

# Wolfgram Memorial Library McNaughton Collection

## October 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 - <b>Title</b> - <i>Subject</i> - Synopsis
Atwood, Margaret - <b><u>The Testaments</u></b> - <i>Dystopias, Misogyny Fiction</i> - Atwood's confident, magnetic sequel to <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> details the beginning of the end for Gilead, the authoritarian religion-touting dystopia where fertile single women (handmaids) live in sexual servitude. The novel opens in New England 15 years after the first novel ends. Aunt Lydia has become a renowned educator, an ally of Gilead's spy chief, and an archivist for Gilead's secrets. Ensnared in her library, Aunt Lydia recalls how she went from prisoner to collaborator during Gilead's early days. Now she is old and dying and ready for revenge. Her plan involves two teenagers. Gilead native Agnes Jemima is almost 13 when she learns her real mother was a runaway handmaid. Rather than marry, Agnes Jemima becomes an aunt-in-training. Sixteen-year-old Daisy in Toronto discovers she is the daughter of a runaway handmaid after the people she thought were her parents die in an explosion. Aunt Lydia brings the girls together under her tutelage, then sends them off to try to escape with Gilead's secrets. Since publication, <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> has appeared as a movie, graphic novel, and popular miniseries. Atwood does not dwell on the franchise or current politics. Instead, she explores favorite themes of sisterhood, options for the disempowered, and freedom's irresistible draw. Atwood's eminently rewarding sequel revels in the energy of youth, the shrewdness of old age, and the vulnerabilities of repressive regimes.
Box, C. J. - <b><u>The Bitterroots</u></b> - <i>"Cassie Dewell Series," Suspense/Thriller Fiction</i> - Box launches a new series starring a female private eye who messes with a powerful family and makes everyone involved rue the day. In this outstanding novel, erstwhile police officer Cassie Dewell, has rebooted her career and become a PI in Montana. A single mother, Cassie sometimes has to take work where she finds it, but her alarm bells go off when attorney Rachel Mitchell offers her a dubious assignment: investigating the arrest of millionaire Blake Kleinsasser, who has been charged with raping his 15-year-old niece, Franny Porche. The black sheep of his wealthy ranching family, Blake admits he was too drunk that night to remember whether he attacked Franny. Thus, gathering evidence that could clear Blake will be a huge challenge. How huge Cassie only gradually learns, as she canvasses the law enforcement of Lochsa County as well as the Kleinsasser family members. Local resistance soon escalates into serious peril when Cassie is arrested and thrown in jail on a trumped-up charge. Vividly etched characters and a realistic plot lift this outing, and the well-done Montana setting is a plus. Box remains at the top of his game.
Gladwell, Malcolm - <b><u>Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know</u></b> - <i>Social Psychology, Self-Help, Strangers</i> - The prolific, best-selling Gladwell (David and Goliath - in our McNaughton Collection) presents an intriguing analysis of what far too often goes wrong when strangers meet, diving deeply into relatively well-known controversial public incidents thoroughly covered by the mass media to cast doubt on how the general public has come to understand these events. The deceptions of Bernie Madoff, the trial of Amanda Knox, the suicide of Sylvia Plath, the Jerry Sandusky pedophilia scandal at Pennsylvania State University, and the death of Sandra Bland highlight the premise that ordinary tools and techniques used to make sense of people we don't know have failed society. The result of this failure is further conflict and misunderstanding that impact international relations and even threaten world order. Many of the examples exemplify how race, gender, age, language, country of origin, perceived threat, challenge to authority, contextual setting, and other variables can dominate impulsive behavior that shuns connections among people. This work should stimulate further research that could serve as control for these variables and more directly link how the factor of strangeness might influence certain reactions, providing a valuable contribution to psychology and psychiatry collections in larger university libraries.
Kendi, Ibram - <b><u>How to Be an Antiracist</u></b> - <i>Racism-Psychological Aspects, U.S. Race Relations</i> - From the National Book Award-winning author of <i>Stamped from the Beginning</i> comes a bracingly original approach to understanding and uprooting racism and inequality in our society-and in ourselves. "The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify and describe it-and then dismantle it." Ibram X. Kendi's concept of antiracism reenergizes and reshapes the conversation about racial justice in America-but even more fundamentally, points us toward liberating new ways of thinking about ourselves and each other. In <i>How to Be an Antiracist</i> , Kendi asks us to think about what an antiracist society might look like, and how we can play an active role in building it. In this book, Kendi weaves an electrifying combination of ethics, history, law, and science, bringing it all together with an engaging personal narrative of his own awakening to antiracism. <i>How to Be an Antiracist</i> is an essential work for anyone who wants to go beyond an awareness of racism to the next step: contributing to the formation of a truly just and equitable society.

