

MCMP L NEWSLETTER

Mary C. Moore Public Library

December 2016

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

Online newsletter: <http://www.lacombelibrary.com/newsletter/>

The Library will be **CLOSED** December 23 through 27, and December 31 through 2.

Join the Friends of the Library: The Friends are a group of volunteers dedicated to supporting the Mary C. Moore Public Library. They organize special events, fundraising initiatives and projects, and serve as Library advocates within the community. Joining the Friends is a great way to connect with others who want to help make our library the best it can be. We are always on the lookout for new members! Please contact Christina at the library if you would like to join.

Playhouse Raffle: Tickets: \$5 each or 3 for \$10 available at the library. Approx. retail value: \$5000. Draw Date: December 22, 2016, 5PM. All Proceeds to benefit Mary C. Moore Public Library. Thank you for your support! Playhouse generously donated by Broder Developments.

Colouring Club for Adults: Wednesday, December 14, drop-in 6-8pm in the library. Relax, unwind and enjoy quiet conversation while being creative! All materials provided. This program is free to attend! Adults and older teens only, please. See our website for upcoming dates.

Author Reading: Join us Saturday, December 3, 1:30pm-3pm in the library for a delightful encounter with local author Elaine Gugin Maddex. Elaine will read from her first novel *More Than a Wise Woman*, and introducing the quirky and lovable character, Tess McGuigan, of *Ladyslipper*, Saskatchewan.

Books and Bevvies: A fundraiser for the Library. Saturday, January 21 7-11pm at the Library. Tickets \$25 per person available at the library and from Library Board Members. Beer sampling from Blindman Brewing, wine sampling from Chateau Wine & Spirits, appetizers and desserts, live and silent auctions, raffle basket and live music! Presented by the City of Lacombe Library Board.

Chess Club! Love to play or want to learn? Bring your brain to the library Mondays and Wednesdays, 6-7:30pm.

Armchair Travel series: January 10 at 7pm in the LMC: "Africa: Off the Beaten Path," presented by Lynette Hycha, Janice Morrow, Julie Evans & Gwen Jensen.

Local History series: Thursday, December 1, 7pm in the LMC: "A Child in Britain, WWII," presented by Sylvia Gillespie.

Book Club: For our January 3 meeting we are reading *The Little Paris Bookshop* by Nina George. "Monsieur Perdu calls himself a literary apothecary. From his floating bookstore in a barge on the Seine, he prescribes novels for the hardships of life. Using his intuitive feel for the exact book a reader needs, Perdu mends broken hearts and souls. The only person he can't seem to heal through literature is himself; he's still haunted by heartbreak after his great love disappeared. She left him with only a letter, which he has never opened. After Perdu is finally tempted to read the letter, he hauls anchor and departs on a mission to the south of France, hoping to make peace with his loss and discover the end of the story."

Children's Programs: Registration for winter/spring programs begins Wednesday, January 4 at 10am. Call us or stop by to register. NO emails or voicemails please. Classes fill very quickly, often within the first hour, so register early to avoid disappointment! There is a one-time fee of \$5/ family, or a craft supply donation (pom-poms, pipe cleaners, toilet paper rolls, etc.) Programs run January 10 - February 17, February 27 - April 7, and April 18 - May 26 Children will be registered in all sessions. See our website for monthly free special events.

ABOUT US

Hours

Monday-Thursday
10am-8pm
Friday
10am-5pm
Saturday
10am-5pm
Sunday & Stat Holidays
Closed

Library Services

Free Wi-Fi
Free public computer access
Printing
Faxing
Scan-to-email
Photocopying
Reference Questions
eBook/Audio downloads

Regular Programs

Children's Programs
Monthly Book Club
Knitting Club
Monthly Film Club
Adult Colouring Club
Local History Lectures
Armchair Travel Presentations



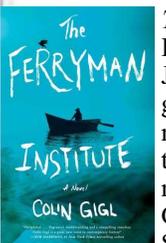
NEW BOOK SPOTLIGHT

A selection of our recent acquisitions



Last Days of Night by Graham Moore

New York, 1888. Gas lamps still flicker in the city streets, but the miracle of electric light is in its infancy. The person who controls the means to turn night into day will make history—and a vast fortune. A young untested lawyer named Paul Cravath, fresh out of Columbia Law School, takes a case that seems impossible to win. Paul's client, George Westinghouse, has been sued by Thomas Edison over a billion-dollar question: Who invented the light bulb and holds the right to power the country? The case affords Paul entry to the heady world of high society—the glittering parties in Gramercy Park mansions, and the more insidious dealings done behind closed doors. The task facing him is beyond daunting. Edison is a wily, dangerous opponent with vast resources at his disposal—private spies, newspapers in his pocket, and the backing of J. P. Morgan himself. Yet this unknown lawyer shares with his famous adversary a compulsion to win at all costs. How will he do it? A thrilling novel based on actual events, about the nature of genius, the cost of ambition, and the battle to electrify America.



