



**the ORLA
newsletter.**

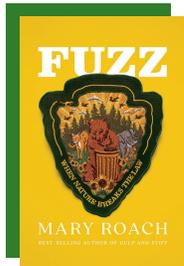
JANUARY 2022

**BEST
OF
2021**



**ORLA'S BEST BOOKS OF 2021
VOTED BY YOU**

NON-FICTION



FUZZ

MARY ROACH

"Mary Roach has written another excellent science-based book. This one is on the interactions between humans and 'pest' species. Mary writes with humor about different human and 'pest' encounters ranging from bears in Alaska, to monkeys in India, to trees in California. Yes, trees.

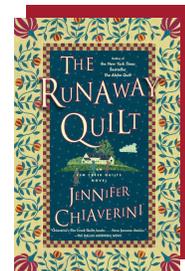
Apparently, when they get too old and rotten the best thing to do is to blow them up so they don't fall and hurt someone! I will say I was expecting more funny stories about how animals 'broke the law' and people's reactions to it and less extermination and death. The very first chapter is about animal attacks and the public outcry that follows. Mary goes into great detail about the different ways humans have tried to get animals to stay away from places where they are not welcome. This goes from deterrents, like catch traps and fake predator calls, all the way up to culling, poisons and gene editing of species to make them less fertile. I found this book to be an interesting and quick read and recommend it to anyone interested in how humans deal with animals in spaces that they've claimed for their own." -- *Amanda Barker, Cooperstown Public Library*

STAFF PICKS

FICTION

THE RUNAWAY QUILT

JENNIFER CHIAVERINI



"*The Runaway Quilt* is the fourth book in the Elm Creek series. Sylvia Compson, the owner of Elm Creek Manor, discovers evidence of how her ancestors were courageously involved in the Underground Railroad. Realizing the possibility that her family had ties to slaveholding in the South, Sylvia finds evidence -- specifically a quilt and a memoir that was written by Gerda, a spinster sister of the patriarch Hans Bergstrom. The memoir describes the founding of Elm Creek Manor and how Hans and his wife Anneke, along with Gerda, beckon fugitive slaves to safety using quilts as markers at various households. I really enjoyed reading this book as I always thought it would be neat to learn the different techniques to make quilts. This book was awesome, as quilts were made and used to help slaves know which houses were safe on their journey to freedom in the North." -- *Kathy Lynch, Oil City Library*

JUVENILE



THE ONE THING YOU'D SAVE

LINDA SUE PARK

"'Imagine that your home is on fire. You're allowed to save one thing. Your family and pets are safe, so don't worry about them. Your most important thing. Any size.' What would you save? This is the simple question a teacher asks her class. A few students, without hesitation: 'My phone.' 'My laptop.' 'My dad's wallet, duh.' But as the class conversation progresses, the answers become more emotional, endearing and personal: 'My blue sweater.' 'My mom's insulin kit.' 'Nothing.' These items (or lack thereof), accompanied by the reasons why they were chosen, are woven beautifully into a narrative about a diverse, middle school class and the things that matter most. Paired with powerful black-and-white illustrations and written using a variation of the ancient Korean poetry sijo (pronounced SHEE-zho), this quick read is sure to evoke feelings of gratitude and sentiment in readers of all ages. What would you save?" -- *Natalie Cubbon, Oil Region Library Association*



WANNA SUBMIT YOUR OWN BOOK REVIEW?

Email a review of a book you read recently (good or bad!) to promotions@oilregionlibraries.org to be featured in a future issue of the ORLA Newsletter!

PennDOT Offered Special Storytime at Oil City

The Oil City Library would like to thank PennDOT for presenting a special Snowy Storytime! Children listened to stories about snow and snow safety, and even got to check out a plow truck. Thanks to PennDOT for such a fun time!



pennsylvania
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



PRENDA CODE CLUB

is returning!

MONDAYS AT 3:45

BEGINNING JAN 24

For ages 8+ at the Oil City Library. Learn computer programming skills through a series of tutorials and projects. Build websites, video games, phone apps, animations & more!

JAN 17
-
FEB 18

THE 2ND ANNUAL WINTER OF READING

read. track. win.

Join the 2nd Annual Winter of Reading Challenge for ages 5+ and track your reading for a chance to win some cool prizes! Last year, we read 89,370 minutes! Track your minutes read using the ReaderZone app on your smart device, or at readerzone.com.

