



THE BOOK NOOK

A few adoptions from the newly opened Grey Bears Book Den in Capitola Mall (all but two paperbacks, on the recent additions/new arrivals shelf for now)

Dava Sobel, *Galileo's Daughter: A Historical Memoir of Science, Faith, and Love*

"[Sobel] shows herself a virtuoso at encapsulating the history and the politics of science.

Her descriptions of Galileo's ideas...are pithy, vivid, and intelligible." (*Wall Street Journal*)

"Inspired by a long fascination with Galileo, and by the remarkable surviving letters of his daughter Maria Celeste, a cloistered nun, Dava Sobel has crafted a biography that dramatically recolors the personality and accomplishments of a mythic figure whose early-seventeenth-century clash with Catholic doctrine continues to define the schism between science and religion—the man Albert Einstein called 'the father of modern physics—indeed of modern science altogether.' It is also a stunning portrait of Galileo's daughter, a person hitherto lost to history, described by her father as 'a woman of exquisite mind, singular goodness, and most tenderly attached to me.'

Moving between Galileo's grand public life and Maria Celeste's sequestered world, Sobel illuminates the Florence of the Medicis and the papal court in Rome during the pivotal era when humanity's perception of its place in the cosmos was about to be overturned. During that same time, while the bubonic plague wreaked its terrible devastation and the Thirty Years' War tipped fortunes across Europe, Galileo sought to reconcile the Heaven he revered as a good Catholic with the heavens he revealed through his telescope. Filled with human drama and scientific adventure, *Galileo's Daughter* is an unforgettable story."

Peter Mayle, *A Dog's Life* (memoir)

"Once upon a time in Provence, Peter Mayle adopted a dog of uncertain origins and dubious hunting skills and gave him a name—Boy. Now he gives this canny canine a voice in an irresistible 'memoir' which proves that the best vantage point for observing life may well be on all fours.

As Boy recounts his progress from an overcrowded maternal bosom to unchallenged mastery of the Mayle household, he tells us why dogs are drawn to humans ('our most convenient support system') and chickens ('that happy combination of sport and nourishment'). We share in his amorous dalliances, his run-ins with French plumbers and cats, and in the tidbits (both conversational and edible) of his owners' dinner parties. Enhanced by fifty-nine splendidly whimsical drawings by Edward Koren, *A Dog's Life* gives us all the delights we expect from any book by Peter Mayle—pedigree prose, biting wit, and a keen nose for the fragrance of civilization—together with the insouciant wisdom of which only a dog (and probably only Peter Mayle's dog) is capable."

Julia Glass, *Three Junes* (fiction)

National Book Award winner • national bestseller • "An astonishing novel that traces the lives of a Scottish family over a decade as they confront the joys and longings, fulfillments and betrayals of love in all its guises."

"In June of 1989 Paul McLeod, a newspaper publisher and recent widower, travels to Greece, where he falls for a young American artist and reflects on the complicated truth about his marriage...."

Six years later, again in June, Paul's death draws his three grown sons and their families back to their ancestral home. Fenno, the eldest, a wry, introspective gay man, narrates the events of this unforeseen reunion. Far from his straitlaced expatriate life as a bookseller in Greenwich Village, Fenno is stunned by a series of revelations that threaten his carefully crafted defenses....

Four years farther on, in yet another June, a chance meeting on the Long Island shore brings Fenno together with Fern Olitsky, the artist who once captivated his father. Now pregnant, Fern must weigh her guilt about the past against her wishes for the future and decide what family means to her.

In prose rich with compassion and wit, *Three Junes* paints a haunting portrait of love's redemptive powers."

Michael Cunningham, *Specimen Days* (fiction)

In each section of Michael Cunningham's bold novel, his first since *The Hours*, we encounter the same group of characters: a young boy, an older man, and a young woman. "In the Machine" is a ghost story that takes place at the height of the industrial revolution, as human beings confront the alienating realities of the new machine age. "The Children's Crusade," set in the early twenty-first century, plays with the conventions of the noir thriller as it tracks the pursuit of a terrorist band that is detonating bombs, seemingly at random, around the city. The third part, "Like Beauty," evokes a New York 150 years into the future, when the city is all but overwhelmed by refugees from the first inhabited planet to be contacted by the people of Earth.

