“A SUDDEN LIGHT: A Novel by Garth Stein (Simon & Schuster) 

Garth Stein has given us a masterpiece. This beautiful story takes readers on a thrilling exploration of a family estate brimming with generations of riveting Riddell family ghosts and secrets. This is a true exploratory novel, taking readers through secret passageways, hidden rooms, and darkened corridors that engage all of the senses.”
—Whitney Gayle, James Blackstone Memorial Library, Branford, CT

LEAVING TIME: A Novel by Jodi Picoult (Ballantine) 

“Leaving Time is a love story—love between mother and child, love between soulmates, and love between elephants. The story is told from a variety of narrators, all of whom are broken and lost. Jenna is searching for answers to the disappearance of her mother, and seeks the help of a retired police detective and a psychic. Alice, Jenna’s mom, disappeared after a tragic accident at the elephant sanctuary, and her work with the elephants is fascinating and touching. The book is an ode to motherhood in all its forms—the good, the bad, and the ugly—and it is brilliant.”
—Kimberly McGee, Lake Travis Community Library, Austin, TX

SOME LUCK: A Novel by Jane Smiley (Knopf) 

“Smiley’s latest is a love song to American farms and the people who keep them. This glorious and heartfelt novel chronicles the lives of an Iowa farm family over 30 years, beginning in 1920. Family members are born, grow, change, and die. Readers follow their triumphs and crushing losses and, along the way, learn about the evolution of farming and society in the United States. Definitely one of the best novels of 2014.”
—Laurie Van Court, Douglas County Libraries, Parker, CO

REUNION: A Novel by Hannah Pittard (Grand Central) 

“When Kate learns that her estranged father has committed suicide, she and her siblings travel to Atlanta to bury him and work out years of resentment. Life seems overwhelming to Kate as she battles with infidelity, divorce, and a massive debt. It’s only when she takes a good look at herself that she begins to heal the rift in her family. Unfolding like a saga, this short book packs a punch.”
—Elizabeth Kanouse, Denville Public Library, Denville, NJ

THE BOY WHO DREW MONSTERS: A Novel by Keith Donohue (Touchstone) 

“Emotionally scarred by a near-drowning experience, young Jack Keenan spends all his time indoors, fanatically preoccupied with drawing strange things. While Jack’s parents chalk his drawings up to the imagination, Nick, Jack’s only friend, notices mysterious things happen whenever Jack picks up a pencil. This detailed coming-of-age tale with a twist offers unique insights into boyhood friendships and the complexities of adult relationships.”
—Courtney Block, Charlestown Clark County Public Library, Charlestown, IN

MALICE: A Mystery by Keigo Higashino Translated by Alexander O. Smith (Minotaur Books) 

“Detective Kaga is investigating the murder of best-selling author Kunihiko Hidaka. Hidaka’s wife and best friend both have rock-solid alibis, but Kaga discovers that the friendship might not have been what it seemed. A classic cat-and-mouse game with twists that keep the pages turning.”
—Vicki Nesting, St. Charles Parish Library, Destrehan, LA

NOT MY FATHER’S SON: A Memoir by Alan Cumming (Dey Street Books) 

“This memoir focuses on Cumming’s reaction to being told that his father was not, in fact, his father. An appearance on the UK’s Who Do You Think You Are? was meant to reveal the mystery behind what happened to Cumming’s maternal grandfather. Instead, his father’s admission leads Cumming to resolve long-held memories of verbal abuse. Cumming is extremely open, allowing readers to share in his pain and understand his relationships.”
—Tracy Babiasz, Alachua County Library District, Newberry, FL

THE LIFE WE BURY: A Novel by Allen Eskens (Seventh Street Books) 

“Characters with layers of suppressed memories and emotions only add to the suspenseful plot. Looking forward to more from this Minnesotan author!”
—Paulette Brooks, Elm Grove Public Library, Elm Grove, WI

MURDER AT THE BRIGHTWELL: A Mystery by Ashley Weaver (Minotaur Books) 

“Lovers of Agatha Christie and Jacqueline Winspear will enjoy this elegant mystery set on holiday at the English seaside. What starts out as a lark, intended to make Amory Ames’s misbehaving but oh-so-delicious husband jealous, turns into a dangerous and deadly game of whodunit for Amory and her friends. Love, jealousy, and revenge are tangled together in this smart and sophisticated British mystery reminiscent of the genre’s golden age.”
—Vanessa Walstra, Kent District Library, East Grand Rapids, MI

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