

Books We Like, 2004

Librarians' Assembly of the University of Wisconsin, Madison

Akunin, B., and Andrew Bromfield. *Winter Queen : A Novel*. New York: Random House, 2004.

It's set in Czarist Russia and stars the naive but eager Fandorin as a young investigator with the Moscow police. Why would a university student shoot himself in the middle of the Alexander Gardens? Fandorin sets out to find the answer and soon lands in the middle of a far-reaching international conspiracy. Yakunin effectively juxtaposes the comical innocence of his hero against the decadence of nineteenth-century Moscow--aristocrats idling in gambling clubs while the winds of revolution freshen. In his debut, Fandorin comes across as an odd but appealing mix of Holmesian brilliance and Inspector Clousseauian bumbling.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PG3478 K78 A913 2004,.

Akunin, B., and Andrew Bromfield. *Murder on the Leviathan : A Novel*. New York: Random House,

Usually, crime writers who give birth to protagonists deserving of future series want to feature those characters as prominently as possible in subsequent installments. Not so Boris Akunin, who succeeds his celebrated first novel about daring 19th-century Russian sleuth Erast Fandorin, *The Winter Queen*, with *Murder on the Leviathan*, in which the now former St. Petersburg investigator competes for center stage with a swell-headed French police commissioner, a crafty adventuress boasting more than her fair share of aliases, and a luxurious steamship that appears fated for deliberate destruction in the Indian Ocean. (Amazon.com)

MadCat no copies. LinkCat 14 copies and one audiobook.

Ali, Monica. *Brick Lane : A Novel*. 1st Scribner ed. New York: Scribner, 2003.

Engaging narrative of a life left to a subtly-manipulated fate. Surviving childhood, Nazneen is promised to the older Chanu--beginning marriage as a lonely new arrival to London. The novel keenly depicts Nazneen's challenge to determine a course for her life and to balance the many roles she feels compelled to play.

MadCat no copies. LinkCat 19 copies and 5 large print.

Anderson, Joan. *A Year by the Sea : Thoughts of an Unfinished Woman*. 1st ed. New York: Doubleday, 1999.

"I'm beginning to think that real growing only begins after we've done the adult things we're supposed to do," confides Anderson, a journalist and author of children's books (*Twins on Toes*, etc.). She came to this conclusion after a year living alone in a cottage on Cape Cod. Feeling that her marriage had stagnated by the time her two sons were grown, Anderson surprised and distressed her husband by refusing to move out-of-state with him when he accepted a new job. In this accessible memoir, she shares the joy and self-knowledge she found during her time of semi-isolation. In order to supplement the income from her royalty checks, she found a job in the local fish market and began making new friends who sustained her. After her hot water heater broke down and her husband refused to help, she earned the additional money for the repair by digging and selling clams. Through vivid and meticulous observations about the natural world, Anderson makes clear her strong affinity for the ocean, with its changing tides, subtle colors and burgeoning life. A Memorial Day reunion brought Anderson and her husband closer; shortly thereafter she embraced his plan to retire and live with her in the cottage. Anderson has recently begun a "Weekend by the

Sea" program for women who need time to reflect. (Publisher's Weekly)
Historical Society Library Stacks F72.C3 A73 1999, LinkCat 17 copies.

Aslam, Nadeem. ***Maps for Lost Lovers***. 1st ed. Projected Date: 0505 ed. New York: Knopf, 2005.

A daring, loving couple, presumed lost in an honor killing, serves as the thread that weaves through many tales of love, loss and family--as experienced by the bereaved. It is a tale of cultural and generational conflicts and the immigrant experience of a post-colonial UK. Compelling and beautifully-crafted.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR9540.9 A83 M37 2004.

Bascomb, Neal. ***The Perfect Mile : Three Athletes, One Goal, and Less than Four Minutes to Achieve it***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Co, 2004.

Not just for runners! The story of three very different men, from England, the U.S., and Australia, training to be the first to run the mile in under four minutes. Aside from the personal stories, the book covers the history of long-distance running, life in post-war England, and the amateur sports system in the U.S. It even features the creators of the Guinness Book of World Records before they were famous!

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving GV1061.14 B38 2004, LinkCat 12 copies.

Blunt, Judy. ***Breaking Clean***. 1st ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2002.

An autobiographical story of growing up on a western Montana ranch. The hardships of the land and the weather pale in comparison to the lack of control the author has when she becomes a teenage wife and mother trapped in a sexist marriage. Includes vivid descriptions of the land and people.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving CT275 B57984 A3 2002, LinkCat 23 copies.

Burroughs, Augusten. ***Magical Thinking : True Stories***. 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2004.

