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Off the Shelf:

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

December 22, 2011  
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If there is an e-reader under that tree this year, make sure you visit the library's homepage at <http://www.pwcgov.org/library> and click on the Download button in the center. Enter the world of free ebooks by doing so, and get ready to make the maximum use of that interesting device you received. The latest ebook offerings range from the well-reviewed novel, Jamrach's Menagerie, a 2011 Booker Prize nominee to Playbook 2012, an ebook-only examination of the upcoming election. In between those two extremes, you will find several young adult series titles, Christmas tales, new mysteries, and some classic novels by Thomas Costain. All free, all for you – and if you are unable to find an immediately available newly added title, there is a great core collection of over 1,000 titles and growing. You will find techie help available on the website, and once you download your first book, you'll find a whole new world of content. Best of all, you get to enjoy reading on the go without packing a lot of heavy books – a great gift for the season.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Newton Minow famously called television the great wasteland, but how could he know that HBO would be adapting William Faulkner's novels for television? Or that Masterpiece Theater would regularly feature novels by Jane Austen and Emily Bronte? Coming soon are even more literary adaptations for the small screen – from HBO, from Fox and PBS. Watch for the library to provide tv movie tie-in editions of novels, ebook editions of the books, novelizations of these screenplays, and DVD's of many of the shows. Fans of these writers can thus see what the medium does to the message, to paraphrase yet another cultural critic, Marshall McLuhan.

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