

# Crook County Library

## Staff Picks Book List

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### Books

Ahern, Cecelia

#### **The Time of My Life (2013)**

Dear Lucy Silchester, You have an appointment for Monday 27th July 2011. Yours sincerely, Life. Lucy Silchester has been invited along a few times to this appointment, but she keeps brushing the gold embossed envelope under the shag pile carpet. She has taken her eye off the ball and has busied herself with work (a job she does not love), helping out friends, fixing her car, feeding her cat, seeing her family and devoting her time to their life dramas. But Lucy is about to find out that this is one appointment that she cannot miss--and she cannot escape it either.

(*Women's Fiction*) AD

Alexander, Caroline

#### **The Endurance (1998)**

In August 1914, days before the outbreak of the First World War, the renowned explorer Ernest Shackleton and a crew of twenty-seven set sail for the South Atlantic in pursuit of the last unclaimed prize in the history of exploration: the first crossing on foot of the Antarctic continent. They had come within eighty-five miles of their destination when their ship, *Endurance*, was trapped fast in the ice pack. Soon the ship was crushed like matchwood, leaving the crew stranded on the floes an ordeal would last for twenty months. (*Nonfiction, History*)

MR

Allen, Sarah Addison

#### **The Sugar Queen (2008)**

In this irresistible follow-up to her New York Times-bestselling debut, *Garden Spells*, author Allen tells the tale of a young woman whose family secrets--and secret passions--are about to change her life forever. (*Fantasy, Romance*) JK

Armstrong, Kelley

#### **The Summoning (2008)**

After fifteen-year-old Chloe starts seeing ghosts and is sent to Lyle House, a mysterious group home for mentally disturbed teenagers, she soon discovers that neither Lyle House nor its inhabitants are exactly what they seem, and that she and her new friends are in danger. (*Young Adult, Paranormal*) CY

Asimov, Isaac

#### **The Foundation Trilogy (1966)**

The Foundation, established after the Old Empire gives way to barbarism, fights against a mutant strain called the Mule and tries to get rid of the Second Foundation after learning it will inherit a future Empire. In 1966, the series won a special Hugo Award for Best All-Time Series. (*Science Fiction*) CV

Bartholomew, Mel

#### **Square Foot Gardening (1981)**

Save space, save water, save money, eat fresh food - does it get better than this first book by Mel Bartholomew? His innovative planting and crop rotation techniques will help you produce more produce. (*Nonfiction, Gardening Techniques*) JK

Brown, Sandra

**Friction (2015)**

Petitioning to regain custody of his young daughter in the aftermath of a reckless decision, a Texas Ranger intervenes during the attempted assassination of an attractive judge, who he risks his life to protect when the gunman escapes. (*Romance, Suspense*) KB

Brown, Sandra

**Mean Streak (2014)**

Dr. Emory Charbonneau, a pediatrician and marathon runner, disappears on a mountain road in North Carolina. When she regains consciousness, she finds herself the captive of a man whose violent past is so dark that he won't even tell her his name. She's determined to escape him and willing to take any risks necessary to survive. Unexpectedly, however, the two have a dangerous encounter with people who adhere to a code of justice all their own. (*Romance, Suspense*) RP

Buck, Pearl S.

**The Good Earth (1931)**

A story of a Chinese peasant and his passionate, dogged accumulation of land and more land, while weathering famine and drought and revolution. (*Historical Fiction, China, Family Saga*) AS

Danielewski, Mark Z.

**The Fifty Year Sword (2012)**

Late one evening at a party at an East Texas ranch house, five orphans gather to hear a story about a quest for a terrible weapon. Before them lies a long black box with five latches. As the owner of the box settles into a curious tale of revenge, the children grow more and more captivated, even as we grow more and more afraid that a new crime may await them all, especially as clocks in Upshur County approach midnight. (*Horror, Literary Fiction*) RP

Harstad, Donald

**Eleven Days (1998)**

In Iowa, a satanic cult is suspected in a series of ritualistic murders which include mutilation. One victim had a breast cut off, another was castrated. Former deputy sheriff Carl Houseman investigates. (*Mystery*) RP

Jackson, Joshilyn

**Gods in Alabama (2005)**

an old schoolmate from Possett turns up at Arlene's door in Chicago asking questions about Jim Beverly, former quarterback and god of Possett High, Arlene's break with her former hometown is forced to an end. Reluctantly, Arlene bows to the pressure and embarks on the long-avoided road trip back home. As Arlene digs through guilt and deception, her patched-together alibi begins to unravel, and she discovers how far she will go for love and a chance at redemption. (*General Fiction, Southern Literature*) BM

Jarrow, Gail

**Red Madness: How a Medical Mystery Changed What We Eat (2014)**

One hundred years ago, a mysterious and alarming illness spread across America's South, striking tens of thousands of victims. No one knew what caused it or how to treat it. People were left weak, disfigured, insane, and in some cases, dead. Award winning science and history writer Gail Jarrow tracks this disease, commonly known as pellagra, and highlights how doctors, scientists, and public health officials finally defeated it. (*Young Adult, Nonfiction*) BM

