



THE FOLLOWING IS A TENTATIVE LIST OF NEW FICTION RELEASES FOR FEBRUARY, 2012. NOTE: MOST TITLES ON THIS LIST ARE ON ORDER FOR THE LIBRARY AND CAN BE RESERVED, BUT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL THE RELEASE DATE.

COMPILED BY JUDY KAMIAT, WEST BOYNTON BRANCH LIBRARY

Kate Alcott, **THE DRESSMAKER**, (320 pgs) 2/21

Tess, an aspiring seamstress, thinks she's had an incredibly lucky break when she is hired by famous designer Lady Lucile Duff Gordon to be a personal maid on the *Titanic's* doomed voyage. Once on board, Tess catches the eye of two men, one a roughly-hewn but kind sailor and the other an enigmatic Chicago millionaire. But on the fourth night, disaster strikes. Amidst the chaos and desperate urging of two very different suitors, Tess is one of the last people allowed on a lifeboat. Tess's sailor also manages to survive unharmed, witness to Lady Duff Gordon's questionable actions during the tragedy. Others—including the gallant Midwestern tycoon—are not so lucky. On dry land, rumors about the survivors begin to circulate, and Lady Duff Gordon quickly becomes the subject of media scorn and later, the hearings on the *Titanic*. "Taking the tale of the *Titanic* out of the frigid sea and docking it in the courtroom and early 20th-century New York gives the familiar story a fresh feel . . . an engaging first novel in this year of everything *Titanic*." **Library Journal** "It's *Titanic* revisited, in a romance focused on the survivors and the scandal, seen from the perspective of an aspiring seamstress whose fortunes intertwine with real characters from the epic tragedy....interesting historical facts...an appealing, soulful freshness to this shrewdly commercial offering" **Kirkus FIRST NOVEL**

Cristina Alger, **THE DARLINGS**, (352 pgs) 2/16

Now that he's married to Merrill Darling, daughter of billionaire financier Carter Darling, attorney Paul Ross has grown accustomed to New York society and all of its luxuries: a Park Avenue apartment, weekends in the Hamptons, bespoke suits. When Paul loses his job, Carter offers him the chance to head the legal team at his hedge fund. Thrilled with his good fortune in the midst of the worst financial downturn since the Great

Depression, Paul accepts the position. But Paul's luck is about to shift: a tragic event catapults the Darling family into the media spotlight, a regulatory investigation, and a red-hot scandal with enormous implications for everyone involved. Suddenly, Paul must decide where his loyalties lie-will he save himself while betraying his wife and in-laws or protect the family business at all costs? "Two parts *Too Big to Fail*, one part *The Devil Wears Prada*; Alger's debut is taut and compelling. Alger expertly evokes both sympathy and contempt for her characters and writes with a polished ease, telling the story of our time (or a particular glittery, corrupt corner of our time) with a mix of ruthlessness and sensitivity." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Alger, a former Goldman Sachs analyst and attorney, has written a financial thriller with a tone that fits somewhere between the novels of Dominick Dunne (though not as flippant) and Tom Wolfe's *The Bonfire of the Vanities*." ***Library Journal***
FIRST NOVEL

Ramona Ausubel, **NO ONE IS HERE EXCEPT ALL OF US**, (336 pgs) 2/2

In 1939, the families in a remote Jewish village in Romania feel the war close in on them. Their tribe has moved and escaped for thousands of years- across oceans, deserts, and mountains-but now, it seems, there is nowhere else to go. Danger is imminent in every direction, yet the territory of imagination and belief is limitless. At the suggestion of an eleven-year-old girl and a mysterious stranger who has washed up on the riverbank, the villagers decide to reinvent the world: deny any relationship with the known and start over from scratch. Destiny is unwritten. Time and history are forgotten. Jobs, husbands, a child, are reassigned. And for years, there is boundless hope. But the real world continues to unfold alongside the imagined one, eventually overtaking it, and soon our narrator-the girl, grown into a young mother-must flee her village, move from one world to the next, to find her husband and save her children, and propel them toward a real and hopeful future. "Ausubel uses the history of her own great grandmother as the framework for her first novel, which fully evokes the horrors of the Holocaust by merely touching on events . . . a fabulist tale of love, loss, faith, hope, community, and, especially, the power of story." ***Booklist*** "A wonderfully fresh and inventive premise replicating exactly what literature can do." ***Library Journal***
FIRST NOVEL

