

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

November 2006

Vol. 1 No. 7

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for November
New and Featured Booklists
Web feature for Readers: the new **NextReads** service
Staff Reviewer Profile: Scott C.
This month's spotlight is National Adoption Month

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

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

November 3 – Carol will discuss a varied selection of books!
November 17 – "Notable Books" – Pat will discuss American Library Association "notable books" selections
November 10 and 24 – closed for the holidays

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

November 6 – Carol will discuss a varied selection of books!
November 13 – Bill will share some recent favorites
November 20 – Susan's back...with more books!
November 27 – A group booksharing day!

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

This group is on hiatus during November and December

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

[co-sponsored by the Lincoln City Libraries]

November 9 – "Conscience" by Kant

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!

[One Book One Lincoln Finalists](#) **NEW!!**

For those who are curious about what the five finalists have been during each of Lincoln's past community reading programs.

[Presidential Fiction](#)

It's that time of the year...election time! If you're interested in fiction featuring some of America's past Presidents, check out this list!

[If You Like...Carl Hiaasen](#)

Do you like the weird, wacky, watery world of Carl Hiaasen's novels? If so, then you might want to browse some of the authors considered to be "readalikes" to Hiaasen.

NATIONAL NOVEL
WRITING MONTH

Curious about the writing process? Check out [NaNoWriMo.org](#) to watch over 70,000 aspiring novelists face the challenge of writing an entire novel in a single month. Or, if you think you're up for it – join them!



Readers of *The BookGuide Bulletin* were given a sneak peek and opportunity to subscribe to our NextReads newsletter service during October, almost a week before we began promoting NextReads on the library's web site. By the end of October, almost 50 people had signed up to subscribe to one or more of the NextReads newsletters.

If you aren't one of the fortunate few who've already sampled this new series of thematic booklists, we encourage you 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

BookGuide staff have also created three new original newsletters to accompany the 20 provided by the NextReads organization, and we are considering additional new lists for future appearances. The three new lists created from scratch by BookGuide staff are:

Award Winners BookGuide Staff Faves From Nebraska

Newsletters are produced on a monthly, bi-monthly or quarterly basis. 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 some attention.

For the curious among you, the top ten favorite lists so far (based on # of subscribers) are (in order): **Mystery, Fiction A-Z, Thrillers & Suspense, BookGuide Staff Faves, Historical Fiction, Biographies & Memoirs, Science Fiction, History & Current Events, Award Winners, and Fantasy.**

November is National Adoption Month

The National Council for Adoption recognizes November as National Adoption Month, for the three basic types of adoption: Infant, Special Needs and Intercountry. The libraries own a variety of materials related to these topics, a few of which are listed here to help you get started on your research:

- > *All Together: An Unusual American Family* by Joe Rigert [301.427 Rig]
- > *Wanting a Child* by Jill Bialosky [306.85 Bia]
- > *The Family: Opposing Viewpoints* by Auriana Ojeda [306.85 Oje]
- > *Life in the Blender* by Sandi Patti [306.874 Pat]
- > *International Adoption* by Margaret C. Jasper [346.017 Jas]
- > *Does Family Preservation Serve a Child's Best Interests* by Howard Altstein [362.7 Alt]
- > *Patty's Journey* by Donna Scott Norling [362.73 Nor]
- > *The Encyclopedia of Adoption* by Christine Adamec [362.734 Ada]
- > *Dim Sum, Bagels and Grits* by Myra Alperson [362.734 Alp]
- > *Adoption for Dummies* by Tracy L. Barr [362.734 Bar]
- > *Moving Heaven and Earth* by Barbara L. Birdsey [362.734 Bir]
- > *The Unofficial Guide to Adopting a Child* by Andrea DellaVecchio [362.734 Del]
- > *Adopting in America* by Randall Hicks [362.734 Hic]
- > *The Adoption Sourcebook* by Cheryl Jones [362.734 Jon]
- > *How to Adopt Internationally* by Jean Nelson-Erichsen [362.734 Nel]
- > *Adoption Nation* by Adam Pertman [362.734 Per]
- > *Sacred Connections* by Mary Ann Koenig [362.734 qKoe]
- > *Dear Birthmother: Thank You For Our Baby* by Kathleen Silber [362.734 Sil]
- > *West Meets East: Americans Adopt Chinese Children* by Richard Tessler [362.734 Tes]
- > *Keys to Parenting an Adopted Child* by Kathy Lancaster [649.145 Lan]

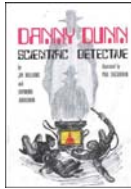
Reviewer Profile

Our featured Reviewer for September 2006 is **Scott C.**, an assistant Webmaster for the Lincoln City Libraries. Scott has worked for the libraries in a number of different branches and in several different departments, starting as a shelver at Anderson Branch in 1980, and regularly contributes staff recommendations as the manager of the **BookGuide** site. Reading – whether for work or for fun – has long been a part of his life, as he indicates in his answers to our questions about books and reading:



"I grew up in the University Place neighborhood of Lincoln until age 14, then moved to near 40th and Superior, attending Dawes Jr. High and Northeast HS. I can clearly remember my mother taking me and my sister to the Uni Place library branch for books as a little kid - I can recall the comforting hiss made by the radiator in that building. I can't clearly remember what books I enjoyed as a little kid - although I vaguely recall reading all the various Dr. Seuss books (I've still got my copy of [My Book About Me](#)) and for some reason the picture book [Sam, Bangs and Moonshine](#) by Evaline Ness has stuck in my mind for all these years.