Presiding over each episode of this interrelated whole is the prophetic figure of the poet Walt Whitman, who promised his future readers, "It avails not, neither time or place . . . I am with you, and know how it is." *Specimen Days* is a genre-bending, haunting, and transformative ode to life in our greatest city and a meditation on the direction and meaning of America's destiny. It is a work of surpassing power and beauty by one of the most original and daring writers at work today.

Tana French, *Faithful Place* (Dublin Murder Squad, book 3 of 6)

From Tana French, "widely praised as one of the finest mystery and psychological suspense writers working today." "Her singular skill at creating richly drawn, complex worlds makes her novels not mere whodunits but brilliant and satisfying novels about memory, identity, loss, and what defines us as humans."

"Back in 1985, Frank Mackey was a nineteen-year-old kid with a dream of escaping his family's cramped flat on Faithful Place and running away to London with his girl, Rosie Daly. But on the night they were supposed to leave, Rosie didn't show. Frank took it for granted that she'd dumped him—probably because of his alcoholic father, nutcase

mother, and generally dysfunctional family. He never went home again. Neither did Rosie. Then, twenty-two years later, Rosie's suitcase shows up behind a fireplace in a derelict house on Faithful Place, and Frank, now a detective in the Dublin Undercover squad, is going home whether he likes it or not.

Getting sucked in is a lot easier than getting out again. Frank finds himself straight back in the dark tangle of relationships he left behind. The cops working the case want him out of the way, in case loyalty to his family and community makes him a liability. Faithful Place wants him out because he's a detective now, and the Place has never liked cops. Frank just wants to find out what happened to Rosie Daly—and he's willing to do whatever it takes, to himself or anyone else, to get the job done.

Christopher Fowler, *Full Dark House* (Peculiar Crimes Unit, book 1 of 18)

"Edgy, suspenseful, and darkly comic, here is the first novel in a riveting mystery series starring two cranky but brilliant old detectives whose lifelong friendship was forged solving crimes for the London Police Department's Peculiar Crimes Unit. In *Full Dark House*, Christopher Fowler tells the story of both their first and last case—and how along the way the unlikely pair of crime fighters changed the face of detection.

A present-day bombing rips through London and claims the life of eighty-year-old detective Arthur Bryant. For his partner John May, it means the end of a partnership that lasted over half-a-century and an eerie echo back to the Blitz of World War II when they first met. Desperately searching for clues to the killer's identity, May finds his old friend's notes of their very first case and becomes convinced that the past has returned . . . with a killing vengeance.

It begins when a dancer in a risqué new production of *Orpheus in Hell* is found without her feet. Suddenly, the young detectives are plunged in a bizarre gothic mystery that will push them to their limits—and beyond. For in a city shaken by war, a faceless killer is stalking London's theaters, creating his own kind of sinister drama. And it will take Arthur Bryant's unorthodox techniques and John May's dogged police work to catch a criminal whose ability to escape detection seems almost supernatural—a murderer who even decades later seems to have claimed the life of one of them . . . and is ready to claim the other.

Filled with startling twists, unforgettable characters, and a mystery that will keep you guessing, *Full Dark House* is a witty, heartbreaking, and all-too-human thriller about the hunt for an inhuman killer."

