

BookMarks!

You've got to read this!

Produced by:
CPCC Libraries

Volume 2, Issue 1

March 17, 2006

Pondering Questions of Little Relevance

Quick Picks

BookMarks Check List

Books I want to read:

Girls of a Tender

Age * * * *

Flicker * * * *

What Remains * * * *

Gilead * * *

Forgotten Soldier * *

A Wedding in

December * * *

The City of Angels * * *

Darkly Dreaming

Dexter * * * *

Ordinary Heroes * * * *

Love in the Driest

Season * * *

The March * * *

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

Do you ever wonder who comes up with the clip art that you get with the Microsoft Office products? What were they thinking about when some of these clips were created? Would you really use some of them?! Case in point—look at the silhouette below that I started to use as a stand-in for Jeri Krentz. Since we hadn't asked if we could use her picture (and since weird clip art is fun to stick in unusual places), I



almost used the one to the left. Is this a skipping woman? I'm not sure. So if this were a real person, what would this silhouette suggest that she's thinking or feeling? Perhaps she's a contender for an Extreme Skipping contest? Speaking of extreme activities - join us for our BookMarks event this month. Then you can skip with extreme joy from discovering a new favorite title!



Is the warthog the ugliest animal in the world?

BookMarks: Meet Jeri Krentz



Jeri Krentz, book editor at *The Charlotte Observer*, will speak at [CPCC Libraries' BookMarks](#) event from noon – 1:00 p.m., Friday, March 17, in LRC 404.

If you love books and are always in search of the next great read, you will want to attend this gathering. BookMarks isn't a book club, but rather an easy and fun way to get lots of book recommendations from your fellow booklovers.

Come and hear Jeri Krentz share her thoughts. Drinks and desserts will be provided. Sign up for BookMarks in LearnerWeb for professional development credit.

So here is some more strange clip art. It makes me think of Ben Franklin or Paul Revere. What would your title be to include this clip art? It's a worthy discussion.

Girls of a Tender Age

By Mary-Ann Tirone Smith

This memoir of growing up in the 1950s struck a chord with me. Lots of similarities: neighborhoods full of kids, no TV, blue collar families, mothers at home. But the similarities ended when the story revealed an autistic brother whose behavior shaped the family as well as a "secret" that bothered the writer for years. Her secret story looks back at the tragedy of a murdered childhood friend. Smith brings this girl back to a life-just-begun with humor, some anger, and with a realistic view of growing up "girl" in the '50s. A compelling book. —**Margie Orell**



What Remains

by Carole Radziwill

Carole Radziwill is a small town girl from upstate New York. As a young girl she watches *The Challenger* explode on TV and knows what she wants to do. She wants to be a part of broadcast journalism. She gets a job as an intern at ABC news. She worked from the bottom to the top. She ends as a producer for *World News Tonight*. She is very dedicated to her job. Along the way, she meets a co-worker named Anthony. They go out every now and again, but no major sparks fly. As time goes on she learns his cousin and best friend is John F. Kennedy, Jr. It is a bit daunting, but she likes Anthony and, as time passes, their relationship deepens. Carole and Carolyn Kennedy become good friends. On her honeymoon, Carole discovers a lump on Anthony's stomach. She decides she can fix her husband all by herself and Carolyn is a wonderful support during the challenges Carole faces. I continue to be fascinated by the Kennedy family and how one family can hold such power, prestige, and tragedy. —**Anne Egger**

Flicker

by Theodore Roszak

This epic follows Jonathan Gates, a UCLA film scholar, as he investigates subliminal messages in the b-horror films of a 1920's German film director. The story spans decades and along the way the reader is treated to heaps of suspense with a side of film lore. Eventually Gates uncovers a doomsday conspiracy of unlikely proportions. Roszak takes a few pages to get the story rolling, but after that the book is hard to put down. *Flicker* isn't a horror novel, but there are some very unsettling moments towards the end of the book. Highly recommended for those with an interest in cinema. —**Steve Osler**

The Grail Bird

by Tim Gallagher

I read this under duress, so I didn't expect to enjoy it as much as I did. It is a wonderful book about the recent rediscovery of the ivory billed woodpecker. It starts with the history of the bird (including pictures of some of the first naturalists with their recently shot birds) and moves through the author's investigation of recent sightings and ends with the actual confirmation of the bird's existence in Arkansas. It's prompted me to track down the website, which now has recordings of the call and distinctive tapping patterns of the bird. It's like being able to see and listen to a dinosaur! —**Debbie Foster**



Gilead by Marilynne Robinson

The book *Gilead* received a review in *The Charlotte Observer* with the statement, "this ambitious work is knitted together by the keen observations of a narrator whose lyrical, wry voice will get under your skin and carry you away." Now available as an audio book from PLCMC, my recommendation is to absorb this book aurally. The voice of the elderly minister drawing to the end of his life is captured PERFECTLY by the narrator Tim Jerome. Wise reminiscences of the meaning of life and the nature of God are as filling and warm as a bowl of soup. Or it could be compared to bittersweet chocolate. Life has been so sweet-how bitter to leave it with a young child not yet raised. Winner of both the 2004 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction and the 2005 Melcher Book Award, but as readers we're the real winners.—**Elaine Kushmaul**



Art Ed Lam. Illustration from <http://www.onpage.com> & dlam/illustration/16.html. Accessed 3/30/06



