

**From the Stacks**  
**By Julie Orf**  
**Dunklin County Library**  
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There is a profound difference between a book you should read and a book you truly want to read. Those books considered masterpieces often feel like intellectual obligations, but the most transformative reading experiences come from the stories that pull us in by choice rather than by syllabus. These books act as mirrors to our own lives or windows into worlds we never dared to imagine. These books keep us awake long past midnight because the cost of closing the cover is too high. By looking for deep emotion and great storytelling, we can find those rare books that are not just for show, but they are meant to be read and remembered.

In Nassau, casino detective Vincent LaPorta grills Alfie Logan after he wins an improbable \$2 million at roulette. Instead of confessing to a crime, Alfie hands over a notebook titled "For the Boss," claiming his winnings are part of a love story involving a woman named Gianna Rule. Alfie reveals a supernatural secret: he can shout "Twice!" to rewind time and redo any moment though he only gets one do-over per event and cannot prevent death. Mitch Albom's signature warmth and easy prose offers a welcome, hopeful escape for anyone exhausted by the harsh realities of the daily news in his latest book, *Twice*.

After a man is found frozen in the Kennebec River, midwife Martha Ballard is summoned to investigate. Her diary, a meticulous record of the town's secrets, links the dead man to a recent rape accusation involving the local elite. When a physician dismisses the death as an accident, Martha must pursue the truth alone. As the trial nears, her private records spark a scandal that threatens her family, forcing her to choose between personal loyalty and the pursuit of justice. Ariel Lawhon's tender, tense, thrilling story, *The Frozen River*, introduces an unsung heroine who refused to accept anything less than justice at a time when women were considered best seen and not heard.

Rhys Bowen's 19<sup>th</sup> installment of her Royal Spyness series, *From Cradle to Grave*, has Lady Georgiana "Georgie" Rannoch O'Mara balancing new motherhood, the responsibilities of being 34<sup>th</sup> in line for the British throne and solving the shocking deaths of several young men. While struggling with a difficult new nanny, Georgie travels to London and stumbles into a string of mysterious deaths. What initially seem like tragic accidents, a drowning, a sudden illness, soon strike Georgie as a sinister pattern. Though the victims appear unrelated, Georgie and her friend, ZouZou, are convinced a serial killer is at work. The stakes turn personal when Georgie realizes her

husband, Darcy, matches the killer's target profile perfectly. Now, she must unmask the murderer before Darcy becomes the next victim all while trying to find the perfect childcare.

In *Dogged Pursuit*, David Rosenfelt takes readers back to the start of this beloved series as Andy Carpenter begins his career as a defense attorney in Paterson, New Jersey. After three years as a prosecutor, Andy Carpenter leaves the system behind to open a modest defense practice dedicated to the "little guy." His first case arrives unexpectedly when he visits a shelter to adopt a golden retriever named Tara. There, he discovers Tara's kennel mate, Sunny, is being held because his owner, Ryan Tierney, has been arrested for murder. Impressed by Ryan's clear devotion to his dog, Andy agrees to take on both the pups and Ryan's defense, marking a chaotic but heartwarming start to his new career.