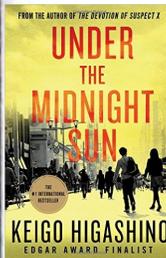
The Ferryman Institute by Colin Gigg

In this stunning, fantastical debut novel from a bold new voice in the bestselling traditions of Christopher Moore and Jasper Fforde, a ferryman for the dead finds his existence unraveling after making either the best decision or the biggest mistake of his immortal life. Ferryman Charlie Dawson saves dead people—somebody has to convince them to move on to the afterlife, after all. Having never failed a single assignment, he's acquired a reputation for success that's as legendary as it is unwanted. It turns out that serving as a Ferryman is causing Charlie to slowly lose his mind. Deemed too valuable by the Ferryman Institute to be let go and too stubborn to just give up in his own right, Charlie's pretty much abandoned all hope of escaping his grim existence. Or he had, anyway, until he saved Alice Spiegel. To be fair, Charlie never planned on stopping Alice from taking her own life—that sort of thing is strictly forbidden by the Institute—but he never planned on the President secretly giving him the choice to, either. Charlie's not quite sure what to make of it, but Alice is alive, and it's the first time he's felt right in more than two hundred years. When word of the incident reaches Inspector Javrouche, the Ferryman Institute's resident internal affairs liaison, Charlie finds he's in a world of trouble. But Charlie's not about to lose the only living, breathing person he's ever saved without a fight. He's ready to protect her from Javrouche and save Alice from herself, and he's willing to put the entire continued existence of mankind at risk to do it.



The Guineveres by Sarah Domet

Vere, Gwen, Ginny, and Win come to The Sisters of the Supreme Adoration by different paths, delivered into the rigorous and austere care of Sister Fran. Each has their own complicated, heartbreaking story that they safeguard. But together they are the all powerful and confident The Guineveres, bound by the extraordinary coincidence of their names and girded against the indignities of their plain, sequestered lives. Together, they learn about God, history, and, despite the nuns' protestations, sex. They learn about the saints whose revival stories of faith and pain are threaded through their own. But above all, they plot their futures, when they can leave the convent and finally find a true home. But when four comatose soldiers, casualties of the War looming outside, arrive at the convent, The Guineveres' friendship is tested in ways they never could have foreseen. In *The Guineveres*, Sarah Domet navigates the wonder and tumult of girlhood, the families we yearn for and create. In prose shot through with beauty, Domet intertwines the ordinary and the miraculous, as The Guineveres discover what home really means.



Under the Midnight Sun by Keigo Higashino

In Osaka in 1973, the body of a murdered man is found in an abandoned building. Investigating the crime, Detective Sasagaki is unable to find the killer. Over the next twenty years, through the lens of a succession of characters, Higashino tells the story of two teens, Ryo and Yukiho, whose lives are most affected by the crime, and the obsessed detective, Sasagaki, who continues to investigate the murder, looking for the elusive truth. *Under the Midnight Sun* is a complex, psychological novel about crime and its after-effects by one the most read and most accomplished contemporary mystery author. A twisting, compelling work that will astonish and delight Higashino's old fans and new readers alike.



Snow Summer by Kit Peel

Massive climate change has caused a winter that will not thaw, and it seems that the forces of nature have turned on humanity itself. But in the sleepy British village of Pateley, one special girl may hold the key to the earth's survival. Wyn, an orphan, has always known that she is different. Unable to feel the biting cold of wind and snow of Pateley's endless winter, she does what she can to blend in. But when mysterious figures start to appear in the village, insisting that she may have the power to restore order to the natural world, Wyn must look deep inside herself to face the secrets of her past that she has kept hidden even from herself. *Snow Summer* is an immersive fantasy novel that expertly conveys the beauty of the natural world and its conflict with human development. A powerful allegory for climate change and global warming, it is nevertheless a timeless story, reminiscent of classics of the genre.

