

HILLSBORO COMMUNITY LIBRARY NEWS

VOLUME 14: NUMBER 2.....MARCH -APRIL 2019

The Stand-in

In the detective genre, the detective is, in some sense, a stand-in for the reader. We follow the moves of the investigator, picking up clues and making inferences about them as the pool of suspects narrows toward the resolution and answer to *WhoDunIt*. In a first person narration, the effect is heightened as we receive the story as the direct thoughts of the character. This can make for a compelling narration. In Tana French's newest novel, she introduces an even more fascinating twist leaving behind the Dublin murder squad detectives of her previous works to inhabit the mind of the suspect.

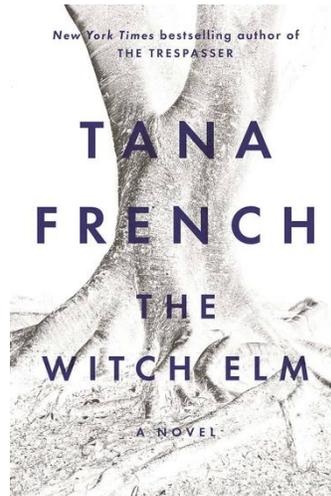
Featured this Month

The Witch Elm by Tana French

Toby Hennesey is a privileged young man, well educated, well off, supremely likable, living the good life in Dublin as the PR man for an avant garde art gallery. He tells you himself at the very start of his story that he has always considered himself lucky.

Early on, Toby's luck runs out in spectacular fashion when he surprises a pair burglars in his home and is beaten savagely. In the aftermath, his injuries leave both a physical and emotional disfigurement. "Victim" is not a role he has ever imagined having to play. The shine has come off his star.

Still he might find himself fortunate. His sweet, adoring girlfriend, Melissa, is even more devoted now that he really needs her. His family rallies around him, sending him to Ivy House where his own recuperation will be masked by his assistance to his dear bachelor uncle Hugo, a genealogist, who is finishing a last labor in the face of a terminal diagnosis. Ivy House was the scene of an idyllic summer vacation under Uncle Hugo's not-so-watchful eye for Toby and his cousins after their last year in high school. It seems a perfect, peaceful retreat.



But Toby's recovery is stymied by his diminished sense of self. He doesn't understand what has happened to him or more importantly, *why; why me?* He doesn't trust his memory. He begins to question his understanding of himself and his life, seeking the perspectives of his cousins, those companions of his shining youth: Susanna, a housewife and mother who might be said to be overqualified for her occupation, and Leon, a gay gadfly, high-strung and cynical.

And then, Susanna's children find the skull in the witch elm in Ivy House's back yard.

As Toby stumbles down the darkening path to his answers, French demonstrates her mastery of the literary detective novel. She knows that of the detective's three criteria, *means* and *opportunity* only bestow the clues; *motive* is the driving force. For the investigator and for the reader, the desire to understand *why* is consuming, and French is at her best transferring Toby's obsession for the real story into our own. As always, the maxim holds true — be careful what you wish for —but you couldn't wish for a more absorbing mystery.

Introduction and review by Mary Anne Ciancia

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New at the Library

Mystery

Police by Jo Nesbo
Night Work by Laurie King
Locked Rooms by Laurie King
Island of the Mad by Laurie King

Fiction

Stealin' from the Neighbors by Ed Ashurst
Lost in Translation by Nicole Mones
A Cup of Light by Nicole Mones
Locked Rooms by Laurie Mones
In a Perfect World by Laura Kasischke
Stones for Ibarra by Harriet Doerr
Euphoria by Lily King
Black Ice by Susan Krinard
Canyon of Remembering by Lesley Poling-Kempes
The Tower, the Zoo, and the Tortoise by Julia Stuart
Riding Shotgun by Paul Schaefer

Non Fiction

Desert Gardening: Fruits & Vegetables by George Brookbank
Nabokov's Blues: *The Scientific Odyssey of a Literary Genius* by Kurt Johnson & Steve Coates
Dog Songs by Mary Oliver
Everyday Angels-*How to encounter, experience, and engage angels in everyday life* by Charity Virkler Kayembe
Timefulness- *How thinking like a geologist can help the world* by Marcia Bjornerud

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

Films on DVD

Tea with the Dames
Lost Horizon

Science Fiction

Foundation by Isaac Asimov
Robots and Empire by Isaac Asimov
The Robots of Dawn by Isaac Asimov

Notes from the Library Board

Once again we are pleased to acknowledge **White Sands Federal Credit Union** for their generous contribution to the support of our community in their yearly grant to the Hillsboro Community Library. Thank you!



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

Bookmobile Schedule

March 22 & April 17

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

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