

## HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 11: NUMBER 9..... SEPTEMBER 2016

### Tale of a Fateful Trip

The Library recently catalogued an old favorite of mine, a non-fiction classic — 1997's *The Perfect Storm*, Sebastian Junger's recounting of the sinking of the Gloucester swordfish boat Andrea Gail in the epic storm of 1991 that was thereafter named the Halloween Gale and sometimes referred to as the Storm of the Century. A gripping tale of man vs nature, it is as well worth a re-read as a first read.

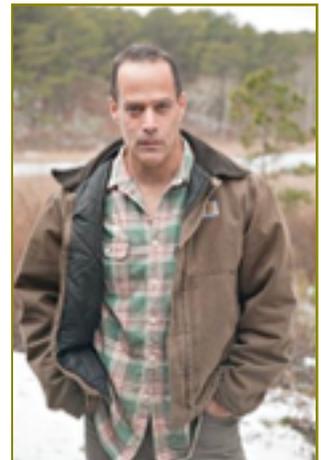
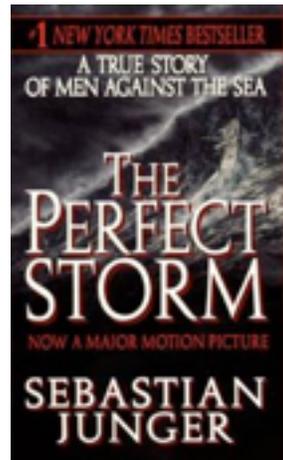
### Featured this Month

*The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Unger

The story of the men of the Andrea Gail begins as the their one week turn-around in port is ending. It has been a week of seeing the girlfriends, hitting the bars, kicking up a ruckus, and blowing the cash from their last trip out, and no one is really looking forward to setting out for a month at sea once again. After all (as Junger begins his foreshadowing) October on the Grand Banks is “no joke,” but in a fading fishery, on a sound ship like the Andrea Gail with her record of profitability and a skilled captain like Billy Tyne, a fisherman's fisherman, this trip represents the kind of money that hard living young men can make nowhere else, and so they must go down to the sea again.

We meet the crew as Junger's narrative wanders about the dockside of Gloucester, a colorful neighborhood, indeed. There is Alfred Pierre, who has a girlfriend in Maine; Michael “Bugsy” Moran, who wishes he had one anywhere; Dale “Murph” Murphy, whose real love is his four-year old son; David “Sully” Sullivan, the last minute replacement; and Bobby Shatford, whose passionate relationship with Chris Cotter has him thinking of a future that will be different from his past.

Junger's story is full of anecdotes and references from far and near history. In one paragraph he relates the



meeting of Ishmael and Queequeg in Melville's *Moby Dick* and in the next recounts how a bartender in the modern day Crow's Nest rescues a drunk fisherman from his own excesses, all as an illustration of the brotherhood of seamen. In these asides, Junger allows the reader to see with insightful detail, the context of the lives of these fisherman, their unique culture. As the story continues, he explains, with the same clarity-by-example, meteorology, seamanship, and the fishing industry.

A sense of foreboding follows the ship out from port: a rogue wave —a freak incident—almost capsizes them. Poor early catches force the Andrea Gail to venture 600 miles further east than any of the rest of the fleet. The malfunction of the ice-making machine pressures them to make for home — all seemingly small mishaps, but in an environment that may not forgive even small mistakes. And then the storm.

In the foreword to this book, Junger explains that he has stuck to the facts and carefully delineates what was actually told him and what he surmises. He spent many months speaking to the families and friends of the people whose last, fateful voyage so mesmerized his imagination. He has told their story with great respect and grace.

*Review by Mary Anne Ciancia*

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## New at the Library

### Non Fiction

**The Invention of Nature: *Alexander von Humbolt's New World*** by Andrea Wulf

**All the Wild That Remains: *Ed Abbey, Wallace Stegner, & the American West*** by David Gessner

**The Gentlemen's Club: *The Story of Prostitution in El Paso*** by H. Gordon Frost

**The Man Who Listens to Horses** by Monty Roberts

**Nothing Like It in the World: *The Men Who Built the Transcontinental Railroad 1863-1869*** by Stephen E. Ambrose

**Deserts (Audubon Nature Guide)** by James A. MacMahon

**Running a Hotel on the Roof of the World** by Alec Le Sueur

### Fiction

**The 6th Extinction** by James Rollins

**Bone Labyrinth** by James Rollins

**Fly Away** by Kristin Hannah

**Home Front** by Kristin Hannah

**Night Road** by Kristin Hannah

**Comfort & Joy** by Kristin Hannah

**Winter Garden** by Kristin Hannah

**Streets of Laredo** by Larry McMurtry

**Distant Shores** by Kristin Hannah

**Firefly Lane** by Kristin Hannah

**On Mystic Lake** by Kristin Hannah

**The Things We Do for Love** by Kristin Hannah

**True Colors** by Kristin Hannah

**Genghis: Birth of an Empire** by Conn Iggulden

**The Evening Star** by Larry McMurtry

### Mystery

**The 47th Samurai** by Stephen Hunter

**Night Prey** by John Sanford

**The Silkworm** by Robert Galbraith (aka J. K. Rowling)

### Notes from the Library Board

For those patrons using the State Library's Bookmobile service, please note that the September visit has been canceled due to personnel shortages. October's schedule was not available at the time of this publication, but is anticipated to be the third Wednesday of the month at the usual times: 1:00-2:00 pm at Hillsboro; 2:30-3:30 pm at Kingston.

#### Bookmobile Schedule

September cancelled

October TBA

#### 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

#### Published by

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

For a complete listing of Library materials, visit

<http://www.hillsborocommunitylibrary.com>