

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 12: NUMBER 5.....SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2017

The Characters Next Door

A sense of time and place has always been an important element in all kinds of writing, but particularly for a historical novel, it is essential in engaging the reader and transporting him to the world in which the story takes place. An unintended anachronism or a too-modern turn of phrase can break the spell painstakingly built up by attention to period details in the setting. Particularly if the setting is known to the reader, there's a high bar set for an author to maintain authenticity. Our featured book this month managed to captivate a reviewer who is a bit of local historian himself and prompt some further recommendations in the Library's collection.

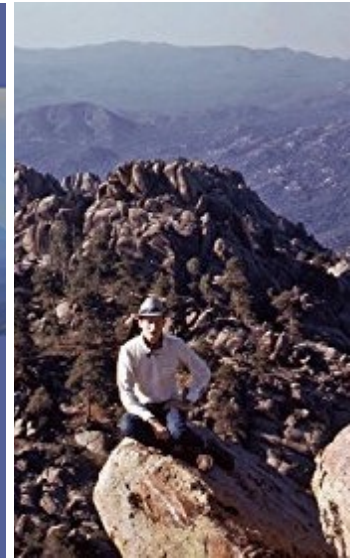
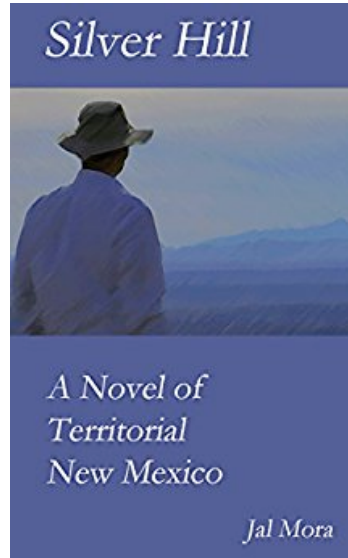
Featured this Month

Silver Hill: a novel of territorial New Mexico

By Jal Mora

Exploring the hills around Hillsboro has been my hobby ever since we arrived here, 17 years ago. You can't wander far without encountering the abandoned mine sites that were the basis for our town's existence. Viewing these vestiges of hard work and boom and bust economies that reflect the dreams and schemes of western entrepreneurs and eastern wealth, one has to wonder how everything, on the ground mining or mine finance, worked. More than once, my ruminations on the matter have led me to conclude that the best medium to explore these questions would be a good historical novel about the era. Hillsboro now has one.

In early June, a book turned up in my PO box that I assumed was another inter-library loan. Turns out that it was a new novel donated by an Albuquerque author, who has chosen to publish under the pseudonym, Jal Mora. Said author, whoever he/she may be, has done a lot of research on Hillsboro's



early history, as well as on the complexities of mining in the 1890s and early 1900s. Even though the book gives our town an alias, some of the characters are obviously based on real people; at least one, Tom Ying, kept his American name. Jal Mora spins a good tale of romance, mystery and intrigue, while interweaving a credible scenario of interactions between old wealth, money-grubbing opportunists, and working stiffs in the mines. I won't betray the plot, but the book fits well into a developing genre of books about struggling small southwestern towns.

Other very readable examples of the genre in our library are the absolutely hilarious *Sweeney* by Robert Julyan, and *This is How I'd Love You* by Hazel Wood. The latter book is also based upon Hillsboro and draws from the history of Edward Tittmann. Ms. Wood is the great granddaughter of Mr. Tittmann. All three books are fiction, but the authors use their imaginations to fill in the kind of gaps that objective studies of history can never reveal.

Review by Harley Shaw

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New at the Library

Non Fiction

Having Our Say-*Delany Sisters' first 100 years* by Sarah & A. Elizabeth Delany
An American Sickness- *How Healthcare Became Big Business* by Elisabeth Rosenthal
On Trails by Robert Moor
A Distant Trumpet by Paul Horgan
The Backbone of the World by Frank Clifford
Owning the Earth by Andro Linklater
Dangerous Waters: *Modern Piracy and Terror on the High Seas* by John S. Burnett
Korea Reborn-*A Grateful Nation* by Hee-won Kwon
Overturned Bucket by Rose Spader
Secrets of the Blue Door by Pierre L. Nichols
Stories That Need to be Told by Harvey Chatfield
Lives Other Than My Own by Emmanuel Carrere

Mystery

Sidney Chambers and the Shadow of Death by James Runcie
Glass Houses by Louise Penny
Paradise Valley by C J Box
The Late Show by Michael Connelly
Monkeewrench by P J Tracy
Bitter Season by Tami Hoag
The Obsidian Chamber by Preston & Child

Science Fiction

The Collapsing Empire by John Scalzi

Fiction

The Painter by Peter Heller
Twelve Tribes of Hattie by Ayana Mathis
The Kingdom by Emmanuel Carrere
Song of Hartgrove Hall by Natasha Solomon

Films on DVD

A Little Princess/The Secret Garden
Harry Potter - Complete 8-Film Collection
Serenity
Before Sunset
Eklavya: The Royal Guard
Igby Goes Down
The Last Castle
Vanity Fair
World Trade Center

Classics

Four Novels of the 1920s by Edith Wharton

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

Third Wednesday of the Month
October 18; November 15
Hillsboro 1:00- 2:00 Kingston 2:30- 3:30

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