

MCMPL Newsletter

Mary C. Moore Public Library

December 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

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

The Library will be **CLOSED** December 23 through 27, and January 1. Happy Christmas, everyone!

Library Merchandise Special: Looking for a great Christmas gift? Stop in to pick up a Library tote, toque and mug for just \$25.

Book Club: For our January 2 meeting we are reading *My Name is Lucy Barton* by Elizabeth Strout. The profound mother-daughter bond is explored through a mother's hospital visit to her estranged daughter by the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Olive Kitteridge* and *The Burgess Boys*.

Four Eyes Film Series: Independent, International, Illuminating, Imaginative. Four Eyes screens notable independent and world films not typically available to film lovers in Lacombe. Films are shown on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August), 7pm at Lacombe City Cinemas. See next page for all the details.

Armchair Travel: Tuesday, January 9, 7pm in the LMC: "Tibet: Land of Mythos & Mystery," presented by Keith Clouten.

Local History series: Thursday, January 25, 7pm in the LMC: "Big Brothers Big Sisters, Lacombe," presented by Crystal Zens.

Colouring Club for Adults: Will resume January 3, 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. Held every other Wednesday —see our website for upcoming dates.

Children's Programs: Registration for regular winter/spring programs begins Tuesday, January 2 at 10am. Call us or stop by to register -- emails and voicemails will NOT be accepted on the first morning of registration. Classes run January 9 through February 16, February 27 through March 6 and March 17 through May 25. Children will be registered for the whole program. There is a one-time fee of \$5, or a craft supply donation. Stop by or visit our website for information about monthly special events for kids.

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
Adult Colouring Club
Local History Presentations
Independent Film Series
Armchair Travel Presentations



FOUR EYES FILM SERIES

Independent Film Series



Independent, International, Illuminating, Imaginative

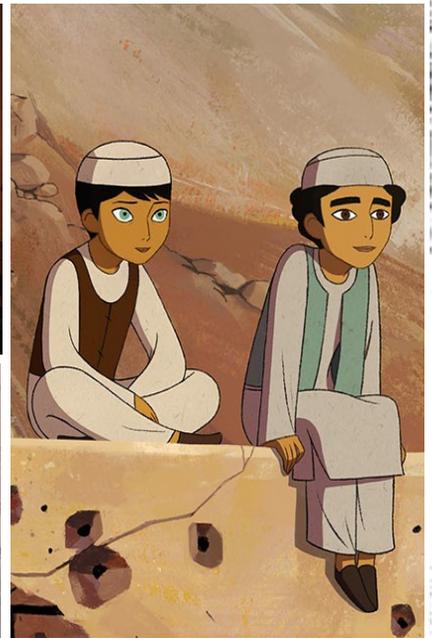
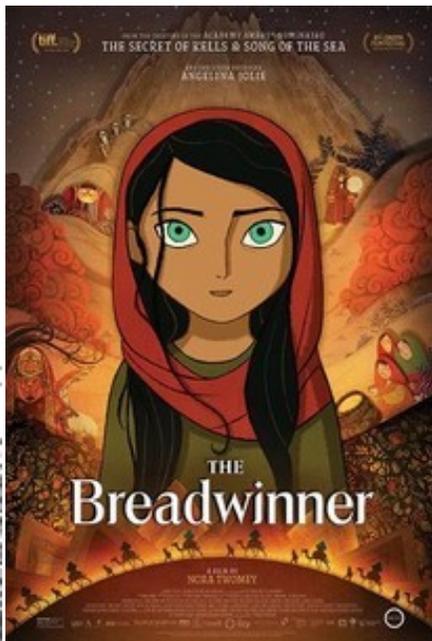
Four Eyes screens notable independent and world films not typically available to film lovers in Lacombe and area. Films will be shown on the third Wednesday of each month (except July and August), 7pm at Lacombe City Cinemas. The film series is organized by a group of staff at Mary C. Moore Public Library. We acknowledge and appreciate our partnership with Toronto International Film Festival Film Circuit and Lacombe City Cinemas.

Tickets

Advance tickets **\$9 each**, available at the library at the beginning of the month, until noon on the day of the film. Door tickets are \$10 each, cash only and subject to availability. All tickets are final sale. Box office opens at 6:15pm in the lobby of Lacombe City Cinemas. All ticket proceeds to the library.

Concession available!