"Magical Thinking" - a collection of personal essays ranging from reflections on the Amish to dog-shit eating opossums.(local opinion) It's best to know this from the start: Augusten Burroughs is mean. Augusten Burroughs is also outrageously X-rated. If you can get past those two things, Burroughs might just be the most refreshing voice in American books today, and his collection of acerbic essays will have you laughing out loud even while cringing in your seat. Whether he is stepping on the fingers of little children or giving you the blow-by-blow on a very unholy act, Burroughs manages to do it in a way that fills conflicted fans with both horror and glee.

(Amazon.com)

MadCat no copies. LinkCat 20 copies and three audiobooks.

Burroughs, Augusten. ***Dry***. 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2003.

"Dry" chronicles his near-fatal struggle with advertising and alcoholism.

Madcat College Library Open Book General, 1st Floor, Room 1250, PS3552 U745 Z465 2003,
Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving, LinkCat 22 copies and four audiobooks.

Burroughs, Augusten. ***Running with Scissors : A Memoir***. 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 2002.

"Running with Scissors" about how his bi-polar mother gave custody of him to a disreputable psychiatrist with a pedophilic adopted son.

MadCat College Library Open Book General, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PS3552 U745 Z477 2003,
LinkCat 37 copies and 7 audiobooks.

Cilauro, Santo, Tom Gleisner, and Rob Sitch. ***Molvania : A Land Untouched by Modern Dentistry.*** Woodstock, N.Y: Overlook Press, 2004.

A satire on travel books.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PN6178 A8 M65 2004, no copies in LinkCat.

Deutsch, Nathaniel. ***The Maiden of Ludmir : A Jewish Holy Woman and Her World.*** Berkeley: University of California Press, 2003.

Besides the topic itself, the story of a 19th century Russian Jewish woman who was the only Jewish woman to ever function as a Hasidic rebbe or charismatic leader in her own right, as much a part of the book is how the author unravelled clues about her in archives, cemeteries, contemporary news accounts, etc. It's a great text for anyone interested in how historians conduct their work.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving BM755 W395 D48 2003,.

Elphinstone, Margaret. ***Voyageurs : A Novel.*** New York, NY: Canongate U.S, 2003.

"Set largely in the wilds of the U.S.-Canadian border on the eve of the War of 1812, this novel celebrates persistence, integrity, and bonds between cultures. Mark Greenhow leaves home in England at the age of 23 to search for his younger sister, Rachel, who (with her aunt) took her Quaker ministry to Canada.(From Booklist)

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6055 L68 V69 2003, LinkCat 3 copies.

Eugenides, Jeffrey. ***Middlesex.*** 1st ed. New York: Farrar, Straus, Giroux, 2002.

An epic family chronicle that centers around the life of a hermaphrodite, Cal/Calliope. Raised as a girl, we see her grow up and choose to pass as a man. Woven into his/her life are the stories of the burning of Smyrna, Greek immigrant life in America, the Nation of Islam, and Detroit in the 20th century.

College Library Open Book Fiction, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PS3555 U4 M53 2003, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3555 U4 M53 2002, LinkCat 46 copies, 5 audiobooks.

Fforde, Jasper. ***Thursday Next in the Well of Lost Plots : A Novel.*** 1st American ed. New York: Viking, 2004.

Thursday Next definitely needs some downtime. After two rollicking New York Times-bestselling adventures through the Western literary canon, Britain's Prose Resource Operative was literally and literaturally at her wit's end -- not to mention pregnant. So what could be more welcome than a restful stint in the Character Exchange Program down in the hidden depths of the Well of Lost Plots? But a vacation remains elusive. In no time, Thursday discovers that the Well of Lost Plots is a veritable linguistic free-for-all where grammasites run rampant, plot devices are hawked on the black market and lousy books (like the one she has taken up residence in) are scrapped for salvage. To top it off, a murderer is stalking Jurisdiction personnel and nobody is safe, least of all Thursday herself. Once again, it's up to the ever-resourceful gal detective to track down the killer, save her pulp novel-slash-temporary abode from being chucked into the Text Sea, and get back to her "real" life with her body (and memory, if it's not too much to ask) intact. Jasper Fforde has done it again in this absolutely brilliant feat of literary showmanship. When it comes to sheer wit, literate fantasy and effervescent originality, nothing can touch this new Ffordian tour de force.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6106 F67 W45 2003, LinkCat 28 copies and 7 audiobooks.

Fforde, Jasper. ***Thursday Next in Something Rotten : A Novel.*** New York: Viking, 2004.

