

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 11: NUMBER 1.....JANUARY 2016

Science “Fact-ion”

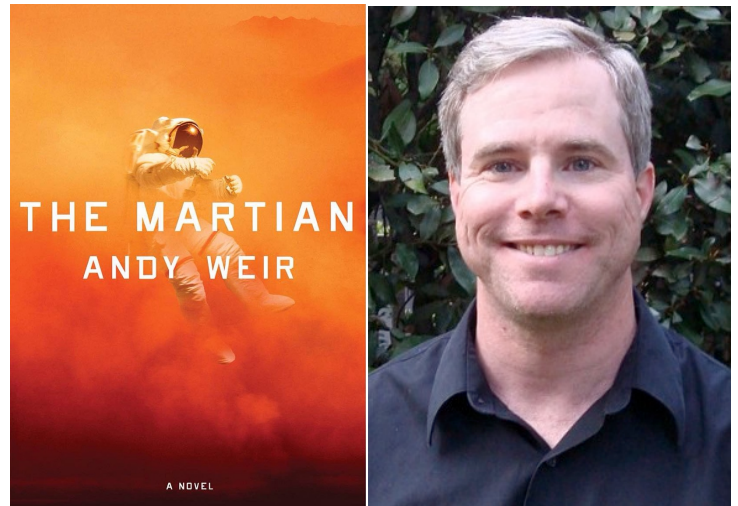
A software engineer and an avid fan of both NASA and Dr. Who, Andy Weir had been following space flight since his very youngest years, and it was perhaps only natural that the real life, practical challenges of space travel and planetary exploration got tangled up with a high powered imagination nourished by science fiction. Inspired by a wild “What if?” idea, he began writing a serial novel online about a marooned astronaut that made its way to the Amazon.com self-published list. It became phenomenally popular there, attracted a publisher, and went on to become not only a NYTimes bestseller, but an Oscar contending movie starring Matt Damon. Quite a star shot for a self-confessed nerd!

Featured this Month

The Martian by Andy Weir

A sandstorm rumbles over the Martian plains toward NASA’s Ares 3 installation, imperiling the lives of the six crew members of Captain Lewis’s exploration team. As they scramble for the shelter of their evacuation module, a windborne length of broken antenna strikes engineer and botanist Mark Watney puncturing his spacesuit and separating him from the retreating group who are unable in the worsening storm to locate him. Arriving at the module, they read from Watney’s sensors a catastrophic system failure; their friend and colleague is dead. With the lives of the remaining crew at severe risk, Captain Lewis orders their immediate liftoff in the escape vehicle. The Ares 3 mission is over. Now abruptly headed back on a two year journey to Earth, the team is depressed by their aborted mission and devastated at their inability even to bring home the body of their fallen comrade.

Except that Mark Watney isn’t dead.



Saved by the very nature of his accident, Watney awakens to find himself alone, abandoned on Mars, unable to contact his team on their returning spacecraft or anyone in NASA support back on Earth. How can he survive on his own in the utterly hostile environment of Mars?

Well, as Matt Damon says in the film adaptation, by “sciencing” the heck out of it. Andy Weir spins a tale of incredible science “fact-ion” as Watney refuses to surrender to what seems like a sure death sentence. Each threat to his survival is met by the mind of an undaunted scientist and explorer as Watney figures out how to provide for himself through careful calculation, cool headed design, and gutsy trial and error, where an error can (and sometimes does) have drastic consequences. Although the science gets a little technical at times, it is never beyond the layman reader to grasp the gist and the excitement of each experiment.

Of course, Watney’s quest is not just to survive on Mars, but to get home, and the engineering of his rescue, which opens up the novel beyond this singular character is a tale of amazing ingenuities.

Review by Mary Anne Ciancia

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New at the Library

Fiction

A Brief History of Seven Killings by Marlon James

Mystery

The Girl in the Spider's Web by David Lagercrantz

Murder Row by Stephen Booth

Satin Island by Tom McCarthy

Run by Blake Crouch

A Long Shadow by Charles Todd

Search the Dark by Charles Todd

A Test of Wills by Charles Todd

Non Fiction

Listening Is an Act of Love by Dave Isay

Sagebrush and Sand Dunes: *An Anthology of Southern New Mexico History* by Martha Shipman
Andrews and Rick Hendricks

Bookmobile Schedule

Wednesday, January 20

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

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

Notes from the Library Board

Membership Drive

The Library has shifted its annual membership drive to coincide with the calendar year. You can expect to receive renewal notices sometime around the third week of January. Help us celebrate the New Year with your renewal.

Library Hours

We are trying hard to serve the community at the most convenient times for folks to come by and browse the shelves, use the internet, make a long-distance phone call or get some copies made. When you next visit the Library, be sure to fill out our survey on Library hours so we can adjust our times to serve you better.

Bullocks Rebate Program

Don't forget to save your Bullocks receipts and turn them in at the Library or the Bake Sale. Every dollar earns 2¢ back for new books.

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Hillsboro Community Library has been set for Saturday, February 6 at 2:00 pm at the Community Center. All members and any interested persons are invited to attend.

Published by

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