

# Crook County Library

## Staff Picks: SUSPENSE

May 2015

Beinhart, Larry

### **The Librarian (2004)**

The Octavian Institute, an evil think tank, controls the president, Augustus Winthrop Scott, and has a plan for world domination called the Project for the New American Century. Into this cabal wanders unsuspecting David Goldberg, the librarian of the title, moonlighting from his university library job. A series of misunderstandings—involving, for starters, a horny horse and a flirtatious married beauty named Niobe—turn David into a hunted man. (*Political Thrillers; Satirical Fiction*) JFS

Belfoure, Charles

### **The Paris Architect (2013)**

In 1942 Paris, architect Lucien Bernard accepts a commission that will bring him a great deal of money--and maybe get him killed. All he has to do is design a secret hiding place for a wealthy Jewish man, a space so invisible that even the most determined German officer won't find it. He sorely needs the money, and outwitting the Nazis who have occupied his beloved city is a challenge he can't resist. When one of his hiding spaces fails horribly, and the problem of where to hide a Jew becomes terribly personal, Lucien can no longer ignore what's at stake. (*Historical Suspense*) JFS

Boyle, T. C.

### **Talk Talk (2006)**

Deaf Dana Halter is falsely arrested for assault with a deadly weapon, auto theft, and passing bad checks, while William Wilson has been living a blameless life of criminal excess at her expense. Dana and her boyfriend Bridger set out to track him down. (*Parallel Narratives*) JFS

Brown, Dan

### **The Da Vinci Code (2003)**

While in Paris on business, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon receives an urgent late-night phone call: the elderly curator of the Louvre has been murdered inside the museum. Near the body, police have found a baffling cipher. While working to solve the enigmatic riddle, Langdon is stunned to discover it leads to a trail of clues hidden in the works of Da Vinci--clues visible for all to see--yet ingeniously disguised by the painter. Langdon joins forces with a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, and learns the late curator was involved in the Priory of Sion--an actual secret society whose members included Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo, and Da Vinci, among others. In a breathless race through Paris, London, and beyond, Langdon and Neveu match wits with a faceless powerbroker who seems to anticipate their every move. Unless Langdon and Neveu can decipher the labyrinthine puzzle in time, the Priory's ancient secret--and an explosive historical truth--will be lost forever. (*Religious Conspiracy*) MR

Crichton, Michael

### **Prey (2002)**

In the Nevada desert, an experiment has gone horribly wrong. A cloud of nanoparticles, micro-robots, has escaped from the laboratory. The cloud is self-sustaining and self-reproducing. It is intelligent and has been programmed as a predator. It is evolving swiftly, becoming more deadly with each passing hour. AS

du Maurier, Daphne, Dame

**Rebecca (1938)**

The second Mrs. Maxim de Winter enters the home of her mysterious and enigmatic new husband and learns the story of the house's first mistress, to whom the sinister housekeeper is unnaturally devoted. (*Classic/Romance*) JK

Gantos, Jack

**Dead End in Norvelt (2011)**

For an incredible two months, a kid named Jack Gantos, has his plans for vacation excitement shot down when he is "grounded for life" by his feuding parents. Although his nose spews bad blood at every little shock he gets, plenty of excitement (and shocks) are coming Jack's way once his mom loans him out to help a feisty old neighbor with a most unusual chore--typewriting obituaries filled with stories about the people who founded his utopian town. As one obituary leads to another, Jack is launched on a strange adventure involving molten wax, Eleanor Roosevelt, twisted promises, a homemade airplane, Girl Scout cookies, a man on a trike, a dancing plague, voices from the past, Hells Angels . . . and possibly murder.

Winner of the 2012 Newbery Medal.

(*JF Adventure*) MR

Garwood, Julie

**Fire and Ice (2008)**

The daughter of notorious, high-profile thief Bobby Rose, journalist Sophie Rose leaves her job at a major Chicago newspaper for a small local paper, but when she stumbles into the middle of a bizarre story, she follows the trail of the mystery north to Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, accompanied by a bodyguard, Jack Prescott, a sexy FBI agent. (*Romantic Suspense*) BM

Harstad, Donald

**A Long December (2003)**

The people of Nation County, Iowa--a heartland town straight out of a Coen Brothers movie or a John Cougar Mellencamp song--practice a unique brand of American stoicism. You betcha. And they rely upon their public servants to shield them from the horrors of the outside world. Carl Houseman, deputy sheriff of the 750-square-mile county, dedicates his life to keeping his citizenry so secure that you can leave the door unlocked at home and walk his streets with a big hello and a smile to every stranger. On Houseman's watch, the mounting terrors of the new world order stay far away.

