

~~~~~  
Off the Shelf:

An e-mail newsletter from the Prince William Public Library System

January 3, 2012  
~~~~~

Welcome to the world of 2012, and what could start us off better than a Top Ten list? However, it's hard to find any consensus this year about the Top Ten Books of 2011 – in fact, there seems less agreement than usual about which titles are the ten best for the year. The only title appearing on most lists was Ann Patchett's superbly realized novel, **"State of Wonder"**. Partly a character study, a little bit of a fantasy novel, and mainly just a good read, The Washington Post, Publisher's Weekly, amazon.com, and NPR all included it on their top 10 lists. After that, the next most named title was **"The Tiger's Wife"** by Tea Obreht, a mythical yet realistic tale set in the Balkans, which was named a Top 10 by The New York Times, amazon.com, and Vogue. **"The Marriage Plot"** by Jeffrey Eugenides and **"The Art of Fielding"** by Chad Harbach came up in more than one list, and, given that one is a coming-of-age novel and the other a first novel, placing on these lists represents quite a feat by both. Digging deeper into the lists, also mentioned by more than one source were **"Open City"** by Teu Cole; **"Swamplandia"** by Karen Russell; **"Ten Thousand Saints"** by Eleanor Henderson (another first novel); and the late Christopher Hitchens' collection of erudite essays, **"Arguably"**. What an eclectic mix!

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Still puzzling over that e-reader you received for the holidays? Baffled by the buttons on your Kindle or the touch screen on your Nook? Learning that your smartphone has outsmarted you yet again as you attempt to read an ebook? If any of that applies to you, then plan on attending "Everything You Wanted to Know About Ebooks", a free program being offered at Potomac Community Library on Saturday, January 14th at 2 p.m. Registration is recommended, but not required. A staff member of the library will demonstrate how to navigate our website and download free ebooks, and will provide some simple troubleshooting and practical tips to enable you to get the most out of your new gift.

c) 2012 Prince William Public Library System

To unsubscribe from Off the Shelf, go to:

<http://www.pwcv.gov.org/eservices/enotifications/useraccount.asp>. Enter your user name and password, de-select (uncheck) Off the Shelf, then click on Submit.

Forgot your password? Go to <http://www.pwcv.gov.org/eNotifications/forgot.asp>

Questions or comments? Send an email to: librarywebmaster@pwcv.gov.org