

March 2024

ILLUMINATED STACKS

The Official Newsletter of the Stoneham Public Library

Stoneham Public Library

431 Main Street
Stoneham, MA
02180

Adult Services

(781) 438-1324

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9 am - 9 pm

Wed, Fri: 9 am - 5 pm

Sat: 10 am - 2 pm

Children's Services

(781) 438-1325

Mon, Tue, Thu: 9 am - 7 pm

Wed, Fri: 9 am - 5 pm

Sat: 10 am - 2 pm

StonehamLibrary.org

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THE MONTH AT A GLANCE

Tax Forms



Yes! The Stoneham Public Library provides Federal and State forms (with instructions) during “tax season”. If we have run out of copies, please know that we have ordered more. For the time being, please see Maureen at Reference for assistance.

Board of Trustees Meeting

Monday, March 11th @ 7:00 PM

The Stoneham Room

Meetings are held on the second Monday of each month. Members of the public are welcome to attend.



[Click here to learn more about the trustees and view minutes from their past meetings.](#)



Need a notary?

We offer **free notary services** at the Stoneham Public Library!

Mondays | 11 - 12
Thursdays | 6 - 7
Fridays | 11 - 1

Please call ahead or [sign up for an appointment on our Calendar](#).

ADULT PROGRAMS

MONDAY

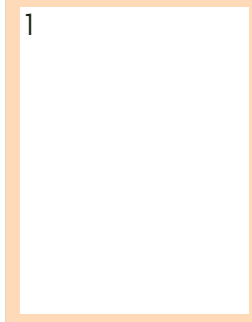
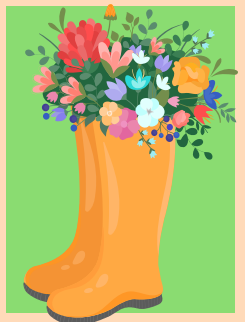
TUESDAY

WEDNESDAY

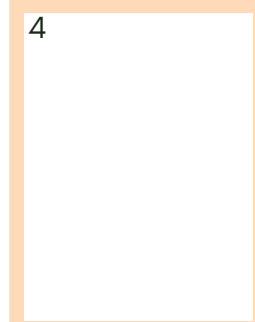
THURSDAY

FRIDAY

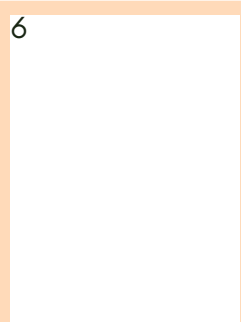
SATURDAY



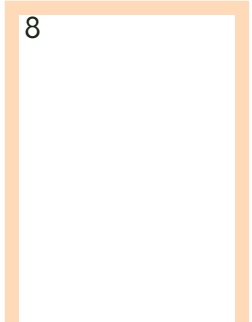
2
Bullet Journal Club for Adults
11 am



5
Creative Writing
11:30 am
History of Feminism in Music
7 pm

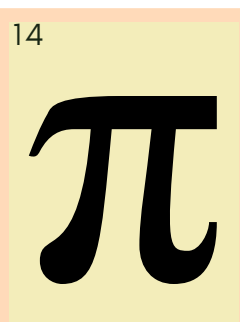
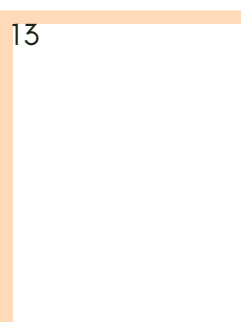


7
Creative Writing
7 pm



11
Monday Movie Night
6 pm

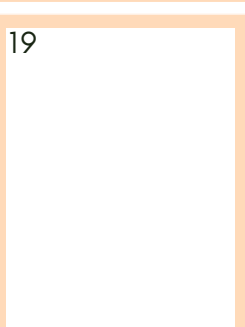
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True Crime w/Chris Daley
7 pm



15
Friday Movie Matinee
1 pm

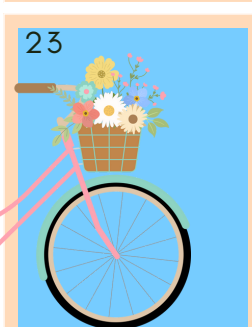
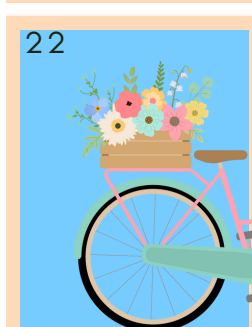
16
Gentle Yoga
10:30 am

18
Frances Perkins: Unsung Hero
7 pm



20
Film Club Discussion
6:30 pm

21
Read It & Eat Book Club
7 pm



25
Monday Night Book Group
7 pm

26
Arty Party
7 pm



28
Queer Reader Book Group
7 pm



30
Saturday Movie Matinee
11am

MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS:

Mondays

Movie Matinee: *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957)

March 11th at 6 pm | The Marcy Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), in which "A veteran British barrister must defend his client in a murder trial that has surprise after surprise."

