

## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 9: NUMBER 6.....JUNE, 2014

### A Time and a Place

In 1948, British author George Orwell, slowly dying of tuberculosis, wrote (the ironically inverted) **Nineteen Eighty-four**, a dystopian novel set in a future England in which a totalitarian regime controls every aspect of a citizen's life through surveillance, disinformation, and repression. The novel was so powerful a portrayal of despotism that "Orwellian" became an adjective for government intrusion in and control of private lives.

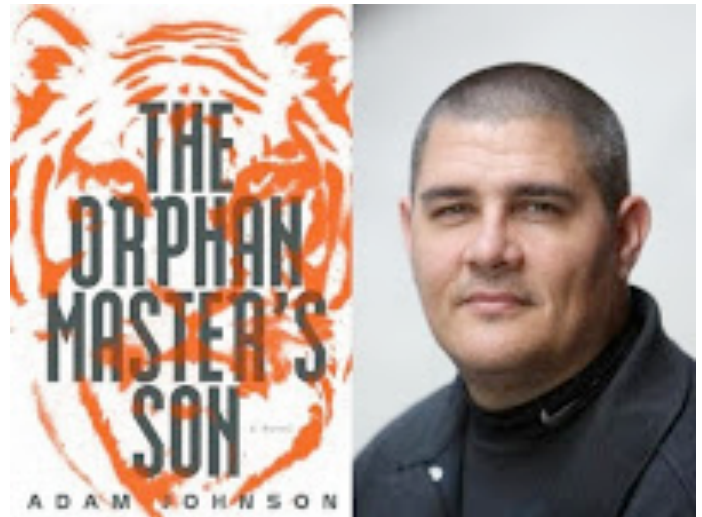
In 2013, the Pulitzer Prize for fiction was awarded to Adam Johnson for a novel that in many ways mirrors Orwell's nightmarish tale but is set in the present day in a real place -- the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

### Featured this Month

#### **The Orphan Master's Son** by Adam Johnson

The story of Pak Jun Do begins in an orphanage in the fortress state of North Korea where Jun Do (John Doe?) clings to the idea that he is not really a despised orphan but the son of the warden, who was emotionally ruined when his beautiful wife, Jun Do's mother, was expropriated to Pyongyang, as the all-powerful state owns all resources, and human beings, in any capacity, are simply resources to be exploited.

Jun Do grows up, devoting himself to his government's prescribed path for him. He learns English and becomes a signals technician on a "fishing" boat whose other duties include kidnapping Japanese citizens and spying on the "evil, war-mongering" American navy, which patrols Korean waters. A defection from the crew illustrates the surreal world Jun Do inhabits: the crew cannot tell the truth without being punished, and so an absurd narrative is constructed and facts are manufactured to fit a story more acceptable and flattering to the state.



Unfortunately, Jun Do is rewarded with a promotion and an opportunity to serve in a mission to the United States. There, the contradictions between the North Korean official narratives and the apparent realities become so fraught that the mission goes awry and when Jun Do returns, he is relegated to a labor camp from which the only escape is death.

The second part of the novel is told by a state interrogator, who fancies himself a collector of biographies. From the horrors of the labor camp Jun Do miraculously, or perhaps just freakishly, re-emerges. But now he is the famous war hero, Commander Ga, husband to the beautiful actress Sun Moon and a suspected rival of the Dear Leader, Kim Jung Il, who has new plans to continue sparring with his most hated enemy, the United States. In his reincarnation, Jun Do sees a last chance to strike a blow against all-pervading oppression and make a final grasp for freedom.

Not at all a casual read, **The Orphan Master's Son** was bizarre, frightening, hilarious, tragic, thought-provoking, and truly worthy of its Pulitzer Prize.

*Review by Mary Anne Ciancia*

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## New at the Library

### Films on DVD

American Madness  
It Happened One Night  
Mr. Deeds Goes to Town  
Mr. Smith Goes to Washington  
Platoon ... Shane  
You Can't Take It with You  
Guess Who's Coming to Dinner  
M\*A\*S\*H ... Patton  
Titanic ... The Wizard of Oz  
Action Movies (Fortress; Total recall 2070:  
machine dreams; Cypher; Convict 762)  
All Quiet on the Western Front  
American Graffiti  
Apocalypse Now Redux  
Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid  
The Deer Hunter ... Fargo  
For a Few Dollars More; A Fistful of Dollars; The  
Good, the Bad and the Ugly  
Forrest Gump .... Goodfellas  
Silence of the Lambs ... Putin's Kiss

### Mystery

Now You See Her by James Patterson and Michael  
Ledwidge  
Sundays at Tiffany's by James Patterson and  
Gabiella Charbonnet  
Cross Fire by James Patterson  
Tick Tock by James Patterson and Michael  
Ledwidge  
Gone by James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge  
(Large Print)  
Dead and Buried by Stephen Booth  
Dancing with the Virgins by Stephen Booth  
Blood on the Tongue by Stephen Booth

### Classics

Not Under Forty by Willa Cather  
Tortilla Flat by John Steinbeck

### Fiction

Flight Behavior by Barbara Kingsolver  
The Sea by John Banville  
The 19th Wife by David Ebershoff  
Truants by Ron Carlson  
Talking in Bed by Antonya Nelson  
Full House by Molly Keane  
Queen Lear by Molly Keane

### Spanish

Bendiceme. Ultima by Rudolfo Anaya

### Nonfiction

The Story of My Life by Helen Keller  
The One World School House- *Education  
reimagined* by Salman Khan  
New Mexico: A Glimpse Into an Enchanted Land  
by John P. McWilliams  
Apache Legends & Lore: *From the Sacred  
Mountain* by Lynda A. Sanchez

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit  
<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>

### 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

### Bookmobile Schedule

#### Wednesday, June 18

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

### Published by

THE HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY  
P.O. BOX 205, HILLSBORO NM 88042 (575-895-3349)