

Wolfgram Memorial Library

McNaughton Collection

September 2019 - New Arrivals

NOTES: Our McNaughton Collection delivers New York Times bestsellers to our patrons on or before street date, and are shelved by the author's last name. *Fictitious characters, series, or club names are in "quotes" for easy identification.*

Author - Title - <i>Subject</i> - Synopsis
Alberta, Tim - <u>American Carnage: On the Front Lines of the Republican Civil War and the Rise of President Trump</u> - <i>U.S. Political Culture and Parties</i> - Alberta, chief political reporter for Politico, didn't have to look far to find his title. "American carnage" are words Donald Trump used in his inaugural speech to describe the state of the country. Here it's shorthand for how the Republican Party became the party of Trump, fueled by Republican dissatisfaction with the party of Bush, as George W. left the country broke and mired in war. The term also evokes the ire provoked among Republicans by the ineffectual presidential campaigns of John McCain and Mitt Romney, who couldn't win against Barack Hussein Obama, a man the Right viewed as elitist and condescending (and who is, yes, Black). All of that led, along with anger at political correctness and changing demographics, to the Republican Party being fractured between the firebrands and the traditionalists. The latter attempted to address the former's concerns, but, alas, as one operative put it, "We fed the beast and the beast ate us." By the time Trump turned up, the Republican establishment already knew that it had lost the soul of the party. Still, few believed it was going to be a celebrity and former Democrat who would remake the party in his own image. For the reader, this account is often head swirling. Events that seemed indelible at the time are now mere blips; fortunately, Alberta does a stellar job of putting matters in context. Thanks in part to the many insiders to whom he's had access, there's also a you-are-there fascination here. This is particularly true when it comes to former speaker John Boehner, who describes how he presided over the traditional party and its (as well as his own) demise. Trump is here, too, of course. The book opens and closes with him, and when asked if he's transformational, he responds, "Honestly, can there even be a question?"
Andrews, Bryce - <u>Down From the Mountain: The Life and Death of a Grizzly Bear</u> - <i>Grizzly Bear Behavior, Montana Human-Animal Relationship</i> - Montana-based conservationist Andrews writes without sentimentality or undue anthropomorphizing of a pair of grizzly cubs whose mother, Millie, was brutally murdered, leaving the cubs orphaned and helpless. "Millie's story...bothered everyone who heard about it," writes Andrews, having told an elegant story in which he himself encountered the trio. As a conservationist, he is in full sympathy with the bears; as someone living on the land, he recognizes the perils for all concerned when bears, hungry in a landscape with less and less game on it, come down into the cornfields below the high country. "My father asked what I thought about the farmer growing corn so close to the mountains," writes the author. "I said that it was complicated." Andrews introduces readers to numerous men and women who figure in the quest both to track down the poachers involved and to keep the cubs alive. One, the game warden for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, is a quiet warrior for the bears even as others demand that they be kept away from human settlements. As the author notes, the collision course was set not just by hunger, but also by the ever encroaching human presence, even in vast Montana, and on a changing climate in which spring arrives a full month earlier than it did half a century ago, altering the long-established schedules of bears and people alike. To ensure their survival, Andrews concludes, the bears must modify their behavior to avoid confrontation. Andrews's well-written cautionary tale leaves readers with the sobering message that humans must as well, if they are to be responsible stewards of nature.
Baldacci, David - <u>One Good Deed</u> - <i>Action/Adventure Fiction, Historical Fiction</i> - It's 1949. When war veteran Aloysius Archer is released from Carderock Prison, he is sent to Poca City on parole with a short list of <i>do's</i> and a much longer list of <i>don'ts</i> : <i>do</i> report regularly to his parole officer, <i>don't</i> go to bars, certainly <i>don't</i> drink alcohol, <i>do</i> get a job--and <i>don't</i> ever associate with loose women. The small town quickly proves more complicated and dangerous than Archer's years serving in the war or his time in jail. Within a single night, his search for gainful employment--and a stiff drink--leads him to a local bar, where he is hired for what seems like a simple job: to collect a debt owed to a powerful local businessman, Hank Pittleman. Soon Archer discovers that recovering the debt won't be so easy. The indebted man has a furious grudge against Hank and refuses to pay; Hank's clever mistress has her own designs on Archer; and both Hank and Archer's stern parole officer, Miss Crabtree, are keeping a sharp eye on him. When a murder takes place right under Archer's nose, police suspicions rise against the ex-convict, and Archer realizes that the crime could send him right back to prison . . . if he doesn't use every skill in his arsenal to track down the real killer.

