

Checking out what hasn't been check out at the library

Periodically, the library goes through a de-selection process where old or unpopular books are taken off the shelves of the library. In a perfect world we would keep every book we could get our hands on. But, for the sake of a good, solid collection, we try to limit our selection to what we think best satisfies the needs of the public.



Jeff Friesen
● Library Link

Occasionally however, a book makes it a few months or even a few years without being checked-out. It makes me wonder what it is about a neglected book that makes it so unappealing. Is it the title, is it a first-time author, is it the way the book looks, is it just simply overlooked, or is it just coincidence? Those were the questions that came to mind when I picked up the book "The Granville Sisters" by Una-Mary Parker.

A name like Una-Mary may give one pause — but once you get past that, everything else about the book is not any more or less extraordinary than the other books on the new book shelf. Since I have not actually read the book, I am going to delegate that duty to some daring soul in the community who will give this book a chance. Whoever that person is, I hope you will give me your opinion on why you think the book has not been checked-out for 8 months and whether you think that the book is being unfairly treated.

Here is a synopsis of The Granville Sisters. A well-to-do

family in pre-WWII England consists of five daughters. As an advantaged family, the father harbors the obligation of making sure that his daughters find suitors that will uphold his family status. Things couldn't go more wrong. His plans are quickly derailed due to the escalating conflict and jealousy between two of his daughters, Rosie and Juliet, a pregnancy scandal involving his daughter Louise, and the contrary opinions and views of his daughter Amanda. With the turmoil surrounding the 4 other sisters, all the hopes of the distraught parents are pinned on their one remaining, "unscandalized" daughter Charlotte.

Eight months without check-outs is not so good, but the book "Aquarius Descending" by Martha Lawrence has an even worse record. It was purchased in February 1999 and has not had a single checkout since then. By the scuffs and smudges on the front cover, one might assume that it has been looked-over more than a couple of times. Again however, there is

something (maybe just coincidence) that has kept this book on the shelf without a check-out.

The storyline of Aquarius Descending centers on a cult in California known as the Bliss Project. Elizabeth, a psychic private investigator, has been asked by her boyfriend to discover the whereabouts of his ex-fiancée. Although initially reluctant, Elizabeth takes the case and decides to infiltrate the Bliss Project with a fake identity.

The Bliss Project is known for being a dangerous and reclusive organization. Rumor has it that one former member was murdered, will Elizabeth be next? Once again, please let me know if this book is being unfairly treated.

And one more book that evidently isn't cutting the mustard is "Mantrapped" by Fay Weldon. The library has five other Fay Weldon novels that have all had a fair amount of circulation. For some reason though, Mantrapped has lingered on the new book shelf unscathed since December 2004. I challenge someone to change that statistic.

The plot line of "Mantrapped" is an age old storyline of a woman caught in a man's body and a man caught in woman's body. A casual bump between two strangers turns

40-year-old Trisha into a Russell Crowe lookalike and Peter into a 40-year-old curvaceous woman. With no escape, both characters are left trying to adjust to their new situation in life. The possibilities of this plot are endless and author Fay Weldon lends more than a touch of her own perspectives and experience to the two characters. Let me know if you like this new twist on an old theme.

Have a great week!
Pioneer Memorial Library is located at 375 W. 4th St. and open seven days a week. Winter hours are as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. For more information contact the Library at 460-4470 or visit our website at www.colbylibrary.com. As always, we are here to serve you.

Tonga fails to receive alert

EWA BEACH, Hawaii (AP) — Minutes after an earthquake struck near the South Pacific nation of Tonga, tsunami warnings began to radiate to countries as far away as Fiji and New Zealand by phone, e-mail and fax.

In the island country closest to the epicenter the news never came.

Though a major tsunami never materialized after Thursday's quake, the communication failure raised troubling questions about the effectiveness of such alerts, which have come under global scrutiny since an earthquake-driven tsunami in the Indian Ocean nearly 18 months ago left at least 216,000 dead or missing.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii said Tonga — a 170-island archipelago about halfway between Australia and Tahiti — failed to receive the warnings because of a power failure. The cause wasn't known. Gerard Fryer, the center's acting director, said changes may be necessary.

"That's something they're going to look at, and we're going to have to work out an additional messaging scheme for them," Fryer said.

There were no reports of injuries from the magnitude-7.9 temblor, which struck about 95 miles south

of Neiafu, Tonga, and 1,340 miles north-northeast of Auckland, New Zealand. Authorities lifted the warnings within two hours.

Tonga is alerted through the World Meteorological Office.

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