

October 2025

Illuminated Stacks

The official newsletter of the Stoneham Public Library

Stoneham Public Library

431 Main Street Stoneham, MA 02180

Operating hours:

Adult Services | (781) 438-1324

Mon., Thu.: 10 am - 9 pm

Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

Children's Services | (781) 438-1325

Mon., Thu.: 10 am - 7 pm

Tues., Wed., Fri.: 9 am - 5 pm

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[Click here to visit our website!](#)

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"There are more things in
heaven and earth, Horatio,
than are dreamt of in your
philosophy."

-- "Hamlet", William Shakespeare



The Month at a Glance



The Trustees of the Library

Will meet at 7 PM on Monday, October 6th, in the Stoneham Room. A hybrid option is also available. All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment or listen to the proceedings.

If you are interested in view the meeting virtually, use the following link to join: <https://bit.ly/SPLTrustees> or call in at +1 (646) 931-3860.

Meeting ID: 876 9866 6972

Passcode: 823496

[Click here to learn more about our Trustees,](#)
[as well as to view minutes from past meetings.](#)

The Friends of Stoneham Library (FOSL)

Will hold their annual meeting at 9:15 am on Saturday, October 11th, at the Woburn Public Library. Refreshments will be provided!



All members of the public are welcome to attend to comment and listen to the proceedings.

[Click here to learn more about our Friends group,](#)
[and to learn about how you can get more involved.](#)

Closures/Holidays

The Stoneham Public Library will be closed on Monday, October 13th, in observance of Columbus Day, and on Tuesday, October 21st, for a staff meeting.

Library of Things Highlight

Sound+Sleep SE (Special Edition)

Do you have trouble falling asleep? Do you get anxious from watching too many horror movies and true crime shows? Do you like to have background noise while you study? If you answered "Yes" to any or all of these questions, you might want to check out the Sound+Sleep SE, a versatile sound machine from our [Library of Things](#). With this device, you can access nature's soothing songs and other calming sounds to make life a little more relaxing!



Community Board Policy (updated 2025)



Community Bulletin Board Policy

The Stoneham Public library serves as a community gathering place and thus provides a space for local, non-profit institutions to post advertisements *with approval from the library*.

This policy pertains to the library's *Community Bulletin board*, located in the library's entryway. The library provides no guarantee or assurance that space will be available or that they will retain postings for a set period of time.

The *Community bulletin board* may be used for:

- Postings of future educational, social, civic, cultural or recreational activities.
- Postings by nonprofit organizations, groups, agencies or by any federal, state or local government agency providing services.
- Nonpartisan election information, such as provided by the Stoneham Resident Advocacy Delegation (RAD) or by the Secretary of State.
- Information the library is required to post in accordance with the Town Charter and/or By-Laws

The *Community bulletin board* may **not** be used for the following types of information:

- Materials that support or oppose any political candidate, political party or ballot measure
- Materials that support or oppose a specific religious conviction
- Commercial notices, solicitations, business cards, job postings and retail advertising
- Personal notices of items of sale
- Personal solicitations for fundraisers

General Guidelines

- All postings must be approved by the Circulation Supervisor or Director's designee. Any questionable posting will be brought to the attention of the Library Director who will make the final determination of appropriateness within the policy.
- Due to space restraints, it is at the discretion of the Circulation Supervisor, or Director's designee to determine how long a posting for a series of events will remain.
- Postings of any one event will be limited to one (1).
- Postings larger than 8.5×11 will be approved on a case by case basis.
- Inquiries regarding events and activities described on postings must be directed to the sponsors of the event, program, etc. and not to the library staff.

Priority will be given to the Library's non-profit partner, the Friends of Stoneham Library then to community-sponsored postings followed by all others.

*Adapted from Billerica Public Library's policy

Aspen: The New Catalog

If you search for and request items through [our online catalogue](#), you may have noticed a big difference! As of September 2025, the old Evergreen interface has been replaced with a new system called Aspen. The reasons for this change are to: highlight the library's physical and digital collections

using curated lists, provide faster, more convenient search functions, and consolidate your borrows from the physical library with electronic items from [Hoopla](#) and [Libby](#).



Adult Services

Wednesdays

Documentary Wow! Discussion

American Experience:

The Hurricane of '38 (1993)

October 15th @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join us as we discuss this month's Documentary Wow! selection, *American Experience: The Hurricane of '38* (1993). [Click here to register for this program.](#)

DOCUMENTARY
WOW!