Johansen, Erika

**The Queen of the Tearling (2014)**

On her nineteenth birthday, Princess Kelsea Raleigh Glynn, raised in exile, sets out on a perilous journey back to the castle of her birth to ascend her rightful throne. Plain and serious, a girl who loves books and learning, Kelsea bears little resemblance to her mother, the vain and frivolous Queen Elyssa. But though she may be inexperienced and sheltered, Kelsea is not defenseless: Around her neck hangs the Tearling sapphire, a jewel of immense magical power; and accompanying her is the Queen's Guard, a cadre of brave knights led by the enigmatic and dedicated Lazarus. Kelsea will need them all to survive a cabal of enemies who will use every weapon--from crimson-caped assassins to the darkest blood magic--to prevent her from wearing the crown. (*Fantasy*) KB

King, Stephen

**Four Past Midnight (1990)**

A domestic flight makes an unusual stopover in the land of "The Langoliers;" a writer confronts the reality of his success in "Secret Window, Secret Garden;" after being scolded by "The Library Policeman," you'll never return a book late again; and once again the community of Castle Rock finds itself besieged by a nasty pooch in "The Sun Dog." (*Horror, Short Stories*) SC

Maas, Sarah J.

**Throne of Glass (2012)**

After she has served a year of hard labor in the salt mines of Endovier for her crimes, Crown Prince Dorian offers eighteen-year-old assassin Celaena Sardothien her freedom on the condition that she act as his champion in a competition to find a new royal assassin. (*Young Adult, Fantasy*) SC

Maupin, Armistead

**Tales of the City (1978)**

The first volume of Armistead Maupin's long-running serial follows Mary Ann Singleton, her best friend Michael "Mouse" Tolliver, and their quirky neighbors as they pursue careers, relationships, and happiness in '70s San Francisco. Some of the episodic chapters may be a little outlandish (if true – the Marina Safeway really was the hot spot for swingers in 1978) but by the end you'll wish you could live at 28 Barbary Lane with the whole gang. (*Comedy, Slice of Life, Serial*) JFS

McManus, Patrick F.

**The Grasshopper Trap (1985)**

McManus's collection of humorous anecdotes relates the trials and tribulations of building a skunk ladder, collecting grasshoppers, running away from home, and rendering a poorly wired trailer operable. (*Nonfiction, Humor*) LC

Phillips, Arthur

**The Egyptologist (2004)**

Wannabe Egyptologist Ralph Trilipush is determined to prove the existence of the apocryphal pharaoh Atum-hadu. Unfortunately for Ralph and everybody he knows, it's the 1920s, King Tut is all the rage, and there are plenty of suckers and con men eager to indulge his obsession. (*Historical Fiction, Satire*) JFS

Robertson, Phil

**Happy, Happy, Happy (2013)**

This no-holds-barred autobiography chronicles the remarkable life of Phil Robertson, the original Duck Commander and Duck Dynasty star, from early childhood through the founding of a family business. (*Nonfiction, Biography*) MR

Saint-Exupery, Antoine de

**The Little Prince (1943)**

An aviator whose plane is forced down in the Sahara Desert encounters a little prince from a small planet who relates his adventures in seeking the secret of what is important in life. (*Fantasy*) AS

Salisbury, Gay

**The Cruellest Miles (2003)**

In 1925, a deadly diphtheria epidemic swept through icebound Nome, Alaska. The life-saving serum was a thousand miles away, and a blizzard was brewing. Racing against death, twenty dog teams relayed the serum across the Alaskan wilderness. The heroic dash to Nome inspired the annual Iditarod Dog Sled Race in Alaska and immortalized Balto, the lead dog. This is their story, the greatest dog story never fully told, until now. (*Nonfiction, History*) MR

Stockett, Kathryn

**The Help (2009)**

Aibileen is a black maid in 1962 Jackson, Mississippi, who's always taken orders quietly, but lately she's unable to hold her bitterness back. Her friend Minny has never held her tongue but now must somehow keep secrets about her employer that leave her speechless. White socialite Skeeter just graduated college. She's full of ambition, but without a husband, she's considered a failure. Together, these seemingly different women join together to write a tell-all book about work as a black maid in the South, that could forever alter their destinies and the life of a small town. (*Historical Fiction*) AD

Tsukiyama, Gail

**The Samarai's Garden (1995)**

Stephen, 20, leaves Hong Kong for Japan to recuperate from tuberculosis just as the Chinese prepare to invade, and in a small town, he develops strong relationships. (*Historical Fiction*) AS

Ward, J.R.