When I was old enough to start reading in the juvenile fiction section, I devoured every *Three Investigators* title I could find (originally *Alfred Hitchcock and the Three Investigators*!), then the *Hardy Boys* and *Nancy Drew* series, the *Danny Dunn* series by Jay Williams, the "trick" books of Scott Corbett, the sports books of John Christopher, Marguerite Henry (my mom had a copy of [Misty of Chincoteague](#) autographed by M. Henry and Misty -- with a hoofprint), Beverly Cleary, E.B. White, [Mr. Popper's Penguins](#), [The Space Ship Under the Apple Tree](#), [The Wind in the Willows](#), the *Henry Reed* books of Keith Robertson and nearly every non-fiction topic I could get my hands on at either the Uni Place and (later) Anderson Branch libraries. I still remember attending the Anderson Branch "grand opening" celebration.



I've been an "active" reader for as long as I can remember. Visits to the library were always something I looked forward to - I was excited to take part in the Summer Reading Program so I could get my little metal lapel pin. Not only that, but I had full bookshelves at home for books that I actually owned. I don't know that there were any specific authors or individuals who "made me a reader," although I recall my mother always being a regular reader so that may have influenced me. Both my parents are voracious readers now that they've retired.

Books are incredibly important to me. Although I am a confessed and unembarrassed tv addict, I'm also usually reading at least three books simultaneously - one at home, one at work, and one I carry with me to lunch breaks, etc. If I'm not filling up gaps in my schedule by reading, I feel like I'm wasting precious time. My love of reading lead me to working in the Northeast High School library and being inspired by the head librarian there, Edith Cassini, to pursue a library career. I got a job as a shelver at Anderson Branch while still in high school, and have been with the Lincoln City Libraries in one position or another ever since then (including the long-defunct Audio Visual Department, where I met my future wife as a co-worker). One of my quirkiest library-related memories is of helping to go from branch-to-branch barcoding all the library books citywide in the late 1980s - but I suppose that really dates me.

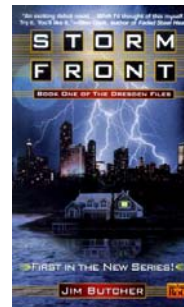
My main reading interest has long been Speculative Fiction. When I read my first adult Science Fiction novel, Andre Norton's [A Storm Over Warlock](#), I felt like my eyes had been opened to a whole new world of imagination and speculation about the future of humanity...

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

Staff Reviews

The Dresden Files, a paranormal/mystery series by Jim Butcher **Storm Front** [2000] – volume one (7 volumes available so far!)

What do you get when you cross *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* with *The Maltese Falcon*? You get the novels in the **Dresden Files** series, by Jim Butcher. Harry Dresden is a Chicago P.I. but with a difference: He's a practising wizard – only one listed under "Wizards" in the yellow pages – working only on magic- or paranormal-related cases. Harry's a bit down-on-his-luck, and is forced to take cases he's not really interested in, since his position as a police consultant on paranormal incidents isn't enough to pay the bills.



The Dresden Files books mix the sarcastic, wry sense of humor about the supernatural, as seen in the *Buffy* or *Charmed* tv series or the novels of Laurell K. Hamilton, with the world-weariness of noir films and hard-boiled detective fiction, and somehow manage to balance them out. If you like a good dark fantasy novel, with over-matched wizards taking on fantastical foes, or if you like to see a downtrodden gumshoe going through his seedy contacts to save a mysterious damsel-in-distress, you'll find something in the Dresden Files books to appeal to you.

Personally, I'll have to admit that it took me a while to get into the series. The first one (**Storm Front**) didn't immediately hook me. However, following friends' recommendations, by the 2nd (**Fool Moon**) and 3rd (**Grave Peril**), I'd really gotten sucked into Harry's world and the style and atmosphere of the books.

[Related Note: The Sci Fi Channel will be launching a new tv series based on **The Dresden Files** books. It premieres in January 2007.]

--Reviewed by Scott C.
Reference Dept. – Bennett Martin Public Library

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

BOOK GROUP RESOURCES

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/webliographies/lit.htm#groups>

Interested in starting a new Reading Group, or in joining up with an existing group and contributing in a substantial way? They visit our webliography (above) for Reading Group Resources.

ReadingGroupGuides.com
The online community for reading groups

Over 1900 Book Discussion Guides for both classic and contemporary works. Interviews with authors, book club leaders, booksellers and librarians. Weekly contests. Regular new book recommendations – a haven for book lovers and discussion leaders.

In the Future...

Celebrity Guest Review and **The Writing Life** will return in upcoming issues. 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. What have you enjoyed in our first year's issues? 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



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