

BookGuide Bulletin



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

Newsletter

December 2007

Vol. 1 No. 17

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

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for December
Featured Booklists
Reviewer Profile: **Lisa V.**
Staff Reviews
Focus On: **Mistletoe Mysteries**
Reader Lists

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

Bethany Books Talk [Fridays 10:30 a.m.] [441-8550]

Dec 7 Give the Gift of Reading
Dec 14 Period Pieces
Dec 21 My Favorite Things...Bookshare!

Bethany Books Talk returns in January

Gere Books Talk [Mondays 2:30 p.m.] [441-8560]

Dec 3 Period Pieces
Dec 10 Holiday Tea and Bookshare

Gere Books Talk returns in January

Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group – Downtown [last Thursday each month. 7 p.m.] [441-8530]

Just Desserts returns in January

Great Books Discussion Group [Gere Branch, Thursdays 6:45-8:45 p.m.] [co-sponsored by the Lincoln City Libraries]

Dec 13 Bible – "Exodus"

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

Featured Booklists

The following are either "new" booklists added to the BookGuide site recently, or older and/or seasonal lists we'd like to shine a light on! Click on the titles to see the full booklists.

[Native Voices](#)

For November's *American Indian Heritage Month*, we created this list of Native American Novelists.

[Mistletoe Mysteries](#)

Our annual holiday homicide reading list returns, completely updated (see at right) for the winter of 2007!

[Cowboys, School Marms and a Good Horse](#)

Frequent BookGuide contributor Rayma S. led a Books Talk session on classic and contemporary Western fiction.

[Period Pieces](#)

Sean S., from the Eiseley Branch, gave a Books Talk session featuring a selection of fiction and non-fiction titles with a historical bent.



NEW FEATURE: Reader Lists!

A new feature appeared on the BookGuide site in November – **Reader Lists!**

Reader Lists, accessible from the main BookGuide page, provides a simple form for BookGuide visitors to submit a short thematic "booklist" to be shared with other readers of the site.

Lists, which must be 15 or fewer items in length, can include books, magazines, CDs, DVDs, videos or any other materials currently in the Lincoln City Libraries collection. Users provide a list title, and are encouraged to give a short – one or two line – description that ties their list together. Initially, as we start this new feature, lists can include material appropriate for adults and/or Young Adults.

Lists, once checked by BookGuide staff, will be posted on the BookGuide site on a separate **Reader Lists** page, and may also be featured on the main front page of the BookGuide site from time to time. We hope that visitors to the BookGuide site will look forward to the opportunity to share some of their reading, listening or viewing recommendations, without needing to write an actual review.

So...come check out our new **Reader Lists**, and submit a list of your very own!!

Example of A Reader's List

[Classic Mystery/Adventures Worth a 2nd Look!](#) -- submitted by **BookMan**



FOCUS ON: Mistletoe Mysteries

One of our booklists to focus on for December is the annual favorite – Mistletoe Mysteries, a listing of winter holiday themed murder mystery fiction. Every year, we update this popular list with new holiday homicides. Here are some of the titles we added this year:

- *Leavin' Trunk Blues*, by Ace Atkins
- *Sugarplums and Scandals*, by Lori Avocato (and others)
- *Kissing Christmas Goodbye*, by M.C. Beaton
- *The Last Noel*, by Linda Berry (and others)
- *A Carol for a Corpse*, by Claudia Bishop
- *A Crossworder's Holiday*, by Nero Blanc
- *The Chocolate Bear Burglary*, by Joanna Carl
- *Crewel Yule*, by Monica Ferris
- *Cold Light*, by John Harvey
- *Slay Bells*, by Kate Kingsbury
- *Cat Deck the Halls*, by Shirley Rousseau Murphy
- *Death Stalks a Holiday*, by Gary Parker
- *A Christmas Beginning*, by Anne Perry
- *Silent Night*, by J.D. Robb (and others)
- *The Haunted Abbot*, by Peter Tremayne



welcome to a new... Reviewer Profile



Our featured Reviewer this month is **Lisa V.** Lisa has worked for various branches of the Lincoln City Libraries, and currently finds herself at the Bennett Martin Public Library after a comfortable stint at Gere Branch. In addition to providing the occasional review for the BookGuide web site, Lisa is one of the library "regulars" on episodes of [KFOR's Book Chat](#) and [KZUM's Booktalk](#) shows. Reading and sharing books with others is extremely important to Lisa, as she indicates in her answers to our profile questions:



Would you care to share any personal info with our readers -- such as where you grew up, what you read as a child, etc.?

