Murder mystery books popular

JoAnne Sunderman
•Library Link

Not all the new books arriving at Pioneer Memorial Library are murder mysteries, although it does seem that these are still among the most popular genre for people, not only in Colby, but across the United States.

When you look at the *New York Times Best Seller List*, the mysteries outweigh all the others. Still, I have noticed that they are not as overwhelmingly popular as they were a few years ago and a few others are creeping in. I will spotlight some of those in this column.

If you have been waiting for Nora Roberts to publish a new book, you are in luck. *Midnight Bayou*, another historical romantic suspense story for which she is famous, is on the shelf waiting to be checked out. The Queen of Romance seems to be in peak form this time she even throws in a contemporary ghost story along with the romance.

Here's a peek at the plot: Declan Fitzgerald discovers that a dilapidated mansion on the bayou is for sale and he leaves his successful law practice and moves in to renovate, restore and redecorate. A local bar owner named Lena fascinates him from the minute he lays eyes on her.

He always thought he was incapable of real romance, but now he surprisingly sees himself falling head over heels for her.

The rest of *Midnight Bayou* has twists and turns and sightings, and even ghosts who lived in the mansion 100 years ago. Declan has more to worry about than just falling in love, he'd better start worrying about his sanity.

Another non-mystery choice would be *Peace Like A River* by Leif Enger which is causing a lot of stir these days, often being compared to *Cold Mountain* that was so popular just a few years ago.

Both novels, they say, seem to have come out of nowhere and arrived fully formed and alive. The story is set in the Midwest in 1962 and is an account of events that occurred when narrator Reuben Land was 11 years old.

As a boy, Reuben was so severely afflicted by asthma that he was unable to draw breath at birth and was only saved by his miracle-performing father. As the story unfolds, Reuben's older brother Davy gets caught up in a feud with two small-town bullies, is charged and tried for murdering them, and when it seems the verdict will surely go against him, he escapes for parts unknown.

Reuben, his father and his younger sister Swede set out in their Airstream trailer to find him. On the way each will learn a lot about sacrifice, redemption, and faith. *Peace Like A River* is this author's debut novel.

Finally, if you became a fan of Pat Devoto after reading *My Last Days As Roy Rogers*, then you will be glad to know that her second novel *Out Of The Night That Covers Me* has arrived and is ready for check out.

In the first book, we met young precocious John McMillan III, whose mother kept him in the basement all one summer due to the polio scare — she supplied him with every toy known to man and he was quite comfortable with life, for it was cool down there, he had wonderful toys and books, and he was out of harm's way.

Then his mother unexpectedly died and he was sent to live with his Aunt Nelda, whose family was poor and lived on a run-down tenant farm in the heart of the Alabama Black Belt. His life changed completely when he was forced to work in the cotton fields for his abusive, alcoholic uncle. Luckily a prominent banker and his wife see what is happening to John and come to his rescue.

Out Of The Night That Covers Me is a remarkable fight for survival with constant dreams of escape. It is also the story of brutal confrontations between blacks and whites, foreshadowing the historic struggle about to sweep the country in the late 1950s. In my opinion, this is a great book to read and I am a devoted fan of this author.

For information call the library at 462-4470. We look forward to serving you.

From The Nursery

Jordyn Marie Lowrie

Josh and Jamie Lowrie, Oakley, announce the birth of Jordyn Marie on Jan. 19, 2002, at Citizens Medical Center, Colby. She weighed 8 lbs.

Grandparents are Steve Lowrie, Ark City; Bruce and Sheila Ingmire, Hays; and Chris and Sue Mountain, Viola.

Landee Li Kistler

Steve and Sally Kistler announce the adoption of their daughter, Landee Li Kistler, age 20 months.

Landee was born in the city of Yulin, Shaan Xi province, China. Steve and Sally flew to the Provincial capital, Xian in November for her adoption.

Grandparents are Ernest and Anita Kistler of Colby, and Vivian Wade of Hoxie, and the late John Wade.

Sisters Harmony and Haley welcome her home.

COLBY COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Colby Community College will offer English as Second Language (ESL) classes on Tuesday evenings in Colby and Thursday evenings in Rexford from 6-9 p.m. There is no charge for these classes. For more information contact Joyce Washburn at 785-462-3984, Ext. 267.

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For further information contact: Donna Northrup or Todd Allen in Leoti, Kansas: 620-375-2255 or Farrin Watt in Amarillo, Texas: 806-371-3726.
Also, please contact Farrin Watt for your farm stored dry corn marketing needs.

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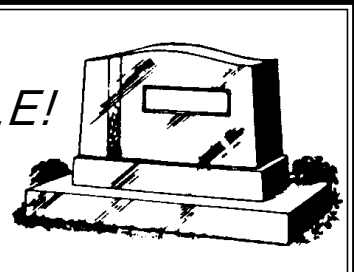

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