Alex Berenson, **THE SHADOW PATROL**, (400 pgs) 2/21

In 2009, the CIA's Kabul Station fell for a source who promised to lead it to Bin Laden, but instead he blew himself up, taking the station's most senior officers with him. Now, more than two years later, the station is still floundering, agents are dying, and at Langley the CIA's chiefs wonder if the unthinkable has happened, if somehow the Taliban has infiltrated the station. When they ask John Wells to investigate, he reluctantly

agrees to return to the country where his career as an undercover operative began. But there, he finds a vipers' nest of hostility and mistrust-and clues that hint at a drug-trafficking operation involving the Agency, the military, and the Taliban. Americans are dying, and an American is responsible. And only John Wells stands in his way . . . for now. "This consistently interesting series shows no signs of running out of steam . . . a riveting duel between good and evil that will keep readers blazing through the pages." ***Publishers Weekly***

A.S. Byatt, **RAGNAROK: The End of the Gods**, (192 pgs) 2/7

Booker Prize-winning English writer Byatt chooses to locate her reimagining of the Norse myth Asgard and the Gods, which describes the destruction of the world, during that most apocalyptic of times in British history, the blitz. The little girl at the center of the story, whom we know only as "the thin child," has been evacuated, with her mother, from London to the idyllic countryside. Her father is a fighter pilot who's "in the air, in the war, in Africa, in Greece, in Rome, in a world that only exist in books." The thin child goes to church and reads Pilgrim's Progress, but finds the concept of "gentle Jesus" naïve and untenable in the face of war. Asgard and the Gods, on the other hand, provides, if not a more believable narrative, one that at least reflects the world she lives in: "It was a good story, a story with meaning, fear and danger were in it, and things out of control." The only question that nags at her is how "the good and wise Germans" who wrote it can be the same people bringing terror to the skies over her head at night. "Told in lush prose, this is a book that brings the reader double pleasure; we return to the feeling of reading—or being read—childhood myths, but Byatt (*Possession*) also invites us to grapple with very grown-up intellectual questions as well . . . A highly unusual and deeply absorbing book." ***Publishers Weekly***

Jennifer Chiaverini, **SONOMA ROSE**, (416 pgs) 2/21

As the nation grapples with the strictures of Prohibition, Rosa Barclay lives on a Southern California rye farm with her volatile husband, John, who has lately found another source of income far outside the federal purview. Mother to eight children, Rosa mourns the loss of four who succumbed to the mysterious wasting disease that is now afflicting young Ana and Miguel. Two daughters born of another father are in perfect health. When an act of violence shatters Rosa's resolve to maintain her increasingly dangerous existence, she flees with the children and her precious heirloom quilts to the mesa where she last saw her beloved mother alive. As a flash flood traps them in a treacherous canyon, only one man is brave-or foolhardy-enough to come to their rescue: Lars Jorgenson, Rosa's first love and the father of her healthy daughters. Together they escape to Berkeley, where a leading specialist offers their only hope of saving Ana and Miguel.

Deborah Coonts, **SO DAMN LUCKY**, (384 pgs) 2/28

In the first chapter of Coonts's Lucky O'Toole adventure (after 2011's *Lucky Stiff*), magician Dimitri Fortunoff dies on stage while re-enacting a famous Houdini escape. Lucky, as head of customer relations at Las Vegas's posh Babylon Hotel, must do damage control, but even for this six-foot, multitalented beauty it isn't easy. Lucky suspects Dimitri was the "Masked Houdini," who enraged many Vegas magicians by claiming he would reveal all of Houdini's closely held secrets. Could one of them have killed him? The investigation takes a bizarre turn when Dimitri's body vanishes and Lucky receives a death threat, delivered by a stuffed rabbit. Meanwhile, the continual shenanigans at the hotel keep Lucky hopping. "Whether tactfully dissuading a senior citizen from marrying her dog or discreetly extricating an amorous couple from their complex sex toys, Lucky proves first-rate at her job. Fans of lighter mysteries will have fun."