Christopher Fowler, *The Water Room* (Peculiar Crimes Unit, book 2 of 18)

"Traditional mystery buffs with a taste for the offbeat will relish British author Fowler's wonderful second contemporary whodunit featuring the Peculiar Crimes Unit and its elderly odd couple, Arthur Bryant and John May." (*Publishers Weekly* starred review)

"How can an elderly recluse drown in a chair in her otherwise dry basement? That's what John May and Arthur Bryant of London's Peculiar Crimes Unit set out to discover in a city rife with shady real estate developers, racist threats, dodgy academicians, and someone dangerously obsessed with Egyptian mythology. Linking them all is an evil lurking in London's vast and forgotten underground river system—a killer with the eerie ability to strike anywhere, anytime, without leaving a clue. It's a subterranean case of secrets, lies,

and multiple murder that defies not only the law, but reason itself. Can Bryant and May bring a killer to the surface and stop the dark tide of murder before it pulls them under, too?"

"A clever twist on the traditional police procedural . . . The real thrill here is the delightful duo in the starring roles, two fresh and unusual characters who manage to breathe new life into an established genre in which it's getting harder and harder to find anything genuinely fresh." (*Booklist*)

"Humorous, engaging." (*Kirkus Reviews*)

Kerry Greenwood, *Death by Water* (Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries, book 15 of 23)

"The Honourable Miss Phryne Fisher is a 1920s London socialite living in Melbourne, Australia (author's country). She is highly fashionable and generous, knows poverty from humble origins; war deaths elevated her father to the British aristocracy."

"While memories of the Titanic linger among the ship's passengers, readers are treated to descriptions of sumptuous meals and snippets of Maori lore, along with a tantalizing mystery. Those who long to revel in a glamorous if imperfect past will be satisfied."

(*Publishers Weekly*)

"The nice men at P&O are worried. A succession of jewelry thefts from the first-class passengers is hardly the best advertisement for their cruises. Especially when it is likely that a passenger is the thief.

Phryne Fisher, with her Lulu bob, green eyes, cupid's bow lips, and sense of the ends justifying the means, is just the person to mingle seamlessly with the upper classes and take on a case of theft on the high seas—or at least on the S.S. Hinemoa—on a luxury cruise to New Zealand. She is carrying the Great Queen of Sapphires, the Maharani, as bait.

There are shipboard romances, champagne cocktails, erotic photographers, jealous swains, mickey fins, jazz musicians, blackmail, and attempted murder, all before the thieves find out—as have countless love-smitten men before them—that where the glamorous and intelligent Phryne is concerned, resistance is futile.

Charles Finch, *The Vanishing Man* (Charles Lenox Mysteries, book 12 of 16)

"Fiction readers who crush on blue-blooded British detectives will fall hard for Victorian-era sleuth Charles Lenox." (*The Washington Post*)

"From the critically acclaimed and *USA Today* bestselling author Charles Finch comes this prequel to his Charles Lenox Victorian series, in which the theft of an antique painting sends Detective Lenox on a hunt for a criminal mastermind."

"London, 1853: Having earned some renown by solving a case that baffled Scotland Yard, young Charles Lenox is called upon by the Duke of Dorset, one of England's most revered noblemen, for help. A painting of the Duke's great-grandfather has been stolen from his private study. But the Duke's concern is not for his ancestor's portrait; hiding in plain sight nearby is another painting of infinitely more value, one that holds the key to one of the country's most famous and best-kept secrets."

(continued)

Helen A. Harrison, *An Artful Corpse* (Art of Murder Mysteries, book 3 of 3)

"A first-rate whodunnit set in the 1960s New York art world, a time and place Helen Harrison has recreated with a page-turning mix of history, gossip, and fun!" (Bob Colacello, author of *Holy Terror: Andy Warhol Close Up*)

"One artist. One student. One deadly mystery. When Regionalist painter Thomas Hart Benton's corpse is discovered behind the easels of Manhattan's famed art school, whispers in the art community say he had it coming. As Benton's list of enemies lengthens to include the school's instructors, Vietnam War protesters, and members of Andy Warhol's entourage, one art student is ultimately painted as the murderer. The only problem: the suspect has vanished.

Why would an art student murder Benton? And if he were innocent, why would he run? When TJ Fitzgerald, son of Detective Juanita Diaz and Captain Brian Fitzgerald of the NYPD, discovers his classmate is the prime suspect, he uses his own investigative skills to try and clear his name. But as TJ and his girlfriend work to unravel the clues to the art mystery, he begins to wonder if the police got it wrong and one secret may be the key to it all..."