DECEMBER 13 THE BREADWINNER, DIRECTED BY NORA TWOMEY



About the film: "From executive producer Angelina Jolie and the creators of the Academy Award-nominated *The Secret of Kells* and *Song of the Sea*, comes the highly-anticipated new feature based on Deborah Ellis' bestselling middle grade novel. Parvana is an 11-year-old girl growing up under the Taliban in Afghanistan in 2001. When her father is wrongfully arrested, Parvana cuts off her hair and dresses like a boy in order to support her family. Working alongside her friend Shauzia, Parvana discovers a new world of freedom--and danger. With undaunted courage, Parvana draws strength from the fantastical stories she invents, as she embarks on a quest to find her father and reunite her family. Equal parts thrilling and enchanting, *The Breadwinner* is an inspiring and luminously animated tale about the power of stories to sustain hope and carry us through dark times."

Rated: PG13

Tickets will be available at the library beginning December 1. One night only! Don't miss it!

See the full Four Eyes line-up, with film trailers, on our website: lacombelibrary.com/film



tiff.
PRESENTS

FILM CIRCUIT

NEW BOOK SPOTLIGHT

A selection of our recent acquisitions



Sweet by Yotam Ottolenghi

Yotam Ottolenghi is widely beloved in the food world for his beautiful, inspirational, and award-winning cookbooks, as well as his London delis and fine dining restaurant. And while he's known for his savory and vegetarian dishes, he actually started out his cooking career as a pastry chef. *Sweet* is entirely filled with delicious baked goods, desserts, and confections starring Ottolenghi's signature flavor profiles and ingredients including fig, rose petal, saffron, orange blossom, star anise, pistachio, almond, cardamom, and cinnamon. A baker's dream, *Sweet* features simple treats such alongside recipes for showstopping confections.



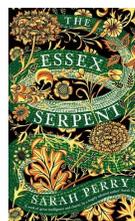
The Good People by Hannah Kent

Hedged in by gossip and joined by their desperation, three women in nineteenth-century Ireland are drawn together in the hope of rescuing a child from a superstitious community, determined to rid itself of the strange and unknowable. Bereft after the loss of her husband, Nora finds herself alone and caring for her young grandson Micheal--a boy whom she recalls as having been a happy and healthy infant but now, in the wake of both his mother's and grandfather's deaths, can neither speak nor walk. Mary, a servant girl from more rural parts, comes to the valley to help Nora just as the rumors are spreading: the talk of unexplained misfortunes and illnesses, and the theory that deformed Micheal is a changeling, a fairy child to blame for the bad luck the valley has endured since his arrival. Determined to banish the evil in Micheal, Nora and Mary enlist the help of the elderly Nance, a recluse and wanderer once revered by her neighbors for her healing powers, but now condemned as a fraud and a threat by the new priest in town. As the trio's situation grows more dire, their folkloric practices become increasingly daring--culminating, at last, in a stunning and irreversible act that will put all their lives in danger. Terrifying, thrilling, and wholly original, *The Good People* is a startling examination of absolute belief and superstition taken to their extremes, of the universal yearning to belong, and of love, both tender and harsh.



The Dark Flood Rises by Margaret Drabble

Francesca Stubbs has a very full life. A highly regarded expert on housing for the elderly who is herself getting on in age, she drives "restlessly round England," which is "her last love . . . She wants to see it all before she dies." Amid the professional conferences she attends, she fits in visits to old friends, brings home-cooked dinners to her ex-husband, texts her son, who is grieving over the sudden death of his girlfriend, and drops in on her daughter, a quirky young woman who lives in a floodplain in the West Country. The space between vitality and morality suddenly seems narrow, but Fran "is not ready to settle yet, with a cat upon her knee." She still prizes her "frisson of autonomy," her belief in herself as a dynamic individual doing meaningful work in the world. This dark and glittering novel moves back and forth between an interconnected group of family and friends in England and a seemingly idyllic expat community in the Canary Islands. It is set against a backdrop of rising flood tides in Britain and the seismic fragility of the Canaries, where we also observe the flow of immigrants from an increasingly war-torn Middle East. With Margaret Drabble's characteristic wit and deceptively simple prose, *The Dark Flood Rises* enthralls, entertains, and asks existential questions in equal measure.



Essex Serpent by Sarah Perry

Set in Victorian London and an Essex village in the 1890's, and enlivened by the debates on scientific and medical discovery which defined the era, *The Essex Serpent* has at its heart the story of two extraordinary people who fall for each other, but not in the usual way. They are Cora Seaborne and Will Ransome. Cora is a well-to-do London widow who moves to the Essex parish of Aldwinter, and Will is the local vicar. They meet as their village is engulfed by rumours that the mythical Essex Serpent, once said to roam the marshes claiming human lives, has returned. Cora, a keen amateur naturalist is enthralled, convinced the beast may be a real undiscovered species. But Will sees his parishioners' agitation as a moral panic, a deviation from true faith. Although they can agree on absolutely nothing, as the seasons turn around them in this quiet corner of England, they find themselves inexorably drawn together and torn apart. Told with exquisite grace and intelligence, this novel is most of all a celebration of love, and the many different guises it can take.



Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win by Rachel Ignotofsky

A richly illustrated and inspiring book, *Women in Sports* highlights the achievements and stories of fifty notable women athletes from the 1800s to today, including trailblazers, Olympians, and record-breakers in more than forty sports. The athletes featured include well-known figures like tennis player Billie Jean King and gymnast Simone Biles, as well as lesser-known champions like Toni Stone, the first woman to play baseball in a professional men's league, and skateboarding pioneer Patti McGee. The book also contains infographics on topics that sporty women want to know about such as muscle anatomy, a timeline of women's participation in sports, pay and media statistics for female athletes, and influential women's teams. *Women in Sports* celebrates the success of the tough, bold, and fearless women who paved the way for today's athletes.

READ-ALIKES

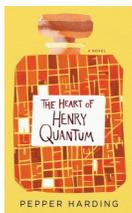
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It happened in December...



A Week in December by Sebastian Faulks

London, the week before Christmas, 2007. Over seven days we follow the lives of seven major characters: a hedge fund manager trying to bring off the biggest trade of his career; a professional footballer recently arrived from Poland; a young lawyer with little work and too much time to speculate; a student who has been led astray by Islamist theory; a hack book-reviewer; a schoolboy hooked on skunk and reality TV; and a Tube train driver whose Circle Line train joins these and countless other lives together in a daily loop. With daring skill, the novel pieces together the complex patterns and crossings of modern urban life. Greed, the dehumanizing effects of the electronic age and the fragmentation of society are some of the themes dealt with in this savagely humorous book. The writing on the wall appears in letters ten feet high, but the characters refuse to see it — and party on as though tomorrow is a dream. Sebastian Faulks probes not only the self-deceptions of this intensely realised group of people, but their hopes and loves as well. As the novel moves to its gripping climax, they are forced, one by one, to confront the true nature of the world they inhabit.



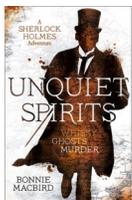
The Heart of Henry Quantum by Pepper Harding

Henry Quantum has several thoughts going through his head at any given time, so it's no surprise when he forgets something very important—specifically, a Christmas gift for his wife, which he realizes on the morning of December 23. Henry sets off that day in search of the perfect present for her: a bottle of Chanel No. 5 perfume. But much like Henry's ever-wandering mind, his quest takes him in different and unexpected directions, including running into the former love of his life, Daisy. His wife, meanwhile, unhappy in her marriage, is hiding a secret of her own. And Daisy, who has made the unsettling choice of leaving her husband to strike out on her own, finds herself questioning whether she and Henry belong together after all. A sweet, funny, and touching debut from author Pepper Harding shows how the seemingly insignificant events of one single day can change our lives forever—perhaps, if we're lucky, for the better.



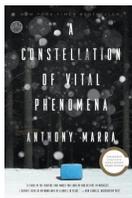
Conspiracy by S.J. Parris

Paris, 1585. Heretic-turned-spy Giordano Bruno arrives in Paris from London to find a city on the edge of catastrophe. King Henri III lives in fear of a coup by the Duke of Guise and his fanatical Catholic League, and another massacre on the streets. When Bruno's old rival, Father Paul Lefèvre is found murdered, Bruno is drawn into a dangerous web of religious politics and court intrigue. And watching over his shoulder is the King's mother, Catherine de Medici, with her harem of beautiful spies. When murder strikes at the heart of the Palace, Bruno finds himself on the trail of a killer who is protecting a terrible secret. With the royal houses of France and England under threat, Bruno must expose the truth — or be silenced for good...



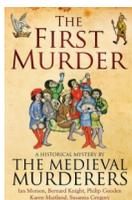
Unquiet Spirits by Bonnie MacBird

December 1889. Fresh from debunking a "ghostly" hound in Dartmoor, Sherlock Holmes has returned to London, only to find himself the target of a deadly vendetta. A beautiful client arrives with a tale of ghosts, kidnapping and dynamite on a whisky estate in Scotland, but brother Mycroft trumps all with an urgent assignment in the South of France. On the fabled Riviera, Holmes and Watson encounter treachery, explosions, rival French Detective Jean Vidocq...and a terrible discovery. This propels the duo northward to the snowy highlands. There, in a "haunted" castle and among the copper dinosaurs of a great whisky distillery, they and their young client face mortal danger, and Holmes realizes all three cases have blended into a single, deadly conundrum. In order to solve the mystery, the ultimate rational thinker must confront a ghost from his own past. But Sherlock Holmes does not believe in ghosts...or does he?



