

Wolfgram Memorial Library McNaughton Collection

December 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 - <u>Title</u> - <i>Subject</i> - Synopsis
<p>Albom, Mitch - <u>Finding Chika: A Little Girl, an Earthquake, and the Making of a Family</u> - <i>Haiti Orphans, Inspirational Biography</i> - Albom's powerful memoir is a tribute to Chika, an orphaned Haitian girl whom Albom and his wife, Janine, cared for from age five to age seven, when she died from a brain tumor. After the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, Albom took over the management of an orphanage there. In 2013, fun-loving Chika became a resident and, two years later, was diagnosed with an aggressive brain tumor. Doctors in Haiti didn't have the means to treat Chika, so Albom and his wife-who never had kids-brought her home to Michigan to help save her. Albom conveys the heartbreak of watching her suffer (Chika endured surgeries, and lost teeth and hair), while capturing Chika's sweet spirit and youthful resilience. He speaks candidly about being too career-focused and putting off having kids until it was too late, and shares how Chika allowed him and his wife to experience the glory of parenthood decades into their marriage. Albom addresses Chika directly: "You never have to worry about us forgetting you... we'd lose every memory we ever had before we would let go of yours." Both painfully sad and beautiful, this is an absolute tearjerker.</p>
<p>Child, Lee - <u>Blue Moon</u> - <i>"Jack Reacher," Gangs Fiction, Action/Adventure Fiction</i> - At the start of bestseller Child's riveting 24th Jack Reacher novel (after 2018's Past Tense, in our McNaughton Collection), peripatetic vigilante Reacher rescues an elderly man carrying an envelope full of cash, Aaron Shevick, from a would-be mugger in an unnamed American city. Reacher escorts the shaken Shevick home, where he meets the man's wife and soon learns the couple are deeply indebted to loan sharks because of huge medical bills. Shevick is supposed to deliver the cash to an Albanian crook named Fisnik in a bar later that day, but when Fisnik doesn't show, Reacher ends up impersonating Shevick at the rescheduled meeting with Fisnik's replacement, a Ukrainian thug, who's never met Shevick. A turf war has just begun between the city's rival Ukrainian and Albanian gangs, and Reacher lands in the thick of it in his efforts to help the Shevicks. Reacher applies his keen analytical skills to numerous violent confrontations with bad guys who aren't as smart as he is. Readers will cheer as Reacher and his allies, a resourceful waitress and two fellow ex-military guys he hooks up with, take the fight straight to the top of the criminal command chain. Child is at the top of his game in this nail-biter.</p>
<p>Connolly, Michael - <u>The Night Fire</u> - <i>"Detectives Renee Ballard and Harry Bosch," Murder Investigation Fiction</i> - The sins of the past cast a long shadow in bestseller Connolly's superlative second novel featuring detectives Renee Ballard and Harry Bosch together (after 2018's Dark Sacred Night, in our McNaughton Collection). After the funeral of former LAPD Det. John Jack Thompson, the man's widow gives Bosch a murder book that Thompson took when he left the force a couple of decades before. The cold case concerns the unsolved homicide of 24-year-old John Hilton, an addict who was killed in an alley in 1990. What's unclear is why Bosch's old mentor stole the murder book-to work the case himself in retirement, or to keep other detectives from working it? Bosch takes the book to Ballard, a kindred spirit; both are outliers with a shared fire for fighting injustice no matter where the trail leads. Meanwhile, defense attorney Mickey Haller enlists Bosch, his half-brother, to assist in defending a mentally ill man accused of murdering a superior court judge. Conflicting DNA evidence and a problematic confession complicate the high profile case. Connolly is without peer when it comes to police procedurals, and once again proves that he's the modern master of the form.</p>
<p>Evanovich, Janet - <u>Twisted Twenty-Six</u> - <i>"Bounty Hunter Stephanie Plum," Humorous Mystery/Detective Fiction</i> - This isn't just another case. This is family. How far will Stephanie Plum go to protect the one person who means the most to her? (Check out Turbo Twenty-Three, Hardcore Twenty-Four, and Look Alive Twenty-Five, also in our McNaughton Collection.) Grandma Mazur has decided to get married again - this time to a local gangster named Jimmy Rosolli. If Stephanie has her doubts about this marriage, she doesn't have to worry for long, because the groom drops dead of a heart attack 45 minutes after saying, "I do." A sad day for Grandma Mazur turns into something far more dangerous when Jimmy's former "business partners" are convinced that his new widow is keeping the keys to a financial windfall all to herself. But the one thing these wise guys didn't count on was the widow's bounty hunter granddaughter, who'll do anything to save her.</p>

Farrow, Ronan – Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators – *Sexual*

Harassment Investigation, Corruption - A groundbreaking #MeToo journalist finds his own news organization to be the greatest obstacle to the truth in this vivid, labyrinthine memoir. New Yorker scribe and ex-NBC News correspondent Farrow (War on Peace, in our McNaughton Collection) revisits his 2017 reporting on sexual assault and harassment allegations against Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein by actresses and employees, an investigation begun but then killed by NBC and eventually published in the New Yorker. Farrow then probes sexual misconduct complaints at NBC itself, including an explosive new claim that Today host Matt Lauer raped NBC news staffer Brooke Nevils. He describes coaxing frightened women to break nondisclosure agreements and go public with their traumas, as well as more sinister currents of intrigue and betrayal. He unearths Weinstein's use of secret agents from the Israeli firm Black Cube to spy on sources-and on Farrow himself. Worse, he contends, NBC executives, some with personal and business ties to Weinstein and pressured by his lobbying and legal threats, started unaccountably turning against Farrow's story as the evidence supporting it mounted. This is a crackerjack journalistic thriller.