Bowden, Mark – **The Last Stone** – *Criminal Investigation, Missing Children Case Studies* - Bowden delivers a narrative nonfiction masterpiece in this account of fiercely dedicated police detectives working to close a cold case. In 1975, Sheila Lyon, 12, and her sister Katherine, 10, disappeared from a shopping mall in Maryland. Despite reported sightings and extortion attempts, the Lyon sisters' fate remained a mystery for decades. The break came in 2013, when Montgomery County detective Chris Homrock chanced upon a witness statement that he'd somehow missed. The witness, Lloyd Welch, was serving time in Delaware for sexually abusing a minor years earlier. Though he was initially viewed as a possible source to incriminate the man who was viewed as the leading suspect in the abductions, Welch's contradictory stories, told over the course of multiple interrogations, ended up making him a person of interest. Bowden makes extensive use of taped recordings of those conversations to bring the reader inside the interrogation room as the detectives inch closer to the truth. This is an intelligent page-turner likely to appeal even to readers who normally avoid true crime.

Cohen, Jared – **Accidental Presidents: Eight Men Who Changed America** – *U.S. Presidential Succession-Case Studies, U.S. Politics and Government* - Four American presidents have been assassinated (Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley, and Kennedy), three died in office unexpectedly (Harrison, Taylor, Harding), and one of a prolonged illness (FDR). Eight men have succeeded to the presidency when the incumbent died in office. In one way or another they vastly changed our history. Only Theodore Roosevelt would have been elected in his own right. Only TR, Truman, and LBJ were re-elected. John Tyler succeeded William Henry Harrison who died 30 days into his term. He was kicked out of his party and became the first president threatened with impeachment. Millard Fillmore succeeded esteemed General Zachary Taylor. He immediately sacked the entire cabinet and delayed an inevitable Civil War by standing with Henry Clay's compromise of 1850. Chester Arthur, succeeding James Garfield, reformed the civil service. Andrew Johnson, who succeeded our greatest president, sided with remnants of the Confederacy in Reconstruction. Theodore Roosevelt broke up the trusts. Calvin Coolidge silently cooled down the Harding scandals and preserved the White House for the Republican Herbert Hoover and the Great Depression. Truman surprised everybody when he succeeded the great FDR and proved an able and accomplished president. Lyndon B. Johnson was named to deliver Texas electorally. He led the nation forward on Civil Rights but failed on Vietnam. For a work intended for general readers, there is a surfeit of endnotes, but this is a genuinely interesting history on a topic that has never been addressed in this depth.

Hitzmann, Sue – **MELT Performance: A Step-by-Step Program to Accelerate Your Fitness Goals, Improve Balance and Control, and Prevent Chronic Pain and Injuries for Life** – *Health and Fitness, Pain Management* - This long-awaited follow-up to the New York Times bestselling The MELT Method introduces a unique, scientific-based proactive training program for improving overall balance, performance, and control while preventing pain and injury. Are you an athlete facing constant injuries that hold you back from achieving peak performance? Are you someone who wants to stay fit, but are dealing with aches and pains that make it more difficult to work out? Do you want to exercise or train without being sidelined by stress fractures, strained ligaments, and painful joints? If you answered yes to any of these questions, you need MELT Performance. Hitzmann's techniques are proven to work—they're already used by world renowned professional athletes and fitness enthusiasts. If you're ready to improve your performance and prevent injury, MELT Performance is essential no matter what sport or activity you pursue. MELT Performance includes black-and-white instructional images throughout.

Patterson, James and Fox, Candace – **The Inn** – *Psychological Fiction, Violence Fiction* - The Inn at Gloucester stands alone on the rocky shoreline. Its seclusion suits former Boston police detective Bill Robinson, novice owner and innkeeper. As long as the dozen residents pay their rent, Robinson doesn't ask any questions. Neither does Sheriff Clayton Spears, who lives on the second floor. Then Mitchell Cline arrives, with a deadly new way of doing business. His crew of local killers break laws, deal drugs, and bring violence to the doors of the Inn. That's when Robinson realizes, with the help of journalist Susan Solie, that leaving the city is no escape from the reality of evil – or the responsibility for action. Teaming up with Sheriff Spears and two fearless residents – Army veteran Nick Jones and groundskeeper Effie Johnson – Robinson begins a risky defense. The solitary inhabitants of the Inn will have to learn, before time runs out, that their only choice is between standing together – or dying alone.