**The Bourbon Kings (2015)**

For generations, the Bradford family has worn the mantle of kings of the bourbon capital of the world. Their sustained wealth has afforded them prestige and privilege--as well as a hard-won division of class on their sprawling estate, Easterly. Upstairs, a dynasty that by all appearances plays by the rules of good fortune and good taste. Downstairs, the staff who work tirelessly to maintain the impeccable Bradford facade. And never the twain shall meet. For Lizzie King, Easterly's head gardener, crossing that divide nearly ruined her life. Falling in love with Tulane, the prodigal son of the bourbon dynasty, was nothing that she intended or wanted--and their bitter breakup only served to prove her instincts were right. Now, after two years of staying away, Tulane is finally coming home again, and he is bringing the past with him. (*Family Saga, Romance*) KB

## **Movies**

### **Biutiful (2011)**

Uxbal is a man on the wrong side of the law who struggles to provide for his children on the dangerous streets of Barcelona. As fate encircles him, Uxbal learns to accept the realities of life, whether bright, bad, or biutiful. (*International*) SC

### **Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Season 1 (1997)**

High school student Buffy Summer just wants to be an ordinary teenage girl. Unfortunately, she is the chosen one to stand against vampires, demons, and the forces of darkness. Aided by school librarian Rupert Giles and her friends Willow and Xander, Buffy fulfills her destiny on the streets of Sunnyvale, California. (*Paranormal*) CW

### **Galaxy Quest (1999)**

For four years, the courageous crew of the NSEA Protector set off on thrilling and often dangerous missions in space--and then their series was cancelled! Now, twenty years later, aliens under attack have mistaken the Galaxy Quest television transmissions for "historical documents" and beamed up the crew of has-been actors to save the universe. With no script, no director and no clue, the actors must turn in the performances of their lives. (*Science Fiction, Humor*) CY

### **The King's Speech (2011)**

The story of King George VI of Britain, his impromptu ascension to the throne and the speech therapist who helped the unsure monarch become worthy of it. (*Historical, Based on a True Story*) AD

### **Miss Marple (2014)**

Completely restored and remastered in stunning high definition, see Agatha Christie's Miss Marple as never before! Joan Hickson, the actress Agatha Christie herself wanted for the role, stars as the shrewd sleuth in four thrilling whodunits: The Murder at the Vicarage, The Moving Finger, The Body in the Library, and A Murder is Announced. Watch as Miss Marple puts her perceptive powers to good use and gets to the bottom of even the most complex crimes in this beloved series. (*Mystery*) LC

### **Mr. & Mrs. Murder (2014)**

Charlie and Nicola Buchanan are a pair of crime-scene cleaners with a knack for solving mysteries. As they go about their work, they discover clues the police overlook. This warm and witty whodunit from Down Under is sure to please mystery and comedy fans alike. (*Mystery, Comedy*) LC

### **New in Town (2009)**

A Miami businesswoman trying to get a huge promotion agrees to oversee a big project in a small town in Minnesota. Now she must deal with frozen roads, icy weather, and chilly locals, and finds along the way something more than just a job assignment. (*Romantic Comedy*) JK

### **North & South (2005)**

When the privileged Margaret Hale's father uproots the family to take work in the northern mill town of Milton, she is shocked by the dirt and gruffness of the people. But she reserves her highest contempt for the charismatic mill-owner John Thornton. (*Historical, Costume Drama, Based on a Book*) BM

## **Starstruck (1982)**

Do you like cheese? You'll have to have an appetite for some '80s-style fromage to watch this movie musical about a girl who dreams of being Australia's answer to Cyndi Lauper. Come for the toe-tapping songs, stay for the amazing New Wave fashions and set designs. (*Musical, Comedy, Foreign*) JFS

## **Music**

The Duhks

### **Migrations (2007)**

Lead singer Jessie Havey's smoky voice, Leonard Podoluck's banjo, and Scott Senior's Latin-influenced percussion give this award-winning folk band from Winnipeg, Manitoba its distinctive sound. Migrations was nominated for a Grammy for Best Country Album in 2007. (*Folk, Country*) BM

FFS

### **FFS (2015)**

Scottish indie rockers Franz Ferdinand and New Wave malcontents Sparks joined forces to create this truly unique album. Each song is a self-contained short story with its own protagonist: "Dictator's Son" tells the story of a Third World strongman who prefers shopping to subjugation, "Johnny Delusional" is the cri de coeur of of a public transit weirdo, and "Police Encounters" explains why making eyes at a cop's wife is a bad idea. The madness culminates in a soaring mini-opera all about how "Collaborations Don't Work." But they do. (*New Wave, Alt-Rock, Indie*) JFS

Franklin, Aretha

### **Lady Soul (1967)**

Appearing after a blockbuster debut and a sophomore set that was rather disappointing (in comparison), 1968's Lady Soul proved Aretha Franklin, the pop sensation, was no fluke. Her performances were more impassioned than on her debut, and the material just as strong, an inspired blend of covers and originals from the best songwriters in soul and pop music. (*Blues, Soul*) CW

Freudman, Gideon

### **Rain Monsters (2012)**

Performed by Gideon Freudman: cello, guitar, banjo, glock, kalimba, ukulele, accordion, strumstick; Matt Berger: drums; Josh Feinberg: sitar; Ruthie Dornfeld: fiddle. Not your average classical cello performance! (*Classical*) MR

### **The Most Relaxing Classical Music in the World...Ever!**

Features favorites such as Pachelbel's Canon in D and Barber's Adagio for Strings, plus 34 additional super-soothing songs by famous composers such as Bach, Mozart, Satie, and Debussy. (*Classical*) CY