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February 2023

Silver Maples Library

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2023 Library Committee Member Picks

Each month a Library Committee member selects a new book for our collection and provides a brief description. This month Yvonne L. chose the following title:

Homo Deus by Yuval Harari. The author of award winning *Sapiens* suggests that humanity has reached a turning point having mostly conquered famine, epidemics, and violence therefore will search for immortality (150 years old) and universal happiness requiring emerging technologies to “upgrade” humans to a new species, “homo deus.” He encourages society to carefully evaluate the ethical and philosophical implications of such developments.

The Cutting Season by Attica Locke. A heart-pounding thriller that interweaves two murder mysteries, one on Belle Vie, a historic landmark in the middle of Louisiana’s Sugar Cane country, and one involving a slave gone missing more than one hundred years earlier.

Dead or Alive (LP) (Jack Ryan series) by Tom Clancy. Covert intelligence expert Jack Ryan, Jr. and his compatriots operate out of unofficial The Campus secretly created under the administration of his father when president to eliminate terrorists and those who protect them. They pursue the sadistic killer, Emir, planning a monumental strike against America.

The Enemy (Jack Reacher series) by Lee Child. Jack, son of a soldier and an elite military cop for the 110th Special Unit, is set up as the fall guy for the murders of a two-star general, his wife, and two Special Forces soldiers. Jack, and a young female lieutenant he takes with him, find a conspiracy more chilling, ingenious, and treacherous than anyone could have guessed.

Finders Keepers by Fern Michaels. A woman, stolen as a toddler from a poor loving family, was raised in a magnificent Charleston house wanting for nothing. Jessie believes the world she lived in is not the one she came from or belongs in. A reclusive Texas rancher helps her discover the strength to find her way back to a place she can call home.

India’s Love Lyrics by Laurence Hope, the pseudonym for English poet Adela Florence Nicolson (1865-1904) whose husband introduced her to the food and customs of India. Published in the U.S. in 1902, these poems were popular during the Edwardian Era.

The Lincoln Myth (LP) by Steve Berry. From Copenhagen to Salzburg to Utah, the grim specter of the Civil War looms as a dangerous conspiracy gathers power. Justice Department retired agent Malone risks life, liberty, and his greatest love in a race for the truth about Abraham Lincoln while the fate of the United States of America hangs in the balance.

Madam President by Nicole Wallace, former White House Communications Director. The story of a single day in the life of America’s 45th President, Charlotte Kramer. While delivering a speech in downtown Washington, D.C., terrorist attacks are reported from five different U.S. cities. The explosive and terrifying events force President Kramer to confront long-simmering tensions among her senior staff and within her immediate family.

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A Murder is Announced (LP) (Miss Marple Series) by Agatha Christie. The *Gazette* advertises where and when a murder will take place. Unable to resist the mysterious invitation, the locals arrive at the appointed place and time when, without warning, the lights go out and a gun is fired. When the lights come back on, a gruesome scene is revealed which only Miss Marple can unravel.

No Show by Beth O'Leary. Three women, strangers to each other, have been stood up on Valentine's Day and, unbeknownst to each, by the same man. Once they have forgiven him, they are all in serious danger of falling in love with this man. Where was he on Valentine's Day? And will they untangle the truth before they all get their hearts broken?

The Odds: A Love Story by Stewart O'Nan. Valentine's weekend Art and Marion Fowler flee their Cleveland suburb for Niagara Falls desperate to recoup their loss of job and home. They sightsee during the day but at night they risk it all at the roulette wheel to fix their finances and save their marriage. An exploration of faith, forgiveness and last chances, and a reminder that love, like life, is always a gamble.

The One that Got Away (LP) by Victoria Alexander. Four romantic tales of second chances by four authors.

The Other Woman (Gabriel Allon series) by Daniel Silva. The Russians long ago inserted a mole into the heart of the West who stands on the doorstep of ultimate power. Allon, art restorer and assassin who serves as the chief of Israel's secret intelligence service, will engage in a final epic showdown with the Russians. The fate of the postwar global order hangs in the balance.

The Second Husband (LP) by Kate White. Emma's seemingly perfect second marriage is rocked by a discovery about the death of her first husband and law enforcement taking another look at her and the case. A twisty psychological thriller that asks how well do you really know the ones you love?

Shrines of Gaiety by Kate Atkinson. The notorious queen of glittering Jazz Age London, Nellie Coker, is ruthless and ambitious to advance her six children. But success breeds enemies and Nellie's Soho empire faces threats from both without and within.

Summer Love by Nancy Thayer. Twenty-six years after four strangers meet and become friends one summer on Nantucket Island, they reunite at the same hotel where they first met. It means confronting the past and finding themselves. Meanwhile their children discover Nantucket together just as their parents did. Explores the potential of dreams and the beauty of friendship.

A Wish for Winter by Viola Shipman. Smalltown Michigan bookstore owner, Susan, is facing 40, the same age as when her mother died. She sees everything she hasn't achieved including a love match. Adding to the pressure, everyone believes it's her destiny to meet and marry a man dressed as Santa, just as her mother and grandmother did. A hilarious and heartwarming year-long search ensues for the mystery Santa she instantly connected with on a Santa Run but who disappeared.

A World of Curiosities (Chief Inspector Gamache series) by Louise Penny. Gamache works to uncover answers to why a young man and woman, whose mother was murdered years ago, have returned. A 160-year-old letter prompts unsealing an attic room that contains puzzles within puzzles and hidden messages warning of mayhem and revenge. An old enemy is released into their world, their lives, and into the heart of Armand Gamache's home.