Silva, Daniel – **The New Girl** – *“Gabriel Allon Series,” Spies-Espionage Fiction, Suspense Thriller Fiction* - In August 2018, Silva began working on a novel about a Saudi prince who hoped to modernize his country, based on Mohammad bin Salman. The writer's plans changed shortly thereafter when MBS was implicated in the murder of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi last fall. This novel, rewritten from that first draft, still centers on a Saudi crown prince, here called Khalid bin Mohammed (KBM), but Silva also brings the murdered journalist into the story. In Silva's telling, Khalid remains redeemable if deeply flawed. We see both the flaws and the humanity in the despot following the kidnapping of his daughter, which takes place in the book's opening chapters. In an audacious alliance, Khalid turns to Gabriel Allon, chief of Israeli intelligence, for help in finding his daughter, and Allon, seeing the possibility for positive change in the Middle East, reluctantly agrees. The elaborate and fascinating premise set, Silva goes on to do what he has done so masterfully through 21 previous spy thrillers: combine ever-intensifying suspense with the multiple interactions between a familiar team of deftly portrayed characters—Allon's colleagues, along with spymasters from the UK and United States. Fans of the series will be especially glad to learn that the notorious Soviet mole from *The Other Woman* (in our McNaughton Collection), Rebecca Manning, is back, too, again with her sights set on Allon. It all adds up to an irresistible thriller, built on the realpolitik of today's Middle East but deepened by the universality of human tragedy.

Taddeo, Lisa - **Three Women** - *Women Sexual Behavior-Case Studies, Social Life and Customs* -

Author Lisa Taddeo opens *Three Women*, her compelling debut, with stories about her mother: the beginnings of her mother's life as a woman, with all the complexities that accompany the teenage years, when society views women as reaching the height of their sexual power. She closes with her mother as well, this time describing the end of her life as Taddeo cared for her in the hospital. While this may seem like a strange decision for a book that concerns itself with female desire, it's quickly apparent to even the casual reader that Taddeo doesn't shy away from the unspoken, the uncomfortable and the shadow sides of sexuality. This is by necessity a ruthless book as it explores the half-concealed aspects of not only the female sex life but also the inner and secret lives of women. The three women in question cut across lines of class, age and experience. Maggie's story begins as a teen-ager in a working-class family in North Dakota, receiving provocative and confusing texts from an English teacher that build alarmingly and irresistibly. Lina is an Indiana housewife, firmly middle-class, unfulfilled and anxiety-ridden amid toddlers and a sexless marriage, when she reconnects with an old boyfriend over Facebook. Enigmatic Sloane is comfortably upper-class and considers herself highly in control of her sexual agency, until difficult memories surface, consequences arise, and she begins to question the line between male desire and her own--whether she is subject or object. *Three Women* is merciless, impossible to put down and so revealing as to be uncomfortable.

Ware, Ruth - **The Turn of the Key** - *Nannies and Murder Fiction, Psychological Fiction* - Henry James' 1898 novella *The Turn of the Screw* was successfully reworked as early as 1911 in Burnett's *The Secret Garden* and has morphed many times over since then into film, music, and many remarkable novels, including this one. Ware cleverly puts a high-tech spin on the tale's gothic foundations of spellbinding menace set in a remote cavernous mansion with mysterious locked doors and a spooky garden. In Ware's version, though, the garden is not just spooky but also poison. Rowan Caine stumbles across an online listing for a live-in nanny position with a seemingly charming family at Heatherbrae House in the magnificent Scottish Highlands. The staggering salary on offer should have warned Rowan that something might be amiss, but she couldn't resist. The house is rumored to be haunted and nightmarishly controlled by software ironically called the Happy App, whose malfunctions have nerve-shattering results. For Rowan, "The sense of intrusion was indescribable," thanks to surveillance cameras and unseen speakers, not to mention the spectral sounds coming from the attic above her room. Her decline into resentment, fatigue, and terror is chronicled in the form of letters she writes while in prison awaiting trial for the murder of one of the children. Ware's James-like embroidery of the strange and sinister produces a *Turn of the Screw* with cellphones and Teslas that will enthrall today's readers.

Whitehead, Colson - **The Nickel Boys** - *Historical Fiction, Child Abuse Fiction* - "As it had ever been with Nickel, no one believed them until someone else said it," Whitehead (*The Underground Railroad* - in our McNaughton Collection) writes in the present-day prologue to this story, in which construction workers have dug up what appears to be a secret graveyard on the grounds of the juvenile reform school the Nickel Academy in Jackson County, Fla. Five decades prior, Elwood Curtis, a deeply principled, straight-A high school student from Tallahassee, Fla., who partakes in civil rights demonstrations against Jim Crow laws and was about to start taking classes at the local black college before being erroneously detained by police, has just arrived at Nickel. Elwood finds that, at odds with Nickel's upstanding reputation in the community, the staff is callous and corrupt, and the boys--especially the black boys--suffer from near-constant physical, verbal, and sexual abuse. Elwood befriends the cynical Turner, whose adolescent experiences of violence have made him deeply skeptical of the objectivity of justice. Elwood and Turner's struggles to survive and maintain their personhood are interspersed with chapters from Elwood's adult life, showing how the physical and emotional toll of his time at Nickel still affects him. Inspired by horrific events that transpired at the real-life Dozier School for Boys, Whitehead's brilliant examination of America's history of violence is a stunning novel of impeccable language and startling insight.