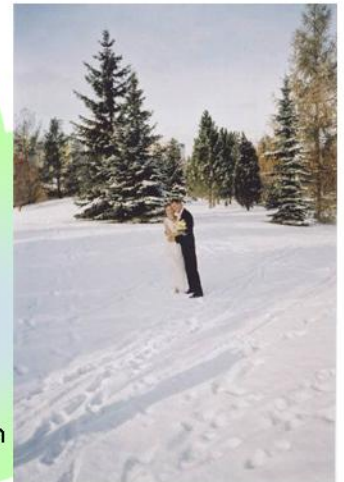
Forgotten Soldier by Guy Sajer

This is a narrative by a German Army conscript fighting in Russia in WWII. It reads as if he is sitting and talking with you; tales of what he saw, what he did, what happened to him, without strained embellishments. Occasional paragraphs of poignant writing; he often laments he hasn't words to adequately describe what he is experiencing. The author puts a human face on the German soldiers, their fears, longings, regrets over what they have to do and the sheer terror of modern war. This book also gives insight into how Russia fought the war; throw enough men and artillery into a battle and it can be eventually won. The edition I'm reading has no photographs but I have seen some editions that have photos of the conflict and that helps to give some perspective on the masses of men, material, and land involved in the conflict.—**Bob Macomson**

A Wedding in December

by Anita Shreve

What happens when high school friends gather 27 years after graduating for a wedding of two of their number who had been high school sweethearts? The seven old friends meet at a Massachusetts' inn for the wedding of Bridget and Bill, who, after marrying and divorcing other spouses, have found each other again. Nora, owner of the inn and widow of a famous poet; Harrison, married but still in love with Nora; Rob, a gay concert pianist and his lover; Jerry, the disagreeable but successful stockbroker and his snobbish wife; and Agnes, the never-married history teacher with a secret she longs to reveal all come to the wedding with old longings, resentments, guilt, and disappointments. Juxtaposed on this story line is another concerning unfulfilled love amidst the Halifax harbor explosion during World War I. Shreve deftly moves from one story line to the other. The dialog is real, the characters sympathetic and the story one that compels the reader to keep reading.—**Sonia Coffin**



The City of Angels by John Berendt

John Berendt decided to go to Venice in the off season to find out what Venice is really like. He discovered a small Italian village, with some wonderful characters. There is, for example, the gentleman who has collected many uniforms, but has no actual job. My personal favorite was the man who is obsessed with rat poison. I have never been to Venice, but I got a nice sense of the rhythm of the city. There are no streets in Venice, only canals. You are required to walk everywhere. What a lovely idea!

- **Anne Egger**

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The March

by E.L. Doctorow

In *The March*, E.L. Doctorow tells a haunting Civil War story of Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas. A finalist for the prestigious National Book Award, Doctorow presents a harrowing account of the reality of war through the eyes of the men and women who experience Sherman's march. The National Book Award Judges' Citation described the novel as "Epic in scope, unsparing yet tender, *The March* captures the brutal truth that war is fought and suffered by individual men, women, and children. This is an important American novel which lays bare not only Sherman's momentous trek through the south, but the trek into our own dusty and blood-filled past, the smoke of gun barrels and burned homes rising through the trees where the hope for peace and redemption endures." Recommended for fans of Doctorow (*Ragtime*, *Billy Bathgate*) and Civil War buffs. - **Jennifer Arnold**



Darkly Dreaming Dexter

by Jeffrey Lindsay

Dexter is not your typical serial killer. He knows he's soulless and inhuman, of course. But to satisfy his foster father's dying instructions, he only uses his impressive cutting skills to knock off *really* bad guys, like pedophiles. His day job is a blood spatter analyst for the Miami PD (sometimes working his own murders). However Dexter's world is rocked when he finds another serial killer on the loose whose style echoes his own. Are Dexter's macabre dreams related to these murders? And does Dexter really want to find the murderer before he strikes again...or does he want a psychopathic friend to play with? Dark, funny, full of black humor and very self-aware, Dexter is the most charming serial killer you'll find in fiction.—**Erin Payton**

Dexter will be made into a Showtime TV series starring Michael C. Hall of *Six Feet Under* in Winter 2006.

Ordinary Heroes

by Scott Turow

The death, cruelty and absurdity of war but also the heroism of ordinary people is portrayed in Turow's World War II novel. Loosely based on his father's accounts of the war, Turow spins an engrossing tale of intrigue, espionage, love and betrayal amidst the background of the battle field. David Dubin, a court-martialed American lawyer and soldier, leaves behind letters that are found by his son after his death. The letters recount how Dubin, working as an assistant judge advocate, was sent to arrest Major Robert Martin, an Allied agent working with the French underground in wartime Europe. Major Martin is suspected of being a Soviet spy by the American and British intelligence agencies. David chases Martin across European battlefields and eventually catches up with the suspected spy, and it is here that Turow hands the reader a surprising twist of an ending. Although this is not one of Turow's traditional legal thrillers, he lives up to his reputation as a spell-binding teller of tales.—**Sonia Coffin**



Love in the Driest Season

by Neely Tucker

-Audio Book on CD -7 CD's -unabridged - -Narrator Michael Kramer

Neely Tucker is a white man from Mississippi who falls in love with Vita, a black woman from Detroit. He is a foreign correspondent with the Detroit Free Press. Neely and Vita marry and go to Zimbabwe. They don't have children but, through a series of events, they fall in love with an infant girl named Chepo. Neely writes about the enormous obstacles in adopting a child from Zimbabwe. I thought this was a wonderful story of salvation and redemption. I thought the narrator did a good job. Neely is a reporter, so there are times when there is too much detail. He needed a better editor, but overall it is a wonderful story.—**Anne Egger**