

Crook County Library

We're a Happy Family (Me, Mom, & Dad!)

Books

Bloom, Amy

Lucky Us (2014)

Is a family the people you are born to, or the people who you find along the way? The story follows resourceful Eva, who was abandoned by her mother at an early age, and her sister Iris, an aspiring actress who tries to find love at a time when her kind of love must be secretive. (*Historical Fiction; Feel-Good Books*) JFS

Dilloway, Margaret

How to be an American Housewife (2010)

The story of Shoko, a Japanese woman who married an American GI, and her grown daughter, Sue, a divorced mother, whose life as an American housewife hasn't been what she'd expected. When illness prevents Shoko from traveling to Japan, she asks Sue to go in her place. The trip reveals family secrets that change their lives in dramatic and unforeseen ways. (*Historical Fiction*) JK

Fleming, Candace

The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion & the Fall of Imperial Russia (2014)

Here is the riveting story of the Russian Revolution as it unfolded. When Russia's last tsar, Nicholas II, inherited the throne in 1894, he was unprepared to do so. With their four daughters (including Anastasia) and only son, a hemophiliac, Nicholas and his reclusive wife, Alexandra, buried their heads in the sand, living a life of opulence as World War I raged outside their door and political unrest grew. (*Biography, Nonfiction*) MR

Franzen, Jonathan

Freedom (2010)

Patty, a Westchester County high-school basketball star, should have been a golden girl. Instead, her ambitious parents betray her, doing her grievous psychic harm. Hardworking Minnesotan Walter wants to be Patty's hero, and she tries to be a stellar wife and a supermom to Joey and Jessica, their alarmingly self-possessed children, but all goes poisonously wrong. (*Literary; Black Comedy*) JFS

Fromm, Pete

How All This Started (2000)

Abilene and Austin, a sister and brother frustrated with the small-town Texas life their parents have chosen, turn to each other to escape the story they're all too tired of hearing: they're father's unvarying account of how "How All This Started"- how he met their mother and settled in the middle of nowhere. Pinning her hopes on her brother, Abilene becomes dead set on Austin becoming a pitching star. With baseball and firearms, they attempt to combat the stagnation of the Texas landscape. (*Domestic, Psychological*) SF

Gibbons, Kaye

Ellen Foster (1990)

Ellen Foster is an 11-year-old who has been dealt a rotten hand in life. Her early childhood is spent with a sickly mother and an alcoholic and abusive father. After her mother commits suicide (or is it murder?), Ellen goes to live alone with her father, doing the best she can to avoid being raped or abused. This beautifully written story, compelling in its innocence, is sweet, funny, and sad. (*Bildungsroman*) AS

Haley, Alex

Roots: The Saga of an American Family (1976)

Famously adapted as a blockbuster television miniseries, *Roots* tells story of Kunta Kinte —taken from the Gambia when he was seventeen and sold as a slave — and seven generations of his descendants in the United States. (*Narrative Nonfiction; Classics*) JFS

Hijuelos, Oscar

The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love (1989)

It's 1949. It's the era of the mambo, and two young Cuban musicians make their way up from Havana to the grand stage of New York. The Castillo brothers, workers by day, become by night stars of the dance halls, where their orchestra plays the lush, sensuous, pulsing music that earns them the title of the Mambo Kings. (*Historical Fiction*) JFS

Jones, Dan

The Wars of the Roses: the fall of the Plantagenets and the Rise of the Tudors (2014)

The best-selling author of *The Plantagenets* traces the 15th-century civil wars that irrevocably shaped the British crown, particularly evaluating the roles of strong women including Margaret of Anjou, Elizabeth Woodville and Margaret Beaufort in shifting power between two ruling families. (*Nonfiction; History*) JFS

Lutz, Lisa and David Hayward

Heads You Lose (2011)