King, Stephen - **The Institute** - *Horror/Occult Fiction, Good and Evil Fiction* - King wows with the most gut-wrenching tale of kids triumphing over evil since *It*. In a quiet Minnesota neighborhood, intruders kidnap 12-year-old prodigy Luke Ellis and murder his parents. When Luke wakes up, he finds himself in a room identical to his own bedroom, except that he is now a resident of the Institute—a facility that tests telekinetic and telepathic abilities of children. Luke finds comfort in the company of the children in the Front Half: Kalisha, Nick, George, and Avery. Others have graduated to the Back Half, where "kids check in, but they don't check out." The Front Half are promised that they'll be returned to their parents after testing and a visit to Back Half, but Luke becomes suspicious and desperate to get out and get help for the others. However, no child has ever escaped the Institute. Tapping into the minds of the young characters, King creates a sense of menace and intimacy that will have readers spellbound. The mystery of the Institute's purpose is drawn out naturally until it becomes far scarier than the physical abuse visited upon the children. Not a word is wasted in this meticulously crafted novel, which once again proves why King is the king of horror.

Krueger, William - **This Tender Land** - *Historical Fiction, Orphans Fiction, Native Americans Fiction* - For fans of *Where the Crawdads Sing* (in our McNaughton Collection), a magnificent novel about orphans on a life-changing odyssey during the Great Depression. Four young orphans—white narrator and storyteller Odie, his brother Albert, a girl named Emmy and a mute Sioux boy named Mose—guide readers through a beautiful landscape after escaping abusive caretakers and horrendous conditions in a Native American boarding school. Krueger's painstaking research allowed him to explore the lives of the poor, who existed on little means and lots of hope in 1932, and to open a window into Christian missionary-run boarding schools, which cruelly forced assimilation until the 1960s. Reminiscent of Huck and Jim and their trip down the Mississippi, the bedraggled youngsters encounter remarkable characters and learn life lessons as they escape by canoe down the Gilead River in Minnesota. They meet a farmer grieving the loss of his family, a healer in a traveling revival show and a downtrodden family unable to get out of a makeshift Hooverville. These three pit stops underscore diversity of faith and beliefs, charity and hardship, and all three propel the four vagabond children to a new level of understanding how God works in their lives and in the lives of others, even in times of despair.

Lagercrantz, David - **The Girl Who Lived Twice** - *"Millennium Series - Lisbeth Salander," Thriller/Suspense Fiction* - Swedish journalist Mikael Blomkvist takes center stage in Lagercrantz's exciting third addition to Stieg Larsson's Millennium series (after 2017's *The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye* - in our McNaughton Collection). Lisbeth Salander, the girl with the famous dragon tattoo, has been off traveling around Europe and not responding to Blomkvist's emails, which has left him working halfheartedly on a story about Russian computer trolls. Then he receives a phone call from a medical examiner who tells him a dwarf has been found dead on a Stockholm street with Blomkvist's phone number in his pocket. This is far more interesting than Russian trolls, and after Blomkvist enlists Lisbeth's help, she figures out that the man was not a dwarf, but a Sherpa, which leads them to a deadly Everest expedition involving the Swedish defense minister. When Blomkvist gets into trouble, Lisbeth comes to his rescue. Lisbeth's plan to kill her evil twin sister, Camilla, provides a diverting subplot. A tantalizing ending hints at important changes for Blomkvist and Lisbeth ahead. Series fans will be pleased with the thoughtful way Lagercrantz develops the character of their beloved action heroine in this worthy outing.

Mattis, James - **Call Sign Chaos: Learning to Lead** - *U.S. General James Mattis Biography, 2003-2011 Iraq War* - Former defense secretary Mattis surveys his four decades in the U.S. Marine Corps in this sturdy memoir and leadership guide co-written with combat veteran West (*One Million Steps: A Marine Platoon at War*). At the outset, Mattis lets readers know that he doesn't discuss "sitting Presidents" and won't be "tak up the hot political rhetoric of the day." Instead, he recounts, among other highlights from his military career, watching his battalion turn the tables on an Iraqi ambush during the 1990 Gulf War; leading the 1st Marine Division into the Battle of Fallujah in 2004; and taking over for Gen. David Petraeus at U.S. Central Command in 2010. Mattis's leadership lessons border on the banal—his early years in the Marines taught him the importance of "competence, caring, and conviction"—but his blunt assessments of U.S. foreign policy can be memorable. Of the Obama administration's refusal to listen to his concerns about Iraqi prime minister Nour al-Maliki, Mattis writes, "It was like talking to people who lived in wooden houses but saw no need for a fire department." Meanwhile, he lets his resignation letter serve as his only direct comment on serving in President Trump's Cabinet. This judicious book burnishes Mattis's legacy at the same time it belies his "Mad Dog" reputation.