READALIKES

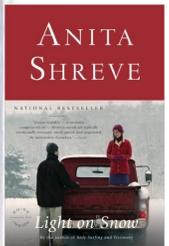
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Winter Fiction



The Snow Child by Eowyn Ivey

Alaska, 1920: a brutal place to homestead and especially tough for recent arrivals Jack and Mabel. Childless, they are drifting apart--he breaking under the weight of the work of the farm, she crumbling from loneliness and despair. In a moment of levity during the season's first snowfall, they build a child out of snow. The next morning, the snow child is gone--but they glimpse a young, blonde-haired girl running through the trees. This little girl, who calls herself Faina, seems to be a child of the woods. She hunts with a red fox at her side, skims lightly across the snow, and somehow survives alone in the Alaskan wilderness. As Jack and Mabel struggle to understand this child who could have stepped from the pages of a fairy tale, they come to love her as their own daughter. But in this beautiful, violent place things are rarely as they appear, and what they eventually learn about Faina will transform all of them.



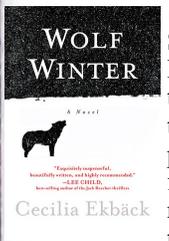
Light on Snow by Anita Shreve

What makes a family? That's what twelve-year-old Nicky Dillon wonders after she and her widowed father discover a wailing abandoned baby in the snow-filled woods near their New Hampshire home. Through the days that follow, the Dillons and an unexpected visitor who soon turns up at their door--a young woman evidently haunted by her own terrible choices--face a thicket of decisions, each seeming to carry equal possibilities of heartbreak and redemption.



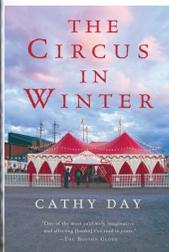
The Sunlight Pilgrims by Jenni Fagan

Set in a Scottish caravan park during a freak winter -- it is snowing in Jerusalem, the Thames is overflowing, and an iceberg separated from the Fjords in Norway is expected to arrive off the coast of Scotland -- *The Sunlight Pilgrims* tells the story of a small Scottish community living through what people have begun to think is the end of times. Bodies are found frozen in the street with their eyes open, euthanasia has become an acceptable response to economic collapse, schooling and health care are run primarily on a voluntary basis. But daily life carries on: Dylan, a refugee from panic-stricken London who is grieving for his mother and his grandmother, arrives in the caravan park in the middle of the night -- to begin his life anew.



Wolf Winter by Cecilia Ekbäck

Swedish Lapland, 1717. Maija, her husband Paavo and her daughters Frederika and Dorotea arrive from their native Finland, hoping to forget the traumas of their past and put down new roots in this harsh but beautiful land. Above them looms Blackåsen, a mountain whose foreboding presence looms over the valley and whose dark history seems to haunt the lives of those who live in its shadow. While herding the family's goats on the mountain, Frederika happens upon the mutilated body of one of their neighbors, Eriksson. The death is dismissed as a wolf attack, but Maija feels certain that the wounds could only have been inflicted by another man. Compelled to investigate despite her neighbors' strange disinterest in the death and the fate of Eriksson's widow, Maija is drawn into the dark history of tragedies and betrayals that have taken place on Blackåsen. Young Frederika finds herself pulled towards the mountain as well, feeling something none of the adults around her seem to notice. As the seasons change, and the "wolf winter," the harshest winter in memory, descends upon the settlers, Paavo travels to find work, and Maija finds herself struggling for her family's survival in this land of winter-long darkness. As the snow gathers, the settlers' secrets are increasingly laid bare. Scarce resources and the never-ending darkness force them to come together, but Maija, not knowing who to trust and who may betray her, is determined to find the answers for herself. Soon, Maija discovers the true cost of survival under the mountain, and what it will take to make it to spring.



The Circus in Winter by Cathy Day

From 1884 to 1939, the Great Porter Circus makes the unlikely choice to winter in an Indiana town called Lima, a place that feels as classic as Sherwood Anderson's Winesburg, Ohio, and as wondrous as a first trip to the Big Top. In Lima an elephant can change the course of a man's life--or the manner of his death. Jennie Dixianna entices men with her dazzling Spin of Death and keeps them in line with secrets locked in a cedar box. The lonely wife of the show's manager has each room of her house painted like a sideshow banner, indulging her desperate passion for a young painter. And a former clown seeks consolation from his loveless marriage in his post-circus job at Clown Alley Cleaners.

