

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
Dunklin County Library

New stories await! This phrase makes me think of strolling through the library, and especially, the excited children finding a favorite character book or a fun graphic novel. Yet, I am also reminded of many conversations around our supper table asking our children, "What was the best part of your day?" Each one would become animated as they spoke about recess, a new skill, a talk with Mr. Johnson, or just coming home. Whatever the day brings, listening to our friends and family as they share the story of their day is a great act of love. We can choose to view each day with a sense of wonder that we may find in nature, a friend, or a book.

With a strong female hero and descriptive surroundings, Nora Roberts' *Hidden Nature* is a thrilling mystery as readers expect from this best-selling author. Natural Resources police officer Sloan Cooper's life takes a drastic turn after she is shot during a robbery. Recovering at her parents' peaceful home, she is also dealing with a breakup. However, when people start vanishing across three states with no apparent connection, Sloan dives into an online investigation. Joined by a new ally, she is determined to push her limits and stop the horrifying abductions, even if it means risking her life again.

Unsuited for college and preferring to stay home, brothers Wilbur and Orville Wright opened a successful bicycle shop in Dayton, Ohio. Their tinkering soon led to a grander ambition: to build a powered flying machine. Their younger sister, Katharine, became an indispensable third partner. While her brothers focused on design and dangerous test flights, Katharine managed materials, communications, and kept them on track, leading to their historic first controlled flight in 1903. Global fame followed, but at the peak of their success, tragedy struck, forcing Katharine to make a life-altering decision. *Katharine, the Wright Sister*, a novel by Tracey Enerson Wood, shines a spotlight on one of the most important and overlooked women in history, and the sacrifices she made so that others might fly.

In her latest novel, Elizabeth Strout revisits Crosby, Maine, and its familiar inhabitants, including Lucy Barton, Olive Kitteridge, and Bob Burgess. Amid a murder investigation where lawyer Bob Burgess defends an accused son, he forms a close bond with writer Lucy Barton. Lucy also meets Olive Kitteridge, and through their shared stories of "unrecorded lives," they search for meaning in the human experience. *Tell Me Everything* is a novel about new friendships, old loves, and the very human desire to leave a mark on the world.

Andrea Mara's *Someone in the Attic* is a psychological thriller that will have a reader thinking twice about staying home alone. In a modern take on a classic urban legend, Mara's novel introduces Julia, who has relocated her family from California to Ireland. Her new life is quickly upended when anonymous TikTok videos appear to show the inside of her house. As Julia grapples with her ex-husband's secrets and her daughter's issues, the videos intensify, forcing her and her last remaining childhood friend to confront a tragic death from their past. The search for the video's source unearths disturbing questions about their neighbors and family, building a suspenseful narrative where Julia's resilience is tested at every turn.

Lila Dalton finds herself in a courtroom with no memory of how she got there or why she is defending a man accused of mass murder. Stranded on an island in the Atlantic where serious crimes are tried, Lila must prove her client's innocence to go home. With her own memory gone and unable to trust anything around her, solving the case seems impossible. L.J. Shepherd's *The Trials of Lila Dalton* is a twisty mystery that follows one woman's race against time to find a killer, clear her own name, and escape the island that threatens to keep her trapped forever.