

Fall
2007

KANSAS CITY, KANSAS PUBLIC LIBRARY
A LIFELONG LEARNING PLACE

The Fiction Connection

The Fiction Newsletter of Kansas City, Kansas Public Library



Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Author Sara Gruen is exceeding expectations again!

Water for Elephants, a darling of the independent bookseller circuit in hardbound, is finding new life at the top of the lists in paperback. Recently, the movie rights to the novel were optioned. This continued success confirms Gruen's new publisher's decision to pay her an advance that exceeds \$5 million for her next two books.

As ***Water for Elephants*** begins, memories are all that ninety-something-year-old Jacob Jankowski has left. Now reluctantly confined (sentenced in his opinion) to live out his years in a nursing home, he recalls life as a member of the depression era Benzini Brothers Most Spectacular Show on Earth. Yanked from a comfortable student existence at Cornell Veterinary School and tossed onto a rickety circus train as a result of a family tragedy, a penniless, 23 year old Jacob quickly learns how to survive in this bizarre world ruled by the tyrannical owner, Uncle Al.

The only thing keeping the third rate Benzini Brothers show from the fame that it deserves is an elephant act! Or so Uncle Al believes. The salvation of the circus is at hand when he purchases Rosie the elephant. Marlena, the equestrian star will perform atop Rosie in the spectacular new act planned by her husband August, the animal trainer. The financial woes of Uncle AL will be solved. The only problem is that Rosie doesn't respond to the trainer's commands.

Can Jacob save Rosie from the cruelty of the trainer, August? More importantly, can he rescue Marlena from her fate?

KCKPL call number: Fiction GRUEN

Join us for discussions of ***Water for Elephants***

Tuesday, August 28th at 2 p.m. at the YWCA Corner Coffee Café ,
or

Wednesday, August 29th at 6:30 p.m., Main Library

Inside this issue:

Khaled Hosseini is back	2
On Chesil Beach	2
Based on the novel	3
The Thirteenth Tale	3
Upcoming Book Events	4



*Fiction reveals truths that reality
obscures. ~Jessamyn West*

Khaled Hosseini is back!

The author of the powerful and unforgettable *The Kite Runner* has returned with *A Thousand Splendid Suns* a remarkable account of the past thirty years of Afghan history from the Soviet invasion through the Taliban era to today. Two women from very different circumstances become unlikely friends as a result of the atrocities and hardships of life in Afghanistan. Through his characters, Hosseini illustrates the dramatic effects that evolving attitudes toward women have caused in Afghanistan. The title comes from a 17th Century poem praising the beauty of the city of Kabul. Hosseini, the son of a diplomat, was born in Kabul. At the time of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan political asylum in the United States was granted to his family. Hosseini returned to visit Kabul in 2003; he lives in northern California.

KCKPL call number: Fiction HOSSEINI



The Fiction Connection
is produced by
Rita Miziorko,
Reader's Advisory Librarian
Main Library
(913) 551-3280
rmiziorko@kckpl.lib.ks.us

On Chesil Beach by Ian McEwan

A cartoon in a recent *New Yorker* magazine shows a bridegroom who has just crossed the threshold carrying his bride who says, "Could you please put me down now; I really don't like to be touched."

Ian McEwan's new novel *On Chesil Beach* describes what might have happened before and after that cartoon's moment. It's 1962, the other side of the sexual revolution, and two inexperienced lovers are about to become experienced with only their illusions and fears to guide them.

Jim Schweers, KCKPL

KCKPL call number: Fiction MCEWAN



Fox on the hillside by F.L. Schlagle Library

Other Ian McEwan books on KCKPL's shelves:

The Child in Time

Saturday

Atonement

Amsterdam

Enduring Love

Based on the Novel

No Country for Old Men by Cormac McCarthy is the source material for the new Coen brothers' movie by the same name. This won't be one of their light-hearted *Big Lebowski/Hudsucker Proxy* pictures, more *Blood Simple/Fargoish*. McCarthy writes like he's chiseling the words in stone; there's such a finality to it. And when I say this has an Old Testament feel to it, versus the New Testament, I mean that there's no Savior in it, anywhere, just some mean, mean people. There are lots of guns in it and an air-compressed device used to cold-cock cattle before they're slaughtered, and no gun or killing device goes unfired or unutilized. Oh, my.

Jim Schweers, KCKPL

Don't judge the book by its movie!

Read it before the November 21, 2007 release date.

KCKPL call number: Fiction MCCARTHY

The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

The first book author Diane Setterfield remembers reading was about a cat. As she recalls it, "At the beginning the cat was shoved out of a car and abandoned by the roadside. Not only was she hungry and cruelly treated, but she got pregnant and then her kittens died. At the end of the book she died." Little wonder that Setterfield grew up to write the bestselling gothic mystery ***The Thirteenth Tale***, described by admirers as "Jane Eyre, Rebecca and Wuthering Heights rolled into one." Her story of an amateur biographer's attempt to uncover the secrets of England's bestselling author is a great mystery and a love letter to books and reading.

Terri Cline, KCKPL

KCKPL call number: Fiction SETTERFI

Join us for discussions of ***The Thirteenth Tale***

Tuesday, October 16th at 2 p.m.,

YWCA Corner Coffee Café or

Wednesday, October 24th at 6:30 p.m.,
Main Library



F.L. Schlagle Library

KCKPL Upcoming Book Events

Thursday, August 2, 2007

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse
10:00 a.m., West Wyandotte Library
The Final Solution by Michael Chabon

Wednesday, August 15, 2007

Common Grounds Book Discussion Group
1:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café
Secret Daughter by June Cross

Tuesday, August 28, 2007

Reader's Corner Book Club
2:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Wednesday, August 29, 2007

Reader's Corner Book Club
6:30 p.m. Main Library
Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

Argentine Library

2800 Metropolitan Ave
(913) 722-7400

Main Library & Bookmobile

625 Minnesota Ave.
(913) 551-3280

West Wyandotte Library

1737 N. 82 nd St.
(913) 596-5800

F.L. Schlagle Library

4051 West Drive
(913) 299-2384

Visit us online at:

<http://www.kckpl.lib.ks.us>

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse
10:00 a.m., West Wyandotte Library
Snow Flower and the Secret Fan by Lisa See

Thursday, October 4, 2007

Bookfix at Scooter's Coffeehouse
10:00 a.m., West Wyandotte Library
Creepers by David Morrell

Tuesday, October 16, 2007

Reader's Corner Book Club
2:00 p.m., YWCA Corner Coffee Café
The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield

Wednesday, October 24, 2007

Reader's Corner Book Club
6:30 p.m. Main Library
The Thirteenth Tale by Diane Setterfield



Autumn Trees, F.L. Schlagle Library