America during World War II."- *Library Journal*



The Mitford Murders by Jessica Fellowes. Set amid the legendary Mitford household, a thrilling Golden Age-style mystery, based on a real unsolved murder, by Jessica Fellowes, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Downton Abbey* books.

Need to Know by Karen Cleveland. In pursuit of a Russian sleeper cell on American soil, CIA analyst Vivian Miller uncovers a dangerous secret that will threaten her job, her family--and her life. On track for a much-needed promotion, she's developed a system for identifying Russian agents, seemingly normal people living in plain sight.



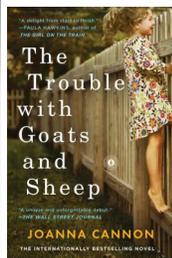
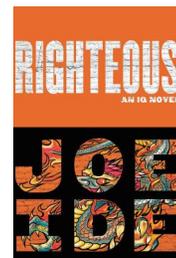
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STAFF PICKS

Fran's Picks

Righteous by Joe Ide.

Following his successful debut, *I.Q.* Joe Ide has delivered another critically acclaimed novel involving Isaiah Quintabe and his wise-cracking sidekick, Dodson. The story begins where the first novel ended and we learn more about Isaiah's lonely investigation into his brother's death. Taking on a case for his late brother's girlfriend, to locate and protect her half-sister, Isaiah finds himself and Dodson embroiled in gang turf wars and human trafficking while trying to save a couple who, at every opportunity, make the worst possible decisions. This novel explores more of Dodson's back story and the growing relationship between the two young men. Many different threads are woven to keep the reader engaged and the dialogue is fresh and brims with authenticity. The ending leaves every possibility of another installment of I. Q. investigations.



The Trouble with Goats and Sheep by Joanna Cannon.

A lovely, warm, debut novel which relates the summer adventures of ten-year-old Grace and Tilly as they search for a missing neighbor. The sense of time and place is drawn with detailed accuracy, bringing to life the atmosphere and attitudes of suburban England during the late 1970's. The young duo question their neighbors about why Margaret Creasy left and stir up memories that most of the avenue would prefer to forget. Grace and Tilly navigate the intricacies of adult relationships with bemusement and wry observations, especially when confronted with the general animosity toward one particular neighbor. Increasingly, it appears that Margaret Creasy's disappearance and the secret of the avenue are intertwined.

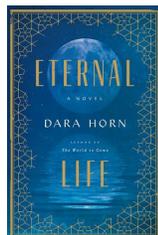
Dorothy's Picks

This Could Hurt by Jillian Medoff.

Rosa Guerrero has been working at Ellery Consumer Research for over 30 years and against all odds becomes head of human resources. She prides herself not only as being an effective leader, but also an advocate for her employees. There is Rob, who finds himself mid-career in a job he never planned on; Lucy, who has ambitions to become department head; Kenny, a Wharton graduate who sees his job as a stepping stone; and Leo, Rosa's right-hand man. When Rosa faces a health crisis, her employees juggle their friendships and feuds to rally to her side without losing sight of their own personal ambitions. If you've ever worked in an office or want to know what it's like, this entertaining and insightful novel about office culture is for you.



Eternal Life by Dara Horn.



In Roman-controlled Jerusalem, Rachel makes a bargain: to save her son from an untimely death, she herself will be unable to die. Now, 2,000 years later, having lived through multiple marriages and mothering over 50 children, Rachel is a widow living in New York and worried about her current family, especially her oldest son Rocky. Plus, the man she once loved has been stalking her for generations. With its novel premise, *Library Journal* called *Eternal Life* "both heady time travel and a thoughtful meditation on the meaning of life."