



BiblioFiles

By Ruth Freeman

Readers' Advisor @ the Rowayton Library

October 2010

We have so many good new books it was hard to choose what to review this month so come on in and “check out” the full collection!

We especially like ‘Teen Cuisine’ by well known chef Matthew Locricchio (author of ‘The International Cookbook for Kids’ series). This beautifully photographed, mouth watering book will appeal to any teen already interested in cooking, and could easily inspire a novice with its delicious, accessible recipes using fresh ingredients. We are fortunate to be hosting Matthew at a reception at the Rowayton Community Center on November 5 at 7PM where he will talk about the book and we will sample many of the dishes.

‘Nigella Kitchen’ by Nigella Lawson is a cheerful, no nonsense volume, essentially covering all meals, all the time. Her approach is user friendly, with recipes that make use of leftovers and acknowledge the challenge of producing tasty meals week after week.

‘Tyler Florence Family Meal’ has that great combination of original yet manageable recipes. Take a chance with cauliflower pudding, simple yet gorgeous salads and yummy desserts; you will be glad you did.

‘At Home – A Short History of Private Life’ is Bill Bryson’s carefully researched and humorous overview of the history of our homes and domestic life. Using his house in England as a starting point he goes from room to room, entertaining us with his trademark wit as he covers the origins of everything from tableware, windows, carpets, various spices and furnishings, to how homes themselves grew and changed.

‘City Of Veils’ by Zoe Ferraris reunites us with Katya and Narif, the intrepid Saudi Arabian duo from ‘Finding Nouf’. The book intriguingly combines a classic detective and forensic murder mystery procedural with an inside look at daily life in Saudi Arabia. The author’s familiarity with all levels of Saudi society, including the lives of cloistered women, American ex pats, servants and shopkeepers, makes the book come alive.

‘The Dirty Life’ by Kristin Kimball is an engaging account of life on Essex Farm in upstate New York. The author, who traded in her stilettos and Manhattan career for the blood, sweat and tears involved in raising meat and vegetables, is an excellent writer. Anyone harboring fantasies about



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the joys of rural life will get a reality check from this book at the same time it makes it clear how rewarding life on a farm can be.

For readers hooked on Scandinavian noir we have some suggestions. 'Hypothermia' by Arnaldur Indridason is a well paced, atmospheric mystery set in Iceland. Elendur is a highly sympathetic, imperfect detective whose dogged determination to close the books on at least some of the ghosts he faces is the plot driver. We always recommend Henning Mankell's Inspector Wallender series. Beware, the dour Swedish policeman's exploits are addictive. Finally, Karin Fossum's books set in Norway and featuring Inspector Konrad Sejer are fast paced but subtle; the plots will keep you guessing.

Susan Hill's latest book 'The Shadows in the Street', about Detective Simon Serrailier, is terrific. In this book politics in the stately Lafferton cathedral close where Simon lives contrasts with the life of prostitutes on the street being hunted by a serial killer. Hill's series cleverly and seamlessly combines the ongoing story of Serrailier's extended family with an endless supply of tough cases for him to unravel.

'Untamed Seas' by Deborah Kiley and Meg Noonan is a thrilling and quick read. In 1984 Kiley signed on to crew the yacht 'Trashman' on what should have been a routine Maine to Florida run. Foul weather off the Carolina coast sank the yacht, catapulting the ill equipped and frankly dysfunctional crew of five into a small dinghy. Their grim struggle to survive storms, circling sharks and injuries makes this a real page turner. Come pick up a copy and join the discussion on December 15 at 7 PM.

'Great House', by the prodigiously talented Nicole Krause is a haunting novel. The plot lightly weaves together the stories of four narrators joined by their attachment to a large desk. This is not an easy book to embrace, as the multiple timelines over decades can be confusing. The overriding idea of loss is examined from many perspectives. Her understanding of Jewish history, culture and present day Israel gives the book a resonance that many novels aspire to but never reach. This is a serious book written in spectacular prose that will leave you thinking long after you are finished.

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