Siblings Paul and Lacey are growing pot in rural Cali when they find the headless corpse of Lacey's ex-fiancée. They can't exactly call 911, so they move the body, only to have it show back up. But that's only half of the story... authors Lisa Lutz and David Hayward- former real-life partners, have agreed to reunite for a tag-team mystery novel. One problem: they disagree on pretty much everything. While the body count rises in the unpredictable fictional world, so too does the intensity of the authors' rivalry. (*Mystery, Suspense*) SF

Kingsolver, Barbara

The Poisonwood Bible (1998)

The *Poisonwood Bible* is a story told by the wife and four daughters of Nathan Price, a fierce, evangelical Baptist who takes his family and mission to the Belgian Congo in 1959. What follows is a suspenseful epic of one family's tragic undoing and remarkable reconstruction over the course of three decades in postcolonial Africa. (*Domestic Fiction*) AS

McCourt, Frank

Angela's Ashes (1996)

"When I look back on my childhood I wonder how I managed to survive at all. It was, of course, a miserable childhood: the happy childhood is hardly worth your while. Worse than the ordinary miserable childhood is the miserable Irish childhood, and worse yet is the miserable Irish Catholic childhood." So begins the luminous memoir of Frank McCourt, born in Depression-era Brooklyn to recent Irish immigrants and raised in the slums of Limerick, Ireland. (*Memoir*) JFS

Oke, Janette

Love Comes Softly (1979)

Thrown together by tragic circumstances, Marty and Clark Davis face both good and bad times on the frontier prairies of the late 1800s. (*Historical Fiction, Christian Fiction*) MR

Packer, Ann

The Children's Crusade (2015)

Bill Blair finds the land by accident, three wooded acres in a rustic community south of San Francisco. The year is 1954, long before anyone will call this area Silicon Valley. Thirty years later, the three oldest Blair children, adults now and still living near the family home, are disrupted by the return of the youngest, whose sudden presence and all-too-familiar troubles force a reckoning with who they are, separately and together, and set off a struggle over the family's future (*Literary Fiction*) JFS

Puzo, Mario

The Godfather (1969)

Don Corleone is ruler of the Family, avenger and dispenser of favors, from judges bought verdicts to rub-outs among the fiefdoms. The noble Don ages and there is the nagging worry as to who shall carry on. Eldest son Sonny is too impetuous; Freddie is a fornicator; Michael fancies a teaching career with his Yankee bride. It is Michael who reasserts the Family as Number One in a coup which includes the garroting of a traitorous brother-in-law. (*Classics; Crime Fiction*) JFS

Robertson, Willie & Korie

Duck Commander Family: How Faith, Family, and Ducks Built a Dynasty (2012)

Presents a behind-the-scenes look at the Robertson family, documenting the teenage romance and marriage of Willie and Korie Robertson, their success as a multi-million dollar hunting equipment business, and their rise to stardom on reality television. (*Biography, Nonfiction*) MR

Sedaris, David

Dress Your Family in Corduroy and Denim (2004)

David Sedaris plays in the snow with his sisters. He goes on vacation with his family. He gets a job selling drinks. He attends his brother's wedding. He mops his sister's floor. He gives directions to a lost traveler. He eats a hamburger. He has his blood sugar tested. It all sounds so normal, doesn't it? In his newest collection of essays, David Sedaris lifts the corner of ordinary life, revealing the absurdity teeming below its surface. (*Essays; Humor*) JFS

Steel, Danielle

Family Ties (2010)

Annie Ferguson was a bright young Manhattan architect. Talented, beautiful, just starting out with her first job, new apartment and boyfriend, she had the world in the palm of her hand, until a single phone call altered the course of her life forever. Overnight, she became the mother to her sister's three orphaned children, keeping a promise she never regretted making, even if it meant putting her own life indefinitely on hold. (*Romance*) JK

Sullivan, J. Courtney

Maine: A Novel (2011)

Three generations of Kelleher women converge on the family beach house, each filled with hopes, fears: impending motherhood, dollhouse obsessions, and regretful memories. By turns wickedly funny and achingly sad, this is an emotionally resonant story of love and dysfunction. (*Fiction, Domestic*) SF

Sykes, Bryan

Seven Daughters of Eve (2002)

