

# BiblioBites

DeSoto County Library

December 2023

Volume 12, Issue 12



## Director's note

Dear Folks,

Well, we are coming to the end of another year. 2023 has been a great year for us at the library. With your help and support, we have accomplished a number of our goals this year. The mobile van is on the road at festivals and events around the county. We are happy to come to your events as we are available. We now have a number of sharing libraries around the county, with that number continuing to grow.

My wish this Christmas is that we could give you each an award for being the best patrons ever. We are forever blessed by your thoughtfulness, whether in deed or in word. You make us want to be better and better as we serve our community.

Hope to see you at the Christmas parade. Please be sure to stop by our card we share with Facilities at Christmas Card Lane.

Hohoho and Merry Christmas.

Come see us,

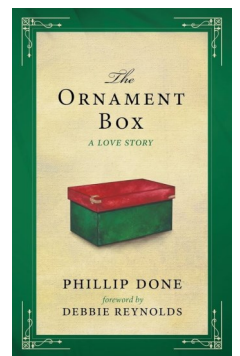
Linda

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## Linda recommends

Just can't resist a sentimental story, like *The Ornament Box, at Christmas*.

On Christmas Eve, Michael reluctantly returns to his childhood home to help his mother set up the tree. Normally, this is something Michael's father would do — but not this Christmas; he's upstairs recovering from surgery. Though Michael longs for a relationship with his father, he and his dad are not close. So much of his father's life is a mystery. As Michael and his mom unwrap the ornaments, author **Phillip Done**, through his signature warmth and charm, unwraps the family's relationships and struggles, and Michael discovers the deep, secret sorrow of the man upstairs.



Publishers Weekly  
Bestseller Lists  
November 17, 2023

FICTION

1. *Iron Flame*, by Rebecca Yarros
2. *Forth Wing*, by Rebecca Yarros
3. *The Edge*, by David Baldacci
4. *The Little Liar*, by Mitch Albom
5. *Forth Wing (Special Edition)*, by Rebecca Yarros
6. *The Exchange: After the Firm*, by John Grisham
7. *The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store*, by James McBride
8. *The Narrow Road Between Desires*, by Patrick Rothfuss
9. *Resurrection Walk*, by Michael Connelly
10. *The Secret: A Jack Reacher Novel*, by Lee Child & Andrew Child

NON-FICTION

1. *The Woman in Me*, by Britney Spears
2. *My Name is Barbra*, by Barbra Streisand
3. *My Effin' Life*, by Geddy Lee
4. *The Great Disappearance: 31 Ways to Be Rapture Ready*, by David Jeremiah
5. *Tired of Winning: Donald Trump and the End of the Grand Old Party*, by Jonathan Karl
6. *Areté: Activate Your Heroic Potential*, by Brian Johnson
7. *Ghosts of Honolulu... the Untold Story of Pearl Harbor*, by Mark Harmon
8. *Prequel: An American Fight Against Fascism*, by Rachel Maddow
9. *Pretty Boys Are Poisonous: Poems*, by Megan Fox
10. *The Pioneer Woman Cooks: Dinner's Ready*, by Ree Drummond

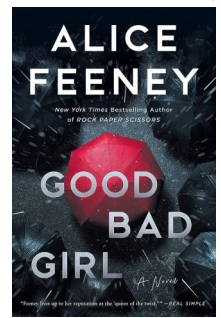
Liz likes—Liz Coronado

Twenty years after a baby is stolen from a stroller, a woman is murdered in a care home. The two crimes are somehow linked, and a good bad girl may be the key to discovering the truth.

Edith may have been tricked into a nursing home, but at eighty-years-young, she's planning her escape. Patience works there, cleaning messes and bonding with Edith, a kindred spirit. But Patience is lying to Edith about almost everything. Edith's own daughter, Clio, won't speak to her. Someone new is about to knock on Clio's door...and their intentions aren't good.

With every reason to distrust each other, the women must solve a mystery with three suspects, two murders, and one victim. If they do, they might just find out what happened to the baby who disappeared, the mother who lost her, and the connections that bind them.

