

Librarian's Shelf by Rachelle McPhillips

Your Library Could Save Your Life

Here at Columbus Public Library, we answer all sorts of questions. We look up phone numbers and addresses, point people in the direction of the restrooms, and assist in the acquisition of information on an endless variety of topics. Occasionally, a patron will express their gratitude by saying, "Thank you so much! You saved my life!" Being a humble bunch of awesome librarians, we assure them it was our pleasure to help them and really, it was no trouble at all.

Some of the things we help people with don't seem like life or death issues. Exclamations of our life-saving abilities are probably a sign of modern society's penchant for hyperbole. Still, an examination of our nonfiction collection does reveal a concern for our patrons' longevity.

For example, have you ever had the eerie feeling that you're being watched? That some unseen doom is bearing down on you? Did it occur to you that you might be in a horror movie?

You might want to check out "How to Survive a Horror Movie: All the Skills to Dodge the Kills," by Seth Grahame-Smith. This ultimate scary movie survival guide will give you the knowledge you need to defeat killer dolls, survive a night of babysitting, and "What to Do If You Did Something Last Summer." The section on how to survive a haunted house provides a ten-question quiz to help weigh the paranormal activity under your roof. (If there are Civil War-era children playing in your attic, you need this book.)

What if the threat isn't a movie genre formula or cliché? What if the machines in your life are giving you trouble? Is it a glitch, a bug, a short in the cord? Don't try to diagnose this problem yourself until you've read, "How to Survive a Robot Uprising: Tips on Defending Yourself Against the Coming Rebellion," by Daniel H. Wilson.

Learn "How to Spot a Hostile Robot," "How to Survive a Car Chase with an Unmanned Ground Vehicle," and "How to Escape a Robot Swarm." Wilson warns that when reasoning with a robot, humans should never show fear.

"Robots have no emotions. Sensing your fear could make a robot jealous and send it into an angry rage."

Before you head outside this spring to clean up your yard, know the danger lurking in your flowerbeds. Pick up Chuck Sambuchino's, "How to Survive a Garden Gnome Attack: Defend Yourself When the Lawn Warriors Strike (and They Will)."

Sections in this book help you assess your gnome-attack risk, protect your home inside and out, defend yourself if the worst should happen, and apply this knowledge for your long-term survival. Wilson says, "Sometimes, you just run into a rogue gnome or a pack of aggressive combatants who will pick a fight. When that happens, it's game time."

Let's be prepared.

If you believe you're living in a scary movie, being tormented by hostile machines, or battling garden gnomes, CPL is happy to reserve these titles. Please call the library at 402-564-7116 option 2 before stopping in and we'll leave your books outside for you.