Directed by: Billy Wilder

Starring: Tyrone Power, Marlene Dietrich, and Charles Laughton

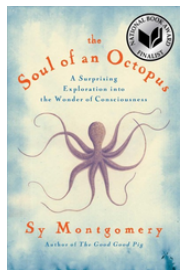
Written by: Agatha Christie, Billy Wilder, Harry Kurnitz



Monday Night Book Group

March 25th at 7 PM | The Stoneham Room

We will read, *The Soul of an Octopus*, a nonfiction book by Sy Montgomery, in March. It is "well written, surprising, with a human (and cephalopod) touch." We are ready to welcome you to the discussion. No registration is required. If you have questions, contact Maureen at saltzman@noblenet.org.



Tuesdays

Creative Writing for Adults

March 5th at 11:30 am | The Stoneham Room

Attendees are invited to bring their own projects to share with the group for critiques. Activities include reading excerpts from established authors, articles about creative writing skills, and writing sessions. All skill levels are welcome. If you are interested, contact Matthew at msowyrda@noblenet.org

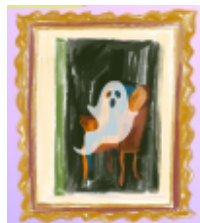


Arty Party

March 26th at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

This is a monthly program for adults 18+ to come hang out and make a craft together. March's craft will be ghost paintings! All supplies are provided.

[Registration is required.](#)



Wednesdays

Film Club Discussion

March 20th at 6:30 pm | Zoom

Join the Film Club to discuss its March selection, *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), in which "A veteran British barrister must defend his client in a murder trial that has surprise after surprise." David will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. Registrations required. To register, and for more information about this program, [click here](#). Check out [Dave's review of the film in the Staff Reviews section of this issue](#).



MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

Thursdays

Creative Writing for Adults

March 7th at 7 Pm | The Stoneham Room

Attendees are invited to bring their own projects to share with the group for critiques. Activities include reading excerpts from established authors, articles about creative writing skills, and writing sessions. All skill levels are welcome. If you are interested, contact Matthew at msowyrda@noblenet.org



Read It & Eat: A Cookbook Club

March 21st at 7 pm | The Marcy Room

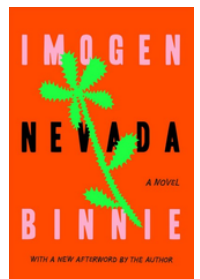
Do you love cooking and trying new recipes? If so, register for "Read It and Eat"! Come by and pick up a copy of the latest title at the main circulation desk. Select a recipe from the book, and cook it to share with the rest of the group! Contact Anna Powers at apowers@noblenet.org. [Registration required.](#)



Queer Reader: An LGBTQ+ Book Club

March 28th at 7 pm | The Stoneham Room

The March book is *Nevada* by Imogen Binnie. For more information about the program and the book, [click here](#). Pick up your copy at the circulation desk! Contact Lily Mysona at (781) 507-2489 or lmysona@noblenet.org. Registration is required.



Fridays

Movie Matinee: *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957)

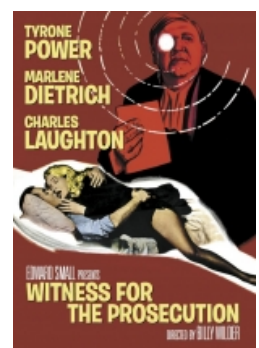
March 15th at 1 pm | The Marcy Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), in which "A veteran British barrister must defend his client in a murder trial that has surprise after surprise."