Welsh writer Fforde's fourth entry in the zany, hypercreative Thursday Next detective series revisits the "Literary Detective" as she retreats to her hometown of Swindon, England, retiring from the tedious job (as Head of Jurisdiction) she held in Fforde's previous novel, *The Well of Lost Plots*. Joined by her two-year-old son, Friday, pet dodos Pickwick and Alan, and Hamlet, the Prince of Denmark, Thursday realizes that there's someone missing: her husband, Landen, previously "eradicated" by the Goliath Corporation, a ruthless bio-tech conglomerate corporation. She wants Landen back. Aided by her father, she is reinstated into her old employ, the Special Operations Network, and begins investigating the machinations of power-hungry Fictioneer Yorrick Kaine and the mysterious disappearance of England's president. The fate of the world rests on the outcome of a major croquet tournament, with Thursday pinch-hitting on a lethal playing field as Landen is finally returned to reality (only to fade out again). More than a little wacky, the novel is packed with screwball details as characters get "written" in and out of the story, hybridized creatures stalk malls and Shakespeare clones start popping up everywhere. With humorous illustrations and curious footnotes sprinkled throughout, Fforde's latest will have hardcore fans roaring—but those new to the series might want to tackle the convoluted mayhem from the very beginning. (Publisher's Weekly) Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6106 F67 T484 2004, LinkCat 22 copies and five audiobooks.

Flagg, Fannie. ***Standing in the Rainbow : A Novel.*** 1st ed. New York: Random House, 2002.

From the talented storyteller whose *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Cafe* became a beloved bestseller and a successful film comes a sprawling, feel-good novel with an old-fashioned beginning, middle and end. The predominant setting is tiny Elmwood Springs, Mo., and the protagonist is 10-year-old Bobby Smith, an earnest Cub Scout also capable of sneaking earthworms into his big sister's bed. His father is the town pharmacist and his mother is local radio personality Neighbor Dorothy (whom readers will recognize from Flagg's *Welcome to the World, Baby Girl!*). In 1946, Harry Truman presides over a victorious nation anticipating a happy and prosperous future. During the next several decades, the plot expands to include numerous beguiling characters who interact with the Smith family among them, the Oatman Family Southern Gospel Singers, led by matriarch Minnie, who survive misadventures galore to find fame after an appearance on the Arthur Godfrey show in 1949, the same year Bobby's self-esteem soars when he wins the annual town bubble gum contest. Also on hand are tractor salesman Ham Sparks, who becomes amazingly successful in politics, despite his marriage to overwhelmingly shy Betty Raye Oatman, and well-liked mortician Cecil Figgs, a sponsor of Neighbor Dorothy, who, as a bachelor in the mid-century South, also enjoys a secret life. The effects of changing social mores are handled deftly; historical events as they impact little Elmwood Springs are duly noted, and everything is infused with the good humor and joie de vivre that are Flagg's stock-in-trade. (Publisher's Weekly) None in MadCat, LinkCat 69 copies and 18 audiobooks.

Flagg, Fannie. ***Welcome to the World, Baby Girl! : A Novel.*** 1st ed. New York: Random House, 1998.

A sentimental look at small-town life featuring Dena Nordstrom, a New York TV show hostess. Sent by her doctor home to Missouri to nurse her ulcer, she hopes to learn why her mother abandoned her when she was 15 years old.

College Library Open Book Fiction, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PS3556 L26 W45 1999, LinkCat 69 copies and 21 audiobooks.

Golden, Arthur. ***Memoirs of a Geisha : A Novel.*** 1st ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1997.

A fisherman's daughter in 1930s Japan rises to become a famous geisha. After training, Sayuri's virginity is sold to the highest bidder, then the school finds her a general for a patron. When he dies, she is reunited with the only man she loved.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3557 O35924 M46 1997, LinkCat 24 copies, 32 audiobooks.

Haddon, Mark. ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time.*** 1st ed. New York: Doubleday, 2003.

Fifteen-year-old Christopher is autistic; other people's behavior mystifies him. One night, he comes across his neighbor's dog speared by a garden implment. The owner finds Christopher holding her dead dog, and has him arrested. After spending a night in jail, Christopher decides to try to discover who killed the dog. At one point he even has to travel to London alone, and you're with him every step of the way, as you find yourself beginning to see the world through his eyes. He is encouraged by a teacher to write about his investigations, and this book is supposedly the result. Guaranteed to warm the cockles of your heart.

College Library Open Book Fiction, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PZ7 H1165 Cu 2004, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6058 A245 C87 2003, LinkCat 74 copies and 17 audiobooks.

Hamilton, Hugo. ***The Speckled People : A Memoir of a Half-Irish Childhood.*** 1st 4th Estate U.S. pbk. ed. New York: Fourth Estate, 2004.

This memoir captures, via a child's manner of discourse, the experience of a bi-cultural heritage—German, Irish—in 1950s' Dublin. Themes of Irish nationalism, post-war persecution of German expatriates/refugees, and the cultural conflict and blend of languages serve to qualify the narrator's perceptions of family, home, and country.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6058 A5526 Z47 2003b, LinkCat three copies.

