

Wolfgram Memorial Library McNaughton Collection

March 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 - <u>Title</u> - <i>Subject</i> - Synopsis
<p>Cummins, Jeanine - <u>American Dirt</u> - <i>"Oprah's Book Club 2020," Mexico Organized Crime Fiction, Mexico-U.S. Border Immigrants Fiction</i> - Lydia Perez's life is not extraordinary; she is a bookstore owner with a husband and eight-year-old son, Luca, in Acapulco. When cartel jefe Javier Fuentes has her entire extended family killed while Lydia and Luca are fortuitously hiding in a bathroom, Lydia realizes they must leave Mexico immediately or be killed when Javier finds out she is still alive. Luca, confused but trusting in his mother, embarks with her on an odyssey to the north, joining other migrants trying to make it to the U.S. border. What they see along the way will bring readers both heartbreak and hope, pain and promise. While Cummins alternates points of view, Luca's voice in particular sings with innocent optimism in the face of a series of near misses. The journey towards the prospect of safety is not only that of Luca and Lydia but of many other migrants, and complex secondary characters serve as both warnings and signs of possibility. Beautiful, straightforward language drives home the point that migration to safer places is not a political issue but a human one. With a story line sure to be much discussed this election year--plus a film in the works--American Dirt may be the don't-miss book of 2020.</p>
<p>Gardner, Lisa - <u>When You See Me</u> - <i>"Detective D.D. Warren, Flora Dane, and FBI Agent Kimberly Quincy," Suspense/Thriller Fiction</i> - A human bone found in the remote Georgia mountains draws to the scene Boston homicide detective D. D. Warren and civilians Flora Dane and Keith Edgar. Flora, a captive of serial killer Jacob Ness, was kept as his sex slave for 427 days before she killed him, and Keith is a computer nerd who has become an authority on Ness; with Warren and supervising FBI agent Kimberly Quincy, they hope to find evidence of Ness' crimes in Georgia. In fact, the mountain area soon yields evidence of a serial killer's dumping grounds, and the nearby small town is found to be hiding dreadful secrets involving human trafficking and trading in black-market organs. Looming over it all is the Bad Man, who years earlier killed the mother of a young girl, now a mute servant known simply as the Girl, whose first-person accounts weave through the narrative, as she works her way into D. D.'s heart. As this unparalleled plot thickens, the author keeps fans salivating with her superb no-nonsense, visually disturbing bird's-eye-view storytelling. There are no backseat performances in this all-star, fan-favorite cast, in which every single portrayal is perfect.</p>
<p>McManus, Karen - <u>One of Us Is Next</u> - <i>Gossip Fiction, Mystery/Detective Fiction</i> - A dangerous texting game comes to Bayview High. Last year in a San Diego suburb, a gossip app led to a death and inspired weak copycats. Now an anonymous person is sending Truth or Dare messages to the students of Bayview High, and this time no one is safe. If you choose truth (or don't respond), one of your secrets is revealed. Complete a dare and you've passed. The game mostly causes an entertaining stir--until a student winds up dead. Was it an accident, or was it murder? High school juniors Maeve, Phoebe, and Knox find themselves caught up in the mystery of who's behind the texts. The compelling heart of the story is the three main characters' family drama and personal struggles. Maeve thinks she's having a leukemia relapse, Phoebe slept with her sister's boyfriend, and Knox interns at a legal aid firm whose staff members are receiving death threats. Shifting perspectives keep the pace steady while McManus deftly weaves in commentary on the justice system, bullying, and slut shaming. Plenty of secrets and surprises will keep readers captivated until the satisfying end. Knox and Phoebe are white, Maeve has Colombian ancestry, and Bayview is a diverse community. A can't-put-down read.</p>
<p>Preston, Douglas and Child, Lincoln - <u>Crooked River</u> - <i>"FBI Agent Aloysius Pendergast," Suspense/Thriller Fiction</i> - Sanibel and Captiva Islands on the Florida Gulf Coast are known for their beauty and the abundance of beautiful seashells that wash up on the pristine beaches. When nearly 100 severed feet clad in identical shoes begin washing up on the beaches, the FBI calls in Special Agent Pendergast. A joint task force is quickly gathered, with the Coast Guard in charge. The case is fraught with infighting and jurisdictional conflicts. Pendergast quietly conducts his own investigation but realizes too late that there is a mole in the task force passing information to the bad guys, placing Pendergast and his colleagues, including junior agent Coldmoon, in danger. Add in murderous drug dealers, an intrepid newspaper reporter, coyotes crossing the U.S.-Mexico border, and a pissed-off wannabe graphic novelist, and you have a thoroughly entertaining cast of characters. There is plenty of suspense, and the action gets bloody. Great storytelling, a quirky hero, and a quirker plot make this a winner for adventure fans.</p>