Film Club Discussion

Key Largo (1948)

October 22nd @ 6:30 pm

Zoom

Join the Film Club to discuss this month's selection, *Key Largo* (1948). Dave will send out the Zoom link on the day of the discussion. [Click here to register for this program.](#)



Thursdays

Chess Club Drop-in

Every Thursday @ 7 pm

The Stoneham Room OR

The Teen Zone OR Glass

Office

This drop-in program is for anyone looking to play chess with others. **There will not be a staff member leading the meeting.** Meetings will take place at 7pm on every Thursday of the month, in the Stoneham Room, the Teen Zone, or the Glass Office. except the Thursday on which Chess Club for Adults is held. While some chess boards will be provided, players are also encouraged to bring their own boards.



No registration required. Age demographic is for individuals who are 18 years or older. See [our calendar](#) or our programming board in the library lobby for each evening's location.

Contact Matthew:
msowyrda@noblenet.org
781-438-1324

Embroidery with YuChin

October 16th @ 7 pm
The Teen Zone



"Embroidery with YuChin" is a monthly workshop held at the Stoneham Library. The 1.5 hour event takes place from 7:00 pm - 8:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month (though the date may change due to holiday or weather conditions). Since its inception in October 2024, many members have found it a source of fun and joy. Beginner and new members are encouraged to join, with hours for new members from 7:45 pm - 8:30 pm. [Registration is recommended.](#)

Age limit: 15 years and older.

Please stop by to learn more about embroidery. Note: Materials are not provided for this program. Do not attend the workshop if you're experiencing any sick symptoms.

The Enchanted Pages Society

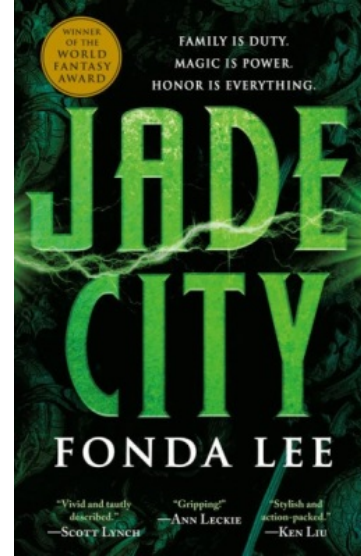
Reads: *Jade City* by Fonda Lee
October 23rd @ 7 pm
The Stoneham Room

Join our most magical book club, The

Enchanted Pages Society, where fantasy lovers unite to explore magical worlds and unforgettable adventures. Dive into spellbinding books, discuss captivating plots, and connect with fellow readers! We meet on the last Thursday of the month! Pick up a copy of this month's title, [*Jade City* by Fonda Lee](#), at the main circulation desk. Registration is encouraged, but not required. People ages 16 and up are welcome.

[Click here to learn more about this title, and to register for this program.](#)

Questions? Contact Anna:
apowers@noblenet.org.



Fridays

Documentary Wow! Screening *American Experience:*

The Hurricane of '38 (1993)

October 3rd @ 1 pm

The Stoneham Room

This month's selection is *American Experience: The Hurricane of '38* (1993).

"Survivors recall the hurricane that devastated Rhode Island and New York's Long Island."

All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required. Due to budget cuts, we can no longer provide snacks. See Dave's review of the documentary in the Staff Reviews section below.

Genres: Documentary, History, Biography

Written by: Michael Epstein, Thomas Lennon

Starring: David McCullough



Friday Movie Matinee

Key Largo (1948)

October 17th @ 1 pm

The Stoneham Room

We will hold a viewing of this month's Film Club choice, *Key Largo* (1948).

"A drifter visits the family hotel of a war buddy who was killed in action only to find that a Chicago mobster and his gang have taken over the place. As a hurricane approaches, a confrontation ensues."

All film screenings are free and open to the public. Registration not required. Due to budget cuts, we will no longer be able to provide snacks.