"A clever mystery sure to please art enthusiasts and armchair detectives alike."

Louise Penny, *A Rule Against Murder* (Chief Inspector Gamache, book 4 of 21)

"*A Rule Against Murder*, the fourth book in Louise Penny's award-winning and critically revered mystery series, features the wise and beleaguered Inspector Armand Gamache.

It is the height of summer, and Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache are celebrating their wedding anniversary at Manoir Bellechasse, an isolated, luxurious inn not far from the village of Three Pines. But they're not alone. The Finney family—rich, cultured, and respectable—has also arrived for a celebration of their own.

The beautiful Manoir Bellechasse might be surrounded by nature, but there is something unnatural looming. As the heat rises and the humidity closes in, some surprising guests turn up at the family reunion, and a terrible summer storm leaves behind a dead body. It is up to Chief Inspector Gamache to unearth secrets long buried and hatreds hidden behind polite smiles. The chase takes him to Three Pines, into the dark corners of his own life, and finally to a harrowing climax."

Charles Todd, *The Black Ascot* (Inspector Ian Rutledge Mysteries, book 21 of 25)

"Scotland Yard's Ian Rutledge seeks a killer who has eluded Scotland Yard for years in this installment of the acclaimed New York Times bestselling series.

An astonishing tip from a grateful ex-convict seems implausible—but Inspector Ian Rutledge is intrigued and brings it to his superior at Scotland Yard. Alan Barrington, who has evaded capture for ten years, is the suspect in an appalling murder during Black Ascot, the famous 1910 royal horse race meet honoring the late King Edward VII. His disappearance began a manhunt that consumed Britain for a decade. Now it appears that Barrington has returned to England, giving the Yard a last chance to retrieve its reputation and see justice done. Rutledge is put in charge of a quiet search under cover of a routine review of a cold case.

Meticulously retracing the original inquiry, Rutledge begins to know Alan Barrington well, delving into relationships and secrets that hadn't surfaced in 1910. But is he too

close to finding his man? His sanity is suddenly brought into question by a shocking turn of events. His sister Frances, Melinda Crawford, and Dr. Fleming stand by him, but there is no greater shame than shell shock. Questioning himself, he realizes that he cannot look back. The only way to save his career—much less his sanity—is to find Alan Barrington and bring him to justice. But is this elusive murderer still in England?"

Andrea Camilleri, *The Safety Net* (Inspector Montalbano Mysteries, book 25 of 28)

"Vigàta is bustling as the new filming location for a Swedish television series set in 1950. In the production frenzy, the director asks the locals to track down movies and vintage photos to faithfully recreate the air of Vigata in that time. Engineer Ernesto Sabatello, while rummaging in the attic of his house, finds some films shot by his father from 1958 to 1963, always on the same day, March 27 and always the same shot; the outside wall of a country house. Montalbano hears the story, and intrigued by the mystery of it, begins to investigate its meaning. Meanwhile, a middle school is threatened by a group of armed men, and a closer look at the situation finds Montalbano looking into the students themselves and finally delving into the world of social media."

Martin Walker, *Fatal Pursuit* (Bruno, Chief of Police, book 9 of 20)

"A pair of murders, a romance, and rivals in pursuit of a long-lost vintage car make for another mystery for Bruno, Chief of Police, in this installment in the delightful, internationally acclaimed series.

It's the start of summer, and Bruno's found himself the last-minute replacement navigator in a car rally race. The event has attracted a spate of outsiders with deep pockets, big egos and, in the case of one young Englishman, an intriguing story about a lost Bugatti Type 57C. Having disappeared somewhere in France during World War II, and worth millions of dollars, it's among the most beautiful cars ever made, driving its pursuers mad with greed.

When a local scholar turns up dead, Bruno suspects unnatural causes. Still, while life may offer its challenges—often in the form of distractingly comely Parisiennes—there is always time for a good bottle and a home-cooked meal."