Grisham, John – The Guardians – *Race Relations Fiction, False Imprisonment Fiction* - The

suspense never rests in John Grisham's pulse-pounding new legal thriller. The latest novel from the New York Times #1 bestselling author moves at breakneck speed, delivering some of his most inventive twists and turns yet. In the small north Florida town of Seabrook, a young lawyer named Keith Russo was shot dead at his desk as he worked late one night. The killer left no clues behind. There were no witnesses, no real suspects, no one with a motive. The police soon settled on Quincy Miller, a young black man who was once a client of Russo's. Quincy was framed, convicted, and sent to prison for life. For twenty-two years he languished in prison with no lawyer, no advocate on the outside. Then he wrote a letter to Guardian Ministries, a small innocence group founded by a lawyer/minister named Cullen Post. Guardian handles only a few innocence cases at a time, and Post is its only investigator. He travels the South fighting wrongful convictions and taking cases no one else will touch. With Quincy Miller, though, he gets far more than he bargained for. Powerful, ruthless people murdered Keith Russo, and they do not want Quincy exonerated. They killed one lawyer twenty-two years ago, and they will kill another one without a second thought.

Gwynne, S.C. – Hymns of the Republic: The Story of the Final Year of the American Civil War –

U.S. Civil War History, 1861-1865 - Gwynne homes in on the Civil War's last, brutal year with intelligent battlefield analyses and sympathetic, evenhanded portrayals of Ulysses S. Grant, Robert E. Lee, Clara Barton, and other major figures. Ambitious, humbly dressed Grant became the general of the Army of the Potomac and finally defeated the Confederacy through battlefield successes and jaw-dropping systematic devastation of the Shenandoah Valley and Atlanta, giving Lee generous terms of surrender at Appomattox. Lincoln struggled with years of Confederate victories, fresh political challenges from radical Republicans in the 1864 election, and the practicalities of multitudes of newly freed slaves. Throughout the narrative, Gwynne gives frank details on the thousands of African-Americans who toiled on both sides of the war, reminding the reader of the conflict's high stakes. The purposeful, powerful ending describes the horrific conditions in prisoner-of-war camps, pushing past the romantic mythologizing that was once common in writing about this devastating era. Gwynne excels in tightly focused storytelling, beginning most chapters with a well-chosen, often curiosity-provoking photograph. This is a must-read for Civil War enthusiasts.

Haley, Nikki – With All Due Respect: Defending America with Grit and Grace – *U.S. Politics and*

Government - A revealing, dramatic, deeply personal book about the most significant events of our time, written by the former United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley is widely admired for her forthright manner ("With all due respect, I don't get confused"), her sensitive approach to tragic events, and her confident representation of America's interests as our Ambassador to the United Nations during times of crisis and consequence. In this book, Haley offers a first-hand perspective on major national and international matters, as well as a behind-the-scenes account of her tenure in the Trump administration. This book reveals a woman who can hold her own-and better-in domestic and international power politics, a diplomat who is unafraid to take a principled stand even when it is unpopular, and a leader who seeks to bring Americans together in divisive times.

John, Elton – Me – *Elton John Official Autobiography* - In his first and only official autobiography, music

icon Elton John reveals the truth about his extraordinary life, from his rollercoaster lifestyle as shown in the film Rocketman, to becoming a living legend. Christened Reginald Dwight, he was a shy boy with Buddy Holly glasses who grew up in the London suburb of Pinner and dreamed of becoming a pop star. By the age of twenty-three he was performing his first gig in America, facing an astonished audience in his bright yellow dungarees, a star-spangled T-shirt, and boots with wings. Elton John had arrived and the music world would never be the same again. His life has been full of drama, from the early rejection of his work with song-writing partner Bernie Taupin to spinning out of control as a chart-topping superstar; from half-heartedly trying to drown himself in his LA swimming pool to disco-dancing with Princess Diana and Queen Elizabeth; from friendships with John Lennon, Freddie Mercury, and George Michael to setting up his AIDS Foundation to conquering Broadway with Aida, The Lion King, and Billy Elliot the Musical. All the while Elton was hiding a drug addiction that would grip him for over a decade. In Me, Elton also writes powerfully about getting clean and changing his life, about finding love with David Furnish and becoming a father. In a voice that is warm, humble, and open, this is Elton on his music and his relationships, his passions and his mistakes. This is a story that will stay with you by a living legend.