*Good Bad Girl* is a wonderful read. Each chapter slowly laid out mystery after mystery and I found myself continuously trying to put together how it would be entwined. At first, it's a bit confusing but the characters were being introduced and I think it was messy on purpose. The twist in the middle about who the two protagonist was a great surprise. Another twist is the murder itself, but I always wonder if some murders are like it in real life. Born out of chaos and bad things happening to good people. The main characters, with all their idiosyncrasies, were people I liked with the bad actors being unlikeable. I will say you need to keep track of the chapter titles. My biggest complaint is that the book switches from 1st to 3rd point of view throughout the book. I loved the ending and walked away wanting to read more of **Alice Feeney**.



YA Perspective— Reagan Bordner

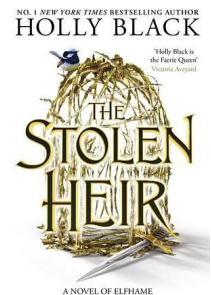
A runaway queen. A reluctant prince. And a quest that may destroy them both.

Eight years have passed since the Battle of the Serpent. But in the icy north, Lady Nore of the Court of Teeth has reclaimed the Ice Needle Citadel. There, she is using an ancient relic to create monsters of stick and snow who will do her bidding and exact her revenge. Suren, child queen of the Court of Teeth, and the one person with power over her mother, fled to the human world. There, she lives feral in the woods. Lonely, and still haunted by the merciless torments she endured in the Court of Teeth, she bides her time by releasing mortals from foolish bargains. She believes herself forgotten until the storm hag, Bogdana chases her through the night streets. Suren is saved by none other than Prince Oak, heir to Elfhome, to whom she was once promised in marriage and who she has resented for years. Now seventeen, Oak is charming, beautiful, and manipulative. He's on a mission that will lead him into the north, and he wants Suren's help. But if she agrees, it will mean guarding her heart against the boy she once knew and a prince she cannot trust, as well as confronting all the horrors she thought she left behind.

I really enjoyed this book and I am so sad I have to wait till March to read book two. *The Stolen Heir* is a continuation of *The Cruel Prince* series by **Holly Black**. It focuses on different characters and their journeys, but it references *The Cruel Prince* a lot, so I would recommend giving that series a read before picking up this book (it is a very good series as well).

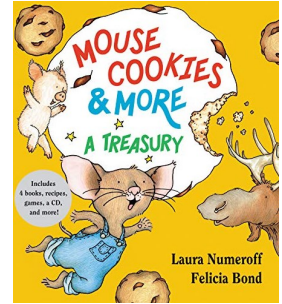
Two things I love about Holly Black's books is, one, how morally ambiguous her characters are. Although they work together on certain things, it's really every man for themselves. Their actions may be seen as unjust, but when you take into account their different situations, it's hard to decide who is right and who is wrong. Second, I love how she makes it so that the faeries in her books cannot lie. Not being able to lie really adds meaning to everything that they say and it's fun to try and decipher whether what they say is sincere or if they are being clever with their speech and finding a way to lie while also telling the truth.

The end of this book caught me so off guard and so hooked to the story that I was so disappointed when I looked up the next book and found it was not published yet.. I would definitely recommend this book if you were a fan of *The Cruel Prince* series or just a fan of fantasy/faerie themed books at all. Five out of Five Stars.



## Choice for children—Tonya Bordner

*If You Give a Mouse a Cookie* by **Laura Numeroff** and illustrated by **Felicia Bond** is a favorite book and classic **cause and effect** story. The storyline follows a sequence of requests by the mouse and leaves the child, who originally gave a mouse a cookie, exhausted. It starts with eating a cookie and milk, getting a haircut, mopping the floor, napping, and drawing a picture. The mouse is having the time of his life and the child is running around to keep him engaged. Sounds like a normal day for a parent with a toddler to me! The story provides the opportunity to work on the reading skills **cause and effect** and **sequencing**.



**Numeroff** has several books that follow this style including *If You Take a Mouse to School*, *If You Give a Pig a Pancake* and *If You Give a Moose a Muffin*. The DeSoto County Library happens to also have the book *Mouse Cookies & More a Treasury*. It is complete with stories, recipes, songs and activities. Check it out this holiday season!