Zoë Ferraris, *Finding Nouf* (Katya Hijazi and Nayir Sharqi, book 1 of 3)

"Zoë Ferraris's electrifying debut of taut psychological suspense offers an unprecedented window into Saudi Arabia and the lives of men and women there.

When sixteen-year-old Nouf goes missing, along with a truck and her favorite camel, her prominent family calls on Nayir al-Sharqi, a desert guide, to lead a search party. Ten days later, just as Nayir is about to give up in frustration, her body is discovered by anonymous desert travelers. But when the coroner's office determines that Nouf died not of dehydration but from drowning, and her family seems suspiciously uninterested in getting at the truth, Nayir takes it upon himself to find out what really happened to her.

The only problem? He has no access to the women who knew Nouf best, and to gain that access, he must rely on a woman.

Fast-paced and utterly transporting, *Finding Nouf* offers an intimate glimpse inside a closed society and a riveting literary mystery."

Carson Morton, *Stealing Mona Lisa* (mystery)

A Kirkus Reviews' Best of 2011 Fiction, and a Library Journal Best Mystery of 2011

"What happens when you mix a Parisian street orphan, a hot-tempered Spanish forger, a beautiful American pickpocket, an unloved wife, and one priceless painting?

The charming Eduardo de Valfierno makes a very respectable living in Argentina fleecing the nouveau rich—they pay him to steal valuable pieces of art, and Valfierno sells them flawless forgeries instead. But when Eduardo meets the beautiful Mrs. Hart on his latest con, he takes a risk that forces him back to the city he loved and left behind—Paris. There he assembles his team of con artists for their final and most ambitious theft, one that will enable them to leave the game forever: The Mona Lisa.

But when a member of the team turns up missing, and Mr. Hart shows up in Paris, Valfierno and his crew must stay one step ahead of a relentless police inspector, endure a devastating flood, and conquer their own doubts to keep the priceless painting in play—and survive.

Based on the actual theft of the Mona Lisa from the Louvre in 1911, and published on the 100th anniversary of the crime, *Stealing Mona Lisa* is a sophisticated, engaging caper, complete with a richly imagined group of con artists and a historical mystery that will keep you guessing until the very end."

•And finally, at the request of a library user, I've been able to add some **Carl Hiaasen** mysteries to the library. They haven't been easy to come by, for some reason.

"Carl Hiaasen is a great American writer, a comic genius and fearless journalist. He has made South Florida a world map of human folly, malicious schemes, and indifference to the common good. In his novels there's usually a decent survivor of this milieu to remind us that it doesn't have to be this way, that there is hope, and that constant vigilance against the insane and corrupt is an indispensable tool for life in America."
(Tom McGuane)

". . . the funniest important writer in America" (*Miami Herald*)

Carl Hiaasen, *Tourist Season*

"Brash mystery adventure...ferocious fun....There's a fresh breeze, if not a full-scale hurricane, up from Miami. Hiaasen, himself a columnist for the *Miami Herald*, writes with sardonic wit in a style so breezy that you want to hang on to the mast with both hands."
(Marilyn Stasio, *The Columbus Dispatch*)

"Take a trip to exotic South Florida with this dark, funny book that established Carl Hiaasen as one of the top mystery writers in the game.

The first sign of trouble is a Shriner's fez washed up on a Miami beach. The next is a suitcase containing the almost-legless body of the local chamber of commerce president found floating in a canal...

The locals are desperate to keep the murders under wraps and the tourist money flowing. But it will take a reporter-turned-private eye to make sense of a caper that mixes football players, politicians, and one very hungry crocodile in this classic mystery that *GQ* called 'one of the top ten destination reads of all time.'"

Carl Hiaasen, *Bad Monkey* (Andrew Yancy series, book 1 of 2)

"Andrew Yancy—late of the Miami Police and soon-to-be-late of the Monroe County sheriff's office—has a human arm in his freezer. There's a logical (Hiaasenian) explanation for that, but not for how and why it parted from its shadowy owner. Yancy thinks the boating-accident/shark-luncheon explanation is full of holes, and if he can prove murder, the sheriff might rescue him from his grisly Health Inspector gig (it's not called the roach patrol for nothing).

