

**** HOT TITLES COMING TO KILLINGWORTH LIBRARY IN DECEMBER 2023 ****

FICTION

Fantasy & Science Fiction

Dazzling – Chikodili Emelumadu. Based on West African mythology, follows the story of a woman who meets a spirit and agrees to do one terrible thing for him in exchange for bringing back her beloved, deceased father.

Orbital – Samantha Harvey. In this moving elegy to our humanity, environment and planet, six astronauts, selected for one of the last space station missions, leave their lives behind to travel at a speed of over 17,000 miles an hour to orbit Earth, witnessing the marks of civilization below.

Yours for the Taking – Gabrielle Korn. In 2050, behind the exclusive Inside Project, a series of weather-safe, city-sized structures around the world, three women, employees of the billionaire/women's rights advocate responsible for this strange new society, notice cracks in the system, in this thrilling story of queer love, betrayal and chosen family.

The Star and the Strange Moon – Constance Sayers. From the author of *A Witch in Time* comes a haunting tale of ambition, obsession and the eternal mystery and magic of film.

General Fiction

Bright Lights, Big Christmas – Mary Kay Andrews. (*September release*) Filled with family ties, both rekindled and new, and sparkling with Christmas magic, this delivers everything Mary Kay Andrews fans adore, all tied up in a hilarious, romantic gem of a novel.

The Last Love Note – Emma Grey. A novel that asserts you may never stop loving the one you lost, but you can still find love again.

Today Tonight Forever – Madeline Kay Sneed. A bridesmaid for one of her oldest friends, 33-year-old Athena Matthias, still reeling from a messy divorce from her wife, arrives in Watercolor, Florida, for the wedding where an unexpected guest from the past throws the entire wedding party into chaos.

Historical Fiction

The Wonder of It All – Barbara Taylor Bradford. Returning from The Great War a changed man, with wounds both physical and mental, James Falconer, determined to make amends to his daughter, Leonie, now a grown woman who wants nothing to do with him, works toward healing his body, soul and family.

The Madstone – Elizabeth Crook. Tells the story of a pregnant young mother, her child and the frontier tradesman who helps them flee across Texas from outlaws bent on revenge, even as an unlikely love blossoms.

The Frozen River – Ariel Lawhon. In 1789 Maine, midwife and healer Martha Ballard, who is good at keeping secrets, investigates a shocking murder linked to an alleged rape that has shaken her small town, especially when her diary lands at the center of the scandal, threatening to tear both her family and her community apart.

The Wildest Sun – Asha Lemmie. Forced from her home in postwar Paris, aspiring young writer Delphine Auber embarks on a journey to New York’s Harlem, and then to Havana and Key West, in search of her father whom she believes is famed luminary Ernest Hemingway.

Mystery & Detective

The Curse of Penryth Hall – Jess Armstrong. After the Great War, American heiress Ruby Vaughn, delivering a box of books to Penryth Hall, the home to her once dearest friend, Tamsyn, is drawn into a mystery when Tamsyn’s husband is murdered and the crime is blamed on a curse—one that could claim Tamsyn’s life as well.

Lost Hours – Paige Shelton. When their Alaskan tourist ship rescues a woman claiming to have been kidnapped, Beth Rivers befriends the woman, who reveals she’s been in Juneau under witness protection, and teams up with police chief Gril who believes this complicated case is connected to another kidnapping.

The Other Half – Charlotte Vassell. When he stumbles upon the body of a young socialite during his morning run on Hampstead Heath, Detective Caius Beauchamp finds a wall of staggering wealth and privilege threatening to shut down his investigation before it’s begun.

Story Collections

The End of the World is a Cul De Sac – Louise Kennedy. This masterful collection of dark stories from the author of the much-acclaimed *Trespases* centers around women whose lives are defined by deprivation—material, emotional and sexual—as they search for the good in the cards they’ve been dealt.

Suspense

Manner of Death – Robin Cook. When a pathology resident ends up on her table days after helping with a suicide autopsy, NYC chief medical examiner Laurie Montgomery discovers his death is a staged homicide and launches her own investigation which leads her to a fraudulent but highly lucrative cancer diagnostics company—and possibly her own death.

The Other Mothers – Katherine Faulkner. Searching for a story to launch her career and new friends to help her navigate motherhood, Tash, welcomed into a circle of sleek, sophisticated mothers, discovers the kind of life she’s always dreamed of until two recent murders make her wonder why she’s been so quickly accepted into their exclusive world.