Directed by: Billy Wilder

Starring: Tyrone Power, Marlene Dietrich, and Charles Laughton

Written by: Agatha Christie, Billy Wilder, Harry Kurnitz



MONTHLY ADULT PROGRAMS CONT.:

Saturdays

March 2nd, at 11 AM | Adult Mezzanine (Upper Floor)

Join us for the Bullet Journal Club for Adults on the first Saturday of each month! We will have stencils, markers, washi tape, and stickers for you to use (supplies are not take home, please leave them at the library). Bring your own journal and imagination! This is a drop-in style program, meaning a staff member will not be leading it. You can come any time between 11 and 1 and the materials will be set out.

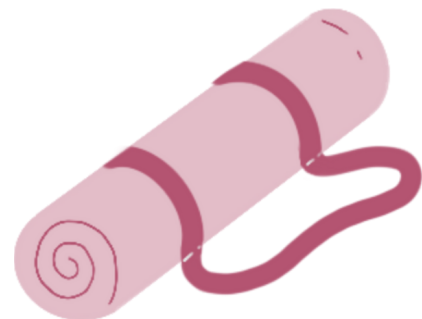


Gentle Yoga

March 16th at 10:30 AM | The Marcy Room

Join us for gentle yoga with Joanna Kent! Joanna has been practicing yoga for five years and became a certified yoga teacher this year. She utilizes yoga to ground herself and strengthen her mental health. Joanna's goal as a yoga teacher is to empower her students to feel good in their mind and bodies. She believes yoga should be accessible to and inclusive for all. Her class includes breathwork, slower paced movements, and lots of relaxation! Please bring your own yoga mat.

[Registration is required as space is extremely limited.](#)



Movie Matinee: Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse

March 30th at 11 AM | The Marcy Room

Join us to watch *Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse* (2023)! "Miles Morales catapults across the multiverse, where he encounters a team of Spider-People charged with protecting its very existence. When the heroes clash on how to handle a new threat, Miles must redefine what it means to be a hero." **No registration required.** All film screenings are free and open to the public. Snacks are provided.

Directed by: Joaquim dos Santos, Kemp Powers, Justin K. Thompson

Starring: Shameik Moore, Hailee Steinfeld, Brian Tyree Henry

Written by: Phil Lord, Christopher Miller, Dave Callahan

Film rating: PG



MARCH 2024

HISTORY OF FEMINISM IN MUSIC WITH JOHN CLARK

Tuesday, March 5th @ 7:00 PM

The Marcy Room



This is a 100-year history (1870-1970) of the music that played a vital part in American women's struggles for equal status and equal rights. It begins in the late 19th and early 20th centuries with the music of women's suffrage and labor strikes.

Next come the early songs of female independence associated with the "flappers" of the Roaring Twenties, like "The Charleston" and "Roll 'Em Girls". And lots more, from World War II's "Rosie the Riveter" to modern feminist anthems like "I'm a Woman" and "I Am Woman".

You'll hear songs by such widely varying artists as the Carter Family, Sophie Tucker, Bessie Smith, Gene Autry, Mimi Fariña, Lesley Gore, Peggy Lee, Barbra Streisand, Nancy Sinatra, Aretha Franklin and even country music pioneers like Kitty Wells, Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn.

This program is brought to you by John Clark and the Great American Music Experience.

No Registration Required

MASS MURDER: MASSACHUSETTS' MOST INFAMOUS MURDER CASES

Tuesday, March 12th at 7 PM
The Marcy Room

Christopher Daley will offer an entertaining and fascinating look at some of Massachusetts' most infamous murder cases, both solved and unsolved. Audiences that like mystery, suspense, and a little blood and gore will love this lecture. It is fully illustrated with photographs and artwork culled from archival, microfilm and literary sources. Many of the murder sites and historical locations have been photographed in order to give the audience a sense of the modern-day context of the crimes.

No registration is required.

Christopher Daley has been speaking all over New England for the past 30 years, and virtually via Zoom throughout the United States for the past two years on historical topics of interest, at libraries, historical societies, schools, and clubs. He is the author of [Murder & Mayhem in Boston: Historic Crimes in the Hub.](#)



FRANCES PERKINS: THE UNSUNG HERO BEHIND THE NEW DEAL

MONDAY, MARCH 18TH @ 7:00 PM

THE MARCY ROOM

Join us for *The Unsung Heroine Behind the New Deal*, an [historical portrayal by Lady J.](#) This program describes Frances Perkins' rocky road to Washington. She was the architect of Social Security, the first female in the US Cabinet, and an object of admiration and contempt from her male colleagues. Frances Perkins was an unstoppable force in advocating safety and justice for working adults, children, and retirees.