Tatiana De Rosnay, **THE HOUSE I LOVED**, (240 pgs) 2/14

Parisian Rose Bazelet is a woman in mourning, for her husband and son, both long dead; for her distant daughter; and because of Napoleon III's ambitious urban planning agenda in the mid-19th century, an enormous project that could destroy her beloved family estate. With the planners already leveling nearby houses, Rose hides in her cellar and writes letters to her deceased husband about her struggle to save their home. As the letters continue, and destruction grows near, Rose remembers her married life. With the planners "rattling about at the entrance" and taking her friend Alexandrine, who has come to rescue her, by surprise, Rose reveals to her late husband the dark secret she could never bring herself to tell him when he was alive. "De Rosnay's epistolary narrative is fraught with drama, as the *Sarah's Key* author aims to create an immersive experience in a hugely transformative period in Paris, when the city was torn between modernity and tradition." *Publishers Weekly*

Anna Funder, **ALL THAT I AM**, (384 pgs) 2/7

When eighteen-year-old Ruth Becker visits her cousin Dora in Munich in 1923, she meets the love of her life, the dashing young journalist Hans Wesemann, and eagerly joins in the heady activities of the militant political Left in Germany. Ten years later, Ruth and Hans are married and living in Weimar Berlin when Hitler is elected chancellor of Germany. Together with Dora and her lover, Ernst Toller, the celebrated poet and self-doubting revolutionary, the four become hunted outlaws overnight and are forced to flee to London. Inspired by the fearless Dora to breathtaking acts of courage, the friends risk betrayal and deceit as they dedicate themselves to a dangerous mission: to inform the British government of the very real Nazi threat to which it remains willfully blind. "A literary work as suspenseful as the best thrillers, Funder's extraordinary first novel is an unflinching portrait of courage in

devastating circumstances." *Library Journal* "Funder adds an integral perspective on a shopworn subject by invoking the lives of Nazi dissidents whose attempts to alert the world to the growing menace were ignored until it was too late." *Publishers Weekly* **FIRST NOVEL**

Lisa Gardner, **CATCH ME**, (400 pgs) 2/7

In Gardner's sixth novel featuring Boston Sgt. Det. D.D. Warren (after 2011's *Love You More*). Charlene Rosalind Carter Grant, a 28-year-old police dispatch officer with a horrific childhood, expects to be murdered on January 21. One of her two best friends was strangled at home on January 21 two years earlier; exactly a year later, her other best friend suffered the same fate. On January 17, Grant seeks out Warren at a crime scene and asks the homicide detective to investigate her expected murder. Meanwhile, Warren is looking into the execution-style slayings of two pedophiles. Rookie sex crime detective Ellen O brings her expertise to this second case. "Gardner skillfully



tacks back and forth from Grant's childhood traumas to her preparations to face a killer as it becomes increasingly murky whether Grant is victim, predator, or both. Fans should enjoy the numerous cameos by characters from other Gardner novels." *Publishers Weekly*

NOTE: Lisa Gardner will be appearing at the Hagen Ranch Road Branch on Feb. 10th at 2:00 PM. Pre-register online at

<http://www.pbclibrary.org/writerslive/>

Paul Garrison, **ROBERT LUDLUM'S THE JANSON COMMAND**, (432 pgs) 2/14

Paul Janson, once a respected and feared member of the U.S. government's secret Consular Operations, now runs his own private security outfit, CatsPaw Associates. An oil company headquartered in Houston, Tex., hires Janson to rescue one of their employees, who's been kidnapped by the Free Foree Movement, insurgents who are attempting to wrest the Isle de Foree, which broke away from Equatorial Guinea, from the hands of Foree's hated dictator, "President for Life" Iboga. Janson's girlfriend, Jessica Kinkaid, a world-class sniper and Special forces-type warrior in her own right, lends assistance. "That Janson is a complicated character makes him more interesting than most action heroes. A number of swift, unexpected plot twists will leave Ludlum fans eager to see more in this franchise from Garrison (*Fire and Ice*).

Alex George, **A GOOD AMERICAN**, (400 pgs) 2/7

It is 1904. When Frederick and Jette must flee her disapproving mother, where better to go than America, the land of the new? Originally set to board a boat to New York, at the last minute, they take one destined for

