

## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

...VOLUME 8: NUMBER 5.....MAY 2013...

### All the UNusual Suspects

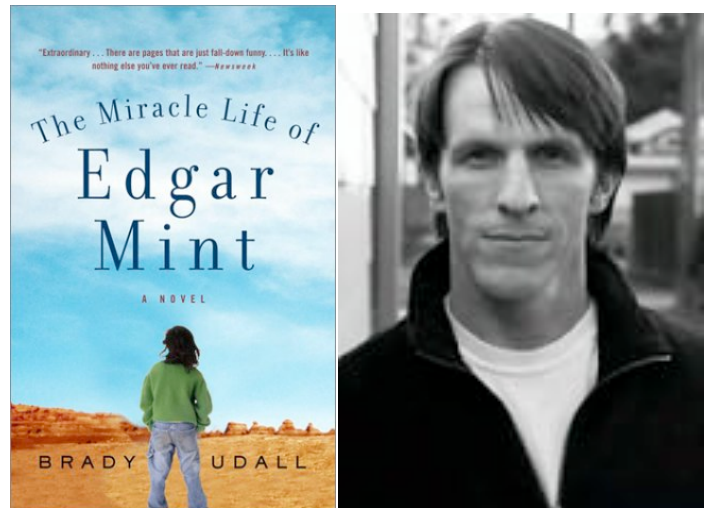
If you thought that the little towns of rural New Mexico were inhabited by strange characters who belonged more properly in picaresque novels, well maybe you were just remarking on the amazing realism of Southwest literature.

### Featured This Month

#### The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint by Brady Udall

If you take Rudolpho Anaya's *Tortuga*, most any of Sherman Alexie's books, and the TV series *Big Love* and mix them all together, the result would look something like *The Miracle Life of Edgar Mint*. Early on, I almost quit it a half dozen times, perhaps not liking its harsh reality, but the story would inevitably take an unexpected turn and keep me reading--just to see what the author was up to. The book's beginning sentence is a grabber: "If I could tell you one thing about my life it would be this: when I was seven years old the mailman ran over my head." As noted on the back cover, the main character, a half-breed orphan from the San Carlos Apache reservation, "makes his unshakable claim on our attention." He persistently claimed mine.

Even before I read the lead sentence, however, I was captured by the author's surname. The Udalls are an old Mormon family that helped found the town of St. Johns in northeastern Arizona. From such deeply conservative roots have come four respected members of the Democratic Party: Stuart Udall, Morris Udall, our own Tom Udall, and Colorado's Mark Udall. This is truly a family of the American West, and Brady maintains the tradition. As one who grew up and worked throughout the landscapes that Brady describes, I was comfortable throughout the book, following its hero from the San Carlos Reservation to Globe, Arizona, to Fort Apache to Richland, Utah. Brady knows the land and the people, and he got it right. But the book ends in



Stony Run, Pennsylvania—just one of its unexpected turns that leave the reader hanging on just to see what happens next. Amazingly, after the initial scene wherein Edgar's head gets squashed, nothing all that sensational happens. Most of the characters are credible, and I feel like I've known them all in my ramblings through the Southwest—San Carlos Apaches, jaded hospital workers, a drug-dealing MD, bottom-dwelling homeless men destroyed by tragedy, tired Bureau of Indian Affairs teachers, and a seriously dysfunctional Mormon family. The rootless but basically kind Edgar meanders amidst them, seeking a normalcy that he instinctively hopes exists, all the while trying to find and forgive the man who squashed his head. It is a strange and often sad little story that nonetheless had me laughing all the way.

*Review by Harley Shaw*

### Notes from the Library Board

Shopping at Bullocks in T or C? Don't forget to save your receipt for the Library. Every \$50 in receipts rebates \$1 back to the Library for the purchase of books and movies and magazines for the collection.

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## New at the Library

### Books on CD

**Storm Prey** by John Sandford

### Films on VHS

**The Big Kahuna**

**The Blair Witch Project**

### Fiction

**The Old Man's Love Story** by Rudolfo Anaya

**House of Leaves** by Mark Z. Danielewski

**Alex Cross's Trial** by James Patterson & Richard

DiLallo

**Cody** by Lindley J. Stiles

### Mystery

**The Dead Place** by Stephen Booth

**Rattlesnake Crossing** by J. S. Jance

**The Golden Egg** by Donna Leon

**Broken Harbor** by Tana French

**Heartshot** by Steven Havill

**Prolonged Exposure** by Steven Havill

**Twice Buried** by Steven Havill

**Blue-eyed Devil** by Robert B Parker

**Brimstone** by Robert B Parker

### Nonfiction

**Wild Cow Tales** by Ben K. Green

**A Thousand Miles of Mustangin'** by Ben K. Green

**Soldier Dogs** by Maria Goodavage

**Imagining Geronimo** by William Clements

**Frontier Cavalry Trooper: *The Letters of Private***

***Eddie Matthews 1869-1874*** edited by Douglas

McChristian

### Hillsboro Community Yard Sale

**Memorial Day Weekend**

**Saturday, May 25, 2013**

The Library will be taking part in the Hillsboro Community Annual Yard Sale at the end of this month with a table full of used books and donated items -- all at wonderful bargain prices!

Library patrons who would like to donate household items for the sale may bring their articles to the Library table by the Britton (Ostertag) house on the day of the sale, or if you can't be there for the big event, please leave any donated items in the Library Annex on Elenora Street. Do tag your item as a donation to the sale and include your name and a suggested price.

Don't forget to put aside the date to come and browse the neighbors' "trash" for your own little "treasures" !

### Bookmobile Schedule

**Wednesday, May 15**

Hillsboro: 1:00 – 2:00 pm    Kingston: 2:30-3:30 pm

### Library Hours:

Sunday & Monday: closed

Tues. 3:30 - 5:30pm    Wed. 1:00 – 4:00pm

Thurs: 3:30 - 5:30pm    Fri: 10:00am – 1:00pm

Saturday 10:00am–2:00pm

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit

<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

### Published by

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