

BiblioBites

DeSoto County Library

January 2024

Volume 13, Issue 1



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|------------------------------|---|
| Inside this issue: | |
| Publishers Weekly | 2 |
| Liz likes | 2 |
| Bookmarked by Jolaine | 2 |
| Robert recommends | 3 |
| Choice for children by Tonya | 3 |
| Fran Recommends | 3 |
| Editor's Choice by Reagan | 4 |
| DCLA Update | 4 |
| Library Info | 4 |
| Calendar | 5 |
| Children's Wing Calendar | 6 |

Director's note

Dear Folks,

As our minds turn toward a new year, let's enter 2024 with a zest for life. Personally, I am looking forward to all the great things and schemes our staff has up their sleeves for the coming year. It brings such joy to see our fantastic staff find new and exciting ways to challenge the best patrons anywhere.

Have you considered challenging yourself to read more in '24? Find a reading challenge online or stop in and pick up a paper copy. We have several different possibilities that might suit your reading style (or maybe push you out of your comfort zone just a little).

Our goal for the DeSoto County Library is to be the best library around and serve your needs to the best of our ability. Help us help you.

Happy New Year!

Come see us.

Linda

Linda recommends

What I Wish I Read in 23

In looking over some of the "Best of 2023" lists, I thought I would share some of remarkable books I missed.



Publishers Weekly
Bestseller Lists
December 29, 2023

FICTION

1. *Forth Wing* by Rebecca Yarros
2. *Iron Flame* by Rebecca Yarros
3. *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store* by James McBride
4. *The Exchange: After the Firm* by James Grisham
5. *The Little Liar* by Mitch Albom
6. *Holly* by Stephen King
7. *Cross Out: An Alex Cross Thriller* by James Patterson
8. *Forth Wing (Special Edition)* by Rebecca Yarros
9. *The Edge* by David Baldacci
10. *Tom Lake* by Ann Patchett

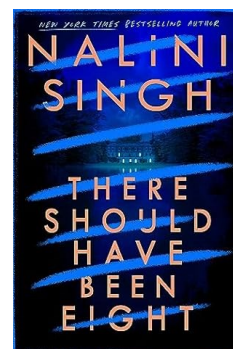
NON-FICTION

1. *Oath and Honor: A Memoir and a Warning* by Liz Cheney
2. *The Woman in Me* by Britney Spears
3. *The Wager: A Tale of Shipwreck, Mutiny, and Murder* by David Grann
4. *Guinness World Records 2024* by Guinness World Records
5. *My Name Is Barbra* by Barbra Streisand
6. *Snoop Dogg Presents Goon with the Spoon* by Snoop Dogg & Earl "E-40" Stevens
7. *The Creative ACT: A Way of Being* by Rick Rubin
8. *The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Dinner's Ready* by Ree Drummond
9. *Baking Yesteryear: The Best Recipes from the 1990s to the 1980s* by B Dylan Hollis
10. *The Great Disappearance: 31 Ways to Be Rapture Ready* by David Jeremiah

Liz likes—Liz Coronado

- Seven friends.*
One last weekend.
A mansion half in ruins.
No room for lies.
Someone is going to confess.
Because there should have been eight. . . .

***There Should've Been Eight* by Nalini Singh** is a stand-alone mystery thriller. The story revolves around 8 best friends as teenagers, now adults. The group decides to gather at Darcie's crumbling family estate to reminisce about the one they lost 9 years ago. This book is entirely told in Luna's perspective. With the group slowly falling apart, Darcie (Bea's older sister) got them all to gather at the estate to reminisce and try and heal their grief. Bea the one who died all those years ago, was Luna's best friend, and she wanted to get more answers about why Darcie buried Bea in secret. Luna's grief over the loss of Bea pervades her psyche; she has a lot of unanswered questions concerning the young woman's death. The weather turns deadly trapping them all while mishaps and accidents continue happening to the group. They are cut off from all outside forms of communication in this wild and remote location. About 2/3 into the book you will start questioning everything we've been told. It took a little to get into it, getting to know the characters and history, but as soon as strange things started happening, I was hooked! There were a couple of surprises as all is revealed, but I'm still thinking about the story!



Bookmarked—Jolaine Konstantinidis

Before **Rosamunde Pilcher** died in 2019 at the age of 94 she had written 18 novels under her own name and 10 under the pen name Jane Frazer when she was younger. I have read all that are available at the library, but chose to review her last novel, ***Winter Solstice*** (2000) because it is timely, set days before the Christmas holiday. It is rich with descriptions of setting and character that Pilcher is best known for. The story takes place at a Scottish country estate where five individuals of very different backgrounds and stages in their lives come together on the shortest day of the year amidst a tragedy. In her usual fashion, the author appeals to the reader's sense of compassion when drawn into the portraits created of the daily lives of the characters who come to know each other and understand themselves better.

