



## **BENSON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

### **STAFF PICKS**

Staff members of the Benson Public Library share some of their favorite books...

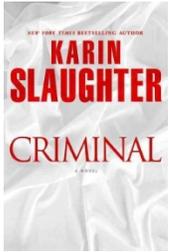
Recommended by Peggy:



#### **Blue asylum** by Kathy Hepinstall

Amid the mayhem of the American Civil War, a Virginia plantation wife is put on trial by her slaveholder husband. Iris Dunleavy is convicted of madness by a Virginia judge; it is the only reasonable explanation the court can see for her willful behavior, so she is sent to Sanibel Asylum to be restored to a good compliant wife. But Iris knows her husband is the true criminal; she is no lunatic, only guilty of disagreeing with him on Southern notions of justice, cruelty, and property. On a remote Florida island, a pompous superintendent heads this asylum populated by wonderful characters, including his self-diagnosing twelve-year-old son, a woman who swallows anything in sight, and Ambrose Weller, a Confederate soldier whose memories terrorize him into wild fits that can only be calmed by the color blue, but whose gentleness and dark eyes beckon to Iris. The institution calls itself modern, but Iris is skeptical of its methods, particularly the dreaded "water treatment." In this isolated place, she finds love with Ambrose. But can she take him with her if she escapes? Will there be anything for them to make a life from, back home? This novel is the story of a spirited woman, a wounded soldier, their impossible love, and the call of freedom.

Recommended by Peggy:

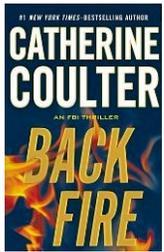


### **Criminal** by Karin Slaughter

A Georgia Bureau of Investigation search into a shocking crime from 1975 poses unprecedented personal and professional challenges for top agent Will Trent, who encounters threats against his life and revelations about his past.

Will Trent series, 3

Recommended by Kelli:

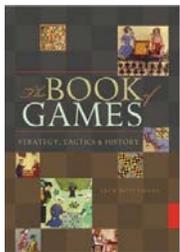


### **Backfire (An FBI Thriller)** by Catherine Coulter

San Francisco Judge Ramsey Hunt, longtime friend to FBI agents Lacey Sherlock and Dillon Savich, is presiding over the trial of Clive and Cindy Cahill – accused in a string of murders – when the proceedings take a radical turn. Federal prosecutor Mickey O'Rourke, known for his relentless style, becomes suddenly tentative in his opening statement, leading Hunt to suspect he's been threatened – suspicions that are all but confirmed when Hunt is shot in the back.

Savich and Sherlock receive news of the attack as an ominous note is delivered to Savich at the Hoover Building: YOU DESERVE THIS FOR WHAT YOU DID. Security tapes fail to reveal who delivered the tapes. Who is behind the shooting of Judge Ramsey Hunt? Who sent the note to Savich? And what does it all mean? Savich and Sherlock race to San Francisco to find out...watching their backs all the while.

Recommended by Vicky:

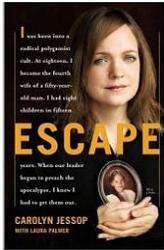


### **The Book of Games** by Jack Botermans

For every player, this one's a sure winner. Colorful illustrations show old – time and modern players, game boards and equipment alongside fascinating anecdotes and curious facts about games throughout history. It contains complete rules, playing tips and instructive move by move examples of sixty five fun and diverse games.

Recommended by Kelli:

## **Escape** by Carolyn Jessop



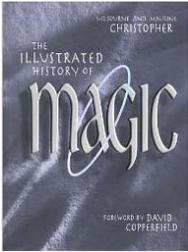
The dramatic first-person account of life inside an ultra-fundamentalist American religious sect, and one woman's courageous flight to freedom with her eight children.

When she was eighteen years old, Carolyn Jessop was coerced into an arranged marriage with a total stranger: a man thirty-two years her senior. Merrill Jessop already had three wives. But arranged plural marriages were an integral part of Carolyn's heritage: She was born into and raised in the Fundamentalist Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (FLDS), the radical offshoot of the Mormon Church that had settled in small communities along the Arizona-Utah border. Over the next fifteen years, Carolyn had eight children and withstood her husband's psychological abuse and the watchful eyes of his other wives who were locked in a constant battle for supremacy.

Carolyn's every move was dictated by her husband's whims. He decided where she lived and how her children would be treated. He controlled the money she earned as a school teacher. He chose when they had sex; Carolyn could only refuse—at her peril. For in the FLDS, a wife's compliance with her husband determined how much status both she and her children held in the family. Carolyn was miserable for years and wanted out, but she knew that if she tried to leave and got caught, her children would be taken away from her. No woman in the country had ever escaped from the FLDS and managed to get her children out, too. But in 2003, Carolyn chose freedom over fear and fled her home with her eight children. She had \$20 to her name.