Kilmeade, Brian - Sam Houston and the Alamo Avengers: The Texas Victory That Changed American History - *Texas History to 1846, Sam Houston, 1836 Alamo Siege* - The heart-stopping

story of the fight for Texas by The New York Times bestselling author of *Andrew Jackson* and *The Miracle of New Orleans*, and *Thomas Jefferson and the Tripoli Pirates* (both in our Main Circulation). In March 1836, the Mexican army led by General Santa Anna massacred about 200-250 Texans who had been trapped in a tiny adobe church in San Antonio for thirteen days. American legends Jim Bowie and Davey Crockett died there, along with other Americans who had moved to Texas looking for a fresh start. The devastating loss galvanized the surviving Texans. Under General Sam Houston, a maverick with a rocky past, the tiny army of settlers rallied. Just one month after the massacre, the underdog Texans soundly defeated the "Napoleon of the West" (as Santa Anna styled himself) at the Battle of San Jacinto. They secured the independence of the land their friends had died for. In his now trademark fashion, Brian Kilmeade explores hidden aspects of Sam Houston, the first president of Texas, and brings the reader to the scenes of one of the most pivotal moments in American history. Thanks to Kilmeade's storytelling, a new generation of readers will remember the Alamo.

Monroe, Mary Alice - The Summer Guests - *Hurricanes Fiction, Domestic/Romance Fiction* - As a hurricane threatens the Atlantic Coast, evacuation is at the top of everyone's mind. Freehold Farm, owned by accomplished horsewoman Grace, becomes a place of refuge for a diverse crew of men, women, children, and their beloved horses and rescued dogs. In the mountains of North Carolina, the group finds common ground in their love of good food, good wine, and equestrian culture. As old friends reconnect and sparks of unexpected romance ignite, Freehold Farm becomes much more than a site to wait out the coming storm. Guests learn more about each other and themselves, and surprising connections take shape. Following the dramatic arc of the hurricane's progress, from buildup to landfall to dispersal, *The Summer Guests* escalates to a satisfying resolution. Loyal readers will recognize Monroe's signature love of animals, the picturesque setting and heartwarming intertwined character arcs.

Morgenstern, Erin - The Starless Sea - *Fantasy Fiction* - Morgenstern's new fantasy epic is a puzzlebox of a book, full of meta-narratives and small folkloric tales that will delight readers. Zachary is a grad student who stumbles on a mysterious book in his library. Pulling on the thread of its origins, he discovers the symbols of the bee, the book, and the sword, that in turn lead him to a secret society that protects a magical, subterranean library. Chased by shadowy people determined to close off the library from our world, Zachary and new friends Dorian and Mirabel eventually reach the library itself, which is neglected--and in need of saving. Morgenstern uses poetic, honey-like prose to tell a story that plays with the very concept of what we expect and want from our stories; she also asks questions about accessibility, and what it truly means to guard something as precious as the library. She trusts her readers to follow along and speculate, wonder, and make leaps themselves as she dives into tales of pirates, book burnings, and men lost in time, giving the book a mythic quality that will stick with readers long after they put it down.

Prince - The Beautiful Ones - *African-American Singers, Prince Biography* - The brilliant coming-of-age-and-into-superstardom story of one of the greatest artists of all time, in his own words--featuring never-before-seen photos, original scrapbooks and lyric sheets, and the exquisite memoir he began writing before his tragic death. Prince was a musical genius, one of the most beloved, accomplished, and acclaimed musicians of our time. He was a startlingly original visionary with an imagination deep enough to whip up whole worlds, from the sexy, gritty funk paradise of "Uptown" to the mythical landscape of *Purple Rain* to the psychedelia of "Paisley Park." But his most ambitious creative act was turning Prince Rogers Nelson, born in Minnesota, into Prince, one of the greatest pop stars of any era. This work is not just a tribute to an icon, but an original and energizing literary work in its own right, full of Prince's ideas and vision, his voice and image--his undying gift to the world.

Tyson, Neil DeGrasse - Letters from an Astrophysicist - *Neil DeGrasse Tyson Correspondence* - Astrophysicist Neil deGrasse Tyson has attracted one of the world's largest online followings with his fascinating, widely accessible insights into science and our universe. Now, Tyson invites us to go behind the scenes of his public fame by unveiling his candid correspondence with people across the globe who have sought him out in search of answers. In this hand-picked collection of one hundred letters, Tyson draws upon cosmic perspectives to address a vast array of questions about science, faith, philosophy, life, and of course, Pluto. His succinct, opinionated, passionate, and often funny responses reflect his popularity and standing as a leading educator. Tyson's 2017 bestseller *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* (in our Main Circulation) offered more than one million readers an insightful and accessible understanding of the universe. Now, revealing Tyson's most candid and heartfelt writing yet, *Letters from an Astrophysicist* introduces us to a newly personal dimension of Tyson's quest to understand our place in the cosmos.