

**From the Stacks**  
**By Julie Orf**  
**Dunklin County Library**  
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“Literature is my Utopia,” wrote Helen Keller, expressing how books can create a perfect, boundless world beyond the limits of reality. For Helen Keller, who lived without sight or hearing, literature was not just entertainment, but a place of freedom, imagination, and connection. She suggests that reading offers an escape into a space where ideas flourish, barriers disappear, and readers can experience lives, emotions, and possibilities far beyond their own. The power of books become a personal refuge, shaping not only how we see the world, but also how we dream of what it could be.

Mitch Albom’s latest novel, entitled *Twice*, is a love story that is enchanting, probing, and clairvoyant in matters of the heart. At eight, Alfie Logan discovers he can redo any moment and live it again though he must accept the consequences of his second choice. He grows up using this power to fix mistakes, dodge embarrassment, and even flirt with danger before resetting to safety. As an adult, he applies it to love, eventually finding happiness with Gianna until he learns one rule: once he undoes a love, that person can never love him again. Years later, an ailing Alfie is arrested for allegedly cheating at roulette. As a detective questions him, his extraordinary life and its surprising conclusion comes to light.

Jax likes control unfortunately, the only thing she truly controls is the Painted Lady Bookstore she inherited. Her life feels anything but steady: her ex is engaged, her sister wants to leave town, and the contractor meant to help keep her there is more interested in Jax. Then an accident erases the names from the shop’s diary lockboxes, leaving Jax to read them to find their owners. As secrets spill and chaos grows, Jax learns that letting go especially with the wrong right man might be exactly what she needs. A quirky character driven romance with a touch of mystery by Susan Mallery, *The Bookstore Diaries*, is a definite feel-good read.

The Cork O’Connor Mystery series by William Kent Krueger is back with a haunted mystery, *Apostle’s Cove*. Days before Halloween, Cork gets a call from his son, Stephen, who believes a man Cork once sent to prison, Ojibwe inmate Axel Boshey, was wrongfully convicted. Drawn back into the decades-old case, Cork begins digging for the truth, despite Boshey’s refusal to help and growing danger from those who want the past buried. Meanwhile, Cork’s young grandson suspects something even darker at work that the legendary Windigo, a mythical creature, has come to Tamarack County, hungry for blood.

With her trademark humor and warmth, Anna Quindlen’s *More Than Enough* will resonate with women and their relationships. High school English teacher Polly

Goodman shares everything with her book club, her closest friends and the steady center of her life alongside her veterinarian husband. When a joke ancestry test links her to a stranger, Polly begins digging into her past, unsure what she will find. As her tight-knit circle faces unexpected change, she discovers just how deeply friendship can shape and transform a life.