A Constellation of Vital Phenomena by Anthony Marra

In the final days of December 2004, in a small rural village in Chechnya, eight-year-old Havaa hides in the woods when her father is abducted by Russian forces. Fearing for her life, she flees with their neighbor Akhmed - a failed physician - to the bombed-out hospital, where Sonja, the one remaining doctor, treats a steady stream of wounded rebels and refugees and mourns her missing sister. Over the course of five dramatic days, Akhmed and Sonja reach back into their pasts to unravel the intricate mystery of coincidence, betrayal, and forgiveness that unexpectedly binds them and decides their fate.



The First Murder by The Medieval Murderers

Carmarthen, 1199 - A sudden snowstorm in late December means that two parties of travellers are forced to abandon their journeys and take refuge in the bustling market town of Carmarthen. Unfortunately, the two groups - one representing the Archbishop of Canterbury and one comprising canons from St David's Cathedral - are bitter opponents in a dispute that has been raging for several months. When an enigmatic stranger appears, and requests permission to stage a play, which he claims will alleviate tensions and engender an atmosphere of seasonal harmony, the castle's constable, Sir Symon Cole, refuses on the grounds that encouraging large gatherings of angry people is likely to end in trouble, but his wife Gwennlian urges him to reconsider. At first, it appears she is right, and differences of opinions and resentments do seem to have been forgotten in the sudden anticipation of what promises to be some unique entertainment. Unfortunately, one of the Archbishop's envoys - the one chosen to play the role of Cain - dies inexplicably on the eve of the performance, and there is another 'accident' at the castle, which claims the life of a mason.

COMING SOON!

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

Adult Fiction

V.S. Alexander - The Taster
Luke Alnutt - We Own the Sky
Kat Ashenburg - Sofie & Cecelia
David Baldacci - The Fallen
M.C. Beaton - Death of an Honest Man
Natasha Bell - Exhibit Alexandra
Marie Benedict - Carnegie's Maid
Raymond Benson - In the Hush of the Night
Alex Berenson - The Deceivers
Sara Blaedel - The Undertaker's Daughter
Amy Bloom - White Houses
Chris Bohjalian - The Flight Attendant
C.J. Box - The Disappeared
Jamey Bradbury - The Wild Inside
Patricia Briggs - Born Bright
Dale Brown - Act of Revenge
Andrea Camilleri - Pyramid of Mud
Peter Carey - A Long Way from Home
Laura Childs - Plum Tea Crazy
Mary Higgins Clark - I've Got My Eyes on You
Bill Clinton w/James Patterson - The President is Missing
Catherine Coulter - The Sixth Day
Elisabeth de Mariaffi - Hysteria
Jeffery Deaver - The Cutting Edge
Tim Dorsey - The Pope of Palm Beach
Lexie Elliott - The French Girl
Jessica Fellowes - The Mitford Murders
Charles Finch - Woman in the Water
Felix Francis - Pulse
Nicci French - Sunday Silence
Lisa Genova - Every Note Played
Elizabeth George - The Punishment She Deserves
Dennis Glover - The Last Man in Europe
Alex Grecian - The Saint of Wolves and Butchers
Kristin Hannah - The Great Alone
Clarissa Harwood - Impossible Saints
Philip Hensher - The Friendly Ones
Anne Hillerman - Cave of Bones
Alan Hollinghurst - The Sparsholt Affair
Arnaldur Indridason - The Shadow Killer
Ragnar Jonasson - Nightblind
Alma Katsu - The Hunger
Marian Keyes - The Break
Ausma Zehanat Khan - A Dangerous Crossing
Sophie Kinsella - Surprise Me
Donna Leon - The Temptation of Forgiveness
John Lescroart - Poison
Clare MacKintosh - Let Me Lie
G.M. Malliet - In Prior's Wood
Peter May - I'll Keep you Safe
Christmas at the Vinyl Café - Stuart McLean
Tom Miller - The Philosopher's Flight
Christopher Moore - Noir
Jojo Moyes - Still Me
Fuminori Nakamura - Cult X
Jo Nesbo - Macbeth
Joyce Carol Oates - Beautiful Days
Thomas Perry - The Bomb Maker
Nora Roberts - Year One
Graeme Simsion - Two Steps Forward
Simone St. James - The Broken Girls

