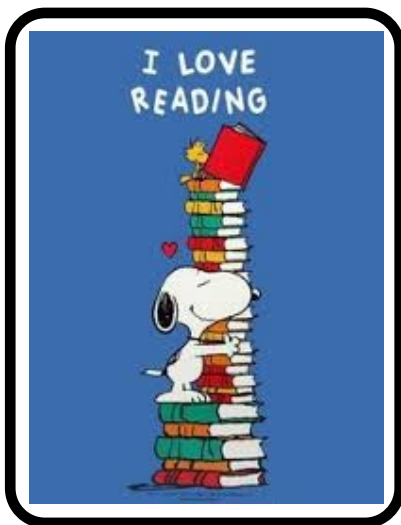


## My Staff Pick Reading Log

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A gift from us to you!

**Compiled May 2015**

**View past staff picks from  
our website at**

**www.hersheylibrary.org**

or

**browse our *Staff Picks* Binder  
located at the circulation  
desk.**



***"No two persons ever read the same book."***

## Edmund Wilson

**The staff at the Hershey Public Library  
would like to share with you some  
of the wonderful books we've been  
reading this past year.**

**Enjoy!**

**Key:**

**LP** (Large Print)                      **B** (Biography)

**cd** (audio book on cd)   **Pb** (paperback)

© (Debut-new author's first book)

\*Book suggested for book groups

( ) Numbers shown at the end of book summaries in parenthesis are the number of Staff members who have recommended the book.

**\*All the Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doer (FIC DOE, LP FIC DOE, cd FIC DOE) - A beautiful and stunning ambitious instant *N.Y. Times* bestseller about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of WW II.

**A Sudden Light: A Novel** by Garth Stein (FIC STE, LP FIC STE, cd FIC STE) - Rich with unconventional characters, scores of transcendent natural beauty and unforgettable moments of emotional truth, this is a triumphant work of a master storyteller at the height of his power. (2)

**As You Wish: Inconceivable Tales from the Making of the Princess Bride** by Cary Elwes (791.43 ELW) - A first-person account of a behind-the-scenes look at the making of the cult classic film filled with never-before-told stories, exclusive photographs and interviews with costars, author, screenwriter and director.

**\*At the Water's Edge: A Novel** by Sara Gruen (FIC GRU, LP FIC GRU) - A gripping and poignant love story about a privileged young woman's awakening as she experiences the devastation of WW II in a tiny village in the Scottish Highlands.

**The Beatles as Musicians: Revolver to Anthology** by Walter Everett (782.421 EVE) - A well-researched, seamless narrative of the latter half of the Beatles' career as music makers. It is a superb guide to the

## **Books in a Series**

**What are books in a series?** A book series is a sequence of books having certain characteristics in common that are formally identified together as a group. Book series can be organized in different ways, such as written by the same author, or marketed as a group by their publisher. This year we are adding to our **Staff Pick** brochure book series that have been recommended by our staff members.

If you are not sure what the order of books are in a series, visit <http://ww2.kdl.org/libcat/whatsnext.asp> for a complete list of almost all authors.

## **Books In a Series Recommended by the Staff:**

**The Accursed Kings Series** by Maurice Druon (FIC DRU) - A historical fiction series of books that follow the vicissitudes of France's royal family descended from St Louis, starting in 1313 with Philippe the Fair's controversial and iron-fisted reign and following the successors over the course of the tumultuous 14<sup>th</sup> century. A must for *Game of Thrones* fans.

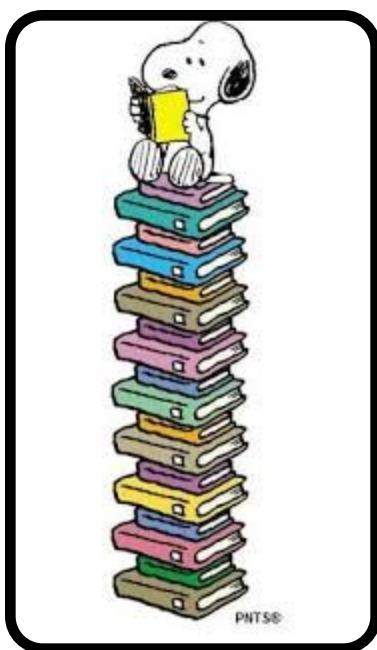
**The Mitford Series** by Jan Karon - (FIC KAR, LP FIC KAR, cd FIC KAR) - This is a series of books that chronicle the everyday eccentricities of a small fictional North Carolina town set in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains. They feature father Timothy Kavanagh, an Episcopal priest.