*Escape* exposes a world tantamount to a prison camp, created by religious fanatics who, in the name of God, deprive their followers the right to make choices, force women to be totally subservient to men, and brainwash children in church-run schools. Against this background, Carolyn Jessop's flight takes on an extraordinary, inspiring power. Not only did she manage a daring escape from a brutal environment, she became the first woman ever granted full custody of her children in a contested suit involving the FLDS. And in 2006, her reports to the Utah attorney general on church abuses formed a crucial part of the case that led to the arrest of their notorious leader, Warren Jeffs.

Recommended by Vicky:

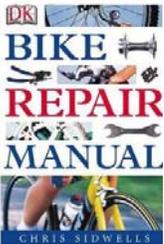


## **The Illustrated History of Magic by Milbourne Christopher**

Set off on a magical tour of classic illustrated history of magic. Follow fascinating stories of the world's greatest conjurers, from sorcerer priest in ancient Egypt, to modern miracle workers. The great Herrmann, Harry Keller, Chung Ling Soo, Houdini, David Copperfield, Siegfried and Roy and David Blaine to name a few.

Magic performances attracted steadily widening audiences who marveled at the sleight of hand or sought proof of the existences of supernatural forces.

Recommended by Andrew:



## **Bicycle Repair Manual by Chris Sidwells**

With over 159 glossy colored pages, this handy manual for bicycles, covers everything that is new such as Shimano Deore derailleur's, MTB, hybrids, front suspensions, hubs, wheels, pedal, and more.

Of course, the book's brevity, and size (handbook size) is intended more for bicycle store management and sales people, who need to understand the workings, part names, bike styles, and overall mechanics to be able to do their jobs. Indeed, if someone doesn't know the proper name of parts, how can they function? E.g. chain ring, crank arm, cassette, free hub, wheel jig, etc.

It also compares different types of brakes (v brakes, disk, etc.) and gives their pro's and con's, and explains the principles underlying their functionality.

Some specific mechanic repairs or adjustments are well explained, such as optimizing the spokes and rims, headsets, and also provides advice to ride safely.

Recommended by Andrew:



## The Homemade Pantry by Alana Chernila

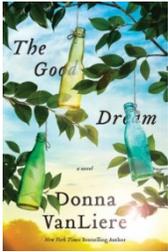
In her debut cookbook, Alana Chernila inspires you to step inside your kitchen, take a look around, and change the way you relate to food. *The Homemade Pantry* was born of a tight budget, Alana’s love for sharing recipes with her farmers’ market customers, and a desire to enjoy a happy cooking and eating life with her young family. On a mission to kick their packaged-food habit, she learned that with a little determination, anything she could buy at the store could be made in her kitchen, and her homemade versions were more satisfying, easier to make than she expected, and tastier

Here are her very approachable recipes for 101 everyday staples, organized by supermarket aisle—from crackers to cheese, pesto to sauerkraut, and mayonnaise to toaster pastries. *The Homemade Pantry* is a celebration of food made by hand—warm mozzarella that is stretched, thick lasagna noodles rolled from flour and egg, fresh tomato sauce that bubbles on the stove. Whether you are trying a recipe for butter, potato chips, spice mixes, or ketchup, you will discover the magic and thrill that comes with the homemade pantry.

Alana captures the humor and messiness of everyday family life, too. A true friend to the home cook, she shares her “tense moments” to help you get through your own. With stories offering patient, humble advice, tips for storing the homemade foods, and rich four-color photography throughout, *The Homemade Pantry* will quickly become the go-to source for how to make delicious staples in your home kitchen.

Recommended by Patty:

### **The Good Dream** by Donna VanLiere



This is a poignant, heartbreaking, and ultimately uplifting novel about an unlikely path to motherhood and of two lost souls healing each other.

It is 1950 Tennessee, Ivorie Walker is considered an old maid in her 30's but she takes it with a grain of salt. Ever since her parents passed away, she has hidden her loneliness behind fierce independence. When she realizes that someone has been stealing vegetables from her garden – a dirty faced little boy who disappears into the hills – something about him haunts Ivorie. What would make him desperate enough to steal from her garden? Who is he and where did he come from? A frustration is unleashed in the town as she steps out of her comfort zone to uncover the answers she is shocked by what she learns; can she save this little boy? Find out by reading “The Good Dream”

Recommended by Patty:

### **The Can't Wait to get to Heaven** by Fannie Flagg



If you are in need of some laughter then you need to read this book. You will fall in love with the colorful characters in this book, there is Elner Shimfissle an elderly lady who is up in her fig tree picking figs one minute and the next minute she's off an adventure she never dreamed of, running into people she never expected to meet. Then there is Norma, Elner's high strung niece who faints when she learns of Aunt Elner's accident, and Tot Whooten who owns the “Tell it like it is” beauty shop. The main concern is that the end of the world might come before she can collect her social security. Combing southern warmth and comedy this book will keep you laughing to the end.