Hiaasen, Carl. ***Hoot.*** 1st ed. New York: Alfred A. Knopf ;; Distributed by Random House, 2002.

(Newbery Honor Book) Roy, who is new to his small Florida community, becomes involved in another boy's attempt to save a colony of burrowing owls from a proposed construction site. ... In his first novel for a younger audience, Carl Hiaasen (Basket Case, etc.) plunges readers right into the middle of an ecological mystery, made up of endangered miniature owls, the Mother Paula's All-American Pancake House scheduled to be built over their burrows, and the owls' unlikely allies--three middle school kids determined to beat the screwed-up adult system. Hiaasen's tongue is firmly in cheek as he successfully cuts his slapstick sense of humor down to kid-size. Sure to be a hoot, er, hit with middle school mystery fans.

School of Library/Info Studies. General Collection C+ H52h, LinkCat 42 copies.

Horsley, Kate. ***Confessions of a Pagan Nun : A Novel.*** 1st ed. Boston; New York: Shambhala; Distributed in the U.S. by Random House, 2001.

Review from School Library Journal The fictional memoir of a nun of St. Bridget's Convent during Ireland's Dark Ages. Gwynneve's story is one of adventure, joy, and loss. Born into poverty in pre-Christian Ireland, she learns herbal medicine-and inherits strength of character, talent, and intelligence-from her mother. Escaping the brutish life of her village, Gwynneve joins a troupe of traveling entertainers and later apprentices herself for many years to one of the last surviving Druids. Late in life, though secretly remaining unbaptized, she enters the convent, where her literacy earns her a place as a translator of Christian theologians. Her private memoir betrays a dry wit and

iconoclastic attitude, so her eventual martyrdom at the hands of zealots does not come as a surprise. (A frame tale reveals that her legacy did survive her.) Horsley portrays Gwynneve's time as a battleground of profound, complex, and bloody cultural conflict, when a recognizably modern form of Christianity first gained ascendancy over rival sects and over the country's older Celtic traditions. This powerful little book is not for lightweight, fainthearted, or doctrinaire readers, but it will be deeply satisfying for many. It can be read simply as a compelling piece of historical fiction or as an insightful meditation on the nature and roots of sectarian conflict.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3558 O6976 C66 2001, LinkCat ten copies.

Hosseini, Khal. ***The Kite Runner***. 1st Riverhead trade pbk. ed. New York: Riverhead Books, 2004.

"His passionate story of betrayal and redemption is framed by Afghanistan's tragic recent past . . . Rather than settle for a coming-of-age or travails-of-immigrants story, Hosseini has folded them both into this searing spectacle of hard-won personal salvation. All this, and a rich slice of Afghan culture too: irresistible." (Kirkus Reviews)

Location: College Library Open Book Fiction, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PS3608 O832 K58 2004, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3608 O525 K58 2003, LinkCat 34 copies three audiobooks.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. ***An Artist of the Floating World***. New York: Putnam's, 1986.

In *An Artist of the Floating World*, Kazuo Ishiguro offers readers of the English language an authentic look at postwar Japan, "a floating world" of changing cultural behaviors, shifting societal patterns and troubling questions. Ishiguro, who was born in Nagasaki in 1954 but moved to England in 1960, writes the story of Masuji Ono, a bohemian artist and purveyor of the night life who became a propagandist for Japanese imperialism during the war. But the war is over. Japan lost, Ono's wife and son have been killed, and many young people blame the imperialists for leading the country to disaster. What's left for Ono? Ishiguro's treatment of this story earned a 1986 Whitbread Prize.

(Amazon.com)

College Library Reserve Collection, 1st Fl. West, Room 1191 PR6059 S5 A89 1989, LinkCat two copies.

Jacobs, A. J. ***The Know-it-all : One Man's Humble Quest to Become the Smartest Person in the World***. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2004.

While working for "Entertainment Weekly" magazine, author A.J. Jacobs finds his mind filling with pop culture and feels he is losing his grip on "real" knowledge. Jacobs decides to remedy the situation by reading the Encyclopaedia Britannica from cover to cover, A to Z. In this humor-filled book, Jacobs provides an alphabetical account of some of the bizarre information he discovers. He also discusses his attempts to ingratiate himself into the intellectual community by joining Mensa and competing on "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire," and details the complications his efforts bring in his relationship with his father, and his attempts to become a father himself.

LinkCat 11 copies and three audiobooks.

Jelinek, Elfriede. ***The Piano Teacher : A Novel***. 1st American ed. New York: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1988.

