

# BookMarks!

You've got to read this!

Produced by:

CPCC Libraries

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## Stuffed Animals Don't Make Good Drivers

### Quick Picks

#### BookMarks Check List

Books I want to read:

*The Florabama Ladies' Auxiliary and Sewing Circle* \* \*

*Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons* \* \* \*

*The Traveler* \* \* \*

*Mrs. Pollifax Unveiled* \* \* \*

*To the Power of Three* \* \* \*

*Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* \* \* \* \*

*The Red Tent* \* \*

*Broken For You* \* \* \*

*84 Charing Cross Road*

*The Secret Lives of Fortunate Wives* \* \*

*The Vampire Lestat* \* \* \* \*

*Trance* \* \* \* \*

*A Christmas Memory* \* \* \*

#### Ratings Scale

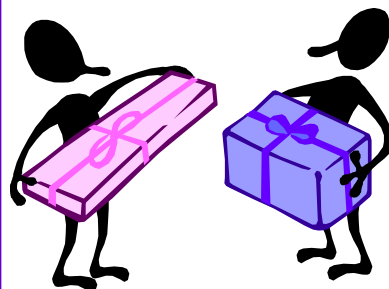
- \* - As fun as semi-thawed mud
- \*\* - A cozy arm-chair read
- \*\*\* - Like warm soup on a really cold day
- \*\*\*\* - There's 3 feet of snow on the ground and we just got a free week off

But books ALWAYS make great gifts!

Wouldn't a newly discovered book or a classic read make a wonderful present for a dear friend or loved one? As we enter the holiday season, take some time out to learn more about the reading treasures our reviewers have discovered. Relive Christmas stories with Truman Capote. Learn more about a vampire's quest for knowledge of his beginnings. Spend time in a tent with other women. Explore female friendship in 1830's China or female nothingness in suburban Cleveland. Whatever the experience gained, journey taken, or knowledge learned, the books reviewed in this issue of BookMarks will be worth your time or the time of anyone gifted with one of these yummy books, cuddle up, and READ!



Let your imagination run



### BookMarks: The Gift Event

Celebrate wild winter reading by joining the library staff on Friday, November 4, at the Central Campus Library. The CPCC Libraries invite all students, faculty, and staff, to join us for "BookMarks...Great Books in Search of

Readers." We'll be joined by Frazer Dobson and Sally Brewster of Park Road Books, who are famous for their great book talks. Bring a bagged lunch and join us from 12:30-1:30 p.m. in LR 404. You may find another favorite!

Help us get winter started off with joyful feelings by not only joining us to listen to recommendations, but to also make some recommendations of your own! And don't forget, staff and faculty can get professional development for this event. Log into Learner Web to register. Credit plus dessert and drinks for lunch - what gift could be greater?!

**Hark! Is this a great gift I see before me?**



## The Florabama Ladies' Auxiliary and Sewing Circle

By Lois Battle

Lois Battle introduces you to a group of endearing women trying to change their lives. This is a low country story that is set in the deep South. You will identify with the women and care for them cheering their triumphs and crying with their defeats. - **Julie Lease**

## The Vampire Lestat

by Anne Rice

Set in pre-revolutionary France, this is a tender coming of age story...oh, who am I kidding? This is Anne Rice's best vampire work ever! She captures the power and eroticism of Lestat as he travels continents and spans centuries searching for other vampires and his own origins. Lestat is as powerful and commanding as Louis was simpering and whiny in *Interview with a Vampire*. You will never think of vampires in the same way again.—**Gena Moore**



## 84 Charing Cross Road

by Helene Hanff

If you love books, if the thought of simply holding a newly acquired book in your hands

sends warm feelings all over your being, then this book is for you. Even if you have seen this movie—read the book. Accompanying this story about book buying are human encounters that blossomed into the most wonderful friendships, and surprising glimpses into wartime situations in another country. The book is less than 100 pages, but you'll enjoy every bit of it. - **Vicky Tsai**

## The Traveler

by John Twelve Hawks

This book has a Science Fiction feel to it and deals with paranoia and a lack of privacy. Hawks goes to the extreme, but personal privacy is certainly a scarce commodity these days. The premise of the book is about Travelers. The Travelers are people who can travel in different dimensions. They are considered a threat by the Brethren who actually control the world. The Brethren is always watching. The mercenaries who work for the Brethren are called the Tabula while the warriors who protect the Travelers are called the Harlequins. The Harlequins and Travelers prefer to live "off the grid". It is a rather appealing idea. Overall, I found the book enjoyable. It looks like the first in a series of books.—**Anne Egger**

## To the Power of Three

by Laura Lippman

Three teenaged girls, life-long friends, popular and accomplished high-school seniors. Days before graduation, one is found dead in the school restroom, one is barely alive and the other has a less serious wound. What happened, why and how? Former Baltimore Sun reporter Laura Lippman spins an excellent mystery. She introduces the victims, their parents, school friends, an ex-boyfriend, the guidance counselor, drama teacher and the investigating police detective. She spends time developing the characters and weaving their stories into an unpredictable and satisfying ending.—**Carolyn Pence**



