

# BOOKMARKS

Winter 2011 Newsletter ~ The Bookloft ~ Your hometown source for books and more ~ Enterprise, Oregon

As I'm writing this, we are in the thaw that seems to happen most winters. The snow goes away, mostly, and we even have a few mild days. Now we all know we're fooling ourselves if we start thinking winter is through with us. But don't despair. Think of our long winters as opportunities or excuses to read more! Yes, there's the looking through seed catalogs to be done, but we really can't get out there yet. So why not just relax and delve into a good read?

Here are my favorite 10 books read last year:

**WINTER VAULT** by Anne Michaels

**SWAN THIEVES** by Elizabeth Kostova

**LITTLE BEE** by Chris Cleve

**WILD COMFORT** by Kathleen Dean Moore

**MAPPING OF LOVE AND DEATH** by Jacqueline Winspear

**THE SIGNAL** by Ron Carlson

**A SHORT HISTORY OF WOMEN** by Kate Walbert

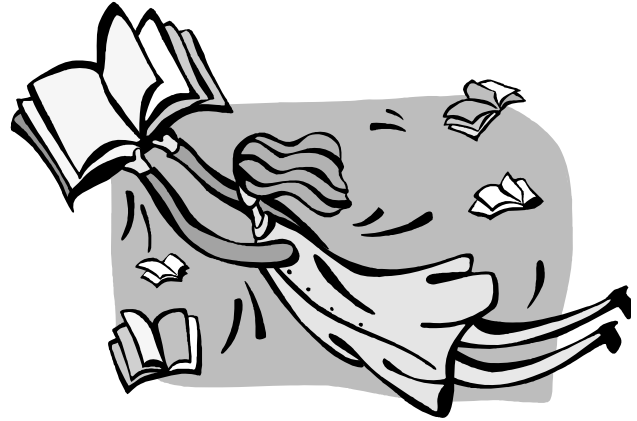
**SKY TIME IN GRAY'S RIVER** by Robert Michael Pyle

**RECKLESS** by Cornelia Funke

**MY LADY JUDGE** by Cora Harrison

For reviews of these titles, check out our website

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Some books I enjoyed recently:

**OLIVE KITTERIDGE** by Elizabeth Strout, won the Pulitzer a few years ago and got lots of attention then. But I only read it recently and really enjoyed it. The novel is more a series of linked stories about various residents of a small coastal town in Maine. Olive, a retired schoolteacher, floats in and out of these stories, but they are not all about her. She is kind of a crabby person and not everyone likes her. I always find it interesting when a writer creates an unpleasant character that the reader is nonetheless drawn to. Through their connections to Olive, however tenuous, we get a look at the lives of the other town folk, each with their own difficulties and hardships. My tag line for the book is "Life, you can't live with it, you can't live without it". Strout does an excellent job of demonstrating that although everyone has problems in their life, life itself is the gift that we have to focus on. 14.00 Random House

**YEAR OF THE HARE** by Arto Paasilinna

A translated book by a Finnish author, this novel takes a look at what would happen if you stepped out of your life for a year and played hooky. The main character, Vatanen, a journalist, does just that. Following a near accident involving a hare, he abandons his life and, accompanied by the hare, spends a year traveling around wherever life sends him. This quirky and amusing novel is an exploration of living in the moment and taking whatever experiences come along. 14.00 Penguin

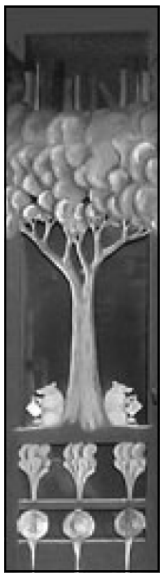
A lot of us have been reading *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* as part of the big read. If you enjoyed reading a book intended for young readers, you might like to sample some contemporary young adult books. Or maybe you are a young reader and are looking for something new and good. Here are a few I enjoyed.

**RECKLESS** by Cornelia Funke

Jacob Reckless has been traveling back and forth through a mirror to another world for years. This parallel world is where our fairy tales happen. He has had great adventures seeking out magical treasures and selling them to the wealthy and powerful residents of this other world. But his alternate life takes a tragic turn when his younger brother Will follows him through the mirror one day. Will is attacked by a goyl, a creature whose skin is covered in stone. Goyl hearts and minds are hard as stone as well. The attack by the goyl is gradually transforming Will into a goyl. Jacob must now use all of his courage, skills and contacts in the fairy world to try to save his brother.

Cornelia Funke is masterful in creating other worlds as we saw in the Inkheart trilogy. Once again, she has written a story that is clever and compelling with characters, both good and evil, which captivate the imagination. 19.99 Little Brown





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### ***THE SEARCH FOR WONDLA*** by Tony DiTerlizzi

Eva Nine has lived her whole life underground, tended by a robot called MUTHR and various other technological devices. When a sudden crisis occurs, she is forced out of her protected home and into the world above. Although her trusty omnipod can provide her with information about most things, she finds that there are creatures and perils unknown to her device. In her search for others like herself she meets friends and enemies, has exciting adventures and makes a discovery at the end that explains the significance of a small scrap of paper she has brought with her throughout her journey. The author of *The Spiderwick Chronicles* has once again created a fantastical world and his illustrations throughout add to the magic. 17.99 Simon & Schuster

Fans of the Montmorency series will enjoy ***CANDLE MAN*** by Glenn Dakin. Like *Montmorency: Thief, Gentleman, Liar*, this novel has a Victorian feel to it and a lot of the action also takes place underground in the world of abandoned tunnels and sewers. Our young hero, Theo, has been raised in solitude in a large creepy mansion next to a cemetery. His caretakers have convinced him that he is a weak invalid and by isolating him, they have made sure he knows next to nothing about the outside world. One evening, burglars break into the mansion when Theo is alone and in attempting to escape, Theo discovers he possesses a horrifying power. When he flees the mansion, he embarks on a journey to discover his true identity and find out how to use his power to help The Society of Unrelenting Vigilance. Great characters, exciting action and creepy villains add to the appeal of this first book in a new series. 6.99 Egmont

### ***LEEPIKE RIDGE*** by N.D. Wilson

Idaho author Wilson has written a wonderfully exciting novel for young readers. Reminiscent of Gary Paulsen, with elements common to Tom Sawyer and even The Odyssey, this book tells the story of eleven-year-old Tom Hammond and his underground adventures following a trip down a stream floating on a makeshift raft. It is part survival story, part archaeological exploration with additional excitement provided by some rather ruthless treasure hunters. Wilson's interesting style and vivid descriptions of Tom's experiences make the reader really feel like part of the story. 6.99 Yearling

### ***HEART OF A SHEPHERD*** by Roseanne Parry

Set on a ranch in eastern Oregon, this young adult novel is a wonderful coming of age story. Twelve-year-old "Brother" Alderton (so named because he is the youngest of four brothers) lives with his father and grandparents. His older brothers are off to school or the military. His father is in the reserves, and when he is deployed to Iraq, a lot of responsibility falls on Brother. Or so he feels. His grandparents are both quite active in the ranch operation and his father has hired a hand to help out during his deployment. But still, Brother feels it is his duty to keep everything on the ranch "just the same" for his father till his return. Mostly things go along all right until a forest fire threatens the ranch. Brother and his Grandpa have to take some extreme action to save some of the ranch animals. It is through this experience that Brother discovers his life path. Beautifully written, thoughtful and poignant, this novel gives us a look at real life with all of its dilemmas as well as its wonder. Brother is an exceptional character who feels deeply for everything around him and learns to face these feelings without running from them. 6.99 Yearling

