

A Lifetime of Enjoyment

By Melissa Sargent

Hello. My name is Melissa Sargent. I am the newest employee of the Columbus Public Library, joining the library after many years of working as the manager of our family's trucking company. My husband Ron and I have three daughters, Courtney, Cassie, and Sydney, who have all grown up reading books from the library. Now I find myself as a reader turned library employee. It is great to be able to contribute to an institution that my family and I have enjoyed for many years.

Back in 2003, after my family and I started to settle in at our new residence here in Columbus, one of the first places I sought out was the Columbus Public Library. I love to read, and have always read stories to my daughters since they were infants. Cassie, especially, has been a voracious reader since she was a toddler, so we took many trips up to Mr. H's room at the library. We quickly made our way through Clifford The Big Red Dog books, Dr. Seuss, Scooby-Doo, SpongeBob Squarepants, and eventually through the Goosebumps and Mary-Kate and Ashley book series. Of course, as time passed and Cassie grew older, she discovered all the wonderful books in the Young Adult and Adult sections of the library. She will proudly tell you that she has read all of Stephen King's novels, along with a large portion of the horror and supernatural young adult books, and anime novels. By the way, her favorite book of all time is "Battle Royale" by Koushun Takami. It's like Japan meets the Hunger Games, however, it was written in 2000, well before Suzanne Collins wrote her Hunger Games trilogy. If you have a chance, check out "Battle Royale". It's an intriguing and entertaining read.

As for my tastes in books, I lean towards horror and mystery. Over the years, I acquired a large collection of horror novels, but I have only started reading them within the last few years. Raising kids, working in the trucking business, and falling years behind in my magazines all contributed to this. Once I was current on my subscriptions, I happily began the books at the front of my bookcase. However, after I read "When The Bough Breaks" by Jonathan Kellerman, I took another hiatus from my own books. That novel was so expertly written I had to see if he had continued writing. I turned to the library and was rewarded with a whole shelf of mysteries by Kellerman. I have successfully read all of them and am looking forward to reading his newest, "Motive".

Late last year, my husband had told me about a radio show that he had listened to. It was on the JFK assassination and featured author Roger Stone, who was talking about his new book, "The Man Who Killed Kennedy: The Case Against LBJ". In it, Stone had written about how Lyndon Johnson orchestrated the plot to kill President Kennedy. It continued where "The Texas Connection" by Craig Zirbel had left off in 1991. Ron explained how the events leading up to November 22, 1963, and those after, made a convincing case of a conspiracy. I visited the library and wrote down those book titles, and a few weeks later, I had a copy of "The Man Who Killed Kennedy" in my hand. It was a fascinating read. I recommend it highly.

The Columbus Public Library has something for every member of the family. As our family has grown and changed, the library has always been there to provide great entertainment. Come in and check us out!