

“Librarian’s Shelf” by Rachelle McPhillips

Novel Destinations @ your library

Our summer reading programs for children and teens are in full swing here at Columbus Public Library. The children’s theme is “One World, Many Stories.” They have already enjoyed tales about Nebraska from a guest storyteller and met creatures from exotic locations. With the theme, “You Are Here,” teens have explored Columbus with an outdoor scavenger hunt and learned about Japanese crafts and art.

The theme for adult summer reading programs this year is, “Novel Destinations.” Stop in this week and browse our display of fiction that will sweep you away to another place or time.

To celebrate summer reading, the library is offering a special promotion for our adult patrons. The first 20 adults to check out a book from our “Novel Destinations” display will receive a free tote bag.

Here are some examples of the books you will find on display this week:

Kate Quinn’s 2010 debut novel, “Mistress of Rome,” whisks us to ancient Rome to meet Thea, a slave. Thea’s mistress has her eye on the much-loved gladiator, Arius, and sends Thea to deliver letters to capture his attention. His attention falls on Thea instead, and the two begin an affair that’s both steamy and tender. You might want to bump the thermostat a degree or two lower before embarking on this journey:

“Her rich alto resounded in the pit of his stomach, washing up through his spine and sinking into every muscle until he fell asleep wrapped in the music of her hands and her voice. ‘Witch,’ he told her. ‘That voice of yours is a wand.’”

In Andrea Levy’s, “The Long Song,” Miss July begins recalling her life as a slave in Jamaica with a disturbing scene. She interrupts herself to address the reader with an explanation of her storytelling style, assuring us she’s not going to pull any punches and she calls it like she sees it.

“Let me confess this without delay so that you might consider whether my tale is one in which you can find an interest. If not, then be on your way, for there are plenty books to satisfy if words flowing free as the droppings that fall from the backside of a mule is your desire.”

I like her already.

In her debut novel, “Rock Paper Tiger,” Lisa Brackmann takes us to Beijing through the eyes of American Iraq War veteran, Ellie Cooper. When her husband leaves her for another woman, Ellie decides to stay in China. Recovering from her failed marriage, and war wounds that are both mental and physical, her life is further complicated by a random encounter with an alleged terrorist. Ellie Cooper is one tough cookie and this gritty novel should appeal to fans of Stieg Larsson.

If you have any questions about summer reading, please stop in the library or call 402-564-7116

option 2.