Rated: Approved

Run Time: 1h 40m

Genres: Drama, Film Noir, Thriller

Directed by: John Huston

Written by: Richard Brooks, John Huston, Maxwell Anderson

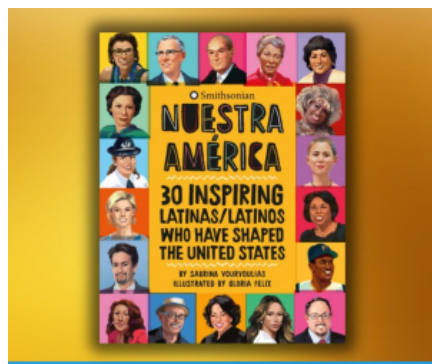
Starring: Humphrey Bogart, Edward G. Robinson, Lauren Bacall



Special Programs

Nuestra América Author Talk

Thursday, October 2nd @ 2 pm (Virtual)*



Smithsonian

Join us in conversation with Smithsonian professionals Adrián Aldaba and Emily Key as they discuss [*Nuestra América*](#) and highlight inspiring stories of Latinos throughout history, as well as their incredible contributions to the cultural, social, and political character of the United States.

The stories in *Nuestra América* cover each figure's cultural background and childhood, and their accomplishments or contributions to American history. A glossary of terms and discussion question-filled reading guide, created by the [National Museum of the American Latino](#), encourages further research and exploration. The museum has featured twenty-three of these stories in its exhibition, "[¡Presente! A Latino History of the United States](#)", the first exhibition to feature U.S. Latino history at the

national level.

Featuring beautifully illustrated portraits by Gloria Félix, this is a book that children (and adults) will page through and learn from again and again. A must have for every school and home library to help students understand the American story!

[Click here to register for the program.](#)

*PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM. See our calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#). You will receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

Author Talk with Leigh Bardugo

Thursday, October 9th @ 7 pm (Virtual)*

Since publishing in 2015, Leigh Bardugo's highly popular [Six of Crows](#) has taken the world of YA literature by storm—and it's not hard to see why. The complex fantasy setting, thoughtfully-structured magic system, and deliciously morally gray characters all collide in a world you won't want to leave and you don't have



to! Join us as we pick the brain of the *New York Times* bestselling author herself, celebrating the release of her *Six of Crows* (The Dregs Edition).

In celebration of its decade-old status, the duology will be rereleased in special Dregs Edition paperback copies featuring beautiful new cover art by Harol Bustos, black stained edges, and updated maps. Whether you're a new reader or a loyal fan, [register today to take part in the adventure!](#)

Leigh Bardugo is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of [The Familiar](#), [Ninth House](#), and the creator of the Grishaverse (now a Netflix original series) which spans the [Shadow and Bone trilogy](#), the *Six of Crows* duology, the [King of Scars](#) duology—and much more. Her short fiction has appeared in multiple anthologies including [The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy](#). She lives

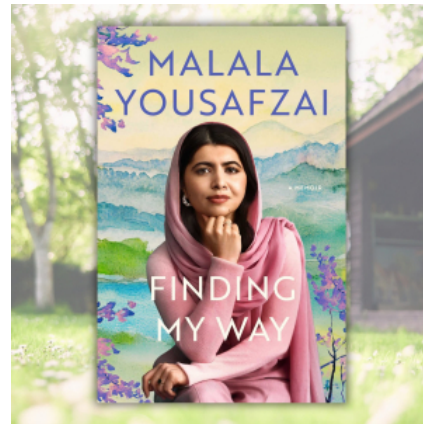
in Los Angeles and is an associate fellow of Pauli Murray College at Yale University.

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Author Talk with Malala Yousafzai

Wednesday, October 22nd @ 7 pm (Virtual)*

Be one of the first to hear from Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Malala Yousafzai about her astonishing memoir, *[Finding My Way](#)*. Malala reintroduces herself to the world, sharing how she navigated life as someone whose darkest moments threatened to define her narrative—while seeking the freedom to find out who she truly is.



Thrust onto the public stage at fifteen years old after the Taliban's brutal attack on her life, Malala Yousafzai quickly became an international icon known for bravery and resilience. But away from the cameras and crowds, she spent years struggling to find her place in an unfamiliar world. *Finding My Way* is a story of friendship and first love, of anxiety and self-discovery, of trying to stay true to yourself when everyone wants to tell you who you are. In it, Malala traces her path from high school loner to reckless college student to a young woman at peace with her past. Through candid, often messy moments like nearly failing exams, getting ghosted, and meeting the love of her life, Malala reminds us that real role models aren't perfect—they're human.

Malala Yousafzai is an education activist, the youngest-ever Nobel laureate, bestselling author, and award-winning film producer. She was born in Mingora, Pakistan, in 1997 and graduated from Oxford University in 2020.

