

Librarian's Shelf by Brad Hruska

"Unique Technique to Finding the Perfect Read"

Over the years, people have asked me how I personally pick books to read for pleasure. Most assume that it would be a relatively easy task since some of my responsibilities at the Columbus Public Library involve selecting quality reading materials for others. But to be honest, I am a picky reader (as are most males); however, I have devised a system that allows me to find that "perfect read." As part of this article, I thought I would take you on my reading book journey. The first thing I do when finding a book to read is stroll through the library stacks and pick up five to six books that pop out to me because of a catchy cover or title. Most everyone has heard the saying "Don't judge a book by its cover," but many readers do and those in marketing know it, so they strive to create book covers that are appealing to the eye. As I made my way through the library shelves this time around, I selected "Bewitched in Oz" by Laura J. Burns, "Duke" by Kirby Larson, "Frenzy" by Robert Lettrick, "Windblowne" by Stephen Messer, "Hero" by Sarah Lean, and "Rump" by Liesl Shurtliff. I was drawn to these books because they had covers that were colorful and action-packed.

The next step in my unique process is to read the first paragraph of each book. Seasoned authors know that every word must count when enticing readers. Those first few sentences are the key to holding a reader's attention. Larson's "Duke," Lettrick's "Frenzy," and Messer's "Windblowne" made the cut because the first paragraphs left me wanting more.

I then take a five to ten minute break from my mini-collection. After clearing my head, I sit back down with the reduced pile and complete my bizarre, little process by re-reading the first paragraphs, continuing on through the first page of each text. This final step leaves just one book sitting in front of me. After all was said and done, my final choice was "Frenzy" by Robert Lettrick.

Lettrick's novel had an action-packed cover, which included a crazy-eyed, rabid squirrel and a first sentence that read "Heath Lambert's parents had been bitten and turned into zombies, and now it was up to him to decide the method by which to destroy them..." How could I not take this intriguing book home?

As I've mentioned before this process may seem a bit bizarre, but it works for me. I always leave the library with a great read in tow every time! So the next time you are in pursuit of a great book, venture to the Columbus Public Library and take a peek in the stacks. You never know what amazing texts will pop out at you. If you are interested in more suggestions on how to find that "perfect read" or would like more information on the books mentioned, contact me at (402) 564-7116 opt. 4.