Walk with Frances as this Massachusetts native celebrates hard-won victories, ploughs through political quagmires, and finesses gender-related quandaries in her mission to make government an ally of exploited workers and forgotten retirees.

No Registration Required

MARCH

MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY



				1 Baby Bumble 9:30 am	2 Storytime with Serenely Guided Foundation 6pm
4 Crazy Crafts 4 pm	5 Toddler Tumble 10 am Silly Storytime 4 pm	6 Babytime 9:30 am Switch after School 3 pm	7 Toddler Tales 10:30 am	8 Baby Bumble 9:30 am	9
11 Quick Stitch Club 4:30 pm	12 Musical Mornings 10:30 am Silly Storytime 4 pm	13 Babytime 9:30 am Switch after School 3 pm	14 Toddler Tales 10:30 am Kiddo Creations 6 pm	15 Baby Bumble 9:30 am Teen & Tween Craft Collective 3:30 pm	16 Chess Club 10:30 am Lego Club 11 am
18 Crazy Crafts 4 pm	19 Silly Storytime 4 pm Graphic Novel Club 6 pm	20 Babytime 9:30 am Switch after School 3 pm	21 Toddler Tales 10:30 am	22 Baby Bumble 9:30 am	23 Lego Club 11 am
25 Crazy Crafts 4 pm	26 Toddler Tumble 10 am Silly Storytime 4 pm	27 Babytime 9:30 am Switch after School 3 pm	28 Toddler Tales 10:30 am Bullet Journal Club 6 pm	29	30 Lego Club 11 am Crochet Club 12 pm

REMINDER: Please have your snacks before you enter the library. We do not have full time maintenance and we will get bugs from food! Thank you!



weekly:

Mondays

Crazy Crafts at 4pm

Join Miss Melissa for a kooky, creative adventure. **For ages 7+**

Tuesdays

Toddler Tumble at 10 am

We have special toys specifically picked for toddlers that will be available during this program!

Silly Storytime 4pm

Get ready to laugh along to some silly stories with Miss Melissa! **For all ages; intended for ages 1.5-5.**

Wednesdays

Babytime at 9:30 am

Join Miss Katie for a quick, fun babytime program! We'll have bounces, rhymes, and loads of fun! **For babies 0-12mos.**

Switch After School at 3 pm

On Wednesdays at 3, our Switch will be on the tv in the TeenZone. Come play Mario Kart, Mario Party, and more! **For teens and tweens**

Thursdays

Toddler Tales at 10:30 am

Miss Melissa is so excited to welcome our toddler friends to the library for a fun storytime! She'll be sharing some of her favorite stories with you!

Mar. 21st: Kiddo Creations at 6pm

We will have all of the supplies that you need along with a sample for you to see! Katie will be there to walk you through what you are making and to help you along. **All ages welcome, intended for 3-5.**

Fridays

Baby Bumble 9:30 am

This drop-in style program is to encourage our young friends to socialize, play, and communicate with one another. **For babies 11ish months and up.**

Saturdays

Lego Club 11 am

Come build your Lego dreams during this drop in program! Swing by and hang out with us! **For all ages.**



= Sign up Required

monthly:

Quick Stitch Club

Mar. 11th at 4:30pm ✓

Teens and Tweens: Join Deb once a month to learn how to embroider your own hoop! No experience required; she'll help you build your skills!



Musical Mornings

Mar. 12th at 10:30 am ✓

The wonderful Matt Heaton is hosting a monthly musical program!!! Come join us for a morning of movin' and groovin'! **For all ages. Intended for ages 1.5-5.**



Teen & Tween Craft Collective

Mar. 15th at 3:30pm

Visit the TeenZone to create something cool! Each month will be a chance to make something new!

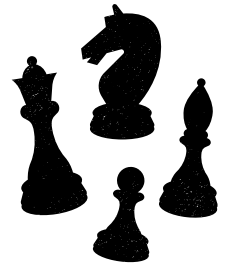


For teens and tweens.

Stoneham Chess Club

Mar. 16th at 10:30am ✓

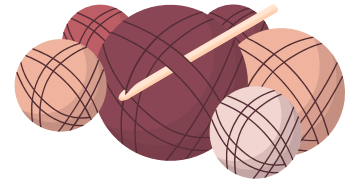
The lovely Murphy family will be hosting a chess club for kiddos of all ages! Join them at the library to learn chess, play chess, and have a wonderful time! Sign up is required so we have an idea of how many kiddos to expect! **All ages welcome; intended for ages 6+**



Crochet Club

Mar. 30th at 12pm ✓

JC, the crochet master, will be here to guide you through crocheting a beautiful creation. No experience necessary; bring supplies if you have them, but if you don't, that is okay!