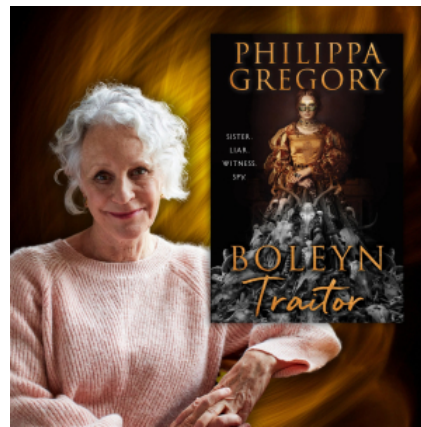
Registration required. [Register and submit author questions here!](#)

*PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM. See our calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#). You will receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

Author Talk with Philippa Gregory

Wednesday, October 29th @ 2 pm (Virtual)*

Coined as the “queen of British historical fiction,” Philippa Gregory returns to the infamous Tudor court with a tale that is both timely and timeless. We invite you to sit down with us for an intriguing conversation with Gregory about her newest novel, [Boleyn Traitor](#) (forthcoming October 14, 2025).



With a rich tapestry of new historical insights and lyrical language honed over decades of writing, Gregory's return to the Tudors is a new definition of this most fascinating era.

Dr. Philippa Gregory is one of the world's foremost historical novelists. She wrote her first ever novel, [Wideacre](#), when she was completing her PhD in eighteenth-century literature and it sold worldwide, heralding a new era for historical fiction. Her flair for blending history and imagination developed into a signature style and Philippa went on to write many bestselling novels, including [The Other Boleyn Girl](#) and [The White Queen](#). Dr. Gregory studied history at the University of Sussex and was awarded a PhD by the University of Edinburgh where she is a Regent and was made Alumna of the Year in 2009. She holds an honorary degree from Teesside University, and is a fellow of the Universities of Sussex and Cardiff. Philippa is a member of the Society of Authors and in 2016, was presented with the Outstanding Contribution to Historical Fiction Award by the Historical Writers' Association. In 2018, she was awarded an Honorary Platinum Award by Nielsen for achieving significant lifetime sales across her entire book

output. In 2021, she was awarded a CBE for services to literature and to her charity Gardens for the Gambia, and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Historical Society.

*PLEASE NOTE THIS IS A VIRTUAL PROGRAM. See our calendar for more details. This program is funded by [the Friends of the Stoneham Library](#). You will receive the link in the confirmation and reminder emails - make sure to check your spam folder for them if they do not appear in your inbox. The email will be coming from Zoom.

Learn How to Play Ukulele Class for Adults

Thursday, October 9th, 16th
and 30th @ 7 pm

The Stoneham Room

Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join [Julie Stepanek](#) as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. No experience necessary. [Borrow a ukulele](#) or bring your own. Handouts provided. For ages 12 and up. Registration is required. Click the hyperlinks below to register for each session:



[October 9th](#) | [October 16th](#) | [October 30th](#)

Youth Services

**The Junior Library
renovation is
starting!**

The Junior Library renovation is finally starting up again!

The Junior Room will be in its new (temporary) location, the Marcy Room until the renovation is complete!

For more information on what led to the renovation, [please visit this page on our website.](#)

To keep up with the progress of the renovation, and for frequently asked questions, [please visit this page on our website.](#)

Monday

Teen Craft & Chat

Monday, October 6th

Teen Zone @ 4:30 pm

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!



Questions? Contact Deb at dwhite@noblenet.org

[Click here to register.](#)

Teen Craft & Chat

October 27th @ 4:30 PM

Teen Zone

Teens (and tweens) Are you embroidering, crocheting, coloring, or journaling? Bring your project to the library and chat with other crafters while you work!



Questions? Contact Deb at dwhite@noblenet.org

Registration is not required, but is [appreciated.](#)

Wednesdays

Toddler Tales

@ 10:30 am on the Library Lawn

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



Due to limited space because of the renovation, Toddler Tales will be on the library lawn! We will cancel if the weather is poor. Sign up to receive email notifications for cancellations! [See our calendar](#) to register for each session.