Note(s): Translation of: Die Klavierspielerin.;

"*The Piano Teacher* is an exploration of fascism, not so much in the political sense as in the personal. In Joachim Neugroschel's excellent translation, the language is simple yet full of imaginative, often funny metaphors, the view of the world original, if at times almost painfully

bizarre." *New York Times Book Review*

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PT2670 E46 K513 1988, LinkCat three copies and one DVD.

Jiménez, Francisco. ***The Circuit : Stories from the Life of a Migrant Child***. 1st ed. Albuquerque: University of New Mexico Press, 1997.

Under the wire -- Soledad -- Inside out -- Miracle in Tent City -- El Angel de Oro -- Christmas gift -
- Death forgiven -- Cotton sack -- The circuit -- Learning the game -- To have and to hold -- Moving still.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3560 I55 C57 1997, LinkCat 35 copies.

Lahiri, Jhumpa. ***Interpreter of Maladies : Stories***. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1999.

Stories about Indians in India and America. The story, A Temporary Matter, is on mixed marriage, Mrs. Sen's is on the adaptation of an immigrant to the U.S., and in the title story an interpreter guides an American family through the India of their ancestors.; A temporary matter -- When Mr. Pirzada came to dine -- Interpreter of maladies -- A real durwan -- Sexy -- Mrs. Sen's -- This blessed house -- The treatment of Bibi Haldar -- The third and final continent.

College Library Reserve Collection, 1st Fl. West, Room 1191 PS3562 A316 I58 1999, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3562 A316 I58 1999, LinkCat 32 copies, 2 audiobooks.

Leon, Donna. ***Death at La Fenice***. 1st ed. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 1992.

A breathless beginning and an unexpected lack of reference to the lush setting mark this lively launch of a projected series of Venetian mysteries. When legendary German conductor Helmut Wellauer is found dead in his dressing room two acts into a performance of La Traviata, police commissario Guido Brunetti is called in. Among those who might have provided the cyanide poison that killed the maestro, immediate suspects include the vaunted conductor's coolly indifferent young wife and those many in the music industry who are offended by his homophobia. Methodically probing into the victim's past, Brunetti also uncovers Wellauer's Nazi sympathies and a lead to a trio of singing sisters from yesteryear--one now destitute, one dead and the other missing. Though burdened by a dictatorial superior and two lumpen subordinates, Brunetti gets help from his aristocratic wife and her well-connected parents. The narrative's best moments involve Brunetti's wry exchanges with his colleagues and the cunningly masked, obvious solution. (Publisher's Weekly)
MadCat no copies. LinkCat 13 copies and 2 audiobooks.

Letts, Billie. ***The Honk and Holler Opening Soon***. New York: Warner Books, 1998.

Vietnam vet Caney Paxton owns the "Honk & Holler Opening Soon" diner and has his life turned upside down by the arrival of Vena Takes Horse, a thirtyish car-hop with a 3-legged dog. Great characters, with many twists and turns.

None in MadCat, LinkCat 32 copies.

Lodge, David. ***Nice Work***. 1st American ed. New York, N.Y., U.S.A: Viking, 1989.

A hilarious send-up of what happens when a feminist-Marxist literature professor shadows an engineering plant manager in Thatcher's Britain. Nominee for the Booker Prize.

College Library Inactive Reserves, 1st Fl. West, Rm 1191 PR6062 O36 N5 1990, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6062 O36 N5 1988, LinkCat four copies.

McGregor, Jon. ***If Nobody Speaks of Remarkable Things***. New York: Houghton Mifflin Co, 2002.

Nominated for the Booker Prize, this first novel has two narratives: first, there's the story of a single day in the lives of the residents of one street somewhere in England, from an old man struggling to tell his wife that he is dying to an eccentric young man who collects errata from the street and burns with unrequited love for one of his neighbors. The second story follows the aforementioned beloved young woman years later, after she learns she is pregnant. From the beginning, it's obvious that an accident happened on the street toward the end of the day, but we don't actually see the accident until near the end, and the two stories each inch closer to the moment. McGregor creates characters that brim with life and substance through exquisitely detailed descriptions of their lives and memories. But remarkably, almost no one has a name. Instead, the characters are known by their traits ("the man with the burnt hands," "the boy with the yellow sunglasses"), exposing both the disconnection and the unspoken intimacy between neighbors. A wonderful evocation of the beauty and horror of the literally everyday. *John Green*
Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6113 C48 I33 2002, LinkCat eight copies.

Mitchell, David. ***Cloud Atlas : A Novel***. 1st U.S. ed. New York: Random House Trade Paperbacks, 2004.