Grades 4+

Graphic Novel Club

Mar. 19th at 6pm ✓

Join us while we chat about a graphic novel and draw graphic novel panels. Copies are available at the youth services desk. **For teens and tweens.**



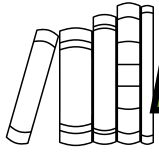
Bullet Journal Club

Mar. 28th at 6pm ✓

Come make a bullet journal with Katie! We'll make a new calendar each month and go over new ideas! Journal and supplies provided. **For teens and tweens.**



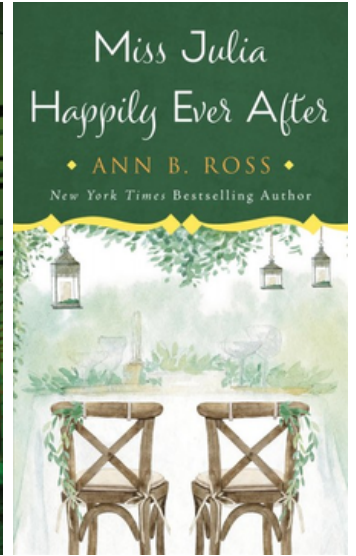
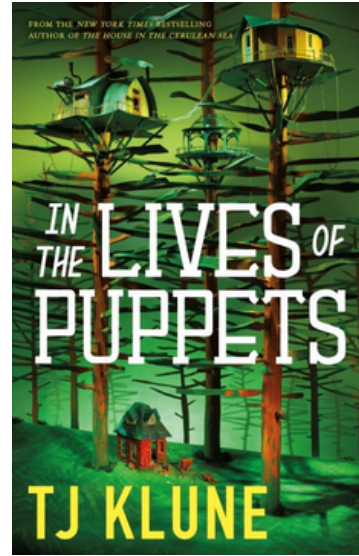
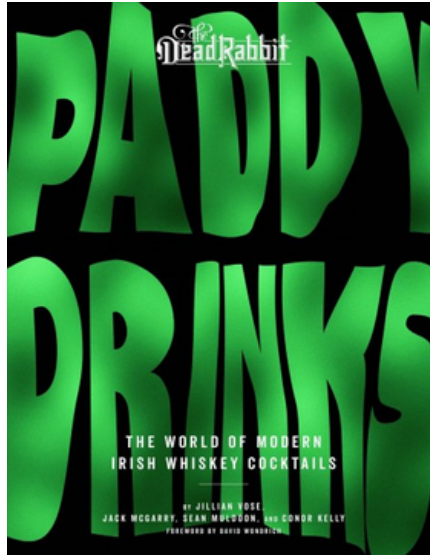
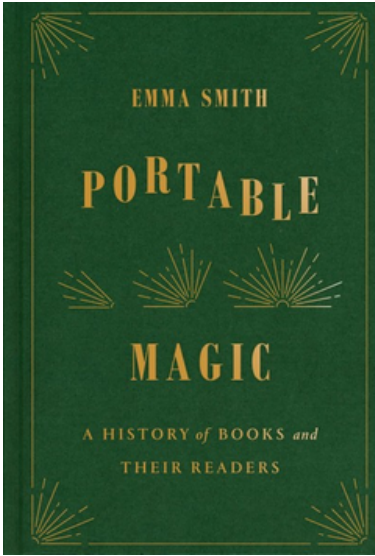
✓ = Sign up Required. Click a logo to register for that program.