**Saga (Graphic Novel Series)** by Brian Vaughan (741.5973 VAU) - In this new series by Vaughan, bits of sf space opera and classic fantasy are meshed together. It is an intense personal story of two lovers, cleverly narrated by their newborn daughter.

***Wednesdays Were Pretty Normal: A Boy, Cancer, and God*** by Michael Kelley (234.2 KEL) - A wonderful story of a family's struggle with a life-threatening disease and God's faithfulness throughout the entire process.

***What If?: Serious Scientific Answers to Absurd Hypothetical Questions*** by Randall Munroe (500 MUN) - From the creator of the wildly popular webcomic xkcd, hilarious and informative answers to important questions you probably never thought to ask.

***Worst. Person. Ever. : A Novel*** by Douglas Coupland (FIC COU) - Provocative and entertaining with clever bits of observational humor, this is Coupland's best book in recent years. He creates a protagonist who is a charming villain and readers will identify with him in spite of themselves.



Beatles' music for those seriously interested in the architecture of their songs during that specific period.

***\*Big, Little Lies*** by Liane Moriarty (FIC MOR, LP FIC MOR) - Riveting and insightful, this book is full of perceptive glimpses into the many guises of human relationships. It is a funny and thrilling page-turner with emotional depth.

***\*Bittersweet: A Novel*** by Colleen McCullough (FIC MCC, LP FIC MCC) - Lovers of McCullough's bestseller, *The Thorn Birds*, will be happy to hear that this gem takes us back to historic Australia. The richly drawn characters grab control of the heart-strings from the very beginning.

***The Bleeding Edge*** by Thomas Pynchon (FIC PYN, LP FIC PYN) - With occasional excursions into the DeepWeb and out to Long Island, Pynchon, channeling his inner Jewish mother, brings us a historical romance of N.Y. in the early days of the internet not that distant in calendar time.

***The Blue-Eyed Six*** by Edna Carmean (974.819 CAR) - This book expertly describes many details of the Blue-Eyed Six, a group of six men, all coincidentally blue-eyed, who were arrested and indicted on first degree murder charges in Lebanon County, Pennsylvania in 1879.



**Bonhoeffer** by Eric Metaxas (B BON) - This is the story of how in Hitler's Germany, a Lutheran pastor, Dietrich Bonhoeffer chooses resistance and pays with his life. Metaxas offers a comprehensive review of one of the world's greatest contemporary theologians.

**\*The Care and Management of Lies:**

**A Novel of the Great War** by Jacqueline Winspear (MYS WIN, LP FIC WIN, cd FIC WIN) - This book paints a poignant picture of love and friendship strained by the pain of separation and the brutal chaos of battle. Ultimately, it raises profound questions about conflict, belief and love that echo in our own time.

**Colorful Dreamer: The Story of Artist Henri Matisse** by Marjorie Blain Parker (J 759.4 PAR) - This lyrical, visually rich picture book is an inspiring portrait and an excellent biography of one of the world's most loved artists. It is a remarkable encouragement to never give up on your dreams.

**Dad is Fat** by Jim Gaffigan (814 GAF) - In this book, stand-up comedian, Jim Gaffigan expresses all the joys and horrors of life with five young children—everything from cousins to toddlers' communication skills to the eating habits of four-year olds.

**Deadeye Dick: A Novel** by Kurt Vonnegut (FIC VON, Pb C348) - This is Kurt Vonnegut's funny, chillingly satirical look at the death of innocence. Deadeye Dick takes readers on a zany search for absolution and happiness in this tale of crime and punishment that makes us rethink what we believe and who we say we are.