COMING SOON!

The following titles are currently on order.
Place your request today online, or in person at the Library



Adult Fiction

Lyrebird by Cecelia Ahern
This Was a Man by Jeffrey Archer
Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden
The Twenty-Three by Linwood Barclay
No Man's Land by David Baldacci
Death of a Ghost by M.C. Beaton
Wolf on a String by Benjamin Black
Merrick by Ken Bruen
Jealous Kid by James Lee Burke
Into the Savage Country by Shannon Burke
Killing Winter by Tom Calloghan
Moonglow by Michael Chabon
Night School by Lee Child
Ruffle of Silk by Alys Clare
Knocked by Carol Higgins Clark
As Time Goes By by Mary Higgins Clark
The Sleeping Beauty Killer by Mary Higgins Clark & Alafair Burke
Cold Earth by Ann Cleeves
Moth Catcher by Ann Cleeves
Man Who Fell from the Sky by Margaret Coel
The Wrong Side of Goodbye by Michael Connelly
The Flame Bearer by Bernard Cornwell
Chaos by Patricia Cornwell
Insidious by Catherine Coulter
Garden of Lamentations Deborah Crombie
House of Echoes by Brendan Duffy
Buried in the Country by Carola Dunn
Terrible Virtue by Ellen Feldman
The Whole Town's Talking by Fannie Flagg
Here I Am by Jonathan Safran Foer
I'll See You in Paris by Michelle Gable
Death's Mistress by Terry Goodkind
Angora Alibi by Sally Gostenbaum
Darkest Journey by Heather Graham
Smoke and Mirrors by Elly Griffiths
The Whistler by John Grisham
The Couturier of Milan by Ian Hamilton
Conclave by Robert Harris
One Under by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles
Star Fall by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles
House With No Windows by Nadia Hashimi
The Railwayman's Wife by Ashley Hay
The Year of the Locust by Terry Hayes
Fall of Moscow Station by Mark Henshaw
Detective Galileo by Keigo Higashino
The Midnight Bell by Jack Higgins
Here's to Us by Elin Hilderbrand
Winter Storms by Elin Hilderbrand
Faithful by Alice Hoffman
Wait for the Dark by Kay Hooper

Ghosts of Misty Hollow by Sue Ann Jaffarian
No Cats Allowed by Miranda James
The Mistletoe Murder & Other Stories by P.D. James
Love You Dead by Peter James
Downfall by J.A. Jance
Dead Ground in Between by Maureen Jennings
Night and Day by Iris Johansen
Theory of Death by Faye Kellerman
End of Watch by Stephen King
Ashley Bell by Dean Koontz
Secret Forest by Dean Koontz
Catalyst Killing by Hans Olav Lahlum
Chameleon People by Hans Olav Lahlum
Pachinko by Min Jin Lee
Fatal by John Lescroart
Sweet Tomorrow by Debbie Macomber
The Casebook of Newbury and Hobbes by George Mann
Against the Tide by Kat Martin
The Last Temptation Val McDermid
Kingdom of Darkness by Andy McDermott
Bury Them Deep by James Oswald
Prayer for the Dead by James Oswald
Dark Corners by Ruth Rendell
Two Nights by Kathy Reichs
Service of the Dead by Candace Robb
Brotherhood in Death by J.D. Robb
Bay of Sighs by Nora Roberts
Stars of Fortune by Nora Roberts
Zero-G by William Shatner
Mandibles by Lionel Shriver
Big Showdown by Mickey Spillane
The Mistress by Danielle Steel
Modern Lovers by Emma Straub
Fly by Night by Andrea Thalasinis
Foreign Agent by Brad Thor
Shattered Tree by Charles Todd
Ice Age by Fred Vargas
Katherine of Aragon by Alison Weir
Deep Blue by Randy Wayne White

Adult Non-Fiction

The Winter Fortress: The Epic Mission to Sabotage Hitler's Atomic Bomb by Neal Bascomb
River of Time by Naomi Judd
Nazi Hunters by Andrew Nagorski
Suffer the Little Children: Genocide, Indigenous Nations and the Canadian State by Tamara Starblanket & Ward Churchill
Time of Your Life by Margaret Trudeau