But December 2001 could change all of that. Outsiders are everywhere. The meat plant is now kosher and there are more Jewish fellows per capita than any other place in the country. Hispanic and other foreign workers, with dubious immigration papers, have taken jobs from the locals. Eighteen other languages are now spoken within the tiny region, and Carl and company can't speak a single one. Then the eighty-odd-year-old Heinman brothers' call comes in from their farm down in Frog Hollow. They've witnessed an execution-style killing not one hundred yards from their pig feeders. The victim's awful dead and half his head's been blown off. The boys haven't seen nothing like it since Normandy. When Carl gets to the scene, he believes them. What follows is a masterful police procedural thriller--think Joe Wambaugh crossed with Fargo--written with a singular and authentic voice that has electrified readers around the world. (*Law Enforcement*) MR

Henry, April

**The Girl Who Was Supposed to Die (2013)**

She doesn't know who she is. She doesn't know where she is, or why. All she knows when she comes to in a ransacked cabin is that there are two men arguing over whether or not to kill her. And that she must run. Follow Cady and Ty (her accidental savior turned companion), as they race against the clock to stay alive. (*Conspiracy Thriller*) BM

King, Stephen

**Joyland (2013)**

Set in a small-town North Carolina amusement park in 1973, Joyland tells the story of the summer in which college student Devin Jones comes to work as a carny and confronts the legacy of a vicious murder, the fate of a dying child, and the ways both will change his life forever. (*Retro/Crime*) JK

Koontz, Dean

**Innocence (2014)**

Foraging for supplies by night in a beautiful but hostile urban world where strangers would kill him on sight, Addison endures a solitary existence before meeting a quicksilver girl engaged in a dangerous duel of wits with a malicious, well-placed enemy. (*Psychological Thriller*) AS

Le Carre, John

**The Constant Gardener (2001)**

The story opens with the gruesome murder of the young and beautiful Tessa Quayle near northern Kenya's Lake Turkana, the birthplace of mankind. Her putative African lover and traveling companion, a doctor with one of the aid agencies, has vanished from the scene of the crime. Tessa's much older husband, Justin, a career diplomat at the British High Commission in Nairobi, sets out on a personal odyssey in pursuit of the killers and their motive. (*Political Thriller*) AS

Lyga, Barry

**I Hunt Killers (2012)**

Jasper "Jazz" Dent is the son of Billy Dent, the country's most notorious serial killer, and "Dear Old Dad" taught him everything he knew. But Billy's in prison now and Jazz wants to convince the world -- and himself -- that he's not like his father. When several murders occur in his town, Jazz and his friend Howie try to track down the killer before he strikes again. (*Young Adult*) JFS

Patterson, James editor

**Thriller (2006)**

Written by a cadre of major thriller authors, this will be the first collection of pure thriller stories ever published. The stories are action-minded and suspenseful, and many continue with signature characters and situations that the writers have previously created. Be prepared to be chilled and thrilled, and plan on staying up all night! All contributors are members of the newly formed International Thriller Writers, Inc. (ITW). (*Anthology*) JK

Reichs, Kathy

**Death du Jour (1999)**

In the bitter cold of a Montreal winter, Tempe Brennan is digging for a corpse buried more than a century ago. Although Tempe thrives on such enigmas from the past, it's a chain of contemporary deaths and disappearances that has seized her attention -- and she alone is ideally placed to make a chilling connection among the seemingly unrelated events. (*Forensic Thriller*) BM

Stevens, Taylor

**The Doll: A Venessa Micheal Munroe Novel (2014)**

Kidnapped by a human trafficking ring that demands that she help transport a high-profile starlet or risk the murder of her best friend, maverick information specialist Vanessa Michael Munroe is plunged into a harrowing underground world under the brutal control of a shadowy overlord. (*Crime Thriller*) JK

Straub, Peter

**A Dark Matter: A Novel**

The incomparable master of horror and suspense returns with a powerful, brilliantly terrifying novel that redefines the genre in original and unexpected ways. The charismatic and cunning Spenser Mallon is a campus guru in the 1960s, attracting the devotion and demanding sexual favors of his young acolytes. After he invites his most fervent followers to attend a secret ritual in a local meadow, the only thing that remains is a gruesomely dismembered body and the shattered souls of all who were present. Years later, one man attempts to understand what happened to his wife and to his friends by writing a book about this horrible night, and it's through this process that they begin to examine the unspeakable events that have bound them in ways they cannot fathom, but that have haunted every one of them through their lives. As each of the old friends tries to come to grips with the darkness of the past, they find themselves face-to-face with the evil triggered so many years earlier. Unfolding through the individual stories of the fated group's members, *A Dark Matter* is an electric, chilling, and unpredictable novel that will satisfy Peter Straub's many ardent fans, and win him legions more. (*Paranormal/Fantasy*) JK

Woods, Stuart

**Run Before the Wind (1983)**

Will Lee ran from a life of Southern wealth and privilege to spend a peaceful summer on the coast of Ireland. But there is no peace in this beautiful, troubled land... Restless and dissatisfied. Will dreams of shipbuilding and sailing on crystal-blue waters. Then an explosion of senseless violence drags the young American drifter into a lethal game of terror and revenge. Now Will Lee must run for his life from a bloody past that is not his own. (*Crime Fiction*) JK