## The Secret Lives of Fortunate Wives

by Sarah Strohmeier



If you are a fan of "Desperate Housewives" you will enjoy a romp through suburban Cleveland with the seductive wives of wealthy men. The size 2, perfectly coiffured women are involved in shopping for designer clothes, having cosmetic surgery, swallowing amphetamines and having affairs with their friends' husbands. Into this tight circle comes Claire Stark, an ex-journalist from Appalachia trailer-trash stock, and newly married to one of the group's previously sought-after bachelors. The lives are shallow and the book has virtually no redeeming characters - yet I read on just to see the outcome. - **Sonia Coffin**

## Snow Flower and the Secret

**Fan** by Lisa See

Set in the 1830's in China, the story follows the life of "two old sames" Lily and Snow Flower. To my mind, there is nothing more beautiful or complex than a long and deep friendship between two women. There is so much at stake, yet the relationship is always vulnerable. This book is beautifully written. I literally couldn't put it down and finished it in three days. Ms. See is not Asian, but she writes with an Asian voice. If you have ever had a best friend or a woman who felt like a soul mate, you must read this book. - **Anne Egger**



## Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons

by Lorna Landvik

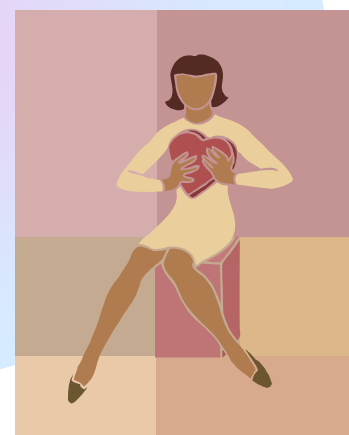
The women of Freesia Court become life long friends. We follow their lives from the "turbulent 60's" to the present. We follow their marriages and their children as they live through experiences we can all identify with. Reading this book is like visiting old comfortable friends! - **Julie Lease**

## The Red Tent

by Anita Diamont

"The Red Tent" is the fictional biblical story about Jacob's only daughter Dinah, and her 4 "mothers" (Jacob's wives) who spent much of

their lives in The Red Tent (where "womanly" events happened like menstruation and childbirth that separated them from the men). The book is told from Dinah's point of view, and is a fascinating look at those historical customs and practices and how differently women were treated then. They were seen as property. I heard positive things about this book, but I felt disconnected from the events told--I don't know if that was the characters or Diamont's storytelling. Regardless, I would recommend it, but I didn't consider it a page-turner.—**Erin Payton**



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<http://www.cpcc.edu/library/forms/bookreview.htm>



## Broken For You

by Stephanie Kallos

This book is a heartfelt, touching story about the importance of connections to other people, and how those connections can get past the worst hurt and heartache caused by ones you love. It's set in Seattle and centers around eccentric Margaret, an elderly woman with a brain tumor living alone in a mansion. She begins inviting other people to board with her so she'll be less lonely, namely young Wanda, who is as "broken" as Margaret is--they understand the deep hurt and sadness they find in each other. It is through this extraordinary relationship that they both begin to heal. Kallos has a deep warmth for her interesting yet flawed characters, and you never know quite which way the story will go. Terrific debut novel.—Erin



## A Christmas Memory

by Truman Capote

Though copyrighted almost 60 years ago, Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory* is a wonderful read and a great gift. I venture to say that this little book is one of the best reads I have experienced. In his novella, Capote chooses and places each word lovingly on the page. His fond reminiscences of his boyhood with his cousin Sook ring on crystal clear Alabama mornings. It was a time of innocence and nostalgia - a vignette that offers a glimpse of simplicity in the complex life of the man who wrote *In Cold Blood*. - Angela Sox



## Trance

by Christopher Sorrentino

Recently nominated as a finalist for the National Book Award, *Trance* is a clever, well-written fictionalized account of the kidnapping of Patty Hearst (known in the book as Alice Galton) by the Symbionese Liberation Army. Sorrentino uses a wide variety of characters to tell the story, which some might find confusing, but which I found really worked to capture the zeitgeist of 70s radicalism. The *Publisher's Weekly* review says it well: "*Trance* is a tour de force, announcing a mature and ambitious talent, one that goes a long way toward capturing the weirdness and stoned fervor of a vital, still-undigested and heavily televised piece of recent American history." Sorrentino has earned his National Book Award nomination.—Jennifer Arnold



## Mrs. Pollifax Unveiled

by Dorothy Gilman

I simply adore Mrs. Pollifax. If you haven't read her stories, I highly recommend them. Emily Pollifax is from New Brunswick, NJ. She raises prize-winning geraniums and has a brown belt in karate. Her husband has passed away and her children are grown. She decides that she is bored and goes to the CIA office to offer her services. They are about to politely send her on her way, when Carstairs walks by and needs to get some passports into Albania. Mrs. Pollifax looks like a sweet grandmother, but she is sharp as a tack and quite tough. I would love to see someone like Joan Plowright play her. In her latest adventure she is in Syria with sheep herders. Need I say more? - Anne Egger