**Fantastic Mr. Fox** by Roald Dahl (J DAH, dvd FIC FAN) - This is a story about clever Mr. Fox, his adoring wife and their four small children who outsmart three of the nastiest, ugliest and ultimately the dumbest farmers to ever raise poultry. Roald Dahl is now considered one of the most beloved storytellers of our time.

**Snowflakes in Photographs** by W.A. Bentley (551.57 BEN) - Included in this book are 72 of the best plates carefully selected from a larger collection. Bentley's images are inspiration for artists, designers, and craftspeople and will also appeal to anyone intrigued by the intricacy and beauty of design in the natural world. His works show that no two snowflakes are alike but all are based on the common hexagon.

**Stevie Nicks: Visions, Dreams, & Rumors** by Zoe Howe (B NIC) - One of the most captivating and detailed books about Stevie Nicks. It takes us on her journey from peripatetic Midwest childhood to her explosion onto the music scene as the chiffon-swathed rock goddess, right up to the present day.

**Somewhere Safe with Somebody Good** by Jan Karon (FIC KAR, LP FIC KAR, cd FIC KAR) - With the homecoming of much-beloved characters and a few new additions, Karon's latest provides a return to a setting readers have been clamoring to revisit. It is built on the foundation of the first nine Mitford novels.

**Swansong 1945: A Collective Diary of the Last Days of the Third Reich** by Walter Kempowski (940.548 SWA) - A remarkable collage of experiences and impressions of the catastrophic last days of the Second World War in Germany. It provides a unique panorama of the war and a very powerful impression of its impact on and the responses of those involved.

**Updike** by Adam Begley (B UPD) - An illuminating portrait of John Updike, the acclaimed novelist, poet, short-story writer and critic who saw himself as a literary spy in small-town and suburban America, who dedicated himself to the task of transcribing "middleness with all its grits, bumps and anonymities." Candid, intimate, and utterly absorbing, this is a masterful biography of a national treasure whose writing continues to resonate like no one else's.

**\*The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah (FIC HAN, LP FIC HAN) - In this epic novel, set in France in WWII, two sisters who live in a small village find themselves estranged when they disagree about the imminent threat of occupation. Separated by principles and temperament each must find her own way forward as she faces more questions and life-or-death choices. (2)

**The Picture of Dorian Gray** by Oscar Wilde (FIC WIL, LP FIC WIL, Pb C8727, J WIL, Y WIL) - Delight in the witty aphorisms and philosophical musings in this classic story of desire, art and morality, evil and corruption. A superb Victorian Gothic novel, this intoxicating tale is liberally peppered with Wilde's social commentary and view point. Oscar Wilde is the Bacchus of literature. Sip, savor and devour deeply. Go wild for Wilde!

**Put It on the List** by Kristen Darbyshire (JP DARBYSHIRE) - This simple story is easy for toddlers and young children to grasp, but the heart of this selection is the pictures that are peopled with appealing childlike birds with just enough detail to be familiar and endearing.

**Snow Crystals** by W.A. Bentley & W.J. Humphreys (551.57 BEN) - For almost half a century, Bentley caught and photographed thousands of snowflakes in his workshop at Jericho, Vermont and made samples of his remarkable work available to scientists and instructors. This book contains over 2000 stunning photographs of beautiful snow crystals.



**Food: A Love Story** by Jim Gaffigan (818.6 GAF) - In his second book, stand-up comedian/bestselling author Jim Gaffigan delivers his thoughts on all things culinary(ish). He takes our everyday habits with food and turns them into spectacularly funny essays and insights. (2)

**Forgive Me, Leonard Peacock** by Matthew Quick (Y QUI) - Over the course of one intense day (with flashbacks), Leonard's existential crisis is delineated through an engaging first-person narrative supplemented with footnotes and letters from the future that urge Leonard to believe in a "life beyond the ubermorons" at school.

**\*Fortune's Rocks: A Novel** by Anita Shreve (FIC SHR, LP FIC SHR, cd FIC SHR) - Everywhere hailed for its emotional intensity and unflagging narrative momentums, this novel transports us to the world of a prominent Boston family summering on the New Hampshire coast and to the social orbit of a spirited young woman who falls into a passionate affair.

