

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 10: NUMBER 11.....NOVEMBER, 2015

Collision Course

The aphorism “History is written by the victors” is often attributed to Winston Churchill, but interestingly is alternately ascribed to Adolf Hitler. In the greatest conflict of the 20th century, World War II, history is pretty clear about the heroes and the villains. But in Anthony Doerr’s Pulitzer winning novel the reader sees the sides from the perspectives of a blind French girl in occupied territory and an empathetic young German radio operator. As their separately told histories come closer and closer to an inevitable conjunction and the sides have comprise persons, not countries, the relevant maxim seems to become “History is written by the survivors.”

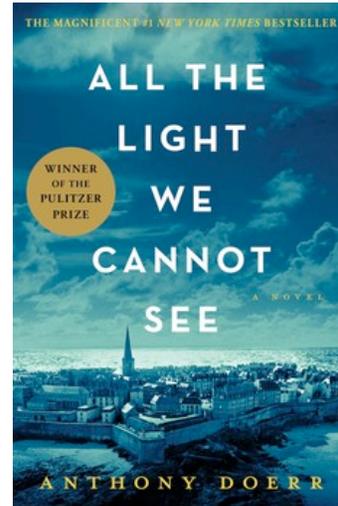
Featured this Month

All the Light We Cannot See by *Anthony Doerr*

Marie-Laure LeBlanc, six years old in 1934, is blinded by cataracts, but her widowed father will not succumb to this tragedy nor let his daughter do so. A master locksmith for the Museum of Natural History in Paris, he sees that she learns Braille, has books, and most wonderfully, challenges her with puzzles that he makes himself, including a scale model of their neighborhood that imbues independence and resourcefulness in teaching her how to get around by herself.

Werner Pfennig is an orphan with a little sister Jutta in Essen, destined, like his late father, for work in the coal mines, until he finds a broken radio in the trash and figures out how to repair it. He and Jutta spend hours listening to an old French broadcast series --a sonorous voice extolling the wonders of science to children. Inspired and natively proficient, Werner is noticed as a tech prodigy and sent to a premier military school under the Nazi government.

When war breaks out, Marie-Laure and her father flee Paris for St-Malo where they stay with Granduncle Etienne and try to live quietly under Nazi occupation.



But Monsieur LeBlanc is detained and then disappears, perhaps in connection with a rare treasure now missing from the captured Museum, a jewel of rare beauty with a mysterious legend, sought by Sergeant-Major Reinhold von Rumpel of the Wehrmacht. With her father gone, Marie-Laure is drawn into Resistance activities and in turn involves Granduncle Etienne, a veteran radioman.

Meanwhile Werner’s education is completed with a horrible test of loyalty involving his only real friend at the academy, and then he is sent into the battle zones to root out enemy radio transmitters passing intelligence to the Allies. Initially steeled by loyalty to his team, Werner begins to doubt even his faith in the beauty of science as he sees how his knowledge is used by war.

D-Day hurtles the story onward toward the bombing of St Malo and the lives of Marie-Laure and Werner converge with the quest of von Rumpel for his coveted, deadly treasure. As the reader knows they must, they all meet --in the midst of a battle that is both historical and in this poetically told fiction, personal and confounding.

Review by Mary Anne Ciancia

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New at the Library

Nonfiction

Churchill, Hitler, and "The Unnecessary War" by Patrick J. Buchanan

Beatles vs Stones by John McMillian (*Lg Print*)

Talks on the Song of Songs by St. Bernard of Clairvaux

Teaching the Dead Bird to Sing by W. Paul Jones

A Geography of Time: *The Temporal*

Misadventures of a Social Psychologist by Robert Levine

Fiction

The Girls from Corona del Mar by Ruffi Thorpe (*Lg Print*)

My Brilliant Friend by Elena Ferrante

The Story of a New Name by Elena Ferrante

Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay by Elena Ferrante

Holidays on Ice by David Sedaris

Films on DVD

Hannibal

The Haunting in Connecticut

Hector and the Search for Happiness

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, November 18

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

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

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

Mystery

Safe Keeping by Barbara Sissel (*Lg Print*)

The Why of Things by Elizabeth Winthrop (*Lg Print*)

A Matter of Justice by Charles Todd

An Impartial Witness by Charles Todd

Wings of Fire by Charles Todd

Murder at Midnight by C S Challinor

Notes from the Library Board

Be sure to set aside the first Saturday in December for the annual Christmas in the Foothills celebration and crafts fair at the Hillsboro Community center.

As always the Library will be hosting a Bake Sale table with special holiday goodies and all of your favorites from our regular monthly first-Saturday sales.

The Library will also offer its traditional prize in the \$49.99 auction --a handsome canvas bookbag filled with selections of the finest recent works of our local and regional authors. Buy your tickets, place them on your desired prize and if your ticket is chosen, collect your prize for the discounted price of only \$49.99.

Come and enjoy an afternoon of holiday shopping, food and drink, friendship and community. As always, the Library thanks you for your support.

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