New Orleans instead, and later find themselves in the small town of Beatrice, Missouri. Not speaking a word of English, they embark on their new life together. Beatrice is populated with unforgettable characters: a jazz trumpeter from the Big Easy who cooks a mean gumbo, a teenage boy trapped in the body of a giant, a pretty schoolteacher who helps the young men in town learn about a lot more than just music, a minister who believes he has witnessed the Second Coming of Christ, and a malevolent, bicycle-riding dwarf. The novel is narrated by Frederick and Jette's grandson, James, who, in telling his ancestors' story, comes to realize he doesn't know his own story at all. From bare-knuckle prizefighting and Prohibition to sweet barbershop harmonies, the Kennedy assassination, and beyond, James's family is caught up in the sweep of history. Each new generation discovers afresh what it means to be an American. And, in the process, Frederick and Jette's progeny sometimes discover more about themselves than they had bargained for. "George, a British lawyer who has practiced law in London, Paris, and Columbia, Mo., where he now lives, evokes small-town life lovingly, sometimes disturbingly, and examines the ties of family, the complications of home, and the moments of love and happiness that arrive no matter what." ***Publishers Weekly*** "This memorable and well-written exploration of one family's search for acceptance in America should strongly appeal to readers who enjoy family sagas and historical fiction." ***Library Journal*** **FIRST NOVEL**

Eowyn Ivey, **THE SNOW CHILD**, (400 pgs) 2/1

Unable to start a family, middle-aged Jack and Mabel have come to the Alaskan wilderness to start over, leaving behind an easier life back east. Anxious that they won't outlast one wretched winter, they distract themselves by building a snow girl and wrap her in a scarf. The snow girl and the scarf are gone the next morning, but Jack spies a real child in the woods. Soon Jack and Mabel have developed a tentative relationship with the free-spirited Faina, as she finally admits to being called. Is she indeed a "snow fairy," a "wilderness pixie" magicked out of the cold, or a wild child who knows better than anyone how to survive in the rugged north? Even as Faina embodies a natural order that cannot be tamed, the neighborly George and Esther show Jack and Mabel (and the rest of us) how important community is for survival. "A fluid, absorbing, beautifully executed debut novel." ***Library Journal*** "The book's tone throughout has a lovely push and pull--Alaska's punishing landscape and rough-hewn residents pitted against Faina's charmed appearances--and the ending is both surprising and earned. A fine first novel that enlivens familiar themes of parenthood and battles against nature." ***Kirkus*** **FIRST NOVEL**

P.D. James, **DEATH COMES TO PEMBERLEY**, (304 pgs) 12/6/2011

In the autumn of 1803, six years after the events that closed *Pride and Prejudice*, Elizabeth Darcy, the happily married mistress of Pemberley

House, is preparing for Lady Anne's annual ball, "regarded by the county as the most important social event of the year." Alas, the evening before the ball, Elizabeth's sister Lydia, who married the feckless Wickham, bursts into the house to announce that Captain Denny, a militia officer, has shot her husband dead in the woodland on the estate. Darcy and Colonel Fitzwilliam head out in a chaise to investigate. "Historical mystery buffs and Jane Austen fans alike will welcome this homage to the author of *Pride and Prejudice* from MWA Grand Master James, best known for her Adam Dalgliesh detective series and Attentive readers will eagerly seek out clues to the delightfully complex mystery." ***Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)***

J.A. Jance, **LEFT FOR DEAD**, (304 pgs) 2/7

When 17-year-old Rose Ventana is found dead near the Mexican border, savagely beaten and tortured, the police assume she's just another casualty of the drug wars. But Ali Reynolds dear friend, Sister Anselm, thinks otherwise, and the two vigorous and persistent women discover links to other cases that suggest a serial killer at work. Meanwhile, the pair involve themselves in caring for the extended family of a local deputy, mysteriously wounded and suspected of dealing in drugs. Their own off-the-grid network of lawyers and security experts comes in handy for ferreting out leads. "Jance's seventh Ali Reynolds novel (after 2011's *Fatal Error*) offers plenty of scope for the widowed former reporter, anchorwoman, and graduate of the Arizona Police Academy, who now heads a private charitable fund, to use her sleuthing talents." ***Publishers Weekly***

Jonathan Kellerman, **VICTIMS: An Alex Delaware Novel**, (352 pgs) 2/28

Alex Delaware, the child psychologist/police consultant and his LAPD homicide detective pal, Lt. Milo Sturgis, look into the possibly ritualistic murder of 56-year-old Vita Berlin, whose mutilated body was found lying on some towels in her apartment. An odd note left in a pizza box is about the only clue. When another body turns up similarly butchered and more follow, it's enough to put even the food-loving Milo off his feed. At Milo's request, Alex talks to Berlin's psychologist in the hope of getting some insight into the difficult, self-righteous woman. Trying to figure out the tortuous link between killer and victims takes Alex back to his days as a young psychology intern and his supervisor, "a former research assistant to Anna Freud during the London years."