Use code **d6e97**



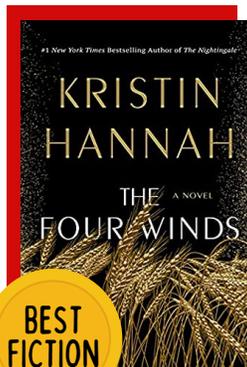


BEST OF 2021 WINNERS

We asked you last month to vote for the best books of the year in 9 different categories. The following titles were voted as "Best of 2021" by ORLA patrons.

THE FOUR WINDS

KRISTIN HANNAH

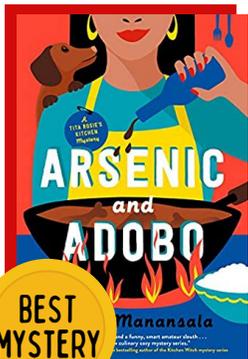


Texas, 1921. A time of abundance. The Great War is over, the bounty of the land is plentiful, and America is on the brink of a new and optimistic era. But for Elsa Wolcott, deemed too old to marry in a time when marriage is a woman's only option, the future seems bleak. Until the night she meets Rafe Martinelli and decides to change the direction of her life. With her reputation in ruin, there is only one respectable choice: marriage to a man she barely knows. By 1934, the world has changed;

millions are out of work and drought has devastated the Great Plains. Farmers are fighting to keep their land and their livelihoods as crops fail and water dries up and the earth cracks open. Dust storms roll relentlessly across the plains. Everything on the Martinelli farm is dying, including Elsa's tenuous marriage; each day is a desperate battle against nature and a fight to keep her children alive. In this uncertain and perilous time, Elsa--like so many of her neighbors--must make an agonizing choice: fight for the land she loves or leave it behind and go west, to California, in search of a better life for her family.

ARSENIC AND ADOBO

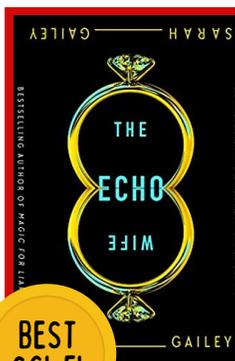
MIA P. MANANSALA



When Lila Macapagal moves back home to recover from a horrible breakup, her life seems to be following all the typical rom-com tropes. She's tasked with saving her Tita Rosie's failing restaurant, and she has to deal with a group of matchmaking aunties who shower her with love and judgment. When a notoriously nasty food critic (who happens to be her ex) drops dead moments after a confrontation with Lila, her life quickly swerves from a Nora Ephron romp to an Agatha Christie case. With the cops treating her like she's the one and only suspect, and the shady landlord looking to finally kick the Macapagal family out and resell the storefront, Lila's left with no choice but to conduct her own investigation. Armed with the nosy auntie network, her barista best bud, and her trusted Dachshund, Lila takes on this tasty, twisted case and soon finds her own neck on the chopping block...

THE ECHO WIFE

SARAH GAILEY



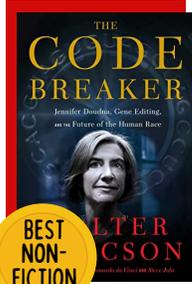
'When they said all happy families are alike, I don't think this is what they meant...' Evelyn Caldwell's husband Nathan has been having an affair - with Evelyn Caldwell. Or, to be exact, with a genetically cloned replica. After a morning that begins with a confrontation and ends with Nathan's body bleeding out on the kitchen floor, the two Caldwell wives will have to think fast - before sharing everything includes sharing a jail cell. The Echo Wife is a non-stop thrill ride of lies, betrayal, and identity, perfect for fans of Big Little Lies and Killing Eve.

Check out some of these Best of 2021 picks available through any ORLA location!

 Also Available on OverDrive & Libby

THE CODE BREAKER

WALTER ISAACSON



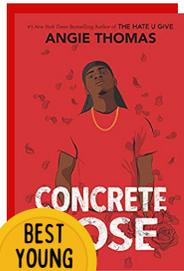
BEST NON-FICTION

When Jennifer Doudna was in sixth grade, she came home one day to find that her dad had left a paperback titled *The Double Helix* on her bed. She put it aside, thinking it was one of those detective tales she loved. When she read it on a rainy Saturday, she discovered she was right, in a way. As she sped through the pages, she became enthralled by the intense drama behind the competition to discover the code of life. Even though her high school counselor told her girls didn't become scientists, she decided she would.

