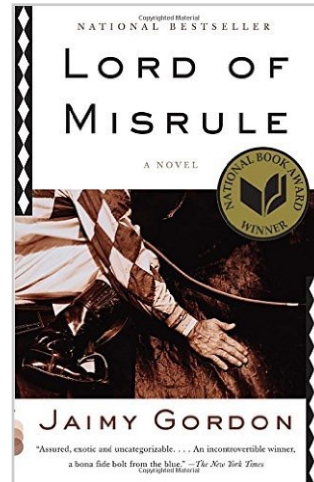


HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 12: NUMBER 2..... MARCH-APRIL, 2017

The Sport of Kings

Every spring America is reminded that horse racing is also a sport when the Kentucky Derby, the Preakness, and the Belmont Stakes capture media attention for the five week period between races, especially when it looks like one horse may be able to win all three races —the Triple Crown. For a short while these horses become celebrities, their “personalities” and activities reported like any other champion athletes. But there are many levels of horse racing, and our featured book this month takes us to one of the lower, darker levels where celebrity may be absent but personality is every bit as potent.



Featured this Month

Lord of Misrule by Jaimy Gordon

Winner of the 2010 National Book Award, *Lord of Misrule* is the story of a small time racetrack in the corner of West Virginia and the seedy, noble, eccentric, and vibrant characters that inhabit the world of claims racing.

The novel begins with the arrival of Tommy Hansel, at Indian Mound Downs with his girlfriend, Maggie Koderer, a groom, apprentice trainer, and general factotum, bringing four new horses to the run-down track. They settle in among a cast of characters that would not be out of place in a William Faulkner novel: Joe Dale, the greedy, sleazy front-runner among the horse owners and the kingpin of the gambling underworld of the track; Biggy, his thuggish son; Deucey, a hard-as-nails woman trainer with a sentimental streak, Two Tie, a loan shark with a kind of “Southern gentleman” self-image, who is also Maggie’s unrecognized uncle and self-appointed protector; and most prominently Medicine Ed, a 72 year-old black groom and trainer who applies his own potions and magical rituals to both the horses and the looming fate he feels hovering around them all.

Gordon pauses early in the novel to explain that claims racing is not stakes racing, the sort of horse racing that the average person might be familiar with from following the Triple Crown. The rules may be more than the reader wants to know. Suffice it to say that Tommy’s plan is that his four horses are better than their reputations, and he hopes to run them at favorable odds, collect a windfall, and escape before anyone is the wiser. Of course, the track people are wiser than Tommy thinks. And what he has also not planned on is the way that Maggie begins to peel away from him as his Svengali influence over her is slowly overcome by the force of the personalities of the four horses who are more to her than just the props of a tawdry scheme.

The novel is told from the points of view of several of the characters, but the central focus is Maggie’s self realization. The story unfolds in four parts named for each of the horses whose races provide the drama, but it is the descriptive language and the interior of the characters, including the horses, that make this book a fascinating and engaging read, even if it’s sometimes not an easy one.

Review by Mary Anne Ciancia

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New at the Library

Mystery

Rather Be the Devil by Ian Rankin
The Poacher's Son by Paul Doiron
Trespasser by Paul Doiron
The Survivor by Kyle Mills
American Assassin by Vince Flynn
Merry, Merry Ghost by Carolyn Hart
Bel-Air Dead by Stuart Woods
Death Along the Spirit Road by C. M. Wendelboe
The Night Detectives by Jon Talton
On the Line by S. J. Rozan
The Telling Error by Sophie Hannah
Darkside by P. T. Deutermann
Gideon's Corpse by Doug Preston and Lincoln Child
Pegasus Descending by James Lee Burke
Swan Peak by James Lee Burke
Glass Rainbow by James Lee Burke
Desert Vengeance By Betty Webb
Skeleton Box by Bryan Gruley
The Memory of Running by Ron McLarty
Kidnap & Ransom by Michelle Gagnon
The Gatekeeper by Michelle Gagnon
Bone Yard by Michelle Gagnon
The Job by Janet Evanovich
Constable Molly Smith Series by Vicky Delany
Winter of Secrets, Negative Image, Valley of the Lost, Burden of Memory, Scare the Light Away
In the Shadow of the Glacier, Among the Departed
The Clifton Chronicles by Jeffrey Archer:
Be Careful What You Wish For, Cometh the Hour
This Was a Man, Best Kept Secret, Mightier than the Sword, Only Time Will Tell, Sins of the Father

Audio Books

Conflict of Interest by Nancy Taylor Rosenberg
Slaves of Obsession by Anne Perry

Science Fiction

The Three-Body Problem by Cixin Liu

Non Fiction

The Toolbox for Building a Great Family Dog by Terry Ryan
True Stories of a Young Cowboy-Adventures of Gene Barksdale by Gene Barksdale
Towards a Prairie Atonement by Trevor Herriot

Fiction

End of Days by Robert Gleason
4 3 2 1 by Paul Auster
The First Law Trilogy by Joe Abercrombie
The Blade Itself, Before They Are Hanged, Last Argument of Kings
The Memory of Running by Ron McLarty
It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis
Albert of Adelaide by Howard Anderson

Notes from the Library Board

Our thanks once again to White Sands Federal Credit Union for their generous grant to Library for 2017. The Hillsboro Library community appreciates your support!



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, April 19 and May 17
Hillsboro 1:00-2:00 Kingston 2:30-3:30

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