Questions? Email mjackson@noblenet.org

Thursdays

Learn How to Play Ukulele Class for Kids

Thursdays, October 9th,
16th, and 30th

The Stoneham Room @ 4 pm



Want to try an instrument that is fun and easy to play? Join [Julie Stepanek](#) as she shows the fundamentals of ukulele playing. No experience necessary. [Borrow a ukulele](#) or bring your own. Handouts and small craft provided. **For kids 8-11. Registration required.** Click the hyperlinks below to register for each session:

[October 9th](#) | [October 16th](#) | [October 30th](#)

For children under 10 years old, caregivers (someone at least 14 years old) must stay in the library building for the duration of the program. [For more information, please read our Child Safety Policy.](#)

This program is supported in part by a grant from the [Stoneham](#)

[Cultural Council](#), a local agency which is supported by the [Massachusetts Cultural Council](#), a state agency.

Tween Book Club

Thursday, October 23

Teen Zone @ 6pm



Join us in the teen zone for graphic novel club! Do we talk about the book we pick? Sometimes. Do we chat, color, and have fun? Always! Pick up your copy of the book at the Junior Circulation desk! For tweens . (Grades 4+).

[Sign up required.](#)

Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org

Fridays

Babytime

@ 9:30 am on the Library Lawn

Join Miss Katie for a quick, fun babytime program! We'll have bounces, rhymes, and loads of fun! For babies 0-11mos.



Due to limited space because of the renovation, we'll be meeting on the library lawn! If the weather is poor we'll cancel, so make sure you sign up so you can get notified! [See our calendar](#) to register for each session.

Questions? Email kbardascino@noblenet.org

Book Lists

[Farm-a-C](#)

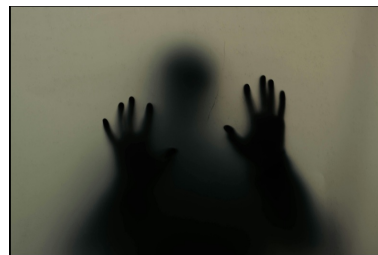
- Agriculture

- Health & Medicine



Truth or Scare

- Real-life paranormal encounters
- Haunted history, parapsychology
- Crime & unsolved mysteries



Staff Reviews

Madame Bovary (1949)

Dave Huygens

Recently I revisited the [1949 MGM version](#) of [Gustave Flaubert's 1856 novel](#), *Madame Bovary*, released by the Warner Archive collection on Blu-ray in 2024. Lana Turner had been MGM's first choice to play Flaubert's tragic heroine. The blonde sex symbol was the studio's biggest box office draw of the time, but she turned the role down, much later saying of the finished film: "And it was a stinker!" But was it? *Madame Bovary* lost money at the box office. But it got good reviews, and the lavish black and white production, directed by Vincente Minnelli and starring Jennifer Jones, Van Heflin, Louis Jourdan and James Mason, is now considered one of the best versions of the novel. The film continues to be re-evaluated, with Jones now frequently cited as perhaps the best of all the actresses who have attempted the role.



Emma, a farmer's daughter, has been raised on "dreams of high romance and impossible love"--based on the unrealistic novels of the time, with their lush illustrations and overwrought emotionalism. She sets her sights on marrying a country doctor, but is quickly frustrated with their provincial life. Discovering an unscrupulous draper who sells her luxurious furniture and clothing, she soon finds herself in debt. When she attends a ball at an estate with her hapless husband, she's the center of attention. It's the highlight of her life--and she begins an affair with

a handsome nobleman she meets there. But reality keeps intruding on Emma's fantasies.

The story has relevance today, with social media presenting an unreal vision of what life should be, setting unattainable goals of impossible lifestyles, beauty, and accomplishments. An absorbing film, gorgeously costumed and photographed, featuring the famous ball sequence with its swirling camera and fast edits bordering on the surreal, *Madame Bovary* builds to a highly dramatic climax in the last half hour, as Emma's life comes crashing down around her and Jennifer Jones evokes amazement, sympathy and pity.

Sketches of Some Seriously Scary Cinematic Selections

Matthew Sowyrda



The McPherson Tape (1989)

On a cold, dark October evening, Michael Van Heese (Dean Alioto) is videotaping his niece's birthday party. The night's events pass smoothly: family fun is had, the lights are turned off, and the candles are blown out with gusto. When the electricity fails to return for the cake-cutting ceremony, Michael and his older brothers, Eric (Tommy Giovacchini) and Jason (Patrick Kelly), are prompted to check the circuit breaker.

