

BookGuide Bulletin



A monthly "readers' services" newsletter from the Lincoln City Libraries

Newsletter

February 2009

Vol. 1 No. 30

Looking for a good book? Each month the [BookGuide](#) site has new fiction and non-fiction reviews.

This Month!

Book Talks/Discussion Groups for February/March
New and/or Featured Booklists

Staff Reviews

Focus On: 200th Birthdays of Lincoln and Darwin
Websites for Readers: Romance Fiction Resources
One Book One Lincoln nominations
'Casting About

Book Talks & Book Discussion Groups

Bethany Books Talk [Fridays 10:30 a.m.] [441-8550]

Feb 13 t.b.a. [Lisa from Eiseley]
Feb 20 Nebraska Author Bess Streeter Aldrich
Feb 27 The Outsider in Fiction
Mar 6 The Unexpected
Mar 13 t.b.a. [Matt from downtown]
Mar 20 Management and Multicultural Lit

Gere Books Talk [Mondays 2:30 p.m.] [441-8560]

Feb 9 A Walk on the Wild Side
Feb 16 [libraries closed for Presidents Day]
Feb 23 Nebraska Author Bess Streeter Aldrich
Mar 2 Do You Remember These?
Mar 9 t.b.a. [Teen specialist Susan from Eiseley]
Mar 16 Management and Multicultural Lit

Just Desserts Mystery Fiction Discussion Group – South Branch [last Thursday each month. 6:45 p.m.] [441-8530 / 441-8570]

Feb 26 "The Big Sleep" by Raymond Chandler
Mar 26 "The Question of Blood" by Ian Rankin

Great Books Discussion Group [Gere Branch, Thursdays 6:45-8:45 p.m.] [co-sponsored by the Lincoln City Libraries]

Feb 12 Homer – "The Iliad"
Feb 26 Montesquieu – "The Principles of Government"
Mar 12 Chaucer – "The Canterbury Tales"

Visit [Book Talks and Book Discussion Groups](#) for more info

Featured Booklists

The following are either "new" booklists added to the **BookGuide** site recently, or older and/or seasonal lists we'd like to shine a light on! **Click on the titles to see the full booklists.**

The Rita Awards

The Rita Award is sponsored by Romantic Times BookClub magazine, and annually celebrates the best in romance fiction – both historical and contemporary.

Nebraska Author Stephanie Grace Whitson

Author Stephanie Grace Whitson is the February guest speaker in the [John H. Ames Reading Series](#), on February 15th. Though born in Illinois, Whitson is considered a Nebraska author, having lived in the state since 1975. She is perhaps best known for writing inspirational historical fiction set in the pioneer era.

Note to readers seeing this newsletter only as a paper copy – All examples of blue underlined text in this newsletter are hotlinks to pages on the **BookGuide** or **Lincoln City Libraries** web sites. For full functionality, please visit the electronic version of this, and past issues of the **BookGuide Bulletin** at:

<http://www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/newsletters.htm>

February 12th, 2009 – Abraham Lincoln's 200th Birthday!

In 2009, we celebrate the 200th Birthday of the 16th President of the United States – Abraham Lincoln, the namesake of our own city of Lincoln, Nebraska. Born in a one-room log cabin in Kentucky in 1809, Lincoln faced poverty and hardship, but persevered to become a lawyer, an Illinois state legislator and a member of the U.S. House of Representatives, before being elected President in 1960 on the fledgling Republican Party ticket. Elected primarily on an anti-slavery platform, Lincoln presided over the country during the worst internal strife in United States history – the U.S. Civil War (1860-1865), and also became the first U.S. President to be assassinated while in office, dying April 15, 1865. Lincoln's legacy is a lasting one, as indicated by the dozens of books that continue to be published about him and his presidency. Here are a few noteworthy items about Lincoln available in the libraries' collection:

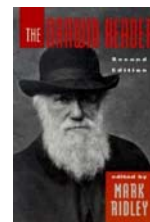
- *Lincoln's Darkest year* by William Marvel [973.73 Mar]
- *Lincoln: the Biography of a Writer* by Fred Kaplan [Bio Lincoln]
- *Looking for Lincoln: The Making of an American Icon* by Phillip B. Kunhardt III [Bio q Lincoln]
- *President Lincoln: the Duty of a Statesman* by William Lee Miller [Bio Lincoln]
- *The Age of Lincoln* by Orville Burton [973.5 Bur]
- *The Radical and the Republican: Frederick Douglas, Abraham Lincoln and the Triumph of Anti-Slavery Politics* by James Oakes [B D75o]
- *Lincoln and Chief Justice Taney* by James F. Simon [973.7 Sim]
- *Lincoln's Sword: The Presidency and the Power of Words* by Douglas L. Wilson [B L63w]
- *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by Doris Kearns Goodwin [B L63g]
- *Lincoln* by The History Channel [DVD B L63]
- *Lincoln's Melancholy: How Depression Challenged a President and Fueled His Greatness* by Joshua Wolf Shenk [B L63s]
- *The Eloquent President: A Portrait of Lincoln Through His Words* by Ronald C. White [B L63w]
- *The Intimate World of Abraham Lincoln* by C.A. Tripp [B L63t]
- *Tried by War* by James M. McPherson [Compact Disc Biography Lincoln]



February 12th, 2009 – Charles Darwin's 200th Birthday!

February 12th also marks the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin, the English naturalist, whose examinations of natural selection in his groundbreaking work On the Origin of Species have served as the root of modern evolutionary theory. Geological, zoological and biological studies during his 1830s voyages on the H.M.S. Beagle gave scientist Darwin plenty of evidence to begin work on his theories of natural selection and evolution. Since his book was published in 1859, Darwin has been lauded as an innovative and courageous scientist, and simultaneously demonized by those with differing worldviews. Here are a few noteworthy items about Darwin and his theories available in the libraries' collection:

- *Darwin's Origin of Species: A Biography* by Janet Brown [Compact Disc 576.82 Bro]
- *The Reluctant Mr. Darwin* by David Quammen [B D253q]
- *Darwin, Darwinism and the Modern World*, by Chandak Sengoopta [Compact Disc 576.8 Sen]
- *Charles Darwin: The Power of Place* by Janet Browne [B D253b]
- *Darwin and the Science of Evolution* by Patrick Tort [B D253t]
- *Darwin, His Daughter and Human evolution* by Randal Keynes [B D253k]



- *Darwin's Dangerous Idea* [Video 576.8 Dar]
- *Darwin's Ghost: The Origin of Species Updated* by Steve Jones [576.82 Jon]
- *Charles Darwin: Evolution's Voice* by A&E [DVD B D253a]
- *On Giants' Shoulders: Great Scientists and Their Discoveries* by Melvyn Bragg [509.22 Bra]
- *Darwinism Comes to America* by Ronald L. Numbers [231.765 Num]
- *The Darwin Reader* by Mark Ridley [575 Dar]
- *The Origin of Species* by Charles Darwin [575 Dar]
- *The Voyage of the Beagle* by Charles Darwin [574 Dar]
- *The Expression of the Emotions in Man and Animal* by Charles Darwin [152.44 Dar]
- *The Descent of Man: and Selection in Relation to Sex* by Charles Darwin [575 Dar]

Web sites for Readers



Scope out some Romance Fiction sites for Valentine's Day

Instead of turning your attention to a single site, elsewhere on the internet that the BookGuide staff would recommend for reading assistance this month we'll take a quick look at one of BookGuide's own pages – [Romance Fiction Resources](#). This page can be located by clicking the [Reader Connections Online](#) link on the main BookGuide site, then scrolling down to Web Sites for Readers. You can also click the link above if you're looking at this issue electronically.

Our **Romance Fiction Resources** page gives you links and brief descriptions of 19 different sites that each, individually, hold a treasure trove of information for fans of romance fiction. You can find details about the Romance Writers of America, and its regional chapters – C.A.M.E.O. Inc, Nebraska Romance Writers and Prairieland Romance Writers. You can find the online archive of romance novel reviews from Romantic Times Bookclub Magazine. You can find links to the blogs of numerous popular romance authors. You'll find access to dozens, if not hundreds of romance databases online. If you're an aspiring romance writer yourself, you'll also find links to sites with tools to improve your writing and make contact within the industry.