But first—this being Hiaasen country—Yancy must negotiate an obstacle course of wildly unpredictable events with a crew of even more wildly unpredictable characters, including his just-ex lover, a hot-blooded fugitive from Oklahoma; the twitchy widow of the frozen arm; two avariciously optimistic real-estate speculators; the Bahamian voodoo witch known as the Dragon Queen, whose suitors are blinded unto death by her peculiar charms; Yancy's new true love, a kinky coroner; and the eponymous bad monkey—who just may be one of Carl Hiaasen's greatest characters."

Carl Hiaasen, *Squeeze Me* (Skink, book 7 of 7)

New York Times Best Seller • A hilarious novel of social and political intrigue, set against the glittering backdrop of Florida's gold coast

"If you could use some wild escapism right now, Hiaasen is your guy." (*The New York Times*)

"At the height of Palm Beach's charity ball season, Kiki Pew Fitzsimmons, a prominent member of geriatric high society, suddenly vanishes during a swank gala. Kiki Pew was a founding member of the Potussies, a group of women dedicated to supporting the President, who spends half the year at the 'Winter White House' just down the road. Meanwhile, Angie Armstrong, wildlife wrangler extraordinaire, is called to the island to deal with a monster-sized Burmese python that has taken residency in a tree. But the President is focused on the disappearance of Kiki Pew. Never one to miss an opportunity to play to his base, he immediately declares her a victim of rampaging immigrant hordes. This, it turns out, is far from the truth, which now lies in the middle of the road, where a bizarre discovery brings the First Lady's motorcade to a grinding halt. Irreverent, ingenious, and uproariously entertaining, *Squeeze Me* perfectly captures the absurdity of our times."

Carl Hiaasen, *Basket Case* (mystery)

"A rollicking and hilarious novel from the bestselling author of *Squeeze Me* and 'Florida's most entertainingly indignant social critic'" (New York Times Book Review).

"Frisky.... The real music here is Mr. Hiaasen's self-assured banter." (*The New York Times*)

"Jack Tagger's years in exile at the obituaries desk of a South Florida daily haven't dulled his investigative reporter's nose for a good story. When Jimmy Stoma, the infamous front man of Jimmy and the Slut Puppies, dies in a fishy scuba accident, Jack sees his ticket back to page one—if only he can figure out what really happened. Standing in his way are, just for starters, his ambitious young editor, who hasn't yet fired anyone but plans to "break her cherry" on Jack; the rock star's pop-singer widow, who's using the occasion of her husband's death to relaunch her own career; and the soulless, profit-hungry owner of the newspaper, whom Jack once publicly humiliated at a stockholders' meeting.

Following clues from the late rock singer's own music, Jack tries to unravel the lies surrounding Jimmy Stoma's strange fate."

Carl Hiaasen, *Strip Tease* (mystery)

"It's a wonder Florida hasn't yet banished Hiaasen (*Native Tongue*, etc.). Here's the *Miami Herald* reporter's fifth comic thriller—a marvelous madcap yarn pitting a stripper vs. a congressman—depicting the Sunshine State as the weirdest place this side of Oz." (Kirkus Reviews)

"Suspense and hilarity combine with greed and political corruption in the tale of a Florida stripper, a sex-obsessed congressman, a heart-of-gold bouncer, a political 'fixer,' and a touch of blackmail.

Only in America could an innocent, if drunken, guest of honor at a strip joint bachelor party become a mortal threat against Big Money and Big Government. Only in south Florida, land of roadside honky-tonks and sinister pleasure boats—not to mention blackmail and murder—would a virtuous topless dancer join forces with a cool but clueless cop. And only in the fiction of Carl Hiaasen do readers experience riveting suspense and razor-sharp characters along with the most wicked humor imaginable.