

# Crook County Library

## Staff Picks: ROMANCE

February 2015

Barakiva, Michael

### **One Man Guy (2014)**

When Alek's high-achieving, Armenian-American parents send him to summer school, he thinks his summer is ruined. But then he meets Ethan, who opens his world in a series of truly unexpected ways. (*GLBTQ Romance, YA Romance*) JFS

Brockmann, Suzanne

### **Born to Darkness (2012)**

Michelle "Mac" Mackenzie, a super-human "Greater-Than" with unique abilities, teams up with a former Navy SEAL Shane Laughlin to stop the spread of a highly addictive drug called Destiny, which gives anyone the same abilities as a "Greater-Than." (*Romantic Suspense*) BM

Carriger, Gail

### **Soulless (2009)**

First, she has no soul. Second, she's a spinster whose father is both Italian and dead. Third, she was rudely attacked by a vampire, breaking all standards of social etiquette. Alexia accidentally kills the vampire - and then the appalling Lord Maccon (loud, messy, gorgeous, and werewolf) is sent by Queen Victoria to investigate. (*Paranormal Romance, Historical Romance*) BM

Cook, Claire

### **Must Love Dogs (2002)**

Forty-year-old Sarah Hurlihy, a divorced preschool teacher whose life is her classroom, is about to meet her first date in more than a decade. It was the "Loves Dogs" that hooked her in the personal ad, and now she is scanning her neighborhood café for the man with a yellow rose. And find him she does, but he's the last person on earth she expects to find there . . . With self-deprecating humor and a laugh-out-loud view of the way we live now a perfect read that melts the heartache of dating with warmth and humor. (*Contemporary Romance*) MR

Crusie, Jennifer

### **Bet Me (2004)**

Agreeing not to pursue a relationship after one date, unlikely lovers Min Dobbs and Cal Morrisey are thrown together again in the wake of such factors as a jealous ex-boyfriend, a determined psychologist, and a bizarrely intelligent cat. (*Contemporary Romance*) BM

Eulberg, Elizabeth

### **Better Off Friends (2014)**

Macallan and Levi are best friends from the first day they meet in seventh grade, but over the years their close friendship keeps interfering with their dating life because everyone else regards them as a couple. (*Contemporary Romance, YA Romance*) JFS

Evanovich, Stephanie

**Big Girl Panties (2013)**

When Logan Montgomery, a personal trainer to the country's most famous pro athletes, offers to help her get back in shape, young widow Holly Brennan, deciding to make at least one positive change in her life, throws herself into exercise and into Logan's arms. (*Romance – Chick Lit*) NP

Garcia Marquez, Gabriel

**Love in the Time of Cholera (1988)**

In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic. As he rises in his business career he whiles away the years in 622 affairs--yet he reserves his heart for Fermina. Her husband dies at last, and Florentino purposefully attends the funeral. Fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again. (*Literary Romance, Magical Realism*) JFS

Kearsley, Susanna

**The Winter Sea (2010)**

Carrie settles into the shadow of Slains Castle in Scotland, creates a heroine named for one of her own ancestors, and starts to write about the Jacobite invasion of 1708. When she can no longer tell the difference between today and centuries ago, is she dealing with an ancestral memory-- a memory that might destroy her? (*Love Stories*) AS

Lin, Jeannie

**The Sword Dancer (2013)**

Sword dancer Li Feng is used to living life on the edge of the law - a woman alone in the dangerous world of the Tang Dynasty has only her whirlwind reflexes to trust. She will discover the truth about her past, even if that means outwitting the most feared thief-catcher of them all...Relentless, handsome and determined, Han sees life - and love - as black and white. Until he finally captures the spirited, courageous Li Feng, who makes him question everything he thought he knew about right and wrong. Soon he's faced with an impossible choice: betray the elusive sword dancer he is learning to love, or trust his long-disregarded heart and follow her to dangerous, tempting rebellion. (*Historical Romance, Multicultural Romance*) BM

MacLean, Sarah

**No Good Duke Goes Unpunished (2013)**

A rogue ruined. He is the Killer Duke, accused of murdering Mara Lowe on the eve of her wedding. With no memory of that fateful night, Temple has reigned over the darkest of London's corners for twelve years, wealthy and powerful, but beyond redemption. Until one night, Mara resurfaces, offering the one thing he's dreamed of absolution. A lady returned. Mara planned never to return to the world from which she'd run, but when her brother falls deep into debt at Temple's exclusive casino, she has no choice but to offer Temple a trade that ends in her returning to society and proving to the world what only she knows ... that he is no killer. (*Regency Historical Romance*) BM

Miller, Linda Lael

**McKettrick's Choice (2005)**

Holt McKettrick leaves a mail-order bride at the altar in Arizona and rides hard for Texas to help two desperate friends. But he doesn't count on meeting Lorelai Fellows--who just called off her own nuptials and is burning her dress in public. (*Historical Romance, Western Romance*) BM

Morsi, Pamela

**Love Overdue (2013)**

After a spring fling gone wrong, DJ changes to a conservative look and scuttles away to Kansas to work at a small-town library, only to have her landlady try to fix her up with the very man that precipitated her flight. (*Contemporary Romance*) JFS

Murray, J.J.

