

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
Dunklin County Library

Choosing what to read next is a daunting task, especially if you do not have as much time to read as you would like. Nobody wants to waste hours slogging through a book that just is not right or filling your Libby or Kindle library with books that may not be worth reading. The late afternoon sun awaits! Slide into a relaxing chair with a book, watch your dog do “zoomies” all over the backyard until tired, and read the evening away! One of these selections will have you reading past dark!

With her forensic duo, best-selling author, Lisa Black, presents book four of her Locard Institute Thrillers entitled, *Not Who We Expected*. Rock star Billy Diamond hires two crime experts to find his missing Yale student daughter, Devon, who disappeared with her boyfriend, Carlos, after a Nevada retreat. When Carlos' body is found, Billy seeks answers. While Ellie goes undercover at the southwest ranch where Devon was last seen, Rachael works with Billy, secretly investigating his connection to her late sister Isis, whose son she raises. At the ranch, they find a thriving Devon, no mention of Carlos, and attendees devoted to their leader, Galen, whose mind-body exercises seem sinister. Rachael and Ellie must uncover Galen's scheme, its link to Billy and Devon, and the truth about Isis, all while facing increasing danger in a world of secrets.

With vivid storytelling and a rollercoaster of emotions, Barbara Davis' *The Echo of Old Books* draws reads into the dual time period plot to explore forgiveness. Rare-book dealer Ashlyn Greer can psychically sense the emotions of a book's past owners. She becomes obsessed with two unpublished, inscribed volumes by Hemi and Belle, telling conflicting stories of a tragic romance. Drawn into this decades-old literary mystery, Ashlyn follows their trail of broken promises and betrayals, hoping to uncover the truth of their doomed love and, in the process, find closure for her own life.

The Story She Left Behind is a captivating novel of mystery and family legacy by Patti Callahan Henry. In 1927, eight-year-old Clara Harrington's magical childhood ends when her famous author mother, Bronwyn Newcastle Fordham, vanishes. Bronwyn's disappearance leaves behind a devoted husband, a heartbroken Clara, and the untranslated sequel to her groundbreaking book written in an invented language. Twenty-five years later, Clara, now an illustrator and mother to Wynn timer, is contacted by Charlie Jameson in London, who claims to have a dictionary for her mother's lost language. Skeptical but compelled, Clara travels to London with Wynn timer, arriving during the Great Smog. They escape with Charlie to his family's Lake District retreat. There, Clara must find the courage to uncover the truth about her mother and her unfinished story.

Allen Eskens' new novel, *The Quiet Librarian*, may remind readers of Kristin Hannah's *The Nightingale* with a heroine transformed by war, family, vengeance, and love. Quiet Minnesota librarian Hana Babic's peaceful life is shattered when her best friend is murdered. Hana knows this is tied to her secret past: thirty years prior, she was Nura Divjak, a fierce warrior known as the Night Mora in war-torn Bosnia, who fled to the US after a devastating final act. Now, someone is hunting Hana, and with her friend dead and her grandson in her care, she must become the Night Mora again to protect them both without revealing her true identity and stop the killer before the past catches up.