Driven by a passion to understand how nature works and to turn discoveries into inventions, she would help to make what the book's author, James Watson, told her was the most important biological advance since his codiscovery of the structure of DNA. She and her collaborators turned a curiosity of nature into an invention that will transform the human race: an easy-to-use tool that can edit DNA. Known as CRISPR, it opened a brave new world of medical miracles and moral questions.

CONCRETE ROSE

ANGIE THOMAS



BEST YOUNG ADULT

If there's one thing seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter knows, it's that a real man takes care of his family. As the son of a former gang legend, Mav does that the only way he knows how: dealing for the King Lords. With this money he can help his mom, who works two jobs while his dad's in prison. Life's not perfect, but with a fly girlfriend and a cousin who always has his back, Mav's got everything under control. Until, that is, Maverick finds out he's a father. Suddenly he has a baby, Seven, who depends on him for everything. But it's not so easy to sling dope, finish school, and raise a child. So when he's offered the chance to go straight, he takes it. In a world where he's expected to amount to nothing, maybe Mav can prove he's different. When King Lord blood runs through your veins, though, you can't just walk away. Loyalty, revenge, and responsibility threaten to tear Mav apart, especially after the brutal murder of a loved one. He'll have to figure out for himself what it really means to be a man.

DOG MAN: MOTHERING HEIGHTS

DAV PILKEY



BEST KIDS GRAPHIC NOVEL

Dog Man and Petey face their biggest challenges yet in the tenth Dog Man book from worldwide bestselling author and illustrator Dav Pilkey. Dog Man is down on his luck, Petey confronts his not so purr-fect past, and Grampa is up to no good. The world is spinning out of control as new villains spill into town. Everything seems dark and full of despair. But hope is not lost. Can the incredible power of love save the day? Dav Pilkey's wildly popular Dog Man series appeals to readers of all ages and explores universally positive themes, including love, empathy, kindness, persistence, and the importance of doing good.

BILLIE EILISH

BILLIE EILISH



By—
Billie
BEST BIOGRAPHY

Billie Eilish is a phenomenon. With distinctive visual flare & darkly poignant lyrics that are unparalleled among music icons of the 21st century, Billie is a musician who stands out from the crowd. Between her record-shattering award-winning music & her uncompromising & unapologetic attitude, it's no surprise that her fanbase continues to grow by millions month after month. She is that rare combination of wildly popular and highly respected for her prodigious talent, a once in a generation superstar. Now in this stunning visual narrative journey through her life, she is ready to share more with her devoted audience for the first time, including hundreds of never-before-seen photos. This gorgeous book will capture the essence of Billie inside and out, offering readers personal glimpses into her childhood, her life on tour, and more. A must-have for any fan.

STARFISH

LISA FIPPS

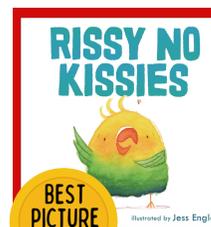


BEST KIDS FICTION

Ever since Ellie wore a whale swimsuit and made a big splash at her fifth birthday party, she's been bullied about her weight. To cope, she tries to live by the Fat Girl Rules -- like "no making waves," "avoid eating in public," and "don't move so fast that your body jiggles." And she's found her safe space--her swimming pool--where she feels weightless in a fat-obsessed world. In the water, she can stretch herself out like a starfish and take up all the room she wants. It's also where she can get away from her pushy mom, who thinks criticizing Ellie's weight will motivate her to diet. Fortunately, Ellie has allies in her dad, her therapist, and her new neighbor, Catalina, who loves Ellie for who she is. With this support buoying her, Ellie might finally be able to cast aside the Fat Girl Rules and starfish in real life--by unapologetically being her own fabulous self.

RISSY NO KISSIES

KATEY HOWES



BEST PICTURE BOOK

A lovebird who doesn't like kisses?! Rissy's friends and family wonder if she's sick, confused, or rude. But kisses make Rissy uncomfortable. Can one little lovebird show everyone that there's no one right way to show you care? Rissy No Kissies carries the message that "your body and your heart are yours, and you choose how to share." A note at the end provides further information for kids, parents, and educators about body autonomy, consent, and different ways to show affection.

THANKS FOR VOTING!

We're so happy to give these books the recognition they deserve. Did your favorite of 2021 not make the cut? Submit a book review so that it can be featured in a future issue!