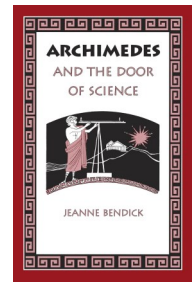
If you enjoy ***Winter Solstice***, you might also read Pilcher's earlier works. *Shell Seekers*, written in 1987 was a best seller that was also adapted into film for television. The titles *Snow in April* (1972), *The End of Summer* (1971) and *September* (1990) demonstrate Pilcher's love for the seasons that she magically depicts in her stories. When she was writing for *Good Housekeeping Magazine* in the 1950s illustrators and page designers were so inspired by her writing that their artwork was award winning. They believed, "the talent of the author's words evoked the talent in the artists' hands." If you like short stories you might also enjoy *The Blue Bedroom and Other Stories* (1985). My favorite story in this collection is "Home for the Day," a delightful and quite humorous tale contrasting the day in the life of a businessman and his perceptions of his stay-at-home wife.



Robert recommends—Robert Andres

Did you ever wonder how the ancient Greeks figured out so many things - about how boats float and levers work? Well, the *Door of Science* is a small quick read by **Jeanne Bendick** that shows how asking one question leads to another. And who and how the layers of the mystery of physics and geometry were first picked at by Archimedes, Euclid and their friends.

A delightful light literary snack!



Choice for children—Tonya Bordner

I was recently inspired by a one year old, who comes to our Toddler Time, to go on a book hunt. **Max loves music**, and he has the hair, swag, and smile to be the lead guitarist of any band. He has a mission when he crosses the library's Children's Activity Room threshold. "Drum," he politely requests. He humors me and his parents and participates in our Toddler Time routines. He'll roll the ball, sing a song, listen to the story, participate in the hands-on activity, but every now and then he asks for the drum.

And, boy does he **light up** when the instruments come out. After seeing a photograph of him strumming a guitar bigger than him, I imagined him to one day be on the cover of Rolling Stones. That sent me on a book hunt that we could tell with music.

Very quickly, ***Going On a Bear Hunt*** by **Michael Rosen** and illustrated by **Helen Oxenbury**, came to mind from my elementary school teaching days. The **lyrical, predictable text** takes the reader through tall grass, a river and the such, ending in a dark cave, where you guessed it, they find a bear. The book includes **rhythm** and **onomatopoeia** making it a perfect fit for any child, especially ones like Max who love a good beat.

This book review is to encourage caregivers to seek out **books** that fit your **child's interests**. If they appreciate a beat, go for **poetry** or a book that repeats and add your own sounds to it. You can use instruments, homemade instruments, your hands, anything that makes noise to accompany the text to make it an **interactive experience**.

On a related note, if you have a preschooler, come by the library for Toddler Time at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesdays. We read stories, sing songs, color, explore early literacy skills, socialize and generally have a good time. I will warn you though sometimes we get loud and other times.....we go on a gator hunt! You see, not only did I customize the Toddler Time for Max, I wrote a DeSoto County version of the book just for us!

We're Going on a Bear Hunt

Michael Rosen Helen Oxenbury

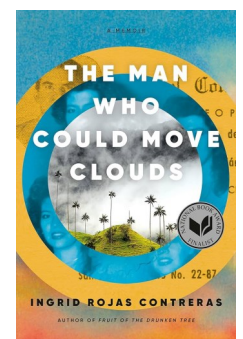


National Bestseller—More Than One Million Copies Sold!

Fran Recommends –by Fran Kovach

Occasionally, one craves a fresh narrative. In ***The Man Who Could Move Clouds***, a memoir by Ingrid **Rojas Contreras** the author embarks on a journey to reconnect with her Columbian roots accompanying her mother, Mami, to Columbia to reinter her grandfather, Nono, a revered curandero. A curandero is a traditional healer or folk healer in Hispanic America, often using herbal remedies, spiritual rituals, and indigenous practices to address physical and spiritual ailments. Several aunts and uncles took part in orchestrating Nono's disinterment, diligently executing a strategy to gather funds. Ingrid contributed by selling numerous personal items from the apartment. Following Nono's disinterment, the remains underwent cremation.

In a twist of fate, both Ingrid and Mami found themselves grappling with amnesia. This serendipitous event was just one among the many coincidences woven into their lives. The family stood divided, debating whether the gifts bestowed upon them were blessings or curses. Ingrid searched the archival records to discover Indigenous and Spanish ancestors. Chapters were devoted to exploring the therapeutic, mystical, and reflective aspects of water and the importance of dreams.



Friends of DeSoto
County Library
Association
P O Box 444
Arcadia, FL 34265

DeSoto County Library
125 N Hillsborough Ave
Arcadia FL 34266
www.myhlc.org/des
Phone: 863-993-4851

Linda Waters, Library
Director
E-mail:
LindaW@myhlc.org

Reagan Bordner,
Newsletter Editor
reagan@myhlc.com

Friends email:
deslibassoc@gmail.com



DeSoto County Public
Library is partially
funded through a grant
from Florida Department
of State.