## Fran Recommends —Fran Kovach

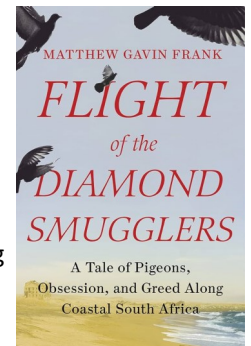
### *Flight of the Diamond Smugglers* by **Matthew Gavin Frank**

Diamond mining companies, such as DeBeers, purchased land in South Africa for the purpose of mining gems. Residents were displaced from their homeland and soon became employees of these companies. The residents born here felt entitled to claim the diamonds.

After the table of contents, is a map of the infamous Diamond Coast Frank and his wife Louisa traveled in search of a story about diamond smuggling. Along the way they met a young boy, Msizi, working in the diamond mines with his accomplice, a pigeon named Bartholomew. Msizi expounds on the perils smuggling diamonds and training carrier pigeons to carry the diamonds home.

Pigeons are shot whether or not they are carrying diamonds in the diamond mining district.

People, well, a mysterious Mr. Lester keeps everyone in line. The mere mention of his name induces shudders and fearfulness. The journey, in fact, is to find if Mr. Lester really exists or is a myth. Many fables are retold of diamonds and monsters in an Odyssey style. In the end we find that Mr. Lester, no let's not spoil the ending.



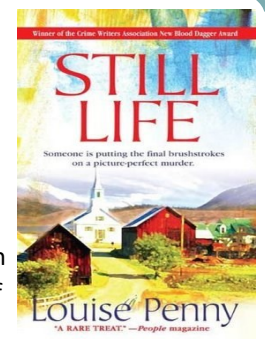
## Bookmarked—Jolaine Konstantinidis

With the approach of the holidays, I was reminded of a novel I read several years ago in which a murder took place on Thanksgiving Day. Never mind that the author **Louise Penny** is Canadian and that Thanksgiving in Canada, where the mystery takes place, is celebrated in October-- I had to revisit this favorite of Penny's works. Her debut novel, entitled *Still Life*, introduces the reader to the fictitious village of Three Pines and Chief Inspector Armand Gamache, the protagonist in a series that has become eighteen novels to date. I have read each succeeding novel and always eagerly await the last installment because of the initial engagement created by *Still Life*.

About the plot I will only say that Jane Neal, a well-loved teacher and artist in the town is thought to have been the victim of a tragic hunting accident or murder. The perpetrator, whether accidental or intentional, could be any of several residents as all the characters appear to have their faults. When the Surêté du Québec is called in to investigate, Gamache leads with his methodic and intuitive manner adding a deeper tone to the novel than just a simple who-dunnit. Speaking to one of his agents in his own words:

"...let me tell you how I work...I watch. I'm very good at observing... noticing...listening to what people are saying...what they aren't saying. And this...is the key. It's choice... We choose our thoughts...our perceptions...our attitudes.... So, when I'm observing, that's what I'm watching for. The choices people make."

If you choose to read a Louise Penny novel, *Still Life* is a good place to begin, but it is not necessary to read them in order. Each has a certain magnetism that draws the reader into the beauty of the setting, the diversity of the characters and in particular the wisdom and charm of Armand Gamache.



Friends of DeSoto  
County Library  
Association  
P O Box 444  
Arcadia, FL 34265

DeSoto County Library  
125 N Hillsborough Ave  
Arcadia FL 34266  
www.myhlc.org/des  
Phone: 863-993-4851

Linda Waters, Library  
Director  
E-mail:  
LindaW@myhlc.org

Reagan Bordner,  
Newsletter Editor  
reagan@myhlc.com

Friends email:  
deslibassoc@gmail.com



DeSoto County Public  
Library is partially  
funded through a grant  
from Florida Department  
of State.

LIBRARY HOURS  
Tuesday & Thursday:  
9:00—6:00  
Wednesday & Friday  
8:30—6:00  
Saturday:  
9:00-2:30  
Closed Sunday and Monday

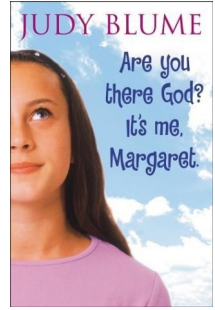



### Guest Review— Karen Smoke

For many families, religion is central and not to be questioned. Other families encourage their children to be free thinkers and establish their own connection with a higher being.

**Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret**, by **Judy Blume** is a classic that has also been made into a movie. Margaret Simon, almost twelve, has just moved from New York City to Farbook New Jersey, and is anxious to fit in with her new friends. But none of them can believe Margaret doesn't have a religion, and that she isn't going to the Y or the Jewish Community Center. What they don't know is Margaret has her own very special relationship with God. She can talk to God about everything—family, friends, even Moose Freed, her secret crush.

This is a great book for preteens, and great for opening up family discussion.





**DESOTO CARES  
HOMELESS SERVICES**

*Make The Holidays Brighter*

DESOTO CARES IS PUTTING TOGETHER GIFT BAGS FOR THEIR CLIENTS.

DONATIONS CAN BE DROPPED OFF AT THE COLLECTION BOX IN **THE LIBRARY** OR AT **159 S ORANGE AVE, MON, WED, FRI (9:AM - 12:00PM)**

**SUGGESTED DONATION ITEMS**

- WARM SOCKS, HATS, GLOVES
- HOLIDAY TREATS, COOKIES, CANDY, NUTS
- PERSONAL CARE ITEMS IN SMALL PACKAGING: TOOTHPASTE AND BRUSH, LIQUID SOAP, DEODORANT, SHAMPOO
- INDIVIDUAL SERVINGS OF READY TO EAT FOODS THAT DO NOT REQUIRE REFRIGERATION: FRUIT CUPS, CEREAL BARS, TUNA PACKS, CAN SOUPS AND PASTA, LUNCHABLES

(ANY CASH DONATIONS NEED TO BE SENT TO THE DESOTO CARES HOMELESS SERVICES CENTER AND NOT THE LIBRARY. THANK YOU!)

**GIFT BAG  
STUFFING PARTY**

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STOP BY THE DESOTO COUNTY LIBRARY TO PARTAKE IN A **BAG STUFFING PARTY WITH COOKIES AND TEA!**

IT WILL BE A GROUP EFFORT TO PUT ALL DONATION ITEMS INTO INDIVIDUAL BAGS SO THEY CAN BE HANDED OUT.

**DATE?: WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20TH**

**TIME?: 3:00PM - 5:00PM**


**LOCATION?: DESOTO COUNTY LIBRARY**

**DESOTO CARES HOMELESS SERVICES**

159 S Orange Ave, Arcadia, FL 34266  
(863) 491-9933

**DESOTO COUNTY LIBRARY**

125 N Hillsborough Ave, Arcadia FL 34266  
(863) 993-4851



### DCLA Update—by Elizabeth, VP

Hi, Everybody.

We are back to our quarterly meetings of the DeSoto County Library Association Board, so our next meeting is not until **February 7, 2024 at noon**. More later.

- Our 990 filing is complete for another year.
- Maria Pace was the winner of our Fall Basket raffle.
- We approved the flyer Kari Jackson, secretary, prepared, "Get Involved!" It includes a QR code for your contact information, call or text: 863-558-3887, or email: kari.jackson@southflorida.edu. Let her hear from you.








I followed my Israeli author with a Palestinian one: **Ibtisam Barakat's, Tasting the Sky, a Palestinian Childhood**. Definitely, a unique viewpoint.

I just finished **A Shell Is Cozy** by **Dianna Hutts Aston** and **Sylvia Long**, reviewed in Nature Conservancy magazine. A delightful book for children and adults. A candy cane snail? I want to actually see one!





