

STAFF PICKS

To find out if the library's copies of these titles are currently checked in, please check our online catalog.

- ***Bet Me***
by Jennifer Crusie

Staff Review:

"This lighthearted and funny read is about a woman in her early 30's looking for love, good food, and great shoes (me). She finds all this in a bar as the result of a bet. Great for vacation!"

From *Publishers Weekly*:

Minerva Dobbs's mother named her daughter after the Greek goddess. Yet Min, who's grown up to be a curvy woman who adores carbs, isn't quite a knockout beauty and, at 33, she shows no signs of getting married anytime soon. So when the dashing handsome (god-like, in fact) Calvin Morrissey enters Min's life and starts pouring on the charm, she's skeptical...Crusie's latest should delight romance readers with a penchant for sinful foods."

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- ***The Tenderness of Wolves***
by Stef Penney

Staff Review:

"Great blend of history and mystery. This one really gets under your skin"

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"*Starred Review.* The frigid isolation of European immigrants living on the 19th-century Canadian frontier is the setting for British author Penney's haunting debut. Seventeen-year-old Francis Ross disappears the same day his mother discovers the scalped body of his friend, fur trader Laurent Jammet, in a neighboring cabin... Other than Francis, no real suspects emerge until half-Indian trapper William Parker is caught searching the dead man's house. Parker escapes and joins with Francis's mother to track Francis north, a journey that produces a deep if unlikely bond between them ...Penney's absorbing, quietly convincing narrative illuminates the characters, each a kind of outcast, through whose complex viewpoints this dense, many-layered story is told.."

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- ***Enslaved by Ducks***
by Bob Tarte

Staff Review:

“A hilarious true story about author’s life with his wife and numerous animals. Anyone with pets will find this book amusing. Sometimes crazy, but great book.”

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“Knowing little about animals, Tarte and his wife naively acquire Binky, an impish bunny, at an Easter bunny fair, little suspecting that it will soon dominate their lives and lead to a brigade of other winged and furred beasts...Gluttons for punishment, the Tartes acquire a gender-confused African gray parrot named Stanley Sue, followed by ducks, geese, turkeys, parrots, starlings, more rabbits and cats...Tarte has an ordinary-Joe voice that makes each chapter a true pleasure, while revealing a sophisticated vision of animals and their relationship to humans.”

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- ***Last Night at the Lobster*
by Stewart O’Nan**

Staff Review:

“This is a very short but poignant book about the last day’s events at a Red Lobster restaurant that is closing for business. It sounds mundane, but O’Nan is such a great writer that I couldn’t put it down. I felt like I really knew the characters.”

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“Set on the last day of business of a Connecticut Red Lobster, this touching novel by the author of *Snow Angels* and *A Prayer for the Dying* tells the story of Manny DeLeon, a conscientious, committed restaurant manager any national chain would want to keep. Instead, corporate has notified Manny that his—and Manny does think of the restaurant as *his*—New Britain, Conn., location is not meeting expectations and will close December 20... On this last night, Manny is committed to a dream of perfection, but no one and nothing seems to share his vision: a blizzard batters the area, customers are sparse, employees don't show up...but Manny refuses to close early or give up hope. Small but not slight, the novel is a concise, poignant portrait of a man on the verge of losing himself.”

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- ***Savannah Blues*
by Mary Kay Andrews**

Staff Review:

“This is the perfect read for anyone who loves finding yard sale bargains and anyone who has ever longed to get even with an ex! A fun and sexy beach read.”

From *Publishers Weekly*:

“This delightfully breezy, richly atmospheric debut by a former journalist ...derives its charm from an encyclopedic trove of lore about antiques and dishy gossip, Southern style. Divorced from blue-blood architect Talmadge Evans III, but still

living in a carriage house in the backyard of their restored mansion, Eloise "Weezie" Foley ...earns her living foraging for discarded treasures in Dumpsters and at estate sales. When she discovers [her ex-husband's new fiancé] Caroline's corpse in a historic manor house, Weezie is the prime suspect in her murder. ..Factor in her on-again, off-again romance with old high school flame Daniel Stipanek, counterfeit antiques and her mom's alcoholism, and the plucky heroine has enough problems to drive at least three novels..."

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- ***Red Leaves***
by Paullina Simons

Staff Review:

"Very creepy. A different sort of suspense thriller and something of a love story, too. The detective falls for the victim as he learns more and more about her. Similar to the old Gene Tierney movie *Laura*."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"...Suspenseful work about four friends at Dartmouth College whose close relationship is coming apart...During a cold Thanksgiving weekend and its aftermath, Kristina, Jim, Conni and Albert study, play and occasionally sleep together, passionately addicted to each other's company. When Kristina's nude and frozen body is found in a snowbank, having been concealed there for some days, young small-town detective Spencer O'Malley investigates her death...The narrative has striking similarities to the events in Donna Tartt's *The Secret History*..."

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YOUNG ADULT TITLES

- ***Honey, Baby, Sweetheart***
by Deb Caletti

Staff Review:

"Great story about a teen and her struggle to find her identity and not follow the crowd. Great book!"

From *Publishers Weekly*:

Ultimately rewarding, this novel about a high school girl who steps out of her role as "The Quiet Girl" for a summer of "passion and adventure... When Ruby gets involved with handsome, motorcycle-riding and rich Travis, she likes that he sees her as fearless. But he is also dangerous, and spellbound Ruby gradually gets sucked into first reckless and then criminal acts. In a concerted effort to help Ruby break away from Travis, her librarian mother, who has just endured a betrayal of her own, begins overseeing Ruby's schedule and takes her to the book club she

facilitates for feisty senior citizens, the Casserole Queens...Readers who stay with it will find thoughtful and authentically inspiring messages about trusting in themselves enough to insist on a love that means more than being someone's "honey, baby, sweetheart."

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- ***Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants***
by Ann Brashares

Staff Review:

"Great story about the friendships and family dynamics of a group of teenagers."

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"A pair of jeans purchased at a thrift store is the unlikely bond that keeps four best friends emotionally connected during the first summer that they spend physically apart. This clever (if initially hokey-sounding) premise sets the course for four intertwined, compelling coming-of-age stories."

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- ***Second Summer of the Sisterhood***
by Ann Brashares

Staff Review:

"The second book in the Traveling Pants series. This summer the girls all struggle to find themselves and learn more than planned about themselves and their friends. Great book!"

From *Publishers Weekly*:

"Authentic and engaging."

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