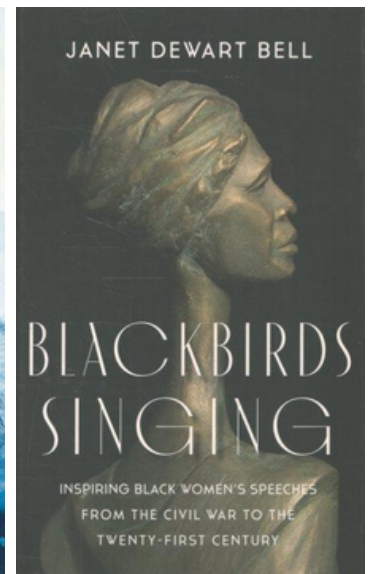
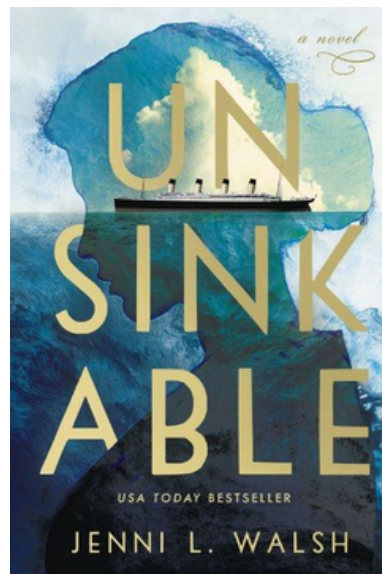
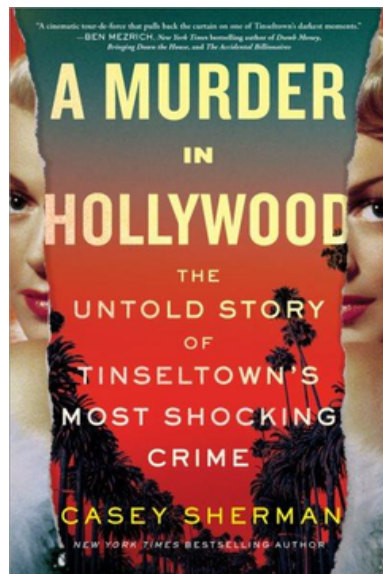
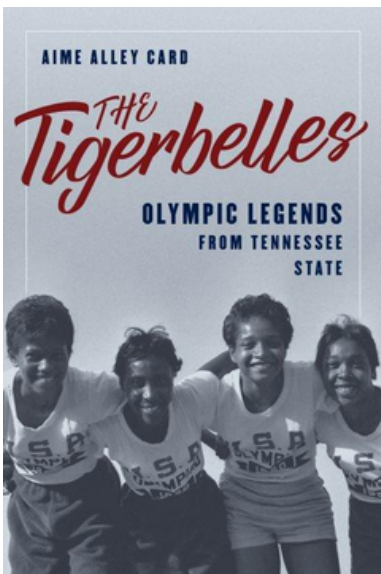
MARCH BOOK LISTS



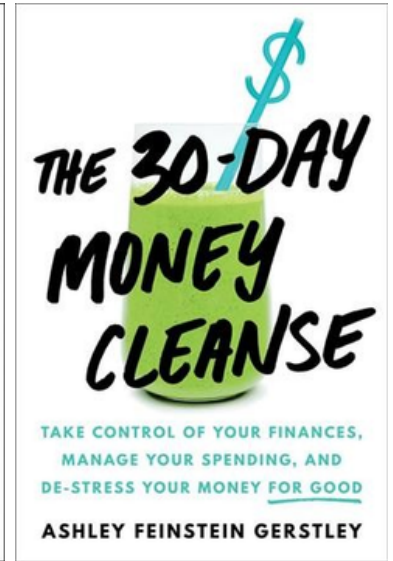
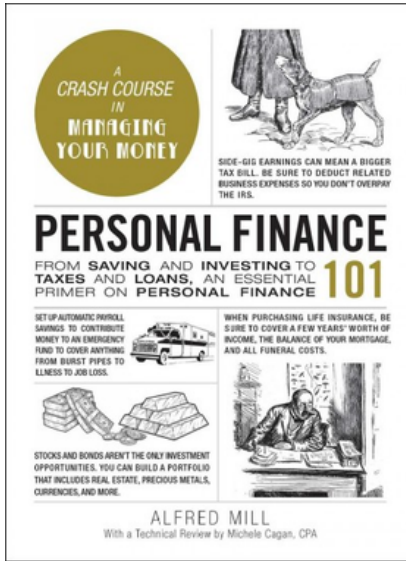
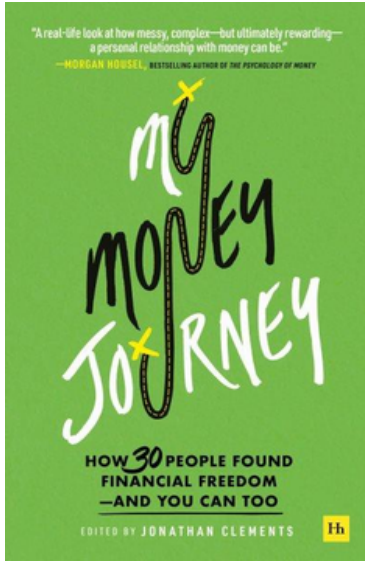
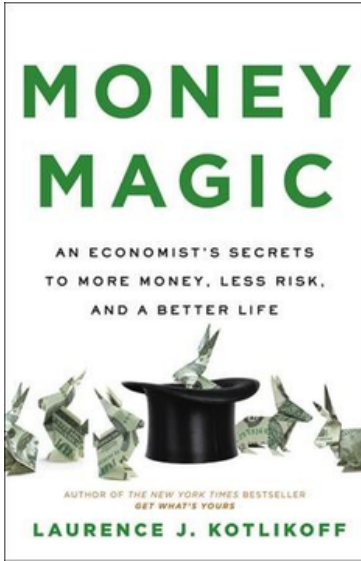
The Wearing of the Green