In this book, renowned geneticist, Sykes uses mitochondrial DNA to show human migration patterns over the past 5,000 years. He goes on to explain that, according to DNA evidence, everyone of European heritage is descended from just seven prehistoric women. (*Nonfiction; Natural Science*) JK

Trollope, Joanna

Brother & Sister (2004)

Adopted and raised by the same parents but born to two different mothers, David and Natalie have grown up as siblings with fierce loyalty to each other. In their late thirties, they decide to embark on the journey to find their birth mothers. But this convoluted process affects their spouses and children, their coworkers, and, most poignantly, the two women who gave them up for adoption all those years ago, who have since moved on and made other lives for themselves. (*Psychological Fiction; Domestic Fiction*) SF

Walls, Jeanette

The Glass Castle: A Memoir (2005)

The Glass Castle is a remarkable memoir of resilience and redemption, and a revelatory look into a family at once deeply dysfunctional and uniquely vibrant. The Walls children learned to take care of themselves. They fed, clothed, and protected one another, and eventually found their way to New York. Their parents followed them, choosing to be homeless even as their children prospered. *The Glass Castle* is truly astonishing—a memoir permeated by the intense love of a peculiar but loyal family. (*Memoir*) AS

Movies

The Addams Family (1991)

When long-lost Uncle Fester reappears after twenty-five years in the Bermuda Triangle, the other members of the off-beat Addams clan plan a great celebration, only to begin to suspect that he may not be who he claims to be. (*Monster Comedy*) MR

Boyhood (2014)

Richard Linklater's *Boyhood* is a coming-of-age drama that the director spent twelve years making. He cast a young boy, Ellar Coltrane, and shot the film a few days at a time for over a decade so that he could capture how his leading actor, and the rest of his cast, aged. The film's story simply follows a boy named Mason (Coltrane) as he progresses from age 6 to 18 and deals with the typical travails of childhood like his parents' divorce, bad stepparents, falling in love, finding his artistic voice, and fighting with his bratty older sister. (*Coming-of-Age Film*) AS

East of Eden (1954)

In this film based on John Steinbeck's epic novel, Cal Trask (James Dean), the son of a California farmer, feels that his father cares only about his brother, Aron (Richard Davalos). When Cal embarks on a business venture to gain the favor of his dad, he finds himself dealing with his estranged mother, now a notorious madam. (*Drama; Classics*) JFS

The Incredibles (2004)

Bob and Helen used to be among the world's greatest crime fighters, saving lives and battling evil on a daily basis. Fifteen years later, they have been forced to adopt civilian identities and retreat to the suburbs where they live "normal" lives with their three kids. Itching to get back into action, Bob gets his chance when a mysterious communication summons him to a remote island for a top secret assignment. He soon discovers that it will take a super family effort to rescue the world from total destruction. (*Family; Animation*) JFS

The Odd Life of Timothy Green (2012)

When a childless couple buries a box with all of their wishes for an infant in their garden, a strange storm delivers a boy to them. However, their child, Timothy Green, is not what he appears. (*Comedy*) JK

Seven Brides for Seven Brothers (1954)

During the 1850s, Milly (Jane Powell), a pretty young cook, marries Adam (Howard Keel), a grizzled woodsman, after a brief courtship. When the two return to Adam's farm, Milly is shocked to meet his six ill-mannered brothers, all of whom live in his cabin. She promptly begins teaching the brothers proper behavior, and most importantly, how to court a woman. (*Musicals*) JFS

The Way, Way Back (2013)

While fourteen year old Duncan is being dragged on a family trip with his mom and her overbearing boyfriend, he finds a gregarious friend at a local water park. The two form a powerful bond as Duncan learns to swim through the challenges of life, love, family and friendship, resulting in a vacation he'll never forget. (*Comedy*) AS

You Can't Take It with You (1938)

When the stenographer from a good-natured but eccentric family falls in love with the son from a family of wealthy snobs, the two families clash and the couples' love changes everything for them all. (*Comedy, Drama, Romance*) SF