

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
Dunklin County Library

Currently, my life seems to be overflowing with "good things" and I have no time for my beloved hobby, reading. The Summer Reading Program has begun, and sharing time with bright eyes and big smiles is pure joy. Certainly, reading *Pete the Cat: Crayons Rock* is big fun, but I long to enjoy a cozy mystery. Family gatherings or time with friends is rejuvenating. Keeping up with the College World Series and the teams close to my heart energizes my spirit watching these players. However, if I found time to read this week, these newly shelved titles have caught my attention.

John Connolly consistently writes thrilling novels in his Charlie Parker series, and this 22nd book entitled, *The Children of Eve*, is no exception. Private investigator Charlie Parker is searching for Wyatt Riggins, an ex-soldier who disappeared, leaving a "RUN" message. Parker discovers Riggins abducted four children from Mexico. Though initially thought to be cartel boss Blas Urrea's kids, their true identities are unknown. Urrea wants them back and has deployed dangerous agents to get them.

Sam Monroe's past love affair with Manhattan socialite Laura Nielson resurfaces when she's found strangled on her balcony, his dog tags around her neck, making him the prime suspect. With police, particularly a vengeful patrolman, closing in, Sam must investigate Laura's ties to multiple men, some connected to a crime family. Operating covertly, he gets help from coworkers and private investigator Debora Jean Ryan, who has her own undisclosed agenda. They uncover Laura's mysterious trip out west and a childhood death in New Jersey, all while Sam fends off attempts on his own life. This crime noir fiction by Michael McGarrity, *Night in the City*, is an edgy, twisty journey through New York City.

Adam Roberts's *Food Person* is a literary soufflé: a deceptively light, deliciously rich confection. Food-obsessed Isabella Pasternack, jobless after a disastrous soufflé demo, lands a ghostwriting gig for Molly Babcock, a scandal-plagued former TV actress. Isabella reluctantly accepts, despite Molly being a nightmare collaborator: hungover, flaky, and indifferent to food. Yet, through Molly's eccentricities, Isabella slowly sees her appeal. Now, Isabella must guide Molly from tabloid fodder to kitchen success, or risk both their careers going up in flames due to her own culinary idealism and Molly's ego.

Set in eastern Kentucky, Chris Offutt's *The Reluctant Sheriff* is the fourth novel in this Mick Hardin series. Reluctantly serving as interim sheriff in his hometown of Rocksalt while his sister, Linda, recovers from a shooting, ex-Army officer Mick Hardin longs for retirement. His plans are further disrupted when a local bar owner's murder implicates a suspect who stirs up Mick's past. When two more seemingly unrelated bodies appear,

Mick faces a complex case. Meanwhile, a business tycoon with an interest in Linda's return to duty complicates her recovery.

Simon Brett is well known in the world of mystery fiction with three popular series.

Death in the Dressing Room is A Fethering Mystery. In the English village of Fethering, retired Carole Seddon, who dislikes theater, joins her neighbor Jude at a play's closing night. Carole suspects the lead, Drake Purslow, is an ex-lover of her friend. After the show, Jude finds Drake dead in his dressing room under suspicious circumstances.

Jude, with her sleuthing experience, believes it is murder. She and the pathologically nosy Carole investigate if a cast member, mostly from the original sitcom, held a grudge or if recent hatreds are to blame.