
Off the Shelf:

An e-mail newsletter from the Prince William Public Library System
August 14, 2009

Fall Bestsellers!

Many readers are anxiously awaiting *The Lost Symbol*, Dan Brown's follow-up to *The Da Vinci Code*, which will be published in mid-September. There is little doubt that *The Lost Symbol* will appear on bestseller lists, but Dan Brown's book will have good company this fall as other popular authors release new novels. Watch for these new releases coming in September: Ted Dekker's *Green*; Nicholas Sparks' *The Last Song*; F. Paul Wilson's *Ground Zero*; Stuart Woods' *Hothouse Orchid*; Alexander McCall Smith's newest story featuring Isabel Dalhousie, *The Lost Art of Gratitude*; Diana Gabaldon's *An Echo in the Bone*; Joanne Fluke's *Plum Pudding Murder*, and John Sandford's latest story featuring Virgil Flowers, *Rough Country*.

October will bring even more new books from bestselling authors, including: Robert B. Parker's new Spencer novel, *The Professional*; Jonathan Kellerman's *Evidence*; Richard Paul Evans' *The Christmas List*; Michael Connelly's *Nine Dragons*; Vince Flynn's *Pursuit of Honor*; Patricia Cornwell's *The Scarpetta Factor*; Danielle Steel's *Southern Lights*; Iris Johansen's *Blood Game*; John Irving's *Last Night in Twisted River*; and David Baldacci's *True Blue*. Only time will tell which of these new books will be able to challenge Dan Brown's position on the bestseller list.

For readers who enjoy nonfiction, the coming months will bring many potential bestsellers. Fans of Dean Koontz know of his affection for dogs. In August, his memoir, *A Big Little Life*, about his golden retriever, Trixie, will be published. Award winner author Tracy Kidder will release *Strength in What Remains*, the story of a young man from Burundi who escapes the violence in central Africa to immigrate to the United States where new challenges await him. The writer and director of several *Star Trek* movies, Nicholas Meyer, will publish *The View from the Bridge* about his time in Hollywood. In September, look for James Patterson's latest nonfiction book, *The Murder of King Tut*. Craig Ferguson, the host of *The Late, Late Show*, will publish his biography, *American on Purpose*. *Tuesdays with Morrie* author Mitch Albom will release *Have a Little Faith* about his efforts to eulogize a beloved rabbi who is near death. To add your name to the request list for any of these new books, visit the Library's online catalog soon:

<http://librarycatalog.pwcgov.org/#focus> !

And remember, the Library now offers a new, free e-mail alert service called Wowbrary, that features the Library's newest acquisitions! From fiction and non-fiction to music CDs, audiobooks, and DVDs, Wowbrary highlights "what's new" each week. Every Wednesday, you will receive an e-mail that allows you to view the title, read reviews, or place the title on hold. The service is free and can be started and stopped at any time. Just visit the Library's web page (<http://www.pwcgov.org/library>) and click on "Wowbrary" under "Other Popular Links" to sign up today!

Summer Quest and Wild Reads End Friday, Sept. 4th!

Just a quick reminder that our Summer Reading Programs end on Friday, September 4th! There's still time to register, read some great books, log them in, and earn incentives for reading!

Children from infants to 5th grade can still register for Summer Quest! This year's theme is **Be Creative @ Your Library!** Earn coupons for free or discounted restaurants and local events as you read during the remainder of the summer!

Students in grades 6 through 12 can participate in **Wild Reads!** Sign up online and log in your books, add reviews, and see what other teens are reading. . .all from the comfort of your home, the library, or anywhere! Just visit our **For Teens** (<http://www.pwcgov.org/library/teens>) page and click on **Wild Reads!** To date, more than 2,900 teens have signed up for the program! And, they've submitted more than 3,400 reviews so far! Our thanks to everyone who's participating in **Wild Reads** and submitting reviews! We hope you enjoy the book covers that appear with most reviews this year!

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**IN THE SPOTLIGHT: You Can Do Anything!**

As children get ready to return to school in just a few short weeks, why not let your mind wander toward learning something new as well? You may have wanted to learn a new skill, such as wallpapering a room in your home, or want to dabble in a fun new craft, such as learning to make candles! Whatever your interests, why not tackle something new this Fall?

To jumpstart your creative juices, try the website Videojug (<http://www.videojug.org>) for ideas. Videojug has sorted over 1,000 videos into channels such as Creativity & Culture, Food, or Family. The website includes both step-by-step instructions as well as advice by experts.

To support any additional instructions you might need for a project, look to the library for its large collection of how-to-do-it books and DVDs. Books and DVDs from home remodeling ideas to crafts and sports to guides for repairing your car or truck are plentiful! Just ask at the Information Desk for help in researching your new project! Information staff can help you get started by interpreting the library catalog, guiding you to the correct shelves or location within the library that houses what you need, or helping you to navigate one of our many Web-based electronic resources that might have exactly what you need!

Don't get stuck with a half-completed project or not-quite-completed plans to create your latest masterpiece just because you are not sure how to proceed to the next step. Need help? Just stop by the library for assistance! We'll be glad to provide whatever information you might need!

Enjoy your new skill or your new hobby! You can do anything!

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