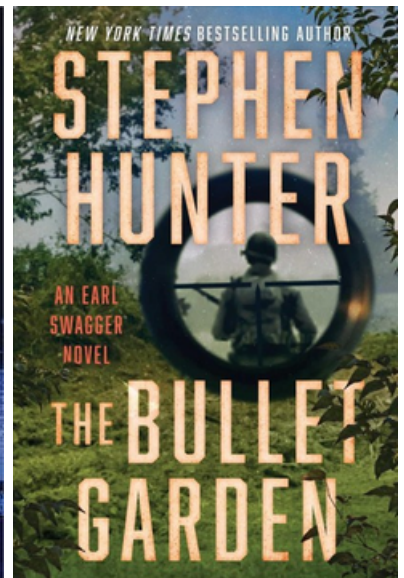
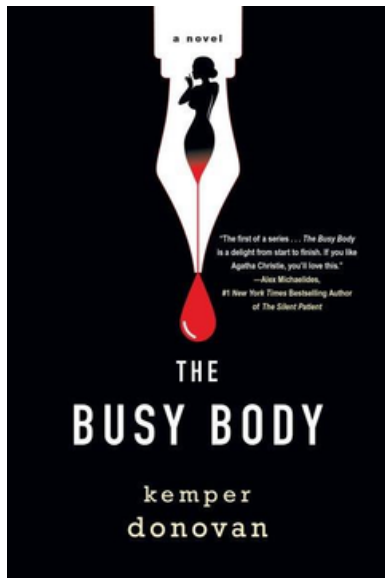
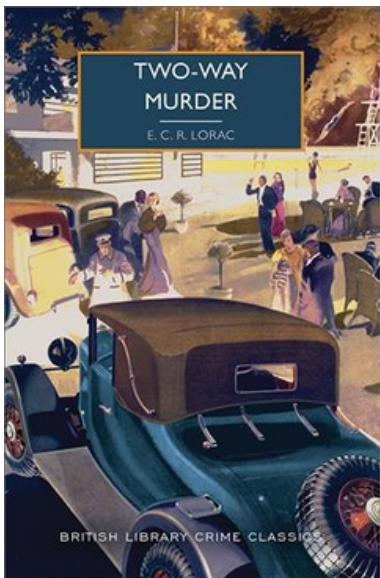
Women's History Month



Taxation Without Celebration



“Beware, the Ides of March”





STAFF REVIEWS

Witness for the Prosecution (1957)

Review | David Huygens

Highly suspenseful, with a generous sprinkling of sophisticated wit, *Witness for the Prosecution* (1957), based on the story by Agatha Christie, is one of writer-director Billy Wilder's best films.

Due to the nature of the tale, it is impossible to reveal too much about it here, beyond the bare bones of the plot. Barrister Sir Wilfrid Robarts (Charles Laughton), who is recovering from a heart attack, agrees to defend charming, perpetually underemployed Leonard Vole (Tyrone Power) despite the objections of Robarts' doctor, who has warned him against taking any criminal cases and has assigned him a businesslike and hovering nurse (Elsa Lanchester).

Vole is accused of murdering Emily French (Norma Varden), a wealthy widow who had named him as the main beneficiary in her will. Circumstantial evidence strongly suggests Vole is the killer, but Sir Wilfrid believes him to be innocent. Vole's wife Christine (Marlene Dietrich) seems strangely detached, but does provide an alibi, albeit a not entirely convincing one. Sir Wilfred is greatly surprised when, during the trial, she is summoned as a witness by the prosecution.