This incredible book is made up of six strands which reach back into the 19th century, to colonialism and savagery in the Pacific islands, and forwards into a dark future, beyond the collapse of civilization. The strands, each with its own narrative style, are fitted into one another like Russian nesting dolls, and are all ingeniously connected by the end.
Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6063 I785 C56 2004b. LinkCat 6 copies.

Nafisi, Azar. ***Reading Lolita in Tehran : A Memoir in Books***. 1st ed. New York: Random House, 2003.

This is the story of Azar Nafisi's dream and of the nightmare that made it come true. For two years before she left Iran in 1997, Nafisi gathered seven young women at her house every Thursday morning to read and discuss forbidden works of Western literature. They were all former students whom she had taught at university. They were unaccustomed to being asked to speak their minds, but soon they began to open up and to speak more freely, not only about the novels they were reading but also about themselves, their dreams and disappointments. Nafisi's account flashes back to the early days of the revolution, when she first started teaching at the University of Tehran amid the swirl of protests and demonstrations. Azar Nafisi's tale offers a fascinating portrait of the Iran-Iraq war viewed from Tehran and gives us a rare glimpse, from the inside, of women's lives in revolutionary Iran.; Lolita -- Gatsby -- James -- Austen.
College Library Women's Collection, 3rd Floor, Room 3250 PE64 N34 A3 2003, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PE64 N34 A3 2003, LinkCat 40 copies and 12 audiobooks.

Niffenegger, Audrey. ***The Time Traveler's Wife : A Novel***. San Francisco, CA: MacAdam/Cage, 2003.

A Chicago archivist flips backwards & forwards in time, causing amusement and difficulties for all involved. The book really isn't what you'd call fantasy or science fiction--it can be read as a study of a modern couple dealing with a serious problem.
College Library Open Book Fiction, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PS3564 I362 T56 2003b, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3564 I362 T56 2003, LinkCat 60 copies and 6 audiobooks.

Pall, Ellen. ***Corpse De Ballet : A Nine Muses Mystery : Terpsichore***. 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Minotaur Press, 2001.

A cozy mystery with interesting characters that gives a fascinating glimpse of the inner workings of a ballet company and the creation of a ballet. The amateur detective is a writer of historical

romances, and the book provides insight into that career as well.
None in MadCat, LinkCat 13 copies.

Park, Barbara, and Denise Brunkus. ***Junie B. Jones and the Stupid Smelly Bus***. New York: Random House, 1992.

In her own words, a young girl describes her feelings about starting kindergarten and what she does when she decides not to ride the bus home. Many excellent, funny stories in the series about Junie B. Jones.

LinkCat 53 copies and 15 audiobooks.

Patchett, Ann. ***The Magician's Assistant***. 1st ed. New York: Harcourt Brace, 1997.

When a magician dies, his "wife" discovers the secrets of his past. ... Just before dying, magician Parsifal of Los Angeles married his assistant, Sabine, who knew nothing of his private life, veiled in mystery. Not wanting to be an ignorant widow, Sabine sets out to learn who Parsifal was outside the world of illusion.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3566 A7756 M34 1997, LinkCat 22 copies.

Pawel, Rebecca. ***Death of a Nationalist***. New York; London: Soho; Turnaround, 2004.

An accomplished first novel, an accurately detailed thriller set at the end of the Spanish Civil War where an officer in Franco's army becomes involved with the daughter of a dissident.

LinkCat five copies.

Picoult, Jodi. ***Salem Falls***. New York: Pocket Books, 2001.

Jack McBride, accused of raping one of the girls on his soccer team at an all-girl's prep school, spends time in prison for a crime he didn't commit. When released, he starts a job as a dish-washer in a small town diner and life seems to be getting better, until 4 teen-age girls involved with witchcraft start the nightmare all over again.

College Library Open Book Fiction, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PS3566 I372 S26 2002, LinkCat 20 copies.

Pierre, D. B. C. ***Vernon God Little***. New York, NY: Canongate, 2003.

There has just been a terrible school shooting in the fictional town of Martirio, Texas, and it looks like fifteen-year-old Vernon will be taking the rap. This witty parody of American culture even has a death-row reality TV show thrown in. Vernon, whose cynicism and smart-ass bravado can't completely disguise his underlying vulnerability and sweetness, is like a Holden Caulfield for the new millennium.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6116 I355 V47 2003, LinkCat 13 copies.

Proulx, Annie. ***That Old Ace in the Hole : A Novel***. New York: Scribner, 2002.

