



BiblioFiles

By Ruth Freeman

Readers' Advisor @ the Rowayton Library

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'The Whisperers' is John Connolly's spooky latest novel featuring Charlie Parker, who was exiled to Maine at the end of Connolly's last book. The looting of the Iraq National Museum forms the backdrop for some very eerie goings on. A group of vets pay a steep price for their smuggling ventures, and Charlie is left desperately trying to save lives while truly evil and otherworldly villains stay one step ahead.

'American Music' by Jane Mendelsohn is the story of Milo, a disabled Iraq war veteran and Honor, his physical therapist. It is also the story of Joe the saxophone player, his wife Pearl, Vivian, and the history of the cymbal, all told in an engrossing series of flashbacks. This series of vignettes of several generations is literally pulled from Milo by Honor's hands. This is a unique novel that will appeal to jazz lovers and fans of good writing.

'The Blasphemer' by Nigel Farndale is a very powerful, well written novel about generations of Kennedy men, beginning with service in the WWI trenches and continuing through life in present day London. There are plenty of secrets in this family's history, and thoughtful dialogues about some big issues like religion, love and commitment. Finally, there is the whole question of guardian angels..... Highly recommended.

'I'd Know You Anywhere' by Laura Lippman addresses the aftermath of a terrible crime and the price a surviving victim continues to pay. It's expertly crafted and very suspenseful. Lippman knows how to create believable characters whose present circumstances often hide terrible things. This is a real testament to the human spirit and the importance of family.

'Gardening for a Lifetime' by Connecticut gardener Sydney Eddison is a welcome, practical approach to gardening as one ages. The cover says it all: make the most of containers, learn labor saving techniques, accept imperfection, prioritize and use lower maintenance plants. The book is for anyone who loves horticulture but needs to start being practical about the scale of the garden.

'Four Fish' by Paul Greenberg will probably make you feel differently about your next serving of tuna sashimi. This is a poignant, well researched work about the four fish that support the world's appetite for the last truly wild food. The globe's salmon, cod, sea bass and tuna fisheries are profiled. A prodigious amount of sobering facts and figures adds up to a grim prognosis for these severely pressured fish stocks. Written by someone who loves to fish, this book doesn't



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have easy answers to the problem of overfishing, but persuasively outlines the case for the need to give this issue our full attention.

'The Garden of Betrayal' by Lee Vance is a ripped from the headlines thriller. The author was a Goldman Sachs trader for decades and clearly brings his experiences to bear on the details of global oil trading. The plot is a combination of Wall St. and international intrigue involving skullduggery in the global petroleum industry. Mark Wallace is the hero trying to come to terms with the fate of his kidnapped son and the impact of this tragedy on his wife and daughter. This is a fast paced, twisty financial thriller that integrates believable family dynamics into the story.

'Faithful Place' by Tana French is another well deserved hit for this author. I recommend you don't read the dust jacket. Plunge into the world of Francis Mackey, Dublin poor boy now cop and divorced dad, dragged back into his past by a surprising discovery. There is no shortage of suspects in this cold case murder, and plenty of haunting reminders of the painful childhood suffered by all the Mackey children . It is well written, chilling and atmospheric.

We have several new cookbooks that should motivate readers to head for the kitchen. 'Harvest to Heat' by Darryl Estrine and Kelly Kochendorfer is full of inspirational recipes from the nation's farms, working in partnership with area restaurants to enhance profitability. The stories are heartwarming, and the book is further enhanced by beautiful photography. The recipes easily translate to the average kitchen and take advantage of the local produce and meats currently in our farmer's markets.

Melissa Clark's new book, 'In the Kitchen with a Good Recipe', is wonderful. This is a compilation of some of her recent New York Times columns, along with new recipes. Each recipe has an often funny, always touching, background story that explains how the recipe developed. She is especially talented at writing clear directions, allowing any cook to tackle a new dish with confidence.

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