LIBRARY HOURS
Tuesday & Thursday:
9:00—6:00
Wednesday & Friday
8:30—6:00
Saturday:
9:00-2:30
Closed Sunday and Monday



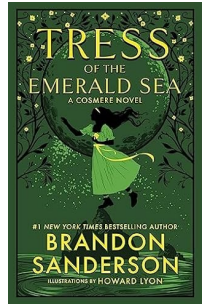
Editor’s Choice—Reagan Bordner

Tress has never left her Island set in the Emerald Sea, and she has no intention of ever leaving. That is until her friend Charlie becomes captured at sea and Tress knows no one else is going to save him. Her journey takes her across the Emerald Sea, from Islands to Pirate Ships.

The main thing I liked about *Tress of the Emerald Sea* was the world itself. It was a very interesting and creative environment that I have not really seen in other books I have read before. There are some serious parts in this book, but I thought that the overall vibe of the book was lighthearted and a little silly. It’s narrated by one of the characters who often interjects the story to give a humorous quip here and there.

I didn’t know much about this book or **Brandon Sanderson** going in, but a lot of people say that the writing style used in *Tress of the Emerald sea* was different from what Sanderson would usually use. They would also recommend reading some of the other books in his *Cosmere* series first, though this could be read as a standalone, which is what I did.

There are many books I am looking forward to being released this year and I hope to share my thoughts on them when the time comes. Keep Reading and Happy New Year!



DCLA Update—by Elizabeth, VP

Hello, Everybody.

Next Year Already! Hope you had a joyful Christmas and a restful January 1st. The Board provided funds to purchase seventy gingerbread man cookies, which the children decorated at the Library Christmas party. Bring any of your gently used book donations to the Library between Tuesday the 23rd and Friday the 26th, for our annual book sale Saturday January 27th. This is our fundraiser for the Library’s Summer Reading Program.

Happy New Year!

January

DeSoto County Library

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|--|---|---|--|--|
| | 1  | 2 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 STEAM for Kids | 3 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art | 4 9:00 @ ARC 2:00 Internet Basics 3:00 Cybersecurity 3:30 Storytime for kids | 5 | 6 11:00 Game day |
| 7 | 8 | 9 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 Storytime for Kids | 10 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art | 11 9:00 @ ARC 10:30 Adult Crafting 2:00 Android Basics 3:00 Email 3:30 Kids STEAM | 12  4:00 Teen Activity | 13 11:00 Craft-a-Palooza |
| 14  | 15 | 16 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 STEAM for kids  | 17 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art | 18 9:00 @ ARC 9:30 Adult Crafting 2:00 Zoom Basics 3:00 Windows 10 3:30 Kids' Storytime | 19 1:00 Movie for adults  3:30 Photography Group | 20 11:00 Kid's Movie Day  |
| 21 | 22 | 23 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 Storytime for Kids | 24 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art | 25 9:00 @ ARC 3:30 STEAM for Kids | 26 | 27 11:00 Kid's Snow Day Book Party Friends' Book Sale |
| 28 | 29 | 30 8:00 Walk & Talk 9:00 ARC 3:30 STEAM | 31 10:00 Grace's group 10:30 Toddler Time 11:00 Book Group 3:30 Kids' Art | <p><i>DeSoto County Library</i> <i>125 N Hillsborough</i> <i>863.993.4851</i></p> <p>Partially funded through FL Dept of State grants</p> | | |

Open to our patrons:
 Tuesday & Thursday: 9:00—6:00
 Wednesday & Friday 8:30—6:00
 Saturday: 9:00-2:30



DeSoto County Library

125 N. Hillsborough Ave.
Arcadia, FL 34266

Children's Activities

JANUARY

2024

T&Th: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
W&F: 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

| SUN | MON | TUE | WED | THU | FRI | SAT |
|-----|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| 31 | 1 <i>Happy New Year</i> | 2 STEAM 3:30 p.m. | 3 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m. | 4 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m. | 5 | 6 GAME DAY 11 A.M. |
| 7 | 8 | 9 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m. | 10 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m. | 11 STEAM 3:30 p.m. | 12 TEEN PROGRAM 4:00 p.m. | 13 Craft a'Palooza 11 A.M. |
| 14 | 15 MLK Jr Day | 16 STEAM 3:30 p.m. | 17 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m. | 18 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m. | 19 | 20 MOVIE 11 AM |
| 21 | 22 | 23 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m. | 24 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m. | 25 STEAM 3:30 p.m. | 26 | 27 SNOW DAY P.J. & book party |
| 28 | 29 | 30 STEAM 3:30 p.m. | 31 Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m. | 1 | 2 | 3 |



Help Us Choose Some Of Our Next Teen Programs!

VOTE ON WHAT YOU WANT TO SEE AS ONE OF THE NEXT TEEN PROGRAMS BY **SCANNING THE QR CODE** AND FILLING OUT THE GOOGLE FORM!