**\*The Girl on the Train** by Paula Hawkins (FIC HAW, LP FIC HAW) - An intricate, multilayered psychological suspense debut novel from a staggered timeline and three distinct female narrators. It is artfully crafted, utterly riveting and a must for *Gone Girl* fans. ☺

**Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America** by Linda Tirado (362.5 TIR) -This book delivers the message to America's poorest citizens, "You are not alone," and it represents a wake-up call to the world's wealthiest individuals that income inequality has dangerous, economic consequences for real people. It is a powerful, must-read.





**\*The Healing of America: A Global Quest for Better, Cheaper, and Fairer Health Care**

by T.R. Reid (362.1 REI) - *Washington Post* correspondent Reid explores health-care systems around the world in an effort to understand why the U.S. remains the only first world nation to refuse its citizens universal health care. It is an outstanding review of health care funding in general and several industrial countries in particular.

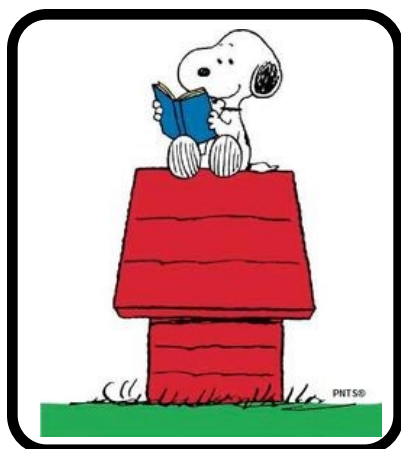
\*This book was the 2013 "Summer Read" selection presented by PA Forward.

**Heretic: Why Islam Needs a Reformation Now**

by Ayaan Hirsi Ali (297.272 HIR) - A powerful, compelling read that traces the author's geographical journey from Mogadishu to Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and Kenya, and her desperate flight to the Netherlands to escape an arranged marriage.

**Hi Kool!: A Year of Seasons** by Jon J. Muth (JP MUTH) - A Caldecott Honoree and *New York Times* bestselling author/artist, Muth takes a fresh and exciting new look at the four seasons written in Haikus. While simple enough for preschool children, this beautifully penned and illustrated book will appeal to readers of all ages.

**I Am Pilgrim: A Thriller** by Terry Hayes (FIC HAY, LP FIC HAY) - In this debut novel, Hollywood screenwriter and producer Terry Hayes has written a riveting 600 page read that is a murder mystery/thriller which grabs you from the first sentence. A brilliant American secret agent and forensics expert is in a race against the clock to stop a terrorist. ☺



**\*The Ice Cream Queen of Orchard Street** by Susan Jane Gilman (FIC GIL, LP FIC GIL) - This is a novel about a Russian immigrant girl's transformation into a businesswoman in early 20th century New York. With its vivid depictions this is an outstanding fiction debut. ☺

**Landline: A Novel** by Rainbow Rowell ((FIC ROW, LP FIC ROW) - A heart-wrenching and hilarious take on fate, time, television and true love. It might not have any teenage protagonist, but it does have all the pleasures of warm and energetic writing.

**\*Leaving Time: A Novel** by Jodi Picoult (FIC PIC, LP FIC PIC, cd FIC PIC) - This book is a mix of thriller, mystery, family drama, love story and more.... Picoult weaves it all together with fascinating research about elephants and their lives. If you are a Picoult fan, you will love it. If you have never read a book by her, this is a good place to start.

**The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing** by Marie Kondo (648 KON) - This is the best-selling guide to decluttering your home from Japanese cleaning consultant Marie Kondo as she takes readers step-by-step through her revolutionary method for simplifying, organizing and storing.

**Man on the Run: Paul McCartney in the 1970s** by Tom Doyle (782.421 DOY) - An illuminating look at the most tumultuous decade in the life of a rock icon—the only McCartney biography in decades based on first hand interviews with the ex-Beatle himself. An engaging, accessible, and well-written telling of rock and roll's ultimate comeback tale.

**The News: A User's Manual** by Alain de Botton (302.23 DEB, LP 302.23 DEB) - This is the ultimate guide for our frenzied era, certain to bring calm, understanding and a measure of sanity to our daily interactions with the torrent of news we face everyday. A thought-provoking look at the impact of news on culture and individuals.