# DeSoto County Library

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p><b>DeSoto County Library</b>                      125 N Hillsborough                      863.993.4851</p> <p>Partially funded through FL Dept of State grants</p>		<p><b>Open to our patrons:</b>                      Tuesday &amp; Thursday: 9:00—6:00                      Wednesday &amp; Friday 8:30—6:00                      Saturday: 9:00-2:30</p>			<p><b>1</b>                      6:00 Christmas Card Lane opens</p>	<p><b>2</b>                      11:00 Game day                      6:00 Christmas Parade</p>
<p><b>3</b></p>	<p><b>4</b></p>	<p><b>5</b>                      8:00 Walk &amp; Talk                      9:00 ARC                      3:30 Storytime for Kids</p>	<p><b>6</b>                      10:00 Grace's group                      10:30 Toddler Early Literacy Skills                      11:00 Book Group                      3:30 Kids' Art</p>	<p><b>7</b>                      9:00 @ ARC                      2:00 Internet Basics                      3:00 Cybersecurity                      3:30 Kids STEAM</p>	<p><b>8</b>                      3:30 Photography Group                      4:00 Teen DIY with Cricut</p>  	<p><b>9</b>                      10:30 Santa's Workshop</p> 
<p><b>10</b></p>	<p><b>11</b></p>	<p><b>12</b>                      8:00 Walk &amp; Talk                      9:00 ARC                      3:30 STEAM for kids</p> 	<p><b>13</b>                      10:00 Grace's group                      10:30 Toddler LtP                      11:00 Book Group                      3:30 Kids' Art</p>	<p><b>14</b>                      9:00 @ ARC                      9:30 Adult Crafting                      Closing at noon?</p> 	<p><b>15</b>                      1:00 Movie for adults</p> <p><b>MOVIE DAY</b></p> 	<p><b>16</b>                      11:00 Kid's Movie Day</p> 
<p><b>17</b></p>	<p><b>18</b></p>	<p><b>19</b>                      8:00 Walk &amp; Talk                      9:00 ARC                      3:30 Storytime for Kids</p>	<p><b>20</b>                      10:00 Grace's group                      10:30 Toddler ELS                      11:00 Book Group                      3:00 Fill the Bag Party                      3:30 Kids' Art</p>	<p><b>21</b>                      9:00 @ ARC                      2:00 Zoom Basics                      3:00 Windows 10                      3:30 STEAM for Kids</p>	<p><b>22</b>                      Closing at 2:30</p> 	<p><b>23</b></p> <p><b>Closed for the Holiday</b></p> 
<p><b>24</b></p> 	<p><b>25</b></p>	<p><b>26</b>                      8:00 Walk &amp; Talk                      9:00 ARC                      3:30 STEAM</p>	<p><b>27</b>                      10:00 Grace's group                      10:30 Toddler LTP                      11:00 Book Group                      3:30 Kids' Art</p>	<p><b>28</b>                      9:00 @ ARC                      3:30 Storytime for kids</p>	<p><b>29</b></p>	<p><b>30</b>                      11:00 Family Tech Day</p>
<p><b>31</b></p>						



**Desoto County Library**  
Children's Activities

**DECEMBER 2023**

125 N. Hillsborough Ave.  
Arcadia, FL 34266

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						2 <b>GAME DAY</b> 11 A.M.
3	4	5 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	6 Early Literacy Skills Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	7 <b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.	8 Ages 13 - 19 <b>TEEN</b> DIY Cricut projects 4:00 p.m.	9 Special Teen Corner Santa's Workshop 10:30 a.m.
10	11	12 <b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.	13 Learning through Play Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	14 <b>Library hours</b> TBA	15	16 <b>MOVIE</b> RISE GUARDIANS 11 A.M.
17	18	19 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	20 Early Literacy Skills Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	21 <b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.	22 <b>Library Closing at 2:30 p.m.</b>	23 SORRY WE'RE CLOSED <b>Library Closed</b>
24 / 31 <b>MERRY Christmas</b>	25	26 <b>STEAM</b> 3:30 p.m.	27 Learning through Play Toddler Time 10:30 a.m. Art 3:30p.m.	28 Storytime & Craft 3:30 p.m.	29	30 <b>Family Tech Day</b> 11 a.m.

T&Th: 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. W&F: 8:30 a.m. - 6 p.m. Sat.: 9 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

# Teen Program!

## DIY CRAFTS WITH A CRICUT



Cards



Custom Tags



Custom Stickers



Vinyl Decals



CREATE A PERSONAL CRAFT USING A CRICUT JOY  
JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS

**DECEMBER 8TH / 4:00PM - 5:30PM / AGES 13-19**