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Off the Shelf:

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

March 15, 2011  
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The Month of “ME”

Looking forward to the Spring publishing season and new books coming up, it's clear that it's all about “me”. There is a tremendous focus and attention in the publishing world on personal stories, especially autobiographies, and it shows in the lists of new books scheduled for May. Autobiographies of a veritable “who's who” of show business are coming out, with new books from Betty White, Barbara Eden (of “I Dream of Jeannie” fame), Dick Van Dyke, Steven Tyler, Rob Lowe and Larry King. Katie Couric will weigh in with a book sure to be a gift for many college graduates, “The Best Advice I Ever Got”, containing some of the guidance she has received from the famous and not-so-famous. Checking the bestseller lists for titles already published, the “me” theme reappears, but with less of a Hollywood spin. Donald Rumsfeld's memoir, as well as “Decision Points” by former President George W. Bush remain in great demand, as are “I Beat the Odds”, by Michael Oher (the true story of the football player from the movie, “The Blind Side”) and “The Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother” by Amy Chua (the story of a mother's determination to raise her children traditionally, and one causing lots of commentary in the blogosphere right now).

Should you want in on the “me” bandwagon, why not register for Bull Run's upcoming program, “Create Your Own Story @ Your Library: Blogging”? On Saturday, March 26th at 10:15 a.m., the first of a three-part workshop will be offered, and you can learn how to create your own blog. Call Bull Run Library at 703-792-4500 to register, and make March your own “Month of Me”.

In the Spotlight

For those of us who would rather read blogs than create them, “Time Magazine” featured the Best of Blogs a few months ago. Check out The Daily Kitten at <http://www.dailykitten.com> for a delightfully simple “awww” with its daily dose of cuteness. For the opposite of cuteness, surf over to Cake Wrecks, <http://www.cakewrecks.com>, which is exactly what it says it is – some of the most disastrous and ugly confections you've ever seen. Geek Dad, at <http://www.wired.com/geekdad/> is not to be missed if you were that kid in high school who was never cool, but who could re-wire the AV room in 10 minutes or less. And there's more – find the list at:

<http://www.time.com/time/specials/packages/0,28757,1999770,00.html>

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