Sophie Kinsella, **I'VE GOT YOUR NUMBER**, (448 pgs) 2/14

For Poppy Wyatt, losing her priceless antique engagement ring during a boozy pre-wedding brunch at a fancy hotel is bad enough without the added indignity of having her phone nicked by a drive-by bike mugger. All is not lost, though, as she discovers a perfectly good phone in the trash in

the hotel lobby. Anxious to get the ring back without alarming her fiancé Magnus, she gives out the new number to the concierge and her friends. But the phone, it turns out, belonged to the short-lived assistant to Sam Roxton, an acerbic (but handsome) young executive in a powerful consulting firm. Given to one-word correspondence, with little patience for small talk and social niceties, Sam understandably wants the company property back. But Poppy has other ideas and talks him into letting her keep it for a few more days, offering to forward him all pertinent messages. In spite of Sam's reticence, the two strike up an oddly intimate text correspondence, with Poppy taking a way too personal interest in Sam's life—including his odd relationship with his seemingly crazy girlfriend, Willow. Sam, for his part, confronts Poppy over her fears that she is not good enough for Magnus' highly-educated family. Misunderstandings ensue, with Poppy's well-intentioned meddling causing multiple headaches. But when Sam gets embroiled in a corporate scandal, Poppy jumps in to help him in the only way she can. "Cheerfully contrived with a male love interest straight out of the Mr. Darcy playbook, Kinsella's latest should be exactly what her fans are hankering for . . . a screwball romance with a likable and vulnerable heroine." ***Kirkus Reviews***

Thomas Mallon, **WATERGATE**, (448 pgs) 2/21

For all the monumental documentation that Watergate generated—uncountable volumes of committee records, court transcripts, and memoirs—it falls at last to a novelist to perform the work of inference (and invention) that allows us to solve some of the scandal's greatest mysteries (who did erase those eighteen-and-a-half minutes of tape?) and to see this gaudy American catastrophe in its human entirety. Thomas Mallon conveys the drama and high comedy of the Nixon presidency through the urgent perspectives of characters we only thought we knew before now. Events unfold through the perspectives of six characters: Republican Party fixer Fred LaRue; ex-spook H. Howard Hunt; 90-year-old society madam Alice Roosevelt Longworth; Nixon's doggedly loyal secretary, Rose Woods; Nixon himself; and his wife, Pat, who comes across as far from the plastic Barbie Doll she's usually portrayed to be. "If ever a historical event was worthy of a comic novel, it's Watergate, and Mallon, with several outstanding historical novels to his credit, has the skills to write it. A sure winner, for its subject and Mallon's proven track record as a historical novelist, and because it's good." ***Library Journal***
 "Mallon, astute and nimble, continues his scintillating, morally inquisitive journey through crises great and absurd in American politics by taking on Watergate...Mallon himself is deliciously witty. But it is his political fluency and unstinting empathy that transform the Watergate debacle into a universal tragicomedy of ludicrous errors and malignant crimes, epic hubris and sorrow." ***Booklist (Starred Review)***

Keith McCafferty, **THE ROYAL WULFF MURDERS**, (352 pgs) 2/16

When a fishing guide reels in the body of a young man on the Madison, the Holy Grail of Montana trout rivers, Sheriff Martha Ettinger suspects foul play. It's not just the stick jammed into the man's eye that draws her attention; it's the Royal Wulff trout fly stuck in his bloated lower lip. Following her instincts, Ettinger soon finds herself crossing paths with Montana newcomer Sean Stranahan. Fly fisher, painter, and has-been private detective, Stranahan left a failed marriage and lackluster career to drive to Montana, where he lives in an art studio decorated with fly-tying feathers and mouse droppings. With more luck catching fish than clients, Stranahan is completely captivated when Southern siren Velvet Lafayette walks into his life, intent on hiring his services to find her missing brother. The clues lead Stranahan and Ettinger back to Montana's Big Business: fly fishing. Where there's money, there's bound to be crime. "McCafferty's superb outdoor writing (not surprising for an editor at Field & Stream magazine) feels like an academic mystery thanks to a complex research topic. This debut is recommended for lovers of environmentally themed mysteries by such authors as C.J. Box" *Library Journal* **FIRST NOVEL**

