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Book 'Em



Books and Publishing News

for the Hiram College Library Community

December 2011

Any comments, questions, or requests can be sent to [Jessica Olin](#).

Fiction			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Sara Gran	<i>Claire DeWitt and the City of the Dead</i>	F G7623c	Marijuana and dream analysis are among the tools used by a private investigator when she returns to New Orleans, post-Katrina.
Erin Morgenstern	<i>The Night Circus</i>	F M8238n	When competing circus magicians fall in love, you know the end result won't be simple.
Haruki Murakami	<i>1Q84</i>	F M931o	Murakami's ode to Orwell's 1984 . Translated from the Japanese by Jay Rubin and Philip Gabriel.
Joyce Carol Oates	<i>Give Me Your Heart: Tales of Mysteries and Suspense</i>	F Oa8g 2010	A collection of short stories from the National Book Award winner.
Robert Twigger	<i>Dr. Ragab's Universal Language</i>	F T922d	From the author's website: "Robert Twigger's novel takes the reader on a surreal journey, exploring such diverse topics as far right ideologies, middle east mysticism and the art of communicating via food preparation and presentation."
Juvenile			

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Shutta Crum	<i>Mine!</i>	JF C8885m	Two toddlers, one pile of toys. Illustrated by Patrice Barton. (Reading level: ages 1 and up.)
Aldous Huxley	<i>The Crows of Pearblossom</i>	JF H982c	Yes, this is that Aldous Huxley . Did you know he wrote a children's book? I didn't before I saw this edition advertised. Illustrated by Sophie Blackall. (Reading level: ages 4 and up.)
Cathy Ostlere	<i>Karma: A Novel in Verse</i>	JF Os77k	A young woman's personal tragedy, her mother's suicide, is set against her nation's tragedy, the assassination of Indira Gandhi. (Reading level: ages 12 and up.)
Ransom Riggs	<i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i>	JF R4489m	The protagonist learns about the former residents of an abandoned orphanage. (Reading level: ages 13 and up.)
Cynthia Voigt	<i>Young Fredle</i>	JF V871y	I dare you to look at the cover image and tell me you can resist this story about a young mouse who learns the meaning of freedom after being cast out of his home. (Reading level: ages 8 and up.)

Graphic Novels

Author/Artist	Title	Call #	Comments
Vera Brosgol	<i>Anya's Ghost</i>	JF B793a	See extended review below.
Lauren Redniss	<i>Radioactive: Marie & Pierre Curie</i>	Q 539.752 Cur-R 2010	Yes, it is a graphic novel biography of the famous pair. Yes, it is that cool. (And that gorgeous.)
G. B. Tran	<i>Vietnamerica</i>	973.049597 Tra	A memoir about the experiences of the author as his family escaped Vietnam during the fall of Saigon.
Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas	<i>Red: A Haida Manga</i>	E Y108r	This book ties into the oral traditions of the Haida to tell the story of a leader.

Memoir/Biography

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Eric Dregni	<i>In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream</i>	914.81045 Dre	Dregni returned to the country where his great-grandfather was born and is raising a family there. (Sounds much more boring than it actually is.)
Tony Horwitz	<i>Midnight Rising: John Brown and the Raid That Sparked the Civil War</i>	973.7116 Hor	The title really says it all.
Alwyn Scarth	<i>Vesuvius: A Biography</i>	551.210945 Sca	Looks at the mountain from every possible perspective.
Linda Gray Sexton	<i>Half In Love {Surviving the Legacy of Suicide}: A Memoir</i>	362.28092 Sex	Linda Gray Sexton is the daughter of Anne Sexton , and this is the story of how Linda comes to accept her mother's suicide and avoids following in her mother's path.

Nonfiction

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
			Here's a sample from this poetry collection: Xmas Cheeseburgers I was without Christmas spirit so I made three cow dogs, Lola and Blacky and Pinto,

Jim Harrison	<i>Songs of Unreason</i>	811.54 Har 2011	cheeseburgers with ground chuck and French St. André cheese so that we'd all feel better. I delivered them to Hard Luck Ranch and said, "Chew each bite 32 times." They ignored me and gobbled. The world that used to nurse us now keeps shouting inane instructions. That's why I ran to the woods.
Grant Morrison	<i>Supergods: What Masked Vigilantes, Miraculous Mutants, and a Sun God from Smallville Can Teach Us About Being Human</i>	741.5352 Mor	Who better to write about what superheroes can teach us than one of the big boys of graphic novels?
James A. Roberts	<i>Shiny Objects: Why We Spend Money We Don't Have in Search of Happiness We Can't Buy</i>	339.470973 Rob	A professor of marketing writes about why so many Americans think that possessions can bring happiness.
Kathryn Schulz	<i>Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error</i>	121.6 Sch	Written by a journalist, this book looks at why we hate making mistakes.

Awards

Award	Details	Comments
Charles Taylor Prize for Literary Nonfiction	The long list of finalists has been announced. The short list will be announced in January of 2012, and the winner will be declared in March, 2012.	If there's anything on the list that you want to see in our collection, let me know .

Obituaries

Vaclav Havel, 75	The playwright, dissident, and former president of Czech republic, died surrounded by family on December 18, 2011 . The library does own some of his work .
Christopher Hitchens, 62	Hitchens, a famous atheist and writer, died as a result of complications from his esophageal cancer on December 16, 2011 . We also have a number of Hitchens' works .
Russell Hoban, 86	Most people know Hoban best from his post-apocalyptic novel, <i>Riddley Walker</i> . For me, though, Hoban's name immediately brings to mind one of his children's works, <i>The Mouse and His Child</i> . He died on December 14, 2011 .

Featured Review

***Anya's Ghost*, written and illustrated by Vera Brosgol, published in 2011 by First Second.**

The main character of this graphic novel, Anya, is, in no particular order of precedence: the daughter of a single mother; of Russian decent - something of which she's fairly ashamed; a mediocre student attending a private school; and uncomfortable with her teenage body. She doesn't fit in at school and, in fact, only has one real friend. Anya thinks her life is pretty horrible until she falls down a well. That's the part of the story that drew me in originally. From the cover, "Of all the things Anya expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend wasn't one of them. Especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century." The ghost is of a girl, someone pretty close in age to Anya, who died ninety years prior. And yes, they do become friends.

This novel wasn't what expected, even though I knew everything I've written above before I started writing it. From one perspective, it's a typical coming-of-age story where the protagonist learns something about the world and about him/herself through the course of the book. From another perspective, it's unusual and well worth the time I spent, especially when I think about how well the art suites the story (some black and white, but mostly a lot of grays). Besides, there's a great "research is necessary, especially the kind you do at libraries" subplot.

Unless it has been checked out, you will find this title, and many others, on the new bookshelf on the first floor of the library. Once it has moved to its permanent home, you will find it in the Chamberlain Room with the rest

of the children's literature, under [JF B793a](#).

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