

Librarian's Shelf by Karen Stuart

New Mysteries

As the Reference Librarian I usually write my articles to let you know about information sources we offer at Columbus Public Library. Recently however, as part of continuing education and professional development, Rachelle McPhillips and I presented Great Reads at a Northeast Nebraska Library System Workshop. Here are two of those recent releases for you to enjoy.

"Aunt Dimity and the Village Witch" is the 17th in Nancy Atherton's Aunt Dimity cozy mystery series. The first of the series, "Aunt Dimity's Death," was voted one of the century's 100 favorite mysteries by the Independent Mystery Booksellers Association.

As per usual for the series, Lori Shepard involves herself in uncovering a mystery. This time she does so in the small English town of Finch, which she and her family call home. Amelia Thistle moves to town and Lori wastes little time introducing herself to Amelia. She quickly involves herself in solving the mystery that brought Amelia to Finch: searching for the historic Mistress Meg. As well as solving a historical puzzle, the townspeople gather together to protect Amelia from her unwanted hoard of admirers. She's a famous artist with a fan base prone to stalking, almost worshipping, her art and her view of the world. As they always do, the people of Finch gather together to solve the mystery and save the day, with the help of the paranormal Aunt Dimity helping along the way. The next installment, "Aunt Dimity and the Lost Prince," comes out next year.

If you like this and other books in the Aunt Dimity series by Nancy Atherton, you might enjoy reading books by Ann Purser, who also writes in the cozy mystery genre.

To find books similar to ones you've read and enjoyed, log on to Complete Connection. It's a service offered by the State Library of Nebraska and the link can be found on the Columbus Public Library website, www.columbusne.us/library. Just click the E-Materials link and scroll down to Complete Connection. Enter the password "pickoff8" or your Nebraska driver's license.

If you've read Carrie Vaughn, Jim Butcher, or P.N. Elrod and enjoyed their work, try "The Taken" by Vicki Pettersson. The author of the Signs of the Zodiak series, Vicki Pettersson, starts a new mystery series with "The Taken."

Griffin Shaw is a Centurion, an Angel the guides souls to the Everlast. His delay in guiding a soul changes the course of history that will lead to another's death: reporter Kit Craig. As punishment, Grif is made a human again so he can experience the pain of Kit's death and then lead her to Everlast. Grif refuses to let her die and that's where the story really takes off.

While Grif is struggling with his re-introduced humanity and the memories of his last life, Kit is trying to solve her friend's murder. The two become intertwined with each other and numerous other characters as they eventually uncover a high class prostitution ring that auctions young girls from a polygamist Mormon Church. Plenty of gruesome murder and a fair bit of sexual content mixed with the fantasy of angelic hierarchy make this a very unusual, but interesting book. After solving the crimes and bringing the guilty to justice, Grif is allowed to stay on earth

as a human and a Centurion and decides that he and Kit make a pretty good team. Good enough for a sequel at least; "The Lost" comes out next year.

Stop by Columbus Public Library to check out these books or others like them.