Fern Michaels, **DEADLINE** (262 pgs) 1/28

No sooner have Toots Loudenberry and her three best friends – Sophie, Ida, and Mavis – returned from Sacramento, where Sophie provided some much-needed psychic advice to the First Lady of California, when another situation demands their attention... Laura Leigh, a Hollywood starlet whose main talent seems to be landing in trouble, is missing. Toots' daughter, Abby, has both a personal and professional stake in the story. Not only is she editor-in-chief at gossip magazine *The Informer*, but entertainment attorney Chris Clay, Abby's would-be beau, was the last person to see Laura. And now he's missing, too. With the help of friends in high – and low – places, the Godmothers will navigate Hollywood's glittering inner circles and seedy underbelly to discover the truth. Along the way, they'll uncover unexpected secrets that not even one of Sophie's séances could have predicted.

Kristina Ohlsson, **TITLE**, (368 pgs) 2/28

When Sara Sebastiansson steps off a train to Gothenburg for a moment at an intermediate station, she leaves her six-year-old daughter, Lilian, asleep in a coach. A stranger's request to help with a sick pet ensures that Sara fails to reboard in time. Despite the conductor keeping an eye on Lilian for most of the trip to the next stop, the little girl is nowhere to be found on arrival there. Lilian's father, suspected of physically abusing her mother, is an obvious suspect, especially given conflicting stories about his whereabouts. Frederika Bergman, a police investigator who's less than comfortable interacting with people, and her colleagues soon realize they're dealing with a twisted monster whose motives are as obscure as

his methods are horrific. "Superior prose, plotting, and characterization lift this procedural set in Stockholm, the first in a series. Readers will look forward to spending more time in the company of the intriguing Bergman." ***Publishers Weekly*** (Winner of Sweden's prestigious Gold Pocket Book Award and winner of the 2010 Stabilo Prize for Best Crime Writer of Southern Sweden –fans of Steig Larsson should take note)

Michael Palmer, **OATH OF OFFICE**, (384 pgs) 2/14

Dr. Lou Welcome, who nine years earlier lost his medical license "for self-prescribing amphetamines," now works for the organization that cured him of his addiction. The organization is the Physician Wellness Office, which counsels doctors with similar problems in Kings Ridge, Va., outside Washington, D.C. When John Meacham, a client of Lou's who had "a better-than-decent recovery program," fatally shoots seven patients and staff members at his office before shooting himself, the PWO suspends Lou. After hearing the news of the violent outburst, Lou is in shock like everyone else, but mostly he's incredulous. And when he begins to look into it further, the terrifying evidence he finds takes him down a path to an unspeakable conspiracy that seems to lead directly to the White House and those in the highest positions of power. "Palmer's easy mix of science and individual courage should please his many fans." ***Publishers Weekly***

James Patterson & Mark Sullivan, **PRIVATE GAMES**, (448 pgs) 2/13

Private, the world's most renowned investigation firm, has been commissioned to provide security for the 2012 Olympic Games in London. Its agents are the smartest, fastest, and most technologically advanced in the world, and 400 of them have been transferred to London to protect more than 10,000 competitors who represent more than 200 countries. The opening ceremony is hours away when Private investigator and single father of twins, Peter Knight, is called to the scene of a ruthless murder. A high-ranking member of the games' organizing committee has been killed. It's clear to Peter that this wasn't a crime of passion, but one of precise calculation and execution. Newspaper reporter Karen Pope receives a letter from a person who calls himself Cronus claiming responsibility for the murders. He promises to restore the Olympics to their ancient glory and to destroy all those who have corrupted the games with lies, corruption, and greed. Immediately, Karen hires Private to examine the letter, and she and Peter uncover a criminal genius who won't stop until he's completely destroyed the modern games.

Matthew Pearl, **THE TECHNOLOGISTS**, (496 pgs) 2/21

Pearl's fourth historical mystery centers on Boston in the late 1860s and the newly founded college that will become the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Three male students from different class backgrounds and the institution's sole female student team up to research a series of

scientific mysteries baffling the Boston police. As part of MIT's first secret society, the Technologists, the students use chemicals, experiments, and such inventions as a primitive submarine to track a murderer whose abilities and education seem to parallel their own. The Technologists race to stay ahead of the police while dueling with their Harvard rivals and fending off antagonism from the trade unionists, who resent MIT's role in mechanizing factories. "Pearl again blends detective fiction with historical characters (such as pioneering feminist and MIT-trained scientist Ellen Swallow), and his cast reads like a who's who of 19th-century Boston . . . great fun to read." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Pearl's signature complex plotting, strewn with red herrings and populated with unlikely villains, leaves readers as shocked and intrigued as the Bostonians." ***Booklist*** "Pearl has a special talent for making likable detectives out of historical figures (The Dante Club) and for pulling compelling plotlines from biographies (The Poe Shadow; The Last Dickens). Here, MIT and Harvard are brought to the foreground and so well depicted that they become historical characters in their own right. This thriller won't disappoint Pearl's many fans" ***Library Journal***

