

# BookGuide Bulletin



A monthly "readers' services" newsletter from the Lincoln City Libraries

Newsletter

October 2006

Vol. 1 No. 6

Looking for a good book? Each month the [BookGuide](#) site has new fiction and non-fiction reviews.!

## This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for October  
New and Featured Booklists  
Web sites for Readers: "[Coming Soon...](#)" and more about the new [NextReads](#) service

**One Book – One Lincoln – 2006**

[The Writing Life](#):

Author Interview: Harley Jane Kozak

Staff Reviewer Profile: Peter J.

*This month's spotlight booklist really bites*

## Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

### Bethany Books Talk [Fridays 10:30 a.m.]

October 6 – Rebecca will share a bushel of books!  
October 13 – "National Book Festival" – Roddy Humeniak discusses books from the Festival  
October 20 – Lisa Voss discusses some of her recent favorites  
October 27 – "Oh, the Horror of It All!" – Scott Clark shares some examples of classic and contemporary horror

### Gere Books Talk [Mondays 2:30 p.m.]

October 2 – "American Gunfighter" – Discussion of this Stephen Hunter title  
October 9 – Charlotte Kyriess' recent favorites  
October 16 – A Booksharing Day!  
October 23 – Pam discusses some recent popular titles  
October 30 – "Oh, the Horror of It All!" – Scott Clark shares some examples of classic and contemporary horror

### Just Desserts Mystery Discussion Group – Downtown [Thur. 7 p.m.]

October 26 – "*Henrietta Who?*" by Catherine Aird

### Great Books Discussion Group [Gere Branch, Thursdays 6:45-8:45 p.m.]

[co-sponsored by the Lincoln City Libraries]

October 12 – "*The Apology*" by Plato  
October 26 – "*Heart of Darkness*" by Joseph Conrad

Visit [Book Talks and Book Discussion Groups](#) for more info

## New Booklists

The following are either "new" booklists available on the BookGuide site this past month, or existing lists we'd like to shine a light on!

### [If You Like...Ruth Rendell](#) **NEW!!**

If you're a fan of the psychological suspense novels of Rendell, perhaps you'd like to sample some similar authors.

### [If You Like... "Bridget Jones's Diary"](#) **NEW!!**

An extended list of "Chick Lit" recommendations, for fans of the popular literary subgenre popularized by Helen Fielding's 1996 hit "Bridget Jones's Diary."

### [The Bram Stoker Award](#)

If you're looking for some entertaining novels based on popular existing television series, check out this list!

### [Fangs a Lot! Vampire Fiction](#)

In this spookiest of months, we present our list of popular and less-well-known Vampire fiction. Click the title-link above to connect to the full booklist. Otherwise, here's a representative sampling from the larger list:

- *The Secret Life of Lazlo, Count Dracula* by Roderick Anscombe
- *Master of Ecstasy* by Nina Bangs
- *Keeper of the King* by Nigel Bennett
- *Suckers* by Anne Billson
- *Blood Rites* by Jim Butcher
- *Fledgeling* by Octavia Butler
- *A Chill in the Blood* by P.N. Elrod
- *Dark Prince* by Christine Feehan
- *Those Who Hunt the Night* by Barbara Hambly
- *Dead Until Dark* by Charlaine Harris
- *The Good, the Bad and the Undead* by Kim Harrison
- *Smoke and Shadows* by Tanya Huff
- *Covenant With the Vampire* by Jeanne Kalogridis
- *Silver Kiss* by Annette Curtis Klause
- *The Historian* by Elizabeth Kostova
- *Gil's All-Fright Diner* by A. Lee Martinez
- *The Darkangel* by Meredith Ann Pierce
- *Interview With the Vampire* by Anne Rice
- *Cirque du Freak* by Darren Shan
- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker
- *The Hunger* by Whitley Streiber
- *Hotel Transylvania* by Chelsea Quinn Yarbro

## The Writing Life -- Author Interview



Former Lincolnite Harley Jane Kozak has, in recent years, parlayed her successful acting career (Parenthood, Arachnophobia, Harts of the West, etc.) into an equally successful writing career, with the introduction of her award-winning [Dating Dead Men](#) in 2004 (and its sequel in 2005). Though no longer a resident of the Cornhusker state, Harley Jane was still happy to answer a few of our questions about *The Writing Life*, posed by the folks here in her former hometown:

Q: "After years spent in other areas of the entertainment industry, what inspired your career shift into writing?"

A: "A confluence of events: one was turning 40 and finding the available acting roles less interesting, and the other was taking a great class in creative writing at Santa Monica Community College from a gifted teacher who encouraged me and then published my essays in THE SANTA MONICA REVIEW. Oh: and I got my first 2-book contract from Doubleday when my twins were newborns, and as I had a 2-year-old as well, that put my acting career on the back burner. Which is where I imagine it will stay for awhile."

Q: "What influence (if any) has your time in Nebraska had on your fiction writing?"

A: "I mostly grew up on a farm outside of Lincoln and the hours spent in the cornfields in the company of only dogs and cats made me rely on my imagination for entertainment. Also, I turned to books. Later, I found that Nebraska has a very open heart when it comes to the creative arts, without the intensity and competition that comes with the territory in New York and L.A. So it was a wonderful place to come from."