Danielle Steel - Accidental Heroes
Victoria Thompson - Murder on Union Square
Charles Todd - The Gate Keeper
Guillermo Del Toro - The Shape of Water
Abbi Waxman - Other People's Houses
Alison Weir - Jane Seymour: The Haunted Queen
Jacqueline Winspear - To Die But Once
Koren Zailckas - The Drama Teacher

Adult Non-Fiction

A Kind of Miraculous Paradise: A True Story About Schizophrenia
Keetsahnak: Our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Sisters edited by Kim Anderson et al
Disappointment River: Finding and Losing the Northwest Passage by Brian Castner
Wellmania: Misadventures in the Search for Wellness by Brigid Delaney
The Wisdom of Wolves: Lessons From the Sawtooth Pack by Jim Dutcher
Too Afraid To Cry: Memoir of a Stolen Childhood by Ali Cobby Eckermann
The Year of Less: How I Stopped Shopping, Gave Away My Belongings, and Discovered Life Is Worth More Than Anything You Can Buy in a Store by Cait Flanders
The Man Who Caught the Storm: The Life of Legendary Tornado Chaser Tim Samaras by Brantley Hargrove
Making the Monster: The Science Behind Mary Shelley's Frankenstein by Kathryn Harkup
At My Table by Nigella Lawson
The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning: How to Free Yourself and Your Family from a Lifetime of Clutter by Margareta Magnusson
What's Your Story? edited by CBC Radio
Seven Fallen Feathers: Racism, Death, and Hard Truths in a Northern City by Tanya Talaga
Feeding My Mother: Comfort and Laughter in the Kitchen as My Mom Lives with Memory Loss Hardcover by Jann Arden
Quackery: A Brief History of the Worst Ways to Cure Everything Hardcover by Lydia Kang & Nate Pedersen
5 Ingredients: Quick & Easy Food by Jamie Oliver
Along the Western Front by Leah Hennel
River of Time by Naomi Judd
Nazi Hunters by Andrew Nagorski
The Stowaway: A Young Man's Extraordinary Adventure to Antarctica by Laurie Gwen Shapiro
Because We Are Bad: OCD and a Girl Lost in Thought by Lily Bailey
The Beginning of Everything: The Year I Lost My Mind and Found Myself by Andrea Buchanan
The Science of Superheroes: The Secrets Behind Speed, Strength, Flight, Evolution, and More by Mark Brake

WHAT WE'RE READING

Staff Picks

Amy

Trace by Archer Mayor

The Vermont Bureau of Investigation (VBI) has been pulled onto three cases at the same time; meanwhile, VBI head Joe Gunther has to take time off to care for his ailing mother. Those cases are now in the hands of the individual investigators. Sammie Martens is assigned a murder case. The victim is a young woman, the roommate of the daughter of Medical Examiner Beverly Hillstrom. A recent transplant from Albany, New York, Sammie must find out what put a hit man on the trail of this seemingly innocent young woman. Lester Spinney takes over a famous cold case, a double murder where a state trooper and a motorist were killed in an exchange of gunfire. Or so it has seemed for years. When Lester is told that the motorist's fingerprints were planted on the gun he's supposed to have fired, it opens the question—who really killed the state trooper? Willy Kunkle's case starts with a child's discovery of three teeth on a railroad track, leading eventually to a case of possible sabotage against critical military equipment.

Carol

Amish Grace by Donald B. Kraybill, Steven M. Nolt, and David L. Weaver-Zercher

On Monday morning, October 2, 2006, a gunman entered a one-room Amish school in Nickel Mines, Pennsylvania. Charles Roberts ordered the boys and the teacher to leave. He then opened fire on the ten remaining girls, killing five and leaving the others critically wounded. He then shot himself. His motivation? "I'm angry at God for taking my little daughter," he told the children before the massacre. The blood was barely dry on the schoolhouse floor when Amish parents brought words of forgiveness to the family of the one who had slain their children. *Amish Grace* explores the many questions this story raises about the religious beliefs and habits that led the Amish to forgive so quickly. It looks at the ties between forgiveness and membership in a cloistered communal society and asks if Amish practices parallel or diverge from other religious and secular notions of forgiveness. It will also address the matter of why forgiveness became news. "All the religions teach it," mused an observer, "but no one does it like the Amish." Regardless of the cultural seedbed that nourished this story, the surprising act of Amish forgiveness begs for a deeper exploration. How could the Amish do this? What did this act mean to them? And how might their witness prove useful to the rest of us?