Jodi Picoult, **LONE WOLF**, (432 pgs) 2/28

Luke Warren, a vital free spirit, has devoted himself to understanding wolf behavior, to the point of having once abandoned his family to live with wolves. Now divorced and raising his 17-year-old daughter, Cara, near his wolf compound, Luke sustains a traumatic brain injury in an accident. His ex-wife, Georgie, remarried to a lawyer, summons Cara's brother, Edward, from Thailand, where he's lived for years alienated from his family, who assume the estrangement stems from his father's rejection of Edward's homosexuality. Cara wants to keep her father on life support; Edward struggles with resentment but believes his father wouldn't want to exist in a vegetative state. As Cara and Edward navigate their own



conflicts and Luke languishes in a coma, Picoult folds in mesmerizing excerpts of Luke's book about life with the wolves. "Picoult as usual probes intriguing matters of the heart while introducing her fans to subjects they might not otherwise explore. You can always count on Picoult for a terrific page-turner about a compelling subject." ***Publishers Weekly***

NOTE: Jodi Picoult will be appearing at the Hagen Ranch Road Branch on Sunday, March 18th at 3:00 PM. Pre-register on Feb. 27 online at <http://www.pbclibrary.org/writerslive/>

Taylor Polites, **THE REBEL WIFE**, (304 pgs) 2/7

Augusta Branson was born into antebellum Southern nobility during a time of wealth and prosperity, but now all that is gone, and she is left standing

in the ashes of a broken civilization. When her scalawag husband dies suddenly of a mysterious blood plague, she must fend for herself and her young son. Slowly she begins to wake to the reality of her new life: her social standing is stained by her marriage; she is alone and unprotected in a community that is being destroyed by racial prejudice and violence; the fortune she thought she would inherit does not exist; and the deadly blood fever is spreading fast. Nothing is as she believed, everyone she knows is hiding something, and Augusta needs someone to trust. Somehow she must find the truth amid her own illusions about the past and the courage to cross the boundaries of hate, so strong, dangerous, and very close to home. "A richly detailed portrait of Reconstruction-era Alabama. . . . Nimble, engrossing . . . builds to a vivid climax." ***Publishers Weekly*** "The suspense is exquisitely honed . . . pulled back just in time to make for a wonderfully chilling—yet over-heated—read." ***Booklist*** "Polites draws a detailed portrait of post-war politics and sentiments." ***Kirkus FIRST NOVEL***

J.D. Robb, **CELEBRITY IN DEATH**, (400 pgs) 2/21

Lt. Eve Dallas feels a little uneasy attending a party at Hollywood mogul Mason Roundtree's Park Avenue townhouse to celebrate *The Icove Agenda*, the movie adaptation of a high-profile murder case solved by Eve and her police cohorts. Eve has even more cause for concern after 28-year-old actress K.T. Harris, who makes a drunken scene at dinner, later turns up dead in the lap pool on the townhouse roof. Could K.T. have fallen into the pool by accident? Or was it foul play? K.T. had plenty of enemies, including Marlo Durn, who plays Eve in the film and could pass for Eve's sister. Eve's wealthy and charming husband, Rourke, lends support while Eve and Detective Peabody pursue yet another gripping case. "Murder, sex, and blackmail all figure in bestseller Robb's smart, well-crafted 35th Eve Dallas novel." ***Publishers Weekly***

Michael Robotham, **BLEED FOR ME**, (432 pgs) 2/27

When 14-year-old Sienna Hegarty appears at the back door of psychologist Joe O'Loughlin's estranged wife, dazed and dripping blood, O'Loughlin knows he must help in this taut thriller from Robotham, the fifth in this U.K. series but the sixth to be published in the U.S. (after 2011's *The Wreckage*). Everyone assumes Sienna murdered her father, ex-cop Ray Hegarty, found in the family home outside Bath with his throat slit, because he may have molested Sienna. Volunteering to provide the psychological assessment for the trial, O'Loughlin calls on a London friend, retired police inspector Vincent Ruiz, to investigate on the sly. Together they discover that Sienna's problems extend beyond her troubled home life, with clues pointing to the school she and O'Loughlin's teenage daughter, Charlie, attend as well as a high-profile trial involving British National Party members. "This remarkable novel offers everything those