Young Adult Fiction

All the Major Constellations by Pratima Cranse
Da Vinci's Tiger by L.M. Elliott
Trilogy of Two by Juman Malouf
Soundless by Richelle Mead
OCDaniel by Wesley King
Passion of Dolssa by Julie Berry
Wink Poppy Midnight by April Tucholke
End of Fun by Sean McGinty
Surviving High School by Lele Pons
Anna and the Swallow Man by Gavriel Savit
A Steep and Thorny Way by Cat Winters
Asking for It by Louise O'Neill
Blackhearts by Nicole Castroman
Jerkbait by Mia Siegert
After the Woods by Kim Savage
Heir to the Sky by Amanda Sun
Rebel Bully Geek Pariah by Jade Lange
Stone Field by Christy Lenzi
I'll Give You the Sun by Jandy Nelson
Gemini by Sonja Mukherjee
These Vicious Masks by Tarun Shanker
Longbow Girl by Linda Davies
Drag Teen by Jeffery Self
Railhead by Philip Reeve
Fierce and Subtle Poison by Samantha Mabry

WHAT WE'RE READING

Staff Picks

Amy

The Trespasser by Tana French

Being on the Murder squad is nothing like Detective Antoinette Conway dreamed it would be. Her partner, Stephen Moran, is the only person who seems glad she's there. The rest of her working life is a stream of thankless cases, vicious pranks, and harassment. Antoinette is savagely tough, but she's getting close to the breaking point. Their new case looks like yet another by-the-numbers lovers' quarrel gone bad. Aislinn Murray is blond, pretty, groomed to a shine, and dead in her catalogue-perfect living room, next to a table set for a romantic dinner. There's nothing unusual about her—except that Antoinette's seen her somewhere before. And that her death won't stay in its neat by-numbers box. Other detectives are trying to push Antoinette and Steve into arresting Aislinn's boyfriend, fast. There's a shadowy figure at the end of Antoinette's road. Aislinn's friend is hinting that she knew Aislinn was in danger. And everything they find out about Aislinn takes her further from the glossy, passive doll she seemed to be. Antoinette knows the harassment has turned her paranoid, but she can't tell just how far gone she is. Is this case another step in the campaign to force her off the squad, or are there darker currents flowing beneath its polished surface?

Arlene

The Headmaster's Wager by Vincent Lam

Percival Chen is the headmaster of the most respected English school in Saigon. He is also a bon vivant, a compulsive gambler and an incorrigible womanizer. He is well accustomed to bribing a forever-changing list of government officials in order to maintain the elite status of the Chen Academy. He is fiercely proud of his Chinese heritage, and quick to spot the business opportunities rife in a divided country. He devotedly ignores all news of the fighting that swirls around him, choosing instead to read the faces of his opponents at high-stakes mahjong tables. But when his only son gets in trouble with the Vietnamese authorities, Percival faces the limits of his connections and wealth and is forced to send him away. In the loneliness that follows, Percival finds solace in Jacqueline, a beautiful woman of mixed French and Vietnamese heritage, and Laing Jai, a son born to them on the eve of the Tet offensive. Percival's new-found happiness is precarious, and as the complexities of war encroach further and further into his world, he must confront the tragedy of all he has refused to see. Blessed with intriguingly flawed characters moving through a richly drawn historical and physical landscape, *The Headmaster's Wager* is a riveting story of love, betrayal and sacrifice.

Connie

The Invisible Ring by Anne Bishop

Jared is a Red-Jeweled Warlord bound as a pleasure slave by the Ring of Obedience. After suffering nine years of torment as a slave, he murdered his owner and escaped only to be caught and sold into slavery once again. The notorious queen who has purchased him, known as the Gray Lady, may not be what she seems. Soon, Jared faces a difficult choice: his freedom, or his honor.

Emma Joy

The Reader by Traci Chee

Sefia lives her life on the run. After her father is viciously murdered, she flees to the forest with her aunt Nin, the only person left she can trust. They survive in the wilderness together, hunting and stealing what they need, forever looking over their shoulders for new threats. But when Nin is kidnapped, Sefia is suddenly on her own, with no way to know who's taken Nin or where she is. Her only clue is a strange rectangular object that once belonged to her father left behind, something she comes to realize is a book. Though reading is unheard of in Sefia's world, she slowly learns, unearthing the book's closely guarded secrets, which may be the key to Nin's disappearance and discovering what really happened the day her father was killed. With no time to lose, and the unexpected help of swashbuckling pirates and an enigmatic stranger, Sefia sets out on a dangerous journey to rescue her aunt, using the book as her guide. In the end, she discovers what the book had been trying to tell her all along: Nothing is as it seems, and the end of her story is only the beginning.