Penny, Louise - **A Better Man** - *"Chief Inspector Gamache," Missing Persons Fiction, Mystery/Detective Fiction* - Bestseller Penny's wrenching 15th novel featuring Chief Inspector Armand Gamache (after 2018's *Kingdom of the Blind* - in our McNaughton Collection) finds Gamache, former chief superintendent of the Surete du Quebec, returning to work after a nine-month suspension and demotion, and reporting to his own his son-in-law and one-time protege, Jean-Guy Beauvoir. When the body of Vivienne Godin, 25 and pregnant, is found in a river near Three Pines, trapped in the debris of a violent spring flood, Gamache and Beauvoir are sure that she was killed by her drunken, abusive, supremely unlikable husband, Carl Tracey. But knowing who did it and proving it are two different things. After an exhaustive investigation, the detectives build a convincing circumstantial case against Tracey. But a shocking twist forces Gamache to look at the evidence anew. With an uncompromising eye, Penny explores the depths of human emotion, both horrifying and sublime. Her love for her characters and for the mystical village of Three Pines is apparent on every page.

Pirro, Jeanine - **Radicals, Resistance, and Revenge: The Left's Plot to Remake America** - 2016

*U.S. Presidential Election, U.S. Politics and Government* - Picking up where her #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *Liars, Leakers and Liberals* (in our McNaughton Collection), left off, Judge Jeanine Pirro exposes the latest chapter in the unfolding liberal attack on our most basic values. Overturning presidential elections, nationalizing private industries like healthcare and education, destroying America's borders, erasing its national identity and effectively silencing conservative voices in the cybersphere and public square are just a few examples of the lengths to which the far-left progressives and socialists will go to destroy the America we love and remake it into something unrecognizable: borderless, socialist, and free of any moral compass. Only Donald Trump and his army of patriots can stop this radical plan. Judge Jeanine is sounding the alarm and calling out those who despise our most cherished ideals and institutions, to warn patriotic Americans before it's too late.

Preston, Douglas and Child, Lincoln - **Old Bones** - "Nora Kelly Series," *Archaeological*

*Expeditions Fiction, Donner Party Fiction* - Preston and Child combine archaeology, cannibalism, and murder in this launch of a new series featuring archaeologist Dr. Norah Kelly and rookie FBI agent Corrie Swanson. Historian Clive Benton, descended from a Donner Party family, approaches Kelly about locating the purported third, or lost, Donner Party camp. He's also interested in finding a treasure in gold coins thought to have been carried by someone in the party. The camp is found, and the dig goes well until a wrangler in the group, offended by what he views as sacrilege, vandalizes the site and is found murdered. Swanson, on her first case, is sent to investigate and sets out to link the skull of Albert Parkin, who died at the lost camp, to the wrangler's death. The skull is the only item missing after the vandalism, and gravesites of other Parkin descendants are being robbed around the world. Special Agent Pendergast, star of Preston and Child's best-known series, makes an appearance, as significant as it is brief, after mortal danger is averted. But this outing belongs to two dedicated women, whose future adventures will be happily anticipated.

Robb, J.D. - **Vendetta in Death** - "Lt. Eve Dallas Series," *Serial Murder Investigation Fiction* -

Killing someone--no matter how much he might deserve it--isn't justice; it's revenge. At least this is NYPD Lieutenant Eve Dallas' take on the situation when Nigel B. McEnroy's badly bruised, battered, and castrated body is found outside his New York City apartment building. A poem written by the avenger, who calls herself Lady Justice, and left beside the body enumerates all of McEnroy's crimes against women, but that doesn't matter one bit to Eve, because as far as she is concerned, murder is murder. As more victims of Lady Justice's brand of revenge begin turning up, Eve finds herself marshaling all her resources, inside the department as well as outside, to put a stop to someone who has appointed herself judge, jury, and executioner. With the forty-ninth tautly constructed, fast-paced entry in Robb's long-running series, the author continues to find new and innovative ways of keeping readers glued to the edges of their seats.

Tolentino, Jia - **Trick Mirror: Reflections on Self-Delusion** - *U.S. Women-Social Conditions, U.S.*

*Popular Culture* - Tolentino brings a preternaturally aware millennial sensibility and exceptional literary skills to her keenly inquisitive and complexly involving essays. A *New Yorker* writer with a consequential online following, Tolentino is adept at transmuting autobiography into penetrating and unpredictable critiques of the self and the zeitgeist. In nine substantial and kinetic investigations built on deep reading, intrepid reckoning, and daring disclosures, Tolentino considers an array of slippery yet key questions. She assesses the impact of the internet on our sense of personal and communal identity and responsibility. She recounts her childhood as a rare Asian American in a large Texas evangelical church community, her role in a teen reality-TV show, and her stints at the University of Virginia and in the Peace Corps, delving into race, gender, sexual assault, and "feminism in its current market-friendly and mainstream form." Tolentino investigates literary heroines, religion, self-optimization, weddings, ecstasy chemical and mystical, and the perversities of the Trump administration. In the zone of Joan Didion, Susan Sontag, Elif Batuman, and Leslie Jamison, Tolentino adeptly pursues "a granular understanding" of undermining paradoxes with wit, verve, and righteousness.