'literary' detective novel sought to but usually don't. This is crime fiction of the highest order." ***Booklist (Starred Review)***

David Rosenfelt, **HEART OF A KILLER**, (304 pgs) 2/14

Rosenfelt's stand-alone begins as a legal thriller that twists into a murder mystery before becoming a full-blown suspense chiller. The life of Karen Harrison, a 14-year-old girl with a congenital heart defect, can only be saved by a heart transplant from a matching donor. Karen's mom, Sheryl, who shares Karen's rare blood type, wishes to donate her heart. Two complications stand in Sheryl's way. First, she must die to enable the transplant. Second, in order to commit suicide, she must get out of prison, where she's serving 15 years to life for her abusive husband's murder six years earlier. That's where Sheryl's underachieving lawyer, Jamie Wagner, comes in. Jamie hopes to file a lawsuit against the state of New Jersey on her behalf, but his plans change when he learns Sheryl may not be guilty. "Rosenfelt (On Borrowed Time) employs his usual wry wit to drive the well-paced plot." ***Publishers Weekly***

Matt Ruff, **THE MIRAGE**, (432 pgs) 2/7

11/9/2001: Christian fundamentalists hijack four jetliners. They fly two into the Tigris & Euphrates World Trade Towers in Baghdad, and a third into the Arab Defense Ministry in Riyadh. The fourth plane, believed to be bound for Mecca, is brought down by its passengers. Summer, 2009: Arab Homeland Security agent Mustafa al Baghdadi interrogates a captured suicide bomber. The prisoner claims that the world they are living in is a mirage—in the real world, America is a superpower, and the Arab states are just a collection of "backward third-world countries." A search of the bomber's apartment turns up a copy of *The New York Times*, dated September 12, 2001, that appears to support his claim. Other captured terrorists have been telling the same story. The president wants answers, but Mustafa soon discovers he's not the only interested party. The gangster Saddam Hussein is conducting his own investigation. And the head of the Senate Intelligence Committee—a war hero named Osama bin Laden—will stop at nothing to hide the truth. As Mustafa and his colleagues venture deeper into the unsettling world of terrorism, politics, and espionage, they are confronted with questions without any rational answers, and the terrifying possibility that their world is not what it seems. "This novel is both entertaining and provocative, exactly what the best popular fiction should be." ***Publishers Weekly***

Peter Troy, **MAY THE ROAD RISE UP TO MEET YOU**, (400 pgs) 2/28

The worlds of an Irish immigrant, a New York society girl, and two slaves collide via the fight against slavery and the Civil War. This historical saga begins during Ireland's Great Famine and brings readers through to post-Civil War America. In 1847, Ethan McOwen arrives in New York City to

pursue a new life with his family. By the time the Civil War begins, the McOwen family has established a comfortable life, with Ethan having become a respected photographer. Ethan and his friends join the famous Irish Brigade, and he begins documenting the war through his photographs. Later, at an exhibition of his work, Ethan meets Marcella Arroyo, a beautiful, sophisticated woman who's chosen to shun her family's wealth and dedicate herself to abolition. Meanwhile, in Richmond, Va., slaves Mary and Micah lead two very different lives. While Micah suffers constant abuse and sleeps on a pile of hay, Mary's owners consider themselves kind, providing her with "privileges" such as a bedroom. They soon fall in love, and unusual circumstances eventually bring all four characters together. "The depth of Troy's characters offers compelling insights into the Civil War era." ***Publishers Weekly* FIRST NOVEL**

Katie Ward, **GIRL READING**, (352 pgs) 2/7

A girl reading: a common theme in art throughout the ages. But what compels artists to capture this image? Who are these women who provide such inspiration? Ward turns the tables on these portraits in her debut novel, giving readers a series of vignettes that ruminate on the women portrayed in seven portraits. From the 14th century to the 21st, each story explores the history and nature of womanhood, chronicling the relationships, circumstances, and cultural boundaries that we all push up against and, ultimately, define who we are. "Though the only connecting thread among stories is the intersection of feminist study and art, each story on its own is rich and compelling." ***Library Journal* FIRST NOVEL**