Julie

The Sight by David Clement-Davies

In the shadow of an abandoned castle, a wolf pack seeks shelter. The she-wolf's pups will not be able to survive the harsh Transylvanian winter. And they are being stalked by a lone wolf, Morgra, possessed of a mysterious and terrifying power known as the Sight. Morgra knows that one of the pups born beneath the castle holds a key to power even stronger than her own power that could give her control of this world and the next. But the pack she hunts will do anything to protect their own, even if it means setting in motion a battle that will involve all of nature, including the creature the wolves fear the most: Man.

Kirstin

Rest, Play, Grow by Deborah MacNamara

Based on the work of one of the world's foremost child development experts, *Rest, Play, Grow* offers a developmental road map to adults and is what every toddler, preschooler, and kindergartner wished their adults understood about them. Baffling and beloved, with the capacity to go from joy to frustration in seconds, young children are some of the most misunderstood people on the planet. Parents and caregivers struggle with these little ones, who are known for their extreme behaviour, from tantrums, resistance, and aggression to separation anxiety, bedtime protests, and not listening. The key to understanding youngsters lies in realizing that their challenging behaviour is not personal, nor is it a disorder or deficit. Based on science and the relational developmental approach of renowned psychologist and bestselling author Gordon Neufeld, *Rest, Play, Grow* reveals how critical adults are in shaping the conditions to ensure young children flourish. This is the story of how young children develop, from their intense need for attachment and the vital importance of play to discipline that preserves growth. Engagingly written, with compassion for its subjects and rich with stories from them and their parents, *Rest, Play, Grow* will forever change the way you think of the preschoolers in your life.

Mary

Play Dead by Harlen Coben

No sooner had supermodel Laura Ayers and Celtics star David Baskin said "I do" than tragedy struck. While honeymooning on Australia's Great Barrier Reef, David went out for a swim and never returned. Now widowed and grieving, Laura's search for the truth will draw her into a web of lies and deception that stretches back thirty years... This is Coben's first novel.

Melvyn

The Hidden Life of Trees: What They Feel, How They Communicate—Discoveries from A Secret World by Peter Wohlleben

In *The Hidden Life of Trees*, Peter Wohlleben shares his deep love of woods and forests and explains the amazing processes of life, death, and regeneration he has observed in the woodland and the amazing scientific processes behind the wonders of which we are blissfully unaware. Much like human families, tree parents live together with their offspring, communicate with them, and support them as they grow, sharing nutrients with those who are sick or struggling and creating an ecosystem that mitigates the impact of extremes of heat and cold for the whole group. As a result of such interactions, trees in a family or community are protected and can live to be very old. In contrast, solitary trees have a tough time of it and in most cases die much earlier than those in a group. Drawing on groundbreaking new discoveries, Wohlleben presents the science behind the secret and previously unknown life of trees and their communication abilities; he describes how these discoveries have informed his own practices in the forest around him. As he says, a happy forest is a healthy forest, and he believes that eco-friendly practices not only are economically sustainable but also benefit the health of our planet and the mental and physical health of all who live on Earth.

Miranda

The Baker in Me by Daphna Rabinovitch

Daphna Rabinovitch has been an enthusiastic baker from her childhood right through to a distinguished career as a pastry chef. In *The Baker in Me* she brings years of experience and a keen eye for details to a comprehensive guide that lets home bakers take charge of their kitchen. Science-based and technically sound, Daphna provides a nonetheless warm and approachable guide to baking better than ever.

Sharon

Missing Presumed by Susie Steiner

Mid-December, and Cambridgeshire is blanketed with snow. Detective Sergeant Manon Bradshaw tries to sleep after yet another soul-destroying Internet date – the low murmuring of her police radio her only solace. Over the airwaves come reports of a missing woman – door ajar, keys and phone left behind, a spatter of blood on the kitchen floor. Manon knows the first 72 hours are critical: you find her, or you look for a body. And as soon as she sees a picture of Edith Hind, a Cambridge post-graduate from a well-connected family, she knows this case will be big. Is Edith alive or dead? Was her 'complex love life' at the heart of her disappearance, as a senior officer tells the increasingly hungry press? And when a body is found, is it the end or only the beginning?