Bob Dollar is a reluctant land swindler. When the 25-year-old protagonist in Annie Proulx's *That Old Ace in the Hole* signs on as a location scout for Global Pork Rind, an industrial hog farming corporation, he has no idea what kind of moral quandaries he's in for. Well, maybe he does. His assignment, after all, is to infiltrate a tiny town in the Texas Panhandle and find a tract of land his employer can turn into an industrial hog farm. Bob tells the locals he's scouting for luxury home developers ("They feel there is potential here"), but as a cover story it's less than clever. Only a fool would build mansions in the godforsaken Panhandle country, a place of light soil, bad wind, killing drought, and end-of-world thunder. "To live here," one Panhandler tells Bob, "it sure helps if you are

half cow and half mesquite and all crazy." The narrative follows Bob's hapless quest to ink a deal, but Proulx's mission is bigger than that. She's out to tell the story of the Panhandle itself, to write an entirely new literary territory into existence. With the help of a menagerie of eccentric characters set down in "the most complicated part of North America," Proulx succeeds admirably. --*Claire Dederer* (Amazon.com)

College Library Open Book Fiction, 1st Floor, Room 1250 PS3566 R697 T48 2003, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3566 R697 T48 2002, LinkCat 37 copies and 22 audiobooks.

Revoyr, Nina. ***Southland***. New York: Akashic Books, 2003.

Revoyr (*The Necessary Hunger*) returns to the gritty, central Los Angeles of her debut with this compelling if overlong tale of a headstrong Japanese-American lesbian law student obsessed with discovering her family history and solving a murder mystery. Jackie Ishida, 25, is undone by the sudden death in 1994 of her loving, seemingly healthy Japanese grandfather, Frank Sakai. A veteran of World War II, he lived a philanthropic life and in the 1960s owned a small grocery in the racially integrated Crenshaw district he grew up in. When Jackie's aunt Lois finds a large shoebox with \$38,000 in cash in Frank's closet, both women are perplexed, particularly since they also discover a mysterious beneficiary, Curtis Martindale, in a decades-old will. Lois dispatches Jackie to find Curtis. Enter strong, street-smart James Lanier, a cousin of Curtis's, who informs Jackie that Curtis is dead. An employee at Frank's store during the Watts riots in 1965, Curtis, along with three other black teenage boys, was found frozen to death in the store's freezer. This heinous crime was never reported (nor discussed within the Sakai family) and though white beat cop Nick Lawson was pegged as a prime suspect, the case was never solved and Frank closed the store permanently. As Jackie and James dig deeper into Curtis's past, their friendship (and awkward attraction to each other) takes its toll on Jackie's fading three-year relationship with girlfriend Laura. In chapters alternating past and present, clues are uncovered that romantically link Curtis's mother Alma to Frank. When a surprise suspect in the killings is fingered, it paves the way for a dark conclusion rooted in skepticism, injustice and racial intolerance. Somewhat overplotted but never lacking in vivid detail and authentic atmosphere, the novel cements Revoyr's reputation as one of the freshest young chroniclers of life in L.A. (Publisher's Weekly)

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3568 E7964 S68 2003, LinkCat seven copies.

Ruiz Zafon, Carlos, and Lucia Graves. ***The Shadow of the Wind***. New York: Penguin Press, 2004.

Call it the "book book" genre: this international sensation (it has sold in more than 20 countries and been number one on the Spanish best-seller list), newly translated into English, has books and storytelling--and a single, physical book--at its heart. In post-World War II Barcelona, young Daniel is taken by his bookseller father to the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, a massive sanctuary where books are guarded from oblivion. Told to choose one book to protect, he selects *The Shadow of the Wind*, by Julian Carax. He reads it, loves it, and soon learns it is both very valuable and very much in danger because someone is determinedly burning every copy of every book written by the obscure Carax. To call this book--Zafon's *Shadow of the Wind*--old-fashioned is to mean it in the best way. It's big, chock-full of unusual characters, and strong in its sense of place. Daniel's initiation into the mysteries of adulthood is given the same weight as the mystery of the book-burner. And the setting--Spain under Franco--injects an air of sobriety into some plot elements that might otherwise seem soap operatic. Part detective story, part boy's adventure, part romance, fantasy, and gothic horror, the intricate plot is urged on by extravagant foreshadowing and nail-nibbling tension. This is rich, lavish storytelling, very much in the tradition of Ross King's *Ex Libris* (2001). *Keir Graff* (Booklist)

LinkCat 9 copies.

Sage, Lorna. ***Bad Blood***. 1st ed. New York: Morrow, 2000.

This wickedly funny, ruthless, yet endearing memoir recounts an observant childhood spent among bickering familiars in rural Wales. It is the author's coming-of-age, of bookish interests, mistakes made, and eventual acceptance and redemption.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PN75 S24 A3 2000, LinkCat 9 copies.

Sakai, Stan. ***Usagi Yojimbo***. Nothampton, MA: Mirage Pub, 1993-1994.