Oil City Library Debuting New Puzzle Tournament This Month

The Oil City Library is debuting a brand new event later this month that puzzle lovers will be sure to enjoy. The 2022 *Puzzle Challenge*, an event spearheaded by the Oil City Library Advisory Council & Oil City Library staff member Emily Kluck, will take place Saturday, January 29th from at the Belles Lettres Club of Oil City on West 1st Street. Doors open at 11am & the challenge (to put together either a 500 or 1000 piece puzzle as fast as possible) will run from 12-4pm. The challenge will host 2 divisions, Adult & Family, with a maximum of 4 people per team. Concessions will be available to purchase during the event provided by the Belles Lettres Club. To register a team, pick up a registration form at the Oil City Library & pay the \$20 registration fee. Registration is open until January 28th. If you'd like to become a sponsor for this event, please email ekluck@oilregionlibraries.org. For more information, visit the Oil City Library or call (814) 678-3072.



BONUS CHALLENGE

There's also a chance to win a puzzle this month by guessing the amount of puzzle pieces in a jar at the library! Submit your guesses before January 28th, 2022.



Franklin Happenings

BUNCO

JAN 13 & FEB 10

11AM - 2:30PM

\$15/PLAYER

at the Franklin Public Library. Games, prizes & lunch! Register at the front desk. All proceeds benefit the library.



JANUARY

50/50

RAFFLE



Tickets are \$1 each & winner will be drawn on Feb. 1st at 5PM.

USED BOOKS

\$1 BAG SALE

All book sale books are \$1/bag. Stock up for a rainy day!

JAN 25 & JAN 28

12-3PM



United Way Rewards Volunteerism

From January 2022 through June 2022, the United Way of Venango County is awarding a \$100 gift card to the individual who logs the most volunteer hours each month! Volunteering at your local library is a great way to show your support, as well as earn community service hours for school & clubs. Contact any ORLA location for more information about volunteering. Log volunteer hours at venangoconnect.org for a chance to win \$100 each month!

ORLA's Annual Appeal Underway

In mid-December, ORLA sent out Annual Appeal letters to library users & supporters in order to raise funds for 2022 library services. To date, ORLA has already raised over \$24,000. We want to give a HUGE thank you to those who have shown their support, either monetarily or just by spreading our message! To help us reach our goal of \$35,000 & follow our progress, visit oilregionlibraries.org or any ORLA location.



Volunteers Deena Smith & Alex Holmes pose next to their work after volunteering their time at the Oil City Library. Volunteers were a great help while converting the library's collection to RFID.

Upcoming Workshops



COMPUTER BASICS WORKSHOP
FRANKLIN PUBLIC LIBRARY
4PM - 6PM
FREE

Join us for a Computer Basics Workshop courtesy of PA CareerLink! Almost all workplaces require some computer skills. Learn to confidently navigate your way through basic systems, including the desktop environment, internet searching, emailing, and Microsoft word. This workshop is free & open to anyone.



STRESS MANAGEMENT
OIL CITY LIBRARY
10AM - 11AM
FREE

Join us at the Oil City Library on Monday, Jan. 31st at 10AM for a Stress Management Workshop, courtesy of Pennsylvania CareerLink! Learn short term and long-term techniques to deal with stress, create more peaceful environments, and calm your life. This workshop is free & open to anyone. Register at the Oil City Library or by calling (814) 678-3072. Walk-ins are okay too!

FEATURED DIGITAL RESOURCES

Available at www.oilregionlibraries.org

Most Watched of 2021 on **kanopy**



Stream these & more for free with your library card.



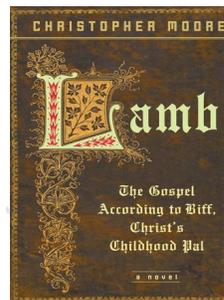
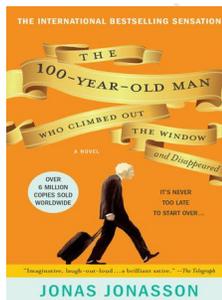
FEATURED LIBRARY EQUIPMENT

OCULUS QUEST 2

Oculus Quest 2 is the most advanced all-in-one VR system yet. Every detail has been engineered to make virtual worlds adapt to your movements, letting you explore awe-inspiring games and experiences with unparalleled freedom. Check out the Oculus Quest 2 today for FREE with your library card!



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