

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
Dunklin County Library

Large print books offer significant, often overlooked, benefits beyond just a larger font size. It enhances decoding, fluency, tracking, and comprehension, aiding diverse readers, including those with literacy challenges, English language learners, and those experiencing digital eyestrain. Its readability can boost engagement, especially for busy individuals seeking an escape or a break from screens. Libraries provide large print books to support adult literacy, including ELL/ESL services, and to cater to diverse reading needs, promoting cognitive benefits and overall reading enjoyment.

With 25 novels and counting, C.J. Box certainly knows how to peak the reader's interest as well as allow the character to grow and age throughout the novels. The campaign of destruction that Axel Soledad and Dallas Cates wreaked on Nate Romanowski and Joe Pickett left both men in tatters, especially Nate, who lost almost everything. Wondering if the civilized life left him vulnerable to attack, Nate dropped off the grid with his falcons in tow to prepare for vengeance. When Joe gets a call from the governor asking for help finding his son-in-law, who has gone missing in the Sierra Madre mountain range, he enlists the help of a local, a rookie game warden named Susan Kany. As Nate and fellow falconer Geronimo Jones circle closer to their prey, Joe and Susan follow the nearly cold trail to Warm Springs. Little do Nate and Joe know that their separate journeys are about to converge at *Battle Mountain*.

Marie Benedict pulls history and fiction into suspense and believability. For her latest novel, *The Queens of Crime*, set in 1930s London, the five greatest women crime writers have banded together to form a secret society with a single goal: to show they are no longer willing to be treated as second class citizens by their male counterparts in the legendary Detection Club. The group includes Dorothy L. Sayers, Agatha Christie, Ngaio Marsh, Margery Allingham and Baroness Emma Orczy. Their plan? Solve an actual murder that of a young woman found strangled in a park in France who might have connections leading to the highest levels of the British establishment. This murder has all the hallmarks of a locked room mystery for which these authors are famous.

In book two of A Mifflin County Mystery series, Rosa Petersheim's disappearance continues to cause suspicion and pain in the Big Valley. In their grief and confusion, Ada and Rosa's boyfriend, Ephraim, have grown very close. Some in the community feel Ephraim is responsible for Rosa's disappearance. Now Rosa's younger sister is making accusations against Ephraim that cannot be true, and he pulls away from Ada, feeling betrayed. A fire set by an arsonist might finally be the thing to reveal secrets that have long been dividing this community of friends and family. Wanda E. Brunstetter sets the initial plot in *The Protector* and continues this mystery in *The Peacemaker*.

Colleen Coble's *Ambush* writes what many readers want: edge-of-your-seat suspense balanced with romance. Paradise Alden returns to her childhood home, Nova Cambridge, seeking healing after a traumatic past. Working at a wildlife refuge, she aims to recover lost memories of her parents' murder. However, a body is found, and a series of dangerous events implicates Blake Lawson, her former love. Despite past betrayals, Paradise believes in his innocence and is determined to uncover the true killer hiding in the town.

While Beth is proud of her Malibu beach shop, Surf Sandwiches, she is even prouder of her charismatic brother Rick, who rose from foster care through surgical residency. She makes subs while he saves lives. Life takes a turn for the happy after she finds out Rick is dating her new best friend, Jana. Then Jana's handsome brother adds even more sparkle to Beth's days and nights. When she spots Rick with another woman, her visions of an idyllic family future disappear in one awful instant. Either she betrays her brother, or she keeps his secret and risks losing the man she loves and her best friend. Susan Mallery mixes love and loyalty in her latest novel, *Beach Vibes*.