Victoria

Uprooted by Naomi Novik

Agnieszka loves her valley home, her quiet village, the forests and the bright shining river. But the corrupted Wood stands on the border, full of malevolent power, and its shadow lies over her life. Her people rely on the cold, driven wizard known only as the Dragon to keep its powers at bay. But he demands a terrible price for his help: one young woman handed over to serve him for ten years, a fate almost as terrible as falling to the Wood. The next choosing is fast approaching, and Agnieszka is afraid. She knows—everyone knows—that the Dragon will take Kasia: beautiful, graceful, brave Kasia, all the things Agnieszka isn't, and her dearest friend in the world. And there is no way to save her. But Agnieszka fears the wrong things. For when the Dragon comes, it is not Kasia he will choose.

FILM PICKS

Highlights from our Special Film Collection

DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT Quirky Families



Captain Fantastic, directed by Matt Ross. Deep in the forests of the Pacific Northwest, isolated from society, a devoted father (Viggo Mortensen) dedicates his life to transforming his six young children into extraordinary adults. But when a tragedy strikes the family, they are forced to leave this self-created paradise and begin a journey into the outside world that challenges his idea of what it means to be a parent and brings into question everything he's taught them.



Family Fang, directed by Jason Bateman. Adult siblings Baxter (Jason Bateman) and Annie (Nicole Kidman), scarred from an unconventional upbringing, return to their family home after an unlikely accident. When their parents (Christopher Walken and Maryann Plunkett) - performance artists famous for elaborate public hoaxes - suddenly go missing under troubling circumstances, Baxter and Annie investigate. Unsure whether it's foul play or just another elaborate ruse, nothing can prepare them for what they discover. Based on the novel by Kevin Wilson.



My Old Lady, directed by Israel Horovitz. Mathias Gold (Kevin Kline) is a down-on-his-luck New Yorker who inherits a Parisian apartment from his estranged father. But when he arrives in France to sell the vast domicile, he's shocked to discover a live-in tenant who is not prepared to budge. His apartment is a viager - an ancient French real estate system with complex rules pertaining to its resale - and the feisty Englishwoman Mathilde Girard (Maggie Smith), who has lived in the apartment with her daughter Chloé (Kristin Scott Thomas) for many years, can by contract collect monthly payments from Mathias until her death.



Wish I Was Here, directed by Zach Braff, tells the story of a thirtysomething man who finds himself at major crossroads, which forces him to examine his life, his career, and his family.



Que Horas Ela Volta? (The Second Mother), directed by Anna Muylaert. Val spends 13 years working as nanny to Fabinho in Sao Paulo. She is financially stable but has to live with the guilt of having left her daughter Jessica, in Pernambuco, in the north of Brazil, raised by relatives. As college entrance exams roll around, Jessica wants to come to Sao Paulo to take her college entrance exams too. When Jessica arrives, cohabitation is not easy. Everyone will be affected by the personality and candor of the girl and Val finds herself right in the middle of it. Portuguese with English subtitles



The Royal Tenenbaums, directed by Wes Anderson. Royal Tenenbaum (Gene Hackman) and his wife Etheline (Angelica Houston) had three children--Chas, Richie, and Margot--they were a family of geniuses and then they separated. Chas started buying real estate in his early teens and seemed to have had a preternatural understanding of international finance. Margot was a playwright and received a Braverman grant of fifty thousand dollars in the ninth grade. Richie was a junior champion tennis player and won the U.S. Nationals three years in a row. Virtually all memory of the brilliance of the young Tenenbaums was subsequently erased by two decades of betrayal, failure and disaster. Most of this was generally considered to be their father's fault. The tale follows the family's sudden and unexpected reunion one recent winter.



he realm was a flurry of activity. The month of December was upon the kingdom and the subjects were madly trying to

decorate, shop and enjoy the Festival of the Yule. The Royal Library was sending out books throughout the land to help their patrons make beautiful handmade gifts and bake delicious treats. This month was a time of traditions, both lovely and unusual, for the library ladies and for people of other lands.