I was born in Lincoln, and went to Dawes, St. Patrick's and Pius High School. I'm a North Lincoln girl -- our home was near Havelock, just a few blocks from the Anderson library. I practically lived there, so it really meant a lot to me that my first job with LCL was working at Anderson and Bethany libraries. I also spent several of my childhood years in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and Columbia, Missouri. I was always reading, but I also spent a lot of time outdoors. If there was a creek, or a marsh, or any decent climbing trees around I was perfectly content. One of my favorite childhood memories was my treehouse in Missouri. It was a favorite spot for reading, and I also taught several nests full of abandoned baby birds to fly from that tree. Luckily, they picked it up without needing an actual demonstration from me. The books I remember best from my early years were "Put Me in the Zoo", "The Pokey Little Puppy", and "Three Pesos for Catalina". As I got older, I became pretty "horse-crazy", so I read everything by Marguerite Henry about ten times.

How long have you been an active reader, and were there any particular books or authors or other people that "made you a reader"?

I'll give the standard answer -- I don't really remember NOT being able to read. I do remember being frustrated, at about the age of four, that I couldn't tell time, even though I could read words. I thought they must somehow go together. I think the thing that most "made me a reader" was being an only child. I had lots of time to myself, and books made excellent companions. Also, my grandmother and my mother both encouraged me to pick up a book when I was bored. I remember so many books that made impressions on me, it's hard to single any out. I really liked the "Tripod" series by John Christopher, and Zilpha Keatley Snyder's "The Egypt Game". I was definitely a Judy Blume fan, and loved the EarthSea trilogy by LeGuin. I still remember the first "grown-up" fiction I read, which was Mary Stewart's "The Crystal Cave", and the rest of her Arthurian Saga. I think I was about twelve when I read those. I also read a lot of non-fiction, and still do.

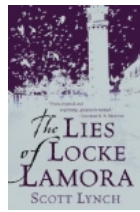
How important are books and reading to you?

I guess they rank right up there with breathing. I would find it very difficult to...

[See Lisa's Full Reviewer Profile on BookGuide](#)

You can see previous profiles of other BookGuide reviewers, by visiting the [Staff Recommendations Index by Reviewers](#) page on the BookGuide web site, and clicking on the Staff Profile links next to the reviewers' names!

Read...Discuss...Repeat!



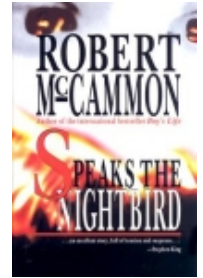
The December selection for BookGuide's [Read...Discuss...Repeat!](#) feature is the 2006 fantasy novel [The Lies of Locke Lamora](#), by Scott Lynch. If you've read this title, we encourage you to stop by the BookGuide site (or our blog) and leave a comment about it! If you haven't read it yet, stop by the RDR page for background info about the book!

Staff Reviews

Speaks the Night Bird

By Robert R. McCammon

One of the fiction best-sellers this winter is bound to be the new book, [The Queen of Bedlam](#), featuring the character Matthew Corbett. Matthew made his first appearance, however, in *this* gripping, highly entertaining novel of witchcraft and intrigue set in a small Colonial Carolina town. The year is 1699, and Matthew is acting as law clerk for a magistrate who has been called upon to hear the case of a woman suspected of witchcraft. The two men run into trouble almost immediately, and the path of their investigation never does run smoothly. There's a lot going on behind the scenes in the settlement of Fount Royal, and no one is who he or she seems to be. Pirates, Spanish gold, Satanic manifestations and more figure into this suspenseful and detailed story. Is the lovely Rachel Howarth guilty of trafficking with the Devil, or is she the victim of those who will gain by her death? That's the question that Matthew sets out to answer, and his search takes him down a twisting, turning path of deceit and death. Prepare to stay up late reading this one, and don't forget the sequel, which is getting great reviews.



Reviewed by Lisa V
Bennett Martin Public Library

I Am Legend

by Richard Matheson



Absolutely riveting science fiction/horror novel, about the last man alive on an Earth where all the other humans have been turned into vampires. At least that's what it seems on the surface...but in this case it appears that the changed humans have been altered by a bacteria or virus that gives them vampiric symptoms. Robert Neville fights a losing psychological and emotional battle as he tries to cope with the loss of everyone and everything dear to him and the horrors of hunting his former friends and neighbors by day and barricading himself in his home by night. This book, originally printed in 1954, is perhaps the first full-length vampire novel to try to explain vampirism in logical, scientific terminology. Although it's been adapted to several films (1964's [The Last Man on Earth](#), starring Vincent Price; 1971's [The Omega Man](#), starring Charlton Heston; and the new 2007 [I Am Legend](#), starring Will Smith), each has played fast and loose with the original story. This is a powerful novel...read it!

Reviewed by Scott C.
Bennett Martin Public Library

You can see other new reviews, every month on the [Staff Recommendations page](#) at the BookGuide web site or posted in the [Book Lovers Discussion and News Blog!](#)

Feedback...

We're interested in hearing from you regarding what you'd like to see here in 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 the [BookGuide](#) site or the [BookGuide Bulletin](#), please drop us an e-mail at:

bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org



The [BookGuide](#) Web site and The [BookGuide Bulletin](#) newsletter are services of The [Lincoln City Libraries](#) in Lincoln, Nebraska