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Book 'Em



Books and Publishing News for the Hiram College Library Community May 2012

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

Fiction			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Tana French	<i>In the Woods</i>	E F8893i	A murder mystery set in 1984 Dublin, Ireland.
Julia Glass	<i>The Widower's Tale</i>	E G4636w	The summary provided by the publisher does a better job than I ever could: "Enjoying an active but lonely rural life, seventy-year-old Percy allows a progressive preschool to move into his barn and transform his quiet home into a lively, youthful community that compels him to reexamine the choices he made after his wife's death."
Cara Hoffman	<i>So Much Pretty</i>	E H6752s	A woman's body is found in a ditch five months after she disappeared, but nobody wants to talk about it.
Ann Patchett	<i>State of Wonder</i>	E P271s	Patchett's protagonist is a pharmaceutical researcher who is forced to travel to the field.
Juvenile			
Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Karim Alrawi	<i>The Mouse Who Saved Egypt</i>	J 398.20932	This Egyptian folktale is the story of a young boy saving a mouse who returns the favor many years later when the

		Alr	boy is Pharaoh. Illustrated by Bee Wiley. (Reading level: ages 3 and up.)
Nicola I. Campbell	<i>Shi-shi-etko</i>	JF C1533s	The story follows a Native American girl in the days leading up to going to a residential school. Illustrated by Kim L Fave. (Reading level: ages 4 and up.)
Anthony D. Fredericks	<i>A is for Anaconda: A Rainforest Alphabet</i>	J 591.734 Fre	Each letter is accompanied by an explanatory poem about. Illustrated by Laura Regan. (Reading level: ages 6 and up.)
Helen Ketteman	<i>The Three Little Gators</i>	J 398.2452 Ket	"The Three Little Pigs" story, but with a fun role reversal: the gators are the builders, and a pig is the bad guy. Illustrated by Will Terry. (Reading level: preschool to grade 2.)
Ching Yeung Russell	<i>Tofu Quilt</i>	JF R9123t	A loosely autobiographical story, about a young girl in Hong Kong, told through a series of free verse poems. (Reading level: young adult.)

Graphic Novels

Author/Artist	Title	Call #	Comments
Faith Erin Hicks	<i>Friends With Boys</i>	E H5293f	After being homeschooled her entire life, the protagonist enrolls in public high school. As if that situation isn't hard enough, there's also the fact that she's being followed by a melancholy ghost.
Kagan McLeod	<i>Infinite Kung Fu</i>	E M2255i	A soldier in the army of a mysterious emperor decides to seek enlightenment elsewhere. This book was, according to multiple sources, one of the best to be published last year.
Adilifu Nama	<i>Super Black: American Pop Culture and Black Superheroes</i>	700.452 Nam	It's not a graphic novel or a comic. Instead it's about them.
Eric Powell	<i>Chimichanga</i>	E P8712c	Extended review below.
Yoichi Yokoyama	<i>Garden</i>	E Y77g	Like many manga and anime, this story plays with images of seeking utopia and dystopia. Translated from the original Japanese by Tara Nettleton with Ryan Holmberg.

Memoir/Biography

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
John Patton Davies, Jr.	<i>China Hand: An Autobiography</i>	327.2092 Dav	Davies was an American diplomat and Medal of Freedom recipient.
Leah Kaminsky (ed.)	<i>Writer M. D.: The Best Contemporary Fiction and Nonfiction by Doctors</i>	610.922 Wri	Not exclusively memoir, but this category is probably the best fit for a book like this.
Donald E. Pease	<i>Theodor Seuss Geisel</i>	813.52 Seu-P	It's about Doctor Seuss, do you really need more information than that?
Alexander Theroux	<i>The Strange Case of Edward Gorey</i>	741.092 Gor-T	This examines the life of one of my favorite authors/illustrators.

Nonfiction

Author	Title	Call #	Comments
Glenn Feldman (ed.)	<i>Painting Dixie Red: When, Where, Why, and How the South Became Republican</i>	324.273409 Pai	Gathers essays that examine the political trends of the last fifty years.
Mary McAuliffe	<i>Dawn of the Belle Époque: The Paris of Monet, Bernhardt, Eiffel, Debussy, Clemenceau, and Their Friends</i>	944.36081 Mca	Exactly what you'd expect from the title.

Charlotte Pence (ed.)	<i>The Poetics of American Song Lyrics</i>	782.4216402 Poe	This collection covers a variety of topics, ranging from the general ("Similarities and Differences Between Song Lyrics and Poetry") to the specific ("The Triumph of Icarus: Sam Cooke and the Creative Spirit").
Robert Smith? (ed.)	<i>Braaaaiinnss!: From Academics to Zombies</i>	398.21 Bra	The only theme that runs through this book is zombies. Other than that, the chapters range from feminist theory to mathematical modeling and beyond. (By the way, I'm not unsure about his last name. He has a question mark everywhere you see his last name.)
Peter Thompson	<i>Seeds, Sex, and Civilization: How the Hidden Life of Plants Has Shaped Our World</i>	631.521 Tho	Agricultural history and how it intersects with cultural history.

Awards

Award	Details	Comments
Nebula Awards (science fiction & fantasy)	Here are the nominees . The winners will be announced later this month.	We have lots of the nominees. Let me know if you want me to order anything that we don't already have.

Obituaries

Maurice Sendak, 83	Details can be found at the Washington Post's website. I'm too sad about this to say anything else.
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Featured Review

***Chimichanga*, written and illustrated by Eric Powell, published in 2011 by Dark Horse Comics.**

Eric Powell is best known as the creator of [The Goon](#). Sure, I've enjoyed what I have read of that series, but I am absolutely infatuated with *Chimichanga*. Let me tell you why...

First, there are the performers in the circus. (Oops... I forgot to mention that most of the story takes place in a run-down, traveling circus, didn't I?) There's Randy, "the man with the strength of a slightly larger man," and Horace is "the man that once saw Elvis." Then there's Gene, "the indifferent clown," and Sasha, "the girl who can roller-skate slowly." With such mediocre acts, I'm sure you're not surprised that this circus isn't financially solvent. Of course, there is one act that's more exciting: a bearded lady. Well, little girl is a more appropriate description for Lula, but she does have a glorious beard despite her youth. Even still, that's not enough of an attraction for an entire circus to make money. That all changes shortly after the story begins, when Lula trades a snip of her beard to a witch in exchange for a little red wagon and a shiny rock. That rock turns out to be an egg. The egg hatches, and out springs a sweetie of an alien/devil/monster that Lula names after her favorite food: Chimichanga. And that's just the start of the story.

I know what you're thinking, and you're absolutely right: this book *is* strange sounding. Delightfully so. Even better, the illustrations enhance this strangeness. The characters are all drawn in such a way as to pass through "ugly" and come all the way around to "cute" again. Then there's Powell's use of color which is exactly what you'd want - skillful shading, brighter colors in happy passages, darker in sad ones, and so on. Further, the author/illustrator truly understands how to play with the spaces and pacing between panels, leaving just enough to the reader's imagination without being confusing. This book is a great example of the kind of story that would suffer in any other format, the kind of story that needs to be told with sequential art. If you haven't yet given into my graphic novel proselytizing, I'm hoping that this odd and darling little book will finally change your mind.

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 clock tower with the rest of the fiction collection, under [F P8712c](#).

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