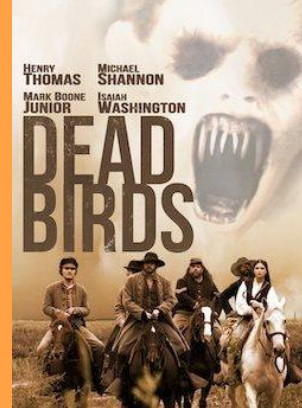
During their attempt to restore power, the men witness a radiant light flash across the sky, and then fall towards the earth some distance away. Trudging through deep brush and up the hills around their heavily wooded house, Michael, Eric, and Jason stumble upon a shocking scene -- three short, humanoid figures exiting what appears to be an alien spacecraft. Frightened, the three brothers rush home, but not quite to safety.

An effectively unnerving "found footage" film, perhaps in spite of the fact that it was made with a meager budget. The roles are acted out naturally; the plot begins in a disarmingly ordinary fashion; and there are no special effects. Low lighting and the lack of a soundtrack create a grave tone, and work to "authenticate" the narrative. Unlike the parody-prone popular culture phenomenon that is *Signs* (2002), *The McPherson Tape* comes across as one of the most realistic extraterrestrial stories out there.

Dead Birds (2004)

In the 1860s, confederate soldiers (Henry

Thomas, Michael Shannon, Isaiah Washington, Nicky Aycox, Mark Boone Junior, Patrick Fugit) rob a bank, murder its clients and staff, then hide from justice in an abandoned farmhouse that stands over a vast cornfield in the backwoods of Alabama. Right away, the group comes across a few oddities, which they explain away in natural terms. But as the night wears on, paranoia sets in, eerie things start to happen, and each member makes disturbing discoveries about the plantation's previous owner. Just when these thieves thought they were free from the long arm of the law, they put themselves into the hand of forces whose power extends above and beyond the legal system -- and the living.



Atmospheric, with startling visual effects, this film is worth saving for a stormy day (or night).



[Triangle \(2009\)](#)

Troubled single mother Jess (Melissa George) joins her good friend Greg (Michael Dorman) and a few acquaintances on Greg's yacht. Some time after putting out to sea, their boat passes through a thick layer of fog, and is assailed by a wall of waves. Once all is calm again, Jess and company float idly on the water until they cross paths with an old, rusty, titanic cruise ship. They board the hulking heap of metal, which appears to be devoid of passengers -- save for an elusive masked figure, who definitely doesn't have their safety in mind.

Saturated with suspense, and spring-loaded with a twist, this psychological mystery is like an horrific version of [Groundhog Day \(1993\)](#) set on the ocean.

[Kill List \(2011\)](#)

Nearly a year after a failed "job" in Kiev, nerve-shot family man Jay (Neil Maskell) -- who's also a hitman -- has entered financial straits. One evening, his best friend, Gal (Michael Smiley), informs him of a lucrative assignment, and urges that they take it on together. As they continue to meet their client's increasingly dangerous demands, the work takes a mental toll on Jay, which causes him and Gal to attempt an escape from this dirty contract. However, they quickly learn that there's no easy way out, and that the mysterious man who hired them has



an ulterior motive concerning the conditions of their employment.

While I generally dislike violent films, *Kill List* is nonetheless illustrative of the horror genre -- unsettling, fear-inducing, and revealing of humanity's dark side. The experience is enjoyable for people who like intense, thrilling plots, in which protagonists just don't know whom to trust. Viewers might pick out certain elements borrowed from such classics as *Rosemary's Baby* (1968) and *The Wicker Man* (1973).



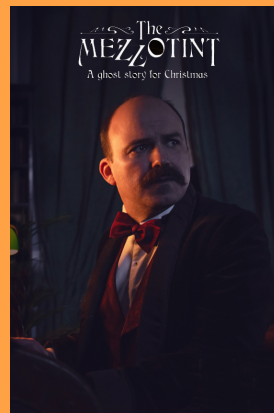
[Lights Out \(2016\)](#)

Based on [the acclaimed short film of the same name](#) (available on Youtube), *Lights Out* tells the story of a family (Teresa Palmer, Gabriel Bateman, Maria Bello) dealing with a peculiar problem: they are haunted by a malevolent spirit of an emaciated, stringy-haired woman that appears in places where light cannot reach. As the days go by, and as sleep deprivation wears them down, Martin (Bateman), his sister Rebecca (Palmer), and her boyfriend, Bret (Alexander DiPersia), realize that they must find a way to destroy this evil creature before it destroys them.

While the climax was anti-climactic, the film's premise taps into one of humankind's universal fears. If you're afraid of the dark, you might just be too terrified to turn out the lights after watching this movie.

