

From the Stacks
By Julie Orf
Dunklin County Library

In a crowded literary market, book reviews are more powerful than ever. They serve as a vital guide for readers, opening a door into a book's world and providing key insights that help them decide what to read next. In the search for their next great read, many people turn to reviews. These reviews are powerful marketing tools, acting as a form of social proof that validates a book's quality. Seeing others praise a book creates a sense of trust and encourages new readers to give it a chance.

This psychological thriller by Claire Douglas entitled, *The Wrong Sister*, has family secrets as the centerpiece of the plot. Sisters Tasha and Alice may look alike, but their lives are worlds apart. Tasha has a quiet life in her hometown, while Alice is a successful, globetrotting scientist. When Alice agrees to watch Tasha's kids, Tasha feels her family is safe. That trust is shattered by a devastating phone call: Alice has been attacked, her husband is dead, and she is in intensive care. Rushing home to a police investigation, Tasha receives a terrifying note addressed to her: "It was supposed to be you..." Now, Tasha must confront a deadly family secret to save herself before it is too late.

In the wake of a ten-year breakup, Margot Wayward is on a path of joyful self-destruction. She is wrecking her career and taking down every man on dating apps, until she has a vision of a future with a man she has never met. Her life changes when she meets single dad Henry and the vision comes true. As more glimpses of her future appear, Margot realizes she knows exactly what is going to happen and that she is powerless to change it. Now, she must decide how to live her life when her destiny is already sealed. *I Know How This Ends* by Holly Smale is a charming, humorous romantic novel.

Susan Gregg Gilmore presents an eccentric cast of characters in a small Tennessee town with heart, humor, and a little miracle making in *The Curious Calling of Leonard Bush*. Twelve-year-old Leonard Bush loses his leg in a bizarre accident. His decision to give it a proper burial in the local cemetery sets off a chain reaction of miracles and tragedies. This event upends the lives of his devout mother, his conflicted father, and his best friend, Azalea, as well as her mother, the town prostitute. While the community's minister passes judgment and promises consequences, the people of Big Sugar are drawn together, forced to re-examine their faith in a journey toward a shared awakening.

Plagued by her Alzheimer's diagnosis, Edith is determined to find Sven, the love of her life she was supposed to run away with 27 years ago. Her son, Blade, resents

sacrificing his life to be her full-time caregiver, but he agrees to a final search for Sven. Meanwhile, Sophia is fighting to save her late uncle's flower shop and accepts a job that takes her across Sweden. As Edith finds new friendships at the bus stop and Blade comes to terms with his resentment, Sophia learns to embrace her autism. In a story that weaves these characters together, they discover that even in life's most difficult moments, good can still be found. *The Second Chance Bus Stop* by Ally Zetterberg is a hopeful, intelligent novel that celebrates peoples' differences.