Stan Sakai has created Usagi (Japanese for rabbit) Yojimbo as a comic series collected into 18 or so book size anthologies. Usagi is a ronin (masterless samurai) of feudal times in Japan, and the episodes are adventures, mysteries, spy stories or comedic by turns. Some characters return to the series at various points, allies or antagonists, sometimes both! Usagi embodies the honorable warrior, though perhaps not a true follower of the bushido (rules of conduct). This is a young adult story with many elements enjoyable by adults. Characters are portrayed as various anthropomorphic animals.

LinkCat 18 volumes, 1 to 5 copies each.

Schaeffer, Susan Fromberg. ***The Autobiography of Foudini M. Cat***. 1st ed. New York: A.A. Knopf : Distributed by Random House, 1997.

A cat compares his view of the world with that of humans and dogs. For one, it is much easier to fall into a washing machine. As he dispenses his philosophy, Foudini describes "his" people and "his" dog.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3569 C35 A9 1997, LinkCat seven copies and three audiobooks.

Smith, Dodie. ***I Capture the Castle***. 1st ed. ed. Boston: Little, Brown, 1948.

Charming tale of a young girl growing up in a decrepit English castle with a dysfunctional family. The budding author's life opens up when an American family moves in next door.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6037 M38 I2 2004, PR6037 M38 I2 1996, PZ3 S64527 I, LinkCat 28 copies, 7 audiobooks, video and dvd.

Stefaniak, Mary Helen. ***The Turk and My Mother : A Novel***. 1st ed. New York: W.W. Norton, 2004.

This story of a Croatian family, told with poignancy and humor, moves back and forth through time from the early 1900s to the present and through setting from a Croatian village to Siberia to Milwaukee.

LinkCat nine copies.

Van Pelt, Elizabeth Cohen. ***The Family on Beartown Road : A Memoir of Learning and Forgetting (also Published as "House on Beartown Road: A Memoir of Learning and Forgetting")***. New York: Random House, 2004.

LinkCat 16 copies.

Willett, Jincy. ***Winner of the National Book Award : A Novel of Fame, Honor, and really Bad Weather***. 1st ed. New York: Thomas Dunne Books, 2003.

In this witty and literary black comedy, a middle-aged librarian who prefers books to people recounts her life with her bawdy twin sister, their mutual relationship with an abusive man, and her passion for reading in 1980s Rhode Island.

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3573 I4455 W56 2003, LinkCat 14 copies, 2 in large print.

Willett, Jincy. ***Jenny and the Jaws of Life : Short Stories.*** 1st ed. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1987.

A character sounds the anthem for this well-wrought collection when she observes that "real life just happens, whereas stories make sense." Trapped in the chaos of life, Willett's people-- a wisecracking advice columnist headed toward crack-up, children who manipulate or murder their elders, rapists and their victims still try to make sense of its "pointless mess." Nostalgic reminiscence and imagination link the stories "My Father at the Wheel" and "Father of Invention." In the endearing "Melinda Falling," a bored attorney is taken with the awkwardness of a dumpy secretary. From the despair and resignation of "Jenny" to the hope of rescue and reconciliation of the "The Jaws of Life," Willett skirts life's heartless ironies lightly and with wit. She's clearly a writer to watch. Mary Soete, San Diego P.L., Cal. (Library Journal)

Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PS3573 I4455 J4 1987, LinkCat four copies.

Winterson, Jeanette. ***Oranges are Not the Only Fruit.*** 1st American ed. New York, N.Y.: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1987.

Raised by an oppressively evangelical mother, Jeanette grows up a good little Christian soldier, even going so far as to stitch samplers whose apocalyptic themes terrify her classmates. As she dryly notes, without self-pity or smugness, "This tendency towards the exotic has brought me many problems, just as it did for William Blake." Jeanette would have remained in the fold but for her unconventional desires; though she can reconcile her love of women with her love of God, the church cannot. It could have been a grim tale, but this first novel winner of England's Whitbread Prize is in fact a wry and tender telling of a young girl's triumphantly coming into her own. Highly recommended. Barbara Hoffert, (Library Journal)

College Library Women's Collection, 3rd Floor, Room 3250 PR6073 I558 O7 1987, Memorial Library Stacks Regular Size Shelving PR6073 I558 O7 1984, LinkCat four copies, one video.

Yancey, Richard. ***Confessions of a Tax Collector : One Man's Tour of Duty Inside the IRS.*** 1st ed. New York, NY: HarperCollins, 2004.

Yancey spent 12 years working for the Internal Revenue Service as a revenue officer. In this book, he provides an insider's look at how the IRS goes about collecting overdue taxes, his quirky co-workers and their bitter office politics, and how the stress of working as a dreaded and feared taxman affects his personal life.

Historical Society Library Stacks HJ2361 .Y36 2004, LinkCat 13 copies.