Robb, J.D. - Golden in Death - "Detective Eve Dallas," *Suspense/Thriller Fiction* - Set in New York City in 2061, bestseller Robb's capable 50th In Death police procedural (after 2019's Vendetta in Death, in our McNaughton Collection) pits Lt. Eve Dallas against a particularly callous and ingenious assassin. One day, pediatrician Kent Abner receives a mysterious golden egg in the mail. When he opens the lid, the egg emits a deadly toxin that kills him. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, the victim was well liked in his West Village neighborhood. After questioning Abner's work colleagues and relatives, Eve and her stalwart partner, Det. Delia Peabody, are unable to establish a motive or a viable suspect. However, when book club host Elise Duran is killed in an identical manner, Eve notices a link-both the victims' spouses worked at the same private school. Dogged investigative work and a little assistance from her billionaire husband, Roarke, help strong, shrewd, reliable Eve bring the heinous killer to justice. The gripping plot builds to a dramatic finale.

Rucker, Philip and Leonnig, Carol - A Very Stable Genius: Donald J. Trump's Testing of America - *Donald J. Trump, U.S. Politics and Government* - Washington Post reporters Rucker and Leonnig deliver a granular critique of the Trump presidency, from Michael Flynn's ill-fated tenure as national security advisor to the release of the Mueller Report. Contending that "two kinds of people went to work for the administration: those who thought Trump was saving the world and those who thought the world needed to be saved from Trump," Rucker and Leonnig argue that the latter group served as "human guardrails" before they either quit in frustration or were fired. White House insiders lament everything from the preponderance of TVs ("It was like running a meeting in a Buffalo Wild Wings") to Trump's insults ("You're a bunch of dopes and babies," he once told senior military commanders) to the meddling of Ivanka Trump and Jared Kushner. The book's brief epilogue links the departure of Trump's most experienced advisors to his pressure campaign on Ukraine and calls on Republicans to consider "the fate of history" as impeachment unfolds. Rucker and Leonnig try to account for their sources' private agendas (though Chris Christie comes off suspiciously well) and reveal new details about well-known events, including Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein's plans to protect the Russia investigation if Trump fired Mueller. The president's critics will find their worst suspicions confirmed by this doggedly reported account.

Schweizer, Peter - Profiles in Corruption: Abuse of Power by America's Progressive Elite - *Political Corruption, U.S. Politics and Government* - Washington insiders operate by a proven credo: when a Peter Schweizer book drops, duck and brace for impact. For over a decade, the work of five-time New York Times bestselling investigative reporter Peter Schweizer has sent shockwaves through the political universe. Clinton Cash revealed the Clintons' international money flow, exposed global corruption, and sparked an FBI investigation. Secret Empires exposed bipartisan corruption and launched congressional investigations. And Throw Them All Out and Extortion prompted passage of the STOCK Act. Indeed, Schweizer's "follow the money" bombshell revelations have been featured on the front pages of the New York Times and Wall Street Journal—and regularly appear on national news programs, including 60 Minutes.