Where the Dead Wait – Ally Wilkes. Victorian explorer William Day, thirteen years after a failed expedition resulted in abandonment, betrayal and cannibalism, embarks on an uncanny journey into his past to find his missing second-in-command during which he must face up to the things he’s done as the restless dead follow closely behind.

NONFICTION

He/She/They: How We Talk About Gender and Why It Matters – Schuyler Bailar. *(October release)* With a relatable narrative rooted in facts, science, and history, Schuyler helps restore common sense and humanity to a discussion that continues to be divisively coopted and deceptively politicized. In He/She/They, Schuyler uses storytelling and the art of conversation to give us the essential language and context of gender, meeting everyone

where they are and paving the way for understanding, acceptance, and, most importantly: connection.

The Burning of the World: the Great Chicago Fire and the War for a City's Soul – Scott W. Berg. (*September release*) An enrapturing account of the fire's inexorable march and an eye-opening look at its aftermath, *The Burning of the World* tells the story of one of the most infamous calamities in history and the new Chicago it precipitated—a disaster that still shapes American cities to this day.

Enough – Cassidy Hutchinson. (*September release*) *Enough* reaches far beyond the typical insider political account. It's the saga of a woman whose fierce determination helped her overcome childhood challenges to get her dream job, only to face a crisis of conscience—one that more senior White House aides tried to evade—and, in the process, find her voice and herself. This is a portrait of how the courage of one person can change the course of history.

Dolls of Our Lives: Why We Can't Quit American Girl – Mary Mahoney. (*November release*) Through interviews with a legion of devoted doll lovers, a field trip to Colonial Williamsburg, a place that inspired Pleasant Rowland to create American Girl, and an exploration of their own (complicated) fandom, this is a deep dive into one of the 90s most coveted products - the American Girl doll.

Corn Dance: Inspired First American Cuisine – Loretta Barrett Oden. (*October release*) Alongside recipes that combine the flavors of her Oklahoma upbringing and Indigenous heritage with the Southwest flair of her Santa Fe restaurant, Loretta offers entertaining and edifying observations about ingredients and cooking culture. Amply illustrated and adapted to bring the taste of Native tradition into the home kitchen, *Corn Dance* invites readers to join Loretta Oden on her inspiring journey into the Indigenous heritage, and the exhilarating culinary future, of North America.

A.K.A. Lucy: the Dynamic and Determined Life of Lucille Ball – Sarah Royal. (*October release*) Sheds new light on the star's history, from her childhood through hard-scrabble days trying to make it in show business, falling head over heels in love and embarking on one of the great romances of the twentieth century, to becoming the biggest star in the world, a pioneer in television, and an icon for the ages.

Connecticut Cryptids: a Field Guide to the Weird and Wonderful Creatures of the Nutmeg State – Patrick Scalisi. (*October release*) Maybe you've heard of the Black Dog of the Hanging Hills or the Winsted Wildman. But did you know that these are just a few of the mythical creatures that call Connecticut home? It's true! The Nutmeg State is full of "cryptids" - or creatures that are believed to exist but never proven to exist. And all of these mysterious beings are documented right here, in this exhaustively researched and fully illustrated field guide.

The Whites of Their Eyes: the Life of Revolutionary War Hero Israel Putnam from Rogers' Rangers to Bunker Hill – Michael Shay. (*October release*) Recounts the life and times of Israel Putnam, a larger-than-life general, a gregarious tavern keeper and farmer, who was a folk hero in Connecticut and the probable source of legendary words during the Revolutionary War—and whose exploits make him one of the most interesting officers in American military history.

My Name is Barbra – Barbra Streisand. (*November release*) The book is, like Barbra herself, frank, funny, opinionated, and charming. She recounts her early struggles to become an actress, eventually turning to singing to earn a living; the recording of some of her acclaimed albums; the years of effort involved in making *Yentl*; her direction of *The Prince of Tides*; her friendships with figures ranging from Marlon Brando to Madeleine Albright; her political advocacy; and the fulfillment she's found in her marriage to James Brolin.

A NOTE TO OUR READERS:

As you can tell, December is a very quiet month for new releases! Remember that we'd love to know what you're interested in reading, year-round. Fiction or nonfiction, specific authors, topics, genres...

Please feel free to share suggestions and requests with a librarian,
or at the circulation desk,
or submit your ideas in the new Suggestion Box in the New Books section!

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