[The Mezzotint \(2021\)](#)

Acting on an antique dealer's suggestion, university museum curator Edward Williams (Rory Kinnear) purchases a cheap painting of an English manor house, which he plans to evaluate before adding it to the institution's collection. Because he is unable to identify the property, the name of which is partly visible on the frame's reverse side, Williams conducts research and shares the illustration with knowledgeable colleagues, in the hopes of satisfying his curiosity. Over the coming days, he learns that the picture contains some moving parts, and that the seemingly simple scene depicted is really the basis for a sinister act of supernatural proportions.



Based on [the short story by M. R. James](#), which I have narrated on [an episode of the library's Book Service Podcast](#), this film demands to be watched with a hot drink on an overcast, wintry evening.

American Experience: The Hurricane of '38 (1993)

Dave Huygens

Long before hurricanes had names, one blew through New England on September 21st, 1938, that is still talked about with awe. The weather event referred to as [the "Great Hurricane"](#), and colloquially as "The Long Island Express," wasn't predicted by meteorologists. They saw it coming, but the common wisdom was that hurricanes came ashore in the South, and that this one wouldn't reach Northern shores. But the storm was blocked to the east by a high pressure area, and in the west by an approaching low, creating a virtual expressway of destructive wind and rain over Long Island and into New England.

This extraordinary event is chronicled in the PBS *American Experience* documentary, *The Hurricane of '38 (1993)*. Using home movies, newsreel footage, and the recollections of those who lived through it, the film, narrated by David McCullough, tells a vivid, absorbing story, one *The New York Times* called "an uncommonly well-written narrative."

Over 600 people were killed. Many more were never found. Over 2,000 homes were destroyed; over 5,000 boats were wrecked or damaged. Property damage was estimated at over 300 million dollars. [Blue Hill Observatory](#) in Milton, MA, recorded a 186-miles-per-hour wind gust--the strongest hurricane-related surface wind velocity that has been measured. For those who lived through it, the Hurricane of '38 is still the weather event of their lifetimes, one to which all New England storms are compared.



Peabody Essex Museum

Allie Hyland

The [Peabody Essex Museum](#) is an art museum located in Salem, Massachusetts. It has a plethora of art exhibits. Though I have not been in a few years, one of my favorite exhibits is the [Yin Yu Tang Chinese House](#). It was brought from China to the museum and reassembled. It's so cool to walk through and see the old architecture. They even have koi fish in a pond in the house.

Another exhibit which I really enjoy is [the Japanese art collection](#). I really enjoy looking at objects from different time periods and this



exhibit has a lot of them.

Both the Yin Yu Tang Chinese House and the Japanese art collection are ongoing exhibits at the museum, but there are plenty of new temporary exhibits that show as well. If you go to Salem this fall, [be sure to check out a museum or two and borrow our Peabody Essex Museum pass!](#)

Key Largo (1948)

Dave Huygens

The fourth and final film to co-star [Humphrey Bogart](#) and [Lauren Bacall](#), *Key Largo* (1948), has been called their best by many critics. Director John Huston's adaptation of [Maxwell Anderson's play](#)



is perhaps the team's most serious film, eschewing the repartee that made [To Have and Have Not \(1944\)](#) and [The Big Sleep \(1946\)](#) so popular with mid-'40s audiences. In *Key Largo*, the war is over, and Bogart is a rootless veteran who arrives at an old tourist hotel to visit the father ([Lionel Barrymore](#)) and the widow (Bacall) of an old Army buddy.

Also at the hotel are a group of men supposedly on a fishing vacation, but it soon becomes clear they're gangsters, waiting to conclude a narcotics deal, after which they plan to escape to Cuba on a yacht anchored offshore. But a hurricane is brewing, and the gang--led by kingpin Edward G. Robinson--who has brought along his former girlfriend (Claire Trevor)--is trapped in the hotel with the others.

What follows is a suspenseful clash between the mob boss, Johnny Rocco, and the more law-abiding folks, who see Frank McLeod (Bogart) as their leader, until he exhibits some unexpected reticence to do away with the gangster when he gets the chance. As the hurricane rages, the atmosphere becomes more tense, until the mobsters enlist Frank to help them escape on the open water. This launches the film into an exciting final act that's a must-see. For intelligent drama, taut atmosphere, and great acting by a charismatic cast, you can't beat *Key Largo*.

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