As a narrator intones before the final fade-out, "The management of this theater suggests that, for the greater entertainment of your friends who have not yet seen the picture, you will not divulge to anyone the secret of the ending of *Witness for the Prosecution*." And we would not want to spoil your enjoyment of the film by revealing any more than we already have. This film is a real treat and the performances by Mr. Laughton and the rest of the cast are first rate.



The Hundred Loves of Juliet* by Evelyn Skye*Review | Melissa Jackson**

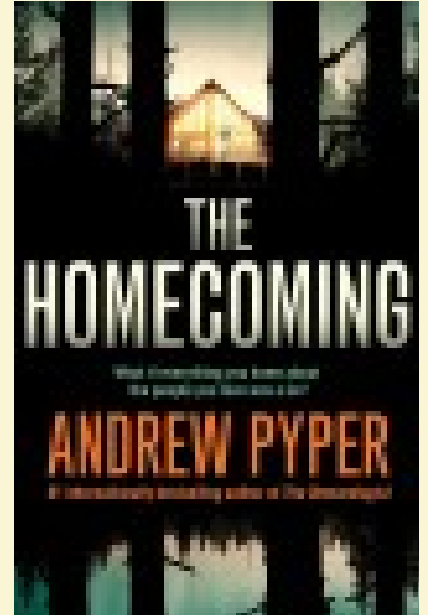
One of my favorite movies is *Somewhere in Time* (1980). Christopher Reeves and Jane Seymour star in this epic romance about a young playwright who falls in love with the woman he sees in an 80 year old picture, hanging in the lobby of the hotel where he is staying. He is so enraptured with this woman that he actually finds a way to go back in time to find her. The movie is a real tear jerker and I loved it! The idea that love transcends time and that your true love can exist across time and space is a powerful one. It is a theme explored quite wonderfully in Evelyn Skye's novel, *The Hundred Loves of Juliet*.



Using a dual narrative quite successfully, we discover that Helene and Sebastien are in fact the reincarnation of Romeo and Juliet, and have run into each other again and again in other reincarnations - this time in Alaska. Helene has left a disastrous marriage and Sebastien is a crab fisherman. When Helene first encounters Sebastien, she is shocked to see the personification of the man she has imagined and written about since the 8th grade! How could her imaginary guy actually be here in person? When Sebastien sees Helene, he panics; Juliet has found him again! He must get away from her before the curse falls again, dooming her to die as all the other Juliets have. However, Helene has other ideas; she walks over and says, " I know you". In response, Sebastien is abominably rude. Will fate give them a break? Will these star-crossed lovers find a happy ending after all this time? Will the curse bring its awful fate? Find out in this terrific read!

***The Homecoming* by Andrew Pyper**
Review | Matthew Sowyrda

On the surface, Andrew Pyper's novel, *The Homecoming*, has a simple plot. Raymond Quinlan has just passed away, taking to the grave the vault of secrets that was his enigmatic existence. The surviving Quinlans are puzzled as to why they have been summoned to Belfountain, a heavily forested property, for the reading of the will. A shock comes to the family when the document's unorthodox demand is revealed: to inherit any money, they must remain on the premises for an entire month. Stalked by a monster in the woods, and plagued by the same cryptic dream, the Quinlans struggle to face their present situation, as well as their respective pasts. In time, they discover the truth about Belfountain, and why they are there.



Firstly, the pacing moves too quickly, which takes away from the brooding atmosphere and heightening suspense that are key elements in a story like this. The narration skips to another scene when a previous one was just developing. Pyper also explains too much to the reader, with regard to character motives. Similarly, he has a tendency to "tell" instead of "show" details, making it difficult for the reader to make inferences and visualize the world that the author has created. These problems contribute to shallow characters, which blunted the feel-good ending. Lastly, Pyper uses an excessive amount of what I can only call broken sentences, which cuts up the flow of thought. I would say that that kind of writing is better suited to verse than to prose.

I think the story is somewhat engaging, at least, up to a certain point. Although there are surprising "half-twists" and "full twists", the plot becomes convoluted. After a while, it takes on what seem to be elements of science fiction, as well as some of the outlandish motifs that characterize the stories of Stephen King, particularly the shared dream experience (*The Stand*). Overall, Pyper's style seems to be geared towards readers who like fast-paced, character-driven narratives with constant action.