

Wolfgram Memorial Library

McNaughton Collection

February 2020 - 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
Kristof, Nicholas and WuDunn, Sheryl - <u>Tightrope: Americans Reaching for Hope</u> - <i>U.S. Working Class Social and Economic Conditions</i> - The authors, a Pulitzer Prize-winning husband-and-wife journalist team turn their attention to America's overlooked and left-behind working class. With compassion and empathy, they pull readers into the lives of families who have been in a downward spiral for several generations. Stories about Kristof's former classmates and neighbors in his hometown of Yamhill, OR, are stark and troubling, but the authors balance them with other stories about organizations that have been effective and which have made Herculean efforts to turn lives around or mitigate despair. Kristof and WuDunn note that their goal is not to propose policy, but rather to share illustrative stories in order to make clear the enormity of the problem. They bring a human face to issues such as drug addiction, incarceration, family dysfunction, and declining prospects for employment. By comparing America's policies to those of other wealthy nations, they show that solutions are available for "escalators" out of poverty. They also offer ten ways readers can personally make a difference. (A companion PBS documentary is planned.) Enlightening for all concerned Americans, but especially for those interested in social justice issues.
Napolitano, Ann - <u>Dear Edward</u> - <i>Grief Fiction, Loss Psychology Fiction</i> - Twelve-year-old Eddie Adler is flying with his family from New York City to Los Angeles, a temporary relocation for his mother's television writing job. As he and his brother fight over who gets the window seat, their parents worry how the boys will cope with the move. The 216 passengers aboard their plane include a soldier returning from Afghanistan, an unexpectedly pregnant woman hoping for an engagement ring from her new boyfriend, and a dying tycoon. When the plane crashes in Colorado, Eddie is the sole survivor. Napolitano follows Eddie in his struggle to build a new life without his family. Now living with his aunt and uncle, Eddie (now calling himself Edward) develops a relationship with Shay, his next door neighbor. Their relationship becomes the deep and stabilizing force in Edward's new life, and together they discover a cache of letters hidden in his uncle's garage that ultimately gives Edward's life new meaning. With its expert pacing and picture-perfect final page, <i>Dear Edward</i> is a wondrous read. It is a skillful and satisfying examination of not only what it means to survive, but of what it means to truly live.
Patterson, James and Born, James - <u>Lost</u> - <i>Conspiracies Fiction, Suspense Fiction</i> - Miami just got a lot more dangerous -- especially for one innocent young woman running for her life. The city of Miami is Detective Tom Moon's back yard. He's always kept it local, attending University of Miami on a football scholarship, and, as a Miami PD officer, protecting the city's most vulnerable. Now, as the new leader of an FBI task force called "Operation Guardian," it's his mission to combat international crime. Moon's investigative team discovers that the opportunistic "Blood Brothers" -- Russian nationals Roman and Emile Rostoff -- have evaded authorities while building a vast, powerful, and deadly crime syndicate throughout Europe and metropolitan Miami. Moon played offense for U of M, but he's on the other side of the field this time. And as the Rostoffs zero in on a target dear to Tom, they're not playing by anyone's rules.
Reid, Kiley - <u>Such a Fun Age</u> - <i>African American Fiction, Domestic Fiction</i> - Say you're a white, professional woman in the midst of a late-evening crisis. Would you call your African American babysitter, catching her at a friend's birthday party, and ask her to come tend to your toddler? Say you're that African American babysitter. After taking your charge to the local market, wouldn't you be annoyed, then humiliated, then downright scared and angry when a security guard accuses you of kidnapping? Say you're that white woman, wanting to right this wrong, and giving the sitter a raise or an edible arrangement isn't quite the right path. Would you go crusading with self-righteous, even self-serving zeal, not really checking in with what your babysitter wants or needs? If you were that babysitter, what would be your next move? Especially if you loved that toddler and thought you were good at your job? Aren't you curious to find out how put-upon Emira deals with her clueless brand-marketer boss? In her debut novel, Reid illuminates difficult truths about race, society, and power with a fresh, light hand. We're all familiar with the phrases white privilege and race relations, but rarely has a book vivified these terms in such a lucid, absorbing, graceful, forceful, but unforced way.

Steel, Danielle - **Moral Compass** - *Prep School Fiction, Life Change Events Fiction* - Massachusetts-based Saint Ambrose Prep, where the wealthy send their children so they, too, can become Ivy League top dogs, has enrolled 140 female students for the first time. By Halloween, one of those young women lands in the hospital with life-threatening alcohol poisoning after a serious attack, and the few students who know what happened have sworn each other to secrecy. As details from the evening emerge, powerful families are forced to hire attorneys and less powerful families watch helplessly. Parents' marriages are jeopardized, and students' futures are impacted. No one at Saint Ambrose can escape the fallout of a life-altering event. In this compelling novel, Danielle Steel illuminates the dark side of one drunken night, with its tragic consequences, from every possible point of view. As the drama unfolds, the characters will reach a crossroads where they must choose between truth and lies, between what is easy and what is right, and find the moral compass they will need for the rest of their lives.