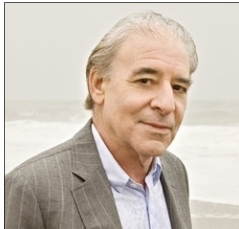


Fiction News

AUTHOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Alan Furst

This author of historical espionage writes of reluctant heroes--ordinary, pragmatic men and women--fighting against totalitarianism and fascism in European countries of the 1930s and '40s.

Well-researched and suffused with a strong sense of time and place, Furst's

novels are written in a cinematic style that keeps the fast-paced action from bogging down in historical detail, and Furst's atmospheric, complex novels don't always resolve themselves neatly.



Partial List

A Hero of France (2016)

A tale set in World War II occupied Paris follows French Resistance network members from diverse walks of life who engage in clandestine actions to regain the country's freedom.

Leaving Berlin (2015)

A sweeping, atmospheric novel of postwar East Berlin, a city caught between political idealism and the harsh realities of Soviet occupation.

Midnight in Europe (2014)

Failing to secure American support for the Republican side of the Spanish Civil War in 1938, a minor Spanish noble travels to Paris, where he promotes the Republic cause before undertaking a mission to infiltrate the Spanish government.

Mission to Paris (2012)

Arriving in Paris on the eve of the Munich Appeasement in 1938, Hollywood star Frederic Stahl is unwittingly entangled in the region's shifting political currents.

Spies of the Balkans (2010)

As war approaches northern Greece, the spies begin to circle--from the Turkish legation to the German secret service. In the ancient port of Salonika, a senior police official risks everything to secure an escape route for those hunted by the Gestapo.

The Spies of Warsaw (2008)

In 1937 Warsaw, on the eve of World War II, intelligence operatives on both sides of the forthcoming struggle wage their own espionage battle in a world of betrayal and intrigue.

ADULT SUMMER READING



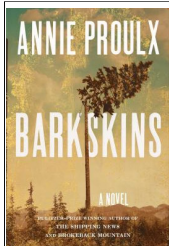
Adult Summer Reading 2016

Just read a book or listen to an audiobook between June 13 and July 31 and fill out an entry form. For each entry submitted, you will be entered to win one of our weekly raffle prizes! **It's easier than ever.** Enter this year's Adult Summer Reading program online! Click on the link on our website at www.ridgefieldlibrary.org from anywhere you have Internet access: at home, at the Ridgefield Library or while on vacation! Paper entries also available.

It's that easy!

NEW FICTION

(Annotations from BookLetters)



Barkskins by Annie Proulx.

This is an epic, dazzling, violent, magnificently dramatic novel about the taking down of the world's forests. Proulx's inimitable genius is her creation of characters who are so vivid in their greed, lust, vengefulness, or their simple compassion and hope that we follow them with fierce attention.

Modern Lovers by Emma Straub.

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Vacationers*, a smart, highly entertaining novel about a tight-knit group of friends from college their own kids now going to college and what it means to finally grow up well after adulthood has set in.



Before the Fall by Noah Hawley.

On a foggy summer night, eleven people depart Martha's Vineyard on a private jet headed for New York. Sixteen minutes later, the unthinkable happens: the plane plunges into the ocean. The only survivors are Scott Burroughs a down-on-his-luck painter and a four-year-old boy, who is now the last remaining member of a powerful media mogul's family. This stunning novel raises questions of fate, human nature, and the inextricable ties that bind us together.



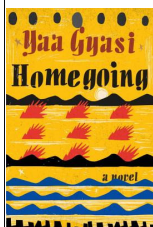
The Weekenders by Mary Kay Andrews.

Served with papers that her much-loved island home on idyllic Belle Isle is being foreclosed and that her husband has abandoned her, Riley turns for help to her friends, who she discovers are harboring their own secrets. Told with Mary Kay Andrews trademark blend of humor and warmth, *The Weekenders* is the perfect summer escape.



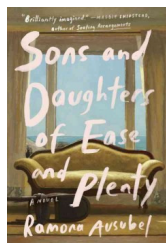
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi.

This engaging family saga follows two half-sisters – one who marries into privilege and one sold into slavery – and their descendants as they navigate the consequences of their heritage. A novel of breathtaking sweep and emotional power that traces three hundred years in Ghana and along the way also becomes a truly great American novel.



Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty by Ramona Ausubel.

A wealthy New England family in the 1960s and '70s suddenly loses its fortune and its bearings. Brimming with humanity and wisdom, humor and bite, and imbued with both the whimsical and the profound, *Sons and Daughters of Ease and Plenty* is American wealth, class, family, and mobility.



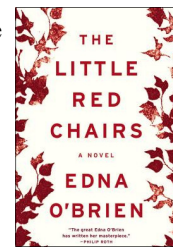
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STAFF PICKS

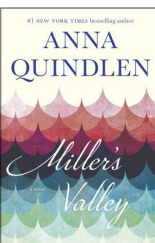
Elise's Picks

The Little Red Chairs by Edna O'Brien.

Posing as a poet and a holistic healer (as did the real life Radovan Karadzic), a notorious Balkan war criminal seeks refuge in a remote Irish coastal village. Charismatic and darkly handsome, Vlad preys on the "primal innocence" of the townspeople. By the time his cover is blown and he is arrested, the bogus shaman has seduced the town beauty, Fidelma, a lonely woman desperate for a child and married to a much older man. Fleeing in shame, Fidelma chooses exile in London, where she finds solace and a chance for redemption working with the traumatized survivors of other world conflicts. Considered an Irish literary treasure, 84 year old Edna O'Brien's latest (her 21st work of fiction) is an emotionally powerful novel with a strong humanitarian ethos and great sympathy for its vulnerable but ultimately resilient women.



Miller's Valley by Anna Quindlen.



Throughout her teenage years, Mimi Miller heard rumors that the government intended to flood the valley where her family has farmed for generations. Now federal officials are making tempting relocation offers and touting the tourism a new reservoir/recreation area will bring. Mimi fears that the upheaval will tear apart her community and her already divided family. Her genteel, steadfast father and her reclusive aunt are stubbornly attached to the farm, but her clear-eyed mother and her troubled older brother are equally determined that Mimi escape the valley, accept a scholarship to medical school, and not get mired down in family obligations. Bestselling author Anna Quindlen's new novel is a moving and insightful coming-of-age story about loyalty, loss, opportunity, and forging a new vision of home.

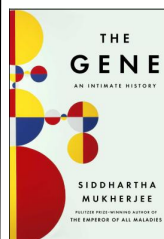
Dorothy's Picks

The Last Painting of Sara De Vos by Dominic Smith.

This novel about the art world goes back and forth over 400 years of time. In 1631 Amsterdam, Sara de Vos is the first woman painter to be admitted to the Guild of St. Luke in Amsterdam. In 1950s New York, Marty de Groot begins a decades long quest to recover Sara de Vos' only known surviving painting, owned by his family for generations, after it is stolen from his penthouse; and an Australian art history student's decision to become entangled in a scheme to forge the painting becomes a pivotal event in her life. *O, The Oprah Magazine* called this worthy addition to the recent crop of books about high stakes art works "equal parts suspense tale and an exploration of beauty and loss."



The Gene: An Intimate History by Siddhartha Mukherjee.



The author of *The Emperor of All Maladies* explores the history of the quest to unlock the building blocks of human life from the theories of Aristotle through modern genetic research. This eminently readable and thought-provoking work explores the pioneers who led the way and he implications of our current understanding and manipulations of the genetic code.