Connie

City of Lies by Victoria Thompson

Every woman plays a part—but some are more dangerous than others. Like most women, Elizabeth Miles assumes many roles; unlike most, hers have made her a woman on the run. Living on the edge of society, Elizabeth uses her guile to relieve so-called respectable men of their ill-gotten gains. But brutal and greedy entrepreneur Oscar Thornton is out for blood. He's lost a great deal of money and is not going to forgive a woman for outwitting him. With his thugs hot on her trail, Elizabeth seizes the moment to blend in with a group of women who have an agenda of their own. She never expects to like or understand these privileged women, but she soon comes to respect their intentions, forming an unlikely bond with the wealthy matriarch of the group whose son Gabriel is the rarest of species—an honest man in a dishonest world. She knows she's playing a risky game, and her deception could be revealed at any moment, possibly even by sharp-eyed Gabriel. Nor has she been forgotten by Thornton, who's biding his time within this gilded orbit, waiting to strike. Elizabeth must draw on her wits and every last ounce of courage she possesses to keep her new life from being cut short by this vicious shadow from her past.

Emma Joy

Turtles All the Way Down by John Green

Sixteen-year-old Aza never intended to pursue the mystery of fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett, but there's a hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake and her Best and Most Fearless Friend, Daisy, is eager to investigate. So together, they navigate the short distance and broad divides that separate them from Russell Pickett's son, Davis. Aza is trying. She is trying to be a good daughter, a good friend, a good student, and maybe even a good detective, while also living within the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

Julie

Metro 2033 by Dmitry Glukhovskiy

The year is 2033. The world has been reduced to rubble. Humanity is nearly extinct. The half-destroyed cities have become uninhabitable through radiation. Beyond their boundaries, they say, lie endless burned-out deserts and the remains of splintered forests. Survivors still remember the past greatness of humankind. More than 20 years have passed since the last plane took off from the earth. Rusted railways lead into emptiness. The ether is void and the airwaves echo to a soulless howling where previously the frequencies were full of news from Tokyo, New York, Buenos Aires. Man has handed over stewardship of the earth to new life-forms. Mutated by radiation, they are better adapted to the new world. Man's time is over. A few score thousand survivors live on, not knowing whether they are the only ones left on earth. They live in the Moscow Metro - the biggest air-raid shelter ever built. It is humanity's last refuge. Stations have become mini-statelets, their people uniting around ideas, religions, water-filters - or the simple need to repulse an enemy incursion. It is a world without a tomorrow, with no room for dreams, plans, hopes. Feelings have given way to instinct - the most important of which is survival. Survival at any price. VDNKh is the northernmost inhabited station on its line. It was one of the Metro's best stations and still remains secure. But now a new and terrible threat has appeared.

Kirstin

How to Hygge: The Nordic Secrets to a Happy Life by Signe Johansen

The "Danish coziness" philosophy is fast becoming the new "French living" in terms of aspirational lifestyle books and blogs. There are countless viral articles comparing the happiness levels of Americans versus Danes. Their homes are more homey; their people are more cheerful. It's an attitude that defies definition, but there is a name for this slow-moving, stress-free mindset: hygge (pronounced "hoo-ga"). Hygge values the idea of cherishing yourself: candlelight, bakeries, and dinner with friends; a celebration of experiences over possessions, as well as being kind to yourself and treasuring a sense of community. *How to Hygge* by chef and author Signe Johansen is a fresh, informative, light-hearted, fully illustrated how-to guide to hygge. It's a combination of recipes, helpful tips for cozy living at home, and cabin porn: essential elements of living the Danish way—which, incidentally, encourages a daily dose of "healthy hedonism."

Mary

A Newfoundlander in Canada: Always Going Somewhere, Always Coming Home by Alan Doyle

Armed with the same personable, candid style found in his first book, Alan Doyle turns his perspective outward from Petty Harbour toward mainland Canada, reflecting on what it was like to venture away from the comforts of home and the familiarity of the island. Often in a van, sometimes in a bus, occasionally in a car with broken wipers "using Bob's belt and a rope found by Paddy's Pond" to pull them back and forth, Alan and his bandmates charted new territory, and he constantly measured what he saw of the vast country against what his forefathers once called the Daemon Canada. In a period punctuated by triumphant leaps forward for the band, deflating steps backward and everything in between--opening for Barney the Dinosaur at an outdoor music festival, being propositioned at a gas station mail-order bride service in Alberta, drinking moonshine with an elderly church-goer on a Sunday morning in PEI--Alan's few established notions about Canada were often debunked and his own identity as a Newfoundlander was constantly challenged. Touring the country, he also discovered how others view Newfoundlanders and how skewed these images can sometimes be. Heartfelt, funny and always insightful, these stories tap into the complexities of community and Canadianness, forming the portrait of a young man from a tiny fishing village trying to define and hold on to his sense of home while navigating a vast and diverse and wonder-filled country.