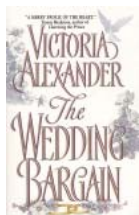
After the section focusing on independent web sites, Romance Fiction resources has a section dedicated to a dozen of the most well-known romance publishers, from Harlequin's own eHarlequin site, to the official sites of Bantam, Berkeley, Dorchester and Zebra (among many others). Find links on these publishers' pages for your favorite romance authors, news about upcoming releases, and promotional contests galore.

If you're a fan of Romance fiction, we encourage you to make our [Romance Fiction Resources](#) your one-stop headquarters for information about the Romance field. Give it a try, and let us know what you thought, at bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org!

Profiled by Scott C. – Bennett Martin Public Library

Staff Reviews

[The Wedding Bargain](#) by Victoria Alexander



[The Wedding Bargain](#) is a Regency romance. It is also extremely clever. Maximillian Wells, the Earl of Trent, agrees to undergo a test to win the hand of Pandora Effington, who gets to devise the test -- which she patterns after the Twelve Labors of Hercules. It won't be giving anything away to disclose that Max and Pandora fall in love as he conquers each task. Indeed,

they are a very charming couple. Many of his successes involve some amusing puns, and their family and friends help or hinder the awarding of points. What sets this book apart from other Regencies is its wit. Another plus: Victoria Alexander is a Nebraska author.

-- recommended by Rianne S. / Bennett Martin Public Library

[Love in the Afternoon](#)

Audrey Hepburn and Gary Cooper star in this classic romantic comedy between a young, starstruck girl and a middle aged international playboy. This movie was directed by Billy Wilder, and based on the book [Ariane](#) by Claude Anet. When the filming of this production was finished, the censor board reviewed it and required the director to change the ending of the movie because it was too risqué. The original ending of the production had followed the ending in the book. One of my favorite actors, Maurice Chevalier, plays the protective father of Ariane, and is also a private detective who knows only too well about the playboy Frank Flannegan. Sit back and watch what happens when Ariane and Frank meet in the passionate city of Paris and begin an amusing romance that will change each of their lives forever.



-- recommended by Patty L. / Walt Branch Library

[Click here to see more Staff Recommendations from this month plus an archive of all past Staff Recommendations by title or reviewer](#)

'Casting About...

As this February 2009 issue of *The BookGuide Bulletin* goes to press, we've got 33 episodes of **BookGuide's 'Casting About'** available on-line, plus 27 podcast recordings of branch book talks, **One Book – One Lincoln** talks, or **Courtyard Book Chats** downtown. You can find them all either on the BookGuide site – look for the blue graphic (at left) next to the titles of *Books Talk* presentations at the second link below, on the booktalk booklists page (third link) – or on the main Lincoln City Libraries site – click on the **Blogs and Podcasts** link at the top of the page to get started. You can also add the Podcasts feed to your RSS feed aggregator if you'd like to automatically receive future *Books Talks*, *One Book One Lincoln* programs and **'Casting About'** Podcasts, as soon as they become available! We also encourage you to leave comments on any of our podcasts!



www.lincolnlibraries.org/Podcasts/Podcasts.htm or
www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/bookgroups.htm or
www.lincolnlibraries.org/depts/bookguide/lists/booktalkbooklists.htm

One Book One Lincoln 2009 Nominations



As this issue of the *BookGuide Bulletin* goes to press, there is still one week left for you to submit your suggestions for books to be considered for the 2009 **One Book One Lincoln** citywide reading celebration. You'll find paper nomination forms at all branches of the Lincoln City Libraries, but we also recommend using [our online nomination form](#) (click that link!). Your deadline for submitting nominations is **February 20th, 2009!** The five

finalists will be announced later in the Spring, and the official **One Book** selection will be unveiled in the Fall of 2009. We really value your input, so please nominate one or more titles that you think the rest of Lincoln might enjoy reading and discussing.

Feedback...

We're interested in hearing from you regarding what you'd like to see here in our e-newsletter each month. What have you enjoyed in our past issues? If you have any suggestions or comments to offer us about the **BookGuide** site or the **BookGuide Bulletin**, please drop us an e-mail at:

bookguide@lincolnlibraries.org



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