**You Give Good Love (2013)**

Hope Warren doesn't do happily-ever after. Or optimism in general. After a breakup that shredded her self-esteem, and earning a so-far-useless art degree, the only thing she's (barely) living for is a dream home way out of reach. So when outgoing Irishman Dylan Healy keeps getting in her face, she's sure there's a catch. He's challenging her idle creativity. He's as kind as he is charismatic. And he's sparking a hunger Hope didn't know she had. Suddenly she's willing to try everything and anything, especially Dylan himself. Dylan has enough on his plate between launching his online greeting card company and starting an art-themed daycare center. But he can't resist teasing Hope out of her cynical shell, turning her ideas into crazy-profitable success or wanting more of the vibrant, sensual woman she truly is. Now he's willing to put everything on the line to convince her that what's between them is not only real, but worth a lifetime of dreams. (*Contemporary Romance, Multicultural Romance*) BM

Quinn, Julia

**The Sum of All Kisses (2000)**

Hugh Prentice has never had patience for dramatic females, and if Lady Sarah Pleinsworth has ever been acquainted with the words "shy" or "retiring", she's long since tossed them out the window. Besides, even if Hugh did grow to enjoy her company, it wouldn't matter. A reckless duel has left this brilliant mathematician with a ruined leg, and now, unable to run, ride, or even waltz, he could never court a woman like Sarah, much less dream of marrying her. (*Love Stories, Regency Romance*) AS

Perkins, Stephanie

**Anna and the French Kiss (2010)**

When Anna's romance-novelist father sends her to an elite American boarding school in Paris for her senior year of high school, she reluctantly goes, and meets an amazing boy who becomes her best friend, in spite of the fact that they both want something more. (*YA Romance, Contemporary Romance*) BM

Roberts, Nora

**The Dark Witch (2013)**

American Iona Sheehan searches for her Irish ancestors, the O'Dwyers, to learn more about her powers and break an ancient curse, and meets Boyle McGrath. (*Love Stories, Paranormal Romance, Romantic Suspense*) AS

Simmons, Paulina

**The Bronze Horseman: A Novel (2009)**

Leningrad 1941: the white nights of summer illuminate a city of fallen grandeur whose beautiful palaces and stately avenues speak of a different age, when Leningrad was known as St Petersburg. Two sisters, Tatiana and Dasha, share the same bed, living in one room with their brother and parents. It is a hard, impoverished life, yet the Metanovs know many who are not as fortunate as they. The family routine is shattered on 22 June 1941 when Hitler invades Russia. For the Metanovs, for Leningrad and for Tatiana, life will never be the same again. On the fateful day, Tatiana meets a brash young officer named Alexander. Tatiana and her family suffer as Hitler's army advances on Leningrad, and the Russian winter closes in. With bombs falling and the city under siege, Tatiana and Alexander are drawn to each other in

an impossible love. It is a love that could tear Tatiana's family apart, a love that carries a secret that could mean death for anyone who hears it. Confronted on the one hand by Hitler's unstoppable war machine, and on the other by a Soviet system determined to crush the human spirit, Tatiana and Alexander are pitted against the very tide of history, at a turning point in the century that made the modern world. (*Love Story, Historical Romance*) NP

Steel, Danielle

**First Sight (2013)**

Running a successful fashion empire in Paris and New York that hides the pain of a failed marriage, Timmie endures a sequence of meaningless relationships before a surprise bout of appendicitis places her under the care of alluring but married French doctor, Jean-Charles Vernier. (*Romance; Chick Lit.*) NP

Whitson, Stephanie Grace

**A Most Unsuitable Match (2011)**

Fannie is traveling west to uncover the truth behind a family secret. Samuel is on a mission to atone for past failures that still haunt him. Their meeting aboard a steamboat headed to Montana sparks an unlikely attraction. Will the end of their journey bring the end of their relationship-- or is it just the beginning? (*Inspirational Romance*) MR

Woodiwiss, Kathleen E.

**A Rose in Winter (1983)**

Erienne Fleming is charming, spirited and exquisitely lovely, she is beset on all sides by suitors, any one of whom would pay a king's fortune for a place in her heart. But Erienne has eyes for only one: the dashing and witty young Yankee, Christopher Seton. But marriage for love is not to be, for her irresponsible and unscrupulous father, crippled by gambling debts, is intent on auctioning off his beautiful daughter to the highest bidder. In the end, Erienne is devastated to find it is the strange and secretive Lord Saxton who has purchased her—a mysterious, tragic figure who wears a mask and a cloak at all times to hide disfiguring scars gained in a terrible fire some years back. She vows to be a good and loyal wife to him. Then Christopher Seton reenters Erienne's world. Conflicted by emotions she cannot suppress, Erienne valiantly attempts to remain honorable her husband but feels herself irresistibly drawn to Seton. Entangled in intrigues she doesn't yet understand, Erienne Fleming will soon have to make a devastating choice: between love and honor . . . between her duty and her heart. (*Historical Romance*) MR