[Read the rest of this interview on the BookGuide web site!](#)



## Reviewer Profile

Our featured Reviewer for September 2006 is **Peter J.**, the Webmaster for the Lincoln City Libraries. Peter has worked for the library in a number of different departments, starting as a shelver in the late 1970s, and has been a regular contributor to the Staff Recommendations displays in the library and on the **BookGuide** site. Reading for pleasure has long been a part of his life, he indicates in his responses to our questions about books and reading:



"I grew up in Lincoln, except that when I was in 2nd through 4th grades, my family lived in Frankfurt, Germany. Since I was reading well before kindergarten, I don't really remember "learning" to read; it was just something I picked up along with other language skills, no doubt as a result of being read to. I remember my father reading the newspaper comics to me, and my oldest sister reading The Wizard of Oz. My mother was a regular library patron, and would usually bring home some books for me along with her own stack of mysteries. I always had a book for personal reading with me for the occasional moments of free time at school - often two books, one fiction and one non-fiction.

Various books that were read aloud by my teachers in grade school made a big impression on me: The Borrowers, The Hobbit, and The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe come to mind. My teen years were dominated by science fiction and fantasy books; I particularly enjoyed Tolkien, Larry Niven, and Frank Herbert for the vast imaginary worlds that they created

*How important are books and reading to me?*

I can't imagine not reading for pleasure. While I no longer have the time to read for hours on end as I used to, I still try to ensure that I always have a book available for personal reading at all times, and I'm pleased to see my own children developing a similar love for books. The physical book format is also important to me - I don't find audiobooks appealing, since I frequently flip back to check earlier passages while reading.

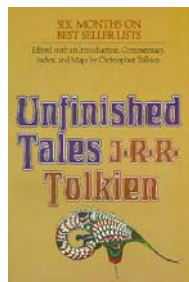
*How do I select what book to read next?*

As an adult I've turned more to "classic" literature, especially 19th-century English authors such as Austen, Dickens, Eliot, and Trollope. But I also enjoy...

[See the complete profile, and a list of Peter's reviews on the BookGuide Web site](#)

## Staff Reviews

This collection of various works by J.R.R. Tolkien, first published in 1980, is sometimes overlooked by readers exploring Tolkien's works. Some of the "Tales" in this book are fleshed-out versions of stories told in briefer form in The Silmarillion, and others are essays or passages that were originally intended for inclusion in the appendices to The Lord of the Rings. ("The Disaster of the Gladden Fields" is particularly startling in its contrast to the way Peter Jackson portrayed the incident in his film version!) Still others are completely new stories that fill in some of the gaps in the history of Middle-earth. Edited with extensive notes by Tolkien's son Christopher, these stories, unfinished though they are, give readers a further glimpse into the depth of creativity behind Tolkien's world. (Tolkien's major works - The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings, and The Silmarillion, should be considered a necessary prerequisite to reading this.)



--Reviewed by Peter J.  
Reference Dept. – Bennett Martin Public Library

Check out additional [Staff Recommendations](#) each month at the BookGuide Web site!



The official selection for the 2006 **One Book – One Lincoln** community reading project is Erik Larson's 2003 non-fiction bestseller, The Devil in the White City. This engaging look back at the monumental effort to create the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition (a.k.a. World's Fair) in Chicago, and the dark side of one of America's first serial killers, who preyed on the Fair's attendees, has captured the interest of many of Lincoln's readers.

You can click the link here to visit our official [One Book – One Lincoln – 2006](#) web site, for numerous resources to assist in reading and discussing the book. We encourage you to discuss the book with other readers on your own, join any of the 11 discussion groups scheduled in October, and/or attend one of the two special programs later this month. Or join our online [Discussion Forums](#), where you can post your comments about the book and respond to comments left by other participants.



## Web sites for Readers

Readers of *The BookGuide Bulletin* will remember our announcement last month of a new feature that would soon become available to visitors to our web site: NextReads thematic newsletters, from the folks who create the NoveList database.

BookGuide staff are currently training on how to use the NextReads service, and how to create some book newsletters with a local flavor (in addition to those listed below). We expect to unveil the new service on-line in mid-October, where library patrons will be able to visit the [BookGuide site](#), click on the **NextReads** logo (shown above), and sign up to receive regular newsletters in any of the following popular categories:

Science Fiction	Romance	Armchair Travel	Business & Marketing
Do-It-Yourself	Fantasy	Biography & Memoir	Spirituality & Religion
Audiobooks	Horror	Inspirational Fiction	Mind & Body Fitness
Teen Scene	Mystery	Historical Fiction	History & Current Events
Fiction A-to-Z	Pop Culture	Nature & Science	Thrillers & Suspense

In addition, BookGuide staff will be able to create additional regular "customized" newsletters, focusing on subjects such as "Nebraska Authors", "Local Book Group Selections", etc. Each issue of each newsletter will be delivered to you through your e-mail, and will highlight new additions to the library collection as well as looking back on some older titles that still deserve the attention. As soon as this new service has launched, we'll send an e-mail invite to Bulletin subscribers to encourage you to be among the first to take advantage of this new feature! So...watch your e-mail!

In the meantime, a new feature was added to the **BookGuide** site in late August – **Coming Soon...**! This page will be a regularly-updated listing of forthcoming book publication schedules, as publicly announced by the major publishers. Want to know if your favorite author has a new book coming in the next 6-9 months? Curious as to what new books are scheduled for publication in March 2007? Come check out the **Coming Soon...** page. If you're interested in a title listed on this page, you can check our catalog to see if we've pre-ordered it. If we haven't, you can fill out a Suggest-a-Title form on-line to recommend that we purchase it!

## In the Future...

**Celebrity Guest Review** returns in our November issue. We have several upcoming Guest Reviewers and author interviews in the works!

We're very interested in hearing from you regarding what you'd be interested in seeing here in this our e-newsletter each month. If you have any suggestions or comments to offer us about **BookGuide** or the **BookGuide Bulletin**, please drop us an e-mail at:

[bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org](mailto:bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org)



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