Melvyn

Pond by Claire-Louise Bennett

Feverish and forthright, *Pond* is an absorbing chronicle of the pitfalls and pleasures of a solitudinous life told by an unnamed narrator living on the cusp of a coastal town. Broken bowls, belligerent cows, swanky aubergines, trembling moonrises and horrifying sunsets, the physical world depicted in these stories is unsettling yet intimately familiar and soon takes on a life of its own. Captivated by the stellar charms of seclusion but restless with desire, the narrator's relationship with their surroundings becomes boundless and increasingly bewildering. Claire-Louise Bennett's startlingly original first collection slips effortlessly between worlds and is by turns darkly funny and deeply moving. Shimmering and unusual, *Pond* demands to be devoured and will linger long after the last page.

Miranda

The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne

Cyril Avery is not a real Avery -- or at least, that's what his adoptive parents tell him. And he never will be. But if he isn't a real Avery, then who is he? Born out of wedlock to a teenage girl cast out from her rural Irish community and adopted by a well-to-do if eccentric Dublin couple via the intervention of a hunchbacked Redemptorist nun, Cyril is adrift in the world, anchored only tenuously by his heartfelt friendship with the infinitely more glamorous and dangerous Julian Woodbead. At the mercy of fortune and coincidence, he will spend a lifetime coming to know himself and where he came from and over his many years will struggle to discover an identity, a home, a country, and much more.

Sharon

Unquiet Spirits by Bonnie MacBird

December 1889. Fresh from debunking a "ghostly" hound in Dartmoor, Sherlock Holmes has returned to London, only to find himself the target of a deadly vendetta. A beautiful client arrives with a tale of ghosts, kidnapping and dynamite on a whisky estate in Scotland, but brother Mycroft trumps all with an urgent assignment in the South of France. On the fabled Riviera, Holmes and Watson encounter treachery, explosions, rival French Detective Jean Vidocq...and a terrible discovery. This propels the duo northward to the snowy highlands. There, in a "haunted" castle and among the copper dinosaurs of a great whisky distillery, they and their young client face mortal danger, and Holmes realizes all three cases have blended into a single, deadly conundrum. In order to solve the mystery, the ultimate rational thinker must confront a ghost from his own past. But Sherlock Holmes does not believe in ghosts...or does he?

Victoria

Magic for Nothing by Seanan McGuire

As the youngest of the three Price children, Antimony is used to people not expecting much from her. She's been happy playing roller derby and hanging out with her cousins, leaving the globe-trotting to her older siblings while she stays at home and tries to decide what she wants to do with her life. She always knew that one day, things would have to change. She didn't think they'd change so fast. Annie's expectations keep getting shattered. She didn't expect Verity to declare war on the Covenant of St. George on live television. She didn't expect the Covenant to take her sister's threat seriously. And she definitely didn't expect to be packed off to London to infiltrate the Covenant from the inside...but as the only Price in her generation without a strong resemblance to the rest of the family, she's the perfect choice to play spy. They need to know what's coming. Their lives may depend on it. But Annie has some secrets of her own, like the fact that she's started setting things on fire when she touches them, and has no idea how to control it. Now she's headed halfway around the world, into the den of the enemy, where blowing her cover could get her killed. She's pretty sure things can't get much worse. Antimony Price is about to learn just how wrong it's possible for one cryptozoologist to be.

FILM PICKS

Highlights from our Special Film Collection

DECEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Based on the Book



TWO WOMEN



Two Women, directed by Vera Glagoleva. What it creates, love can also destroy. That much is clear in *Two Women*, as love and desire forge and raze relationships on a lush Russian estate. This adaptation of Ivan Turgenev's play *A Month in the Country* centers around the lovely Natalya as she seeks passion outside a lackluster marriage. Though dashing Mikhail (Ralph Fiennes) couldn't be more different from her wealthy older husband, Natalya spurns his attempts at flirtation. Instead she's darkly drawn to her son's young tutor Aleksei, and she's not the only one. Her teenage stepdaughter Vera is smitten as well, and the two women find themselves ensnared in a complex web of unrequited love, guilt, lust and jealousy whose consequences will shake their world to its core.