Lady Victoria's family enjoy a meal of lasagna and Greek salad on Christmas Eve every year which is amusing since they are neither Italian nor Greek. Tradition: In South Africa on Christmas day the people tuck into a delicious meal of deep fried caterpillars of the Emperor Moth.

Lady Kirstin's Danish roots make her Christmas tradition most fitting. The lighting of Advent Candles is her family's favourite tradition. Tradition: The people of Denmark are very fond of candles. They burn almost twice as many as any other nation at 13 pounds per

Lady Christina's celebrate Christmas with a newer tradition. She and her family will go to a movie on Christmas afternoon after the excitement of opening presents is complete. Tradition: The 25 million Christians in India decorate mango and banana trees instead of pine trees.

Lady Connie starts her holiday with the construction of her Christmas village. This is not just a little project. This village is 16'x8' piece of wood filled with tiny little buildings and a Christmas train. Tradition: In the Czech Republic, on Christmas day, if you stand with your back to the front door and throw a shoe over your shoulder and the toe points out the door you will not be single next Christmas.

Lady Sharon's tradition spans generations. When she was a young lady she bought 'The Friendship Book' by Francis Gay for her mother and now every year her son buys the same annual for her every year. Tradition: In Japan Christmas equals 240 000 buckets of Kentucky Fried Chicken. Forty years ago KFC started this tradition with the most successful ad campaign in the history of the company and families in Japan grew up with KFC being the turkey of Christmas.

Lady Mary's favourite tradition started with her first grandchildren. She buys pyjamas for them, wraps them and on Christmas Eve they get to open one present and it's always PJ's. They then change into their new nightwear and get a group picture taken before their parents take them home to bed. Tradition: In Finland the people bring candles to the cemeteries on Christmas Eve to honour family members that are deceased. Since the majority of people follow this tradition cemeteries are a beautiful sight on Christmas Eve.

Lady Miranda has an excellent tradition. Spatulas in the Christmas tree originated when Princess Lydia was 2 years old and hung her toy spatulas on the tree to decorate. Now, each year, there must be a spatula on the Christmas tree. Tradition: In Venezuela the people can roller-skate to early morning mass since the streets are closed to traffic until 8am.

Wizard Melvyn has a couple of traditions. She starts watching 'White Christmas' around the first of December and she and her family take a long walk on Christmas morning. Tradition: In the UK the Christmas pudding is served on Christmas Day but the traditions we're looking at has to do with how it is made. Every member of the family (especially the kids) is to stir the mix clockwise while making a wish. Earlier traditions include putting a coin in the mix which brings wealth to whoever finds it in their serving.

person. Even offices buildings light candles in the morning and let them burn all day. Something about that warm flickering light.

Lady Amy has started a new tradition since moving to the country. They set off fireworks on Christmas night. A beautiful display researched by Sir Art. Tradition: The German people hide a pickle in the Christmas tree on Christmas Eve and the first child to find it Christmas morning receives an extra gift.

Lady Julie's family have a day of baking where everyone participates helping to supply the season with delicious goodies. She also wakes her children at 6am on December 1st by playing them Christmas carols at a fairly high decibel. Tradition: On a Ukrainian Christmas tree the site of a spider or web is not unusual. The folk tale that goes with the tradition says a poor family woke up on Christmas morning to find their once bare tree decorated with spider webs that shined silver and gold in the morning sun.

Lady Arlene bakes sugar cookies and her boys help her decorate them. The boy's enthusiasm for the first cookies is admirable but after they eat some of the well decorated cookie they lose interest and the rest of the cookies are not as spectacular. They also attend a church service on Christmas Eve. Tradition: If there's a reason to celebrate, you are sure to find all sorts of gatherings! Around this time of the year, there's a huge Santa gathering in New York City. To celebrate the holiday season, New Yorkers get together dressed up head-to-toe as Christmas characters. The city is filled with reds and greens, as Santas and Elves spread holiday cheer during SantaCon.

Lady Emma Joy's family also has the tradition of the gift of pyjamas on Christmas Eve with the added bonus of everyone having to appear to be surprised by this gift. Tradition: Radish figures line the central plaza of Oaxaca on December 23rd and 24th. Nativity scenes, conquistadors, dancers, historical and mythological events are sculpted from radishes by Mexican artisans and add to the color holiday celebration.

The Library Ladies wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and hope that your holiday season is full of wonderful traditions.

Written by your loyal scribe,

Lady Miss Mary