Witness to the Prosecution, directed by Julian Jarrold. From the team behind 2015's wildly successful adaptation of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* comes "a dark, perfectly contemporary morality tale" (The Daily Telegraph) set in 1920s London. When glamorous Emily French is brutally murdered in her home, all the evidence points to French's young lover, Leonard Vole, to whom the heiress left her fortune. Ms. French's devoted housekeeper proclaims Leonard's guilt, but Leonard insists that his wife, enigmatic chorus girl Romaine can prove his innocence. As the scandalous crime goes to trial, solicitor John Mayhew finds that the case may be his undoing. Played to perfection by an illustrious cast.



My Cousin Rachel, directed by Roger Michell, is based upon the 1951 novel by Daphne du Maurier. Philip is a young Englishman who finds his cousin Ambrose dead after traveling to Florence, Italy. He vows revenge against Ambrose's missing wife Rachel, blaming her for his untimely demise. When Philip meets Rachel for the first time, his mood suddenly changes as he finds himself falling for her seductive charm and beauty. As his obsession for her grows, Rachel now hatches a scheme to win back her late husband's estate from the unsuspecting Philip.



Sense of an Ending, directed by Ritesh Batra, is based on the novel by Julian Barnes. Divorced and retired, Tony Webster, an ageing Londoner and vintage camera shop owner, whittles down the solitude of his isolated existence by keeping an affectionate relationship with his ex-wife, Margaret, and by accompanying his nearly full-term pregnant daughter, Susie, to antenatal courses. However, the unexpected arrival of an unsettling letter will disrupt the fine balance of things in Tony's orderly life, reconnecting him with his first love from college, Veronica, and the nostalgic, yet clouded memories of a distant past. Inevitably, as Tony scavenges for bits and pieces through flashbacks, the out-of-focus picture of his youth will gradually sharpen, nevertheless, is he ready to face the truth?



A Monster Calls directed by J.A. Bayona, is based on the novel by Patrick Ness. In this visually spectacular drama, 12-year-old Conor, dealing with his mother's illness, a less-than-sympathetic grandmother, and bullying classmates, finds a most unlikely ally when a Monster appears at his bedroom window. Ancient, wild, and relentless, the Monster guides Conor on a journey of courage, faith, and truth.



Indignation, directed by James Schamus. Passion ignites culture clash in this provocative coming-of-age story, based on the best-selling novel by Philip Roth. Marcus, a student from New Jersey arrives at a small conservative college in Ohio. He becomes infatuated with his class mate Olivia. The mutual attraction sparks a torrid encounter with consequences no one ever could have imagined. He puts his family's best-laid plans and his own beliefs to the ultimate test.



Silence, directed by Martin Scorsese, tells the story of two Christian missionaries who face the ultimate test of faith when they travel to Japan in search of their missing mentor at a time when Christianity was outlawed and their presence forbidden. It took 28 years for the celebrated director to bring Shusaku Endo's 1966 acclaimed novel to life.

S'was a month before Christmas and all through the town
The subjects were busy finding gifts that abound.
The Royal Library hummed the with voices of each girl and boy.
As they picked Christmas books for holiday joy.
Lady Christina wore Christmas hats for each day,
And went home to her new kitty who indeed liked to play.
Lady Connie was just as busy as could be,
Making decorations for her home that were something to see.
Lady Sharon had mailed Christmas cards to home far away,
Hoping they'd get there before the big day.
Lady Mary was preparing for the feast she would make,
Planning what delicious food she would bake.
Lady Miranda was shopping for presents with care,
For her children and family she would lovely meals prepare.
Wizard Melvyn had made the staff party great fun,
With a scavenger hunt that made the ladies run.
Lady Victoria had helped, at the book sale she did toil ,
To raise some money for the Library Royal.
Lady Kirstin would have such a busy season,
Her four excited children were the reason.
Lady Amy had enjoyed her Lady Bikers' event,
The Escape Room won, which she did resent.
Lady Julie is a wonder that's all you need know,
She has a smile for everyone as they come and go.
Lady Emma Joy would be on Santa's nice list this year,
She always came to work happy and was such a dear.
Lady Carol was learning quickly and the ladies would tell,
That they were glad she had joined them and fit in so well.
From the Library Ladies we wish you the best
For the holiday season and all of the rest of the year,
That's to come may you have joy and light,
Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.

Written by your loyal scribe,

Lady Miss Mary

