

APL STAFF PICKS

SPRING/SUMMER 2023

As thanks for your contribution, staff of the Anchorage Public Library and the Board of the Anchorage Library Foundation have selected their favorite items for you to read, watch, or listen to this spring and summer. So curl up with something refreshing and enjoy these selections!

Movies, TV, Music, and Magazines

Spree, Eugene Kotlyarenko (Director)

Parodying social media and the need to be viral famous, this movie will make you never want to hop into a rideshare ever again.

[Keelin, Mountain View](#)
DVD

Yellowstone, Taylor Sheridan (Director)

I like that it was something I wouldn't normally watch and it hooked me. I watched it after watching 1883 and 1923. It's hard to tell who the bad guys are, the adversaries of the Duttons or the Duttons themselves. People fighting about land but who does it really belong to? It's a modern day cowboy soap opera that's fun to binge.

[Audrey Jo, ALF Board Member](#)
DVD

Anchorage Daily News Collection (Newsbank)

I love having free access to the ADN with my library card. My Sunday habit of "reading the paper with coffee" is back, just on an iPad to view full layout versions of recent issues.

[Misty Rose, Community Relations](#)
Database

Taylor Swift, Midnights

I love that I can listen to all my favorite artists for free on hoopla! Taylor Swift's Anti-Hero gets stuck in my head all the time, and I can log into hoopla and listen as often as I want. Then I can find something else and listen to that as well. hoopla is amazing!

[Shanna, Anchorage Library Foundation](#)
hoopla

School Age Fiction

Leave it to Plum, by Matt Phelan

These funny animals have wacky adventures that children will enjoy while also being sweet and relatable.
Elizabeth, Youth Services Book

Sherlock Holmes and the Disappearing Diamond, by Sam Hearn

This series introduces Sherlock Holmes and Jon Watson who are students at the Baker Street Academy. They solve an adorable mystery and keep my kids engaged. Win win!

Shanna (and twin daughters, age 8), Anchorage Library Foundation Book

The Serpent's Secret, by Sayantani DasGupta

It's up to 12-year-old Kiranmala to rescue her parents from a demon - and save the world. Packed with action, humor, relatable characters, and Bengali folklore, this book is a delight!

Kelsey, Youth Services Book

Pepper's Rules for Secret Sleuthing, by Briana McDonald.

My daughter is loving this book with the adventures, mystery, and secret codes.
Elizabeth, Youth Services Book



Photo by Max Goncharov on Unsplash

Fiction

My Best Friend's Exorcism, by Grady Hendrix

All the joy and terror of watching a scary movie but in book form.

[Keelin, Youth Services](#)
[Book, eBook, Playaway](#)

All Systems Red (The Murderbot Diaries), by Martha Wells

First in the novella series "The Murderbot Diaries" we meet an anti-social A.I. that just wants to sit and watch "their stories" but keeps getting drawn into conflicts. Quick read!

[Misty Rose, Community Relations](#)
[Book, eBook, eAudiobook, Audio Book, hoopla](#)

Legends & Lattes, by Travis Baldree

Coffee? Pastry? Orcs? High fantasy? YES PLEASE! This is a fun, fast read and an engaging listen in audiobook with the Libby app. Just don't read hungry!

[Misty Rose, Community Relations](#)
[Book, eBook, eAudiobook](#)

Weight of Ink, by Rachel Kadish

Ester is a Jewish woman in 1660s London whose letters penned as a scribe to a rabbi are studied by two scholars in early twenty first century London.

[Stacy, Adult Services](#)
[Book](#)

The Marriage Portrait, by Maggie O'Farrell

It's a wonderful piece of historical fiction depicting the lives of a real family set in Italy in the 1550s.

[Margo, Adult Services](#)
[Book, eBook, eAudiobook](#)

A World of Curiosities, by Louise Penny

This is the newest (and 18th) book in the Inspector Gamache series, and it was wonderful! The mystery isn't known until the end of the book and all of my favorite characters were present!

[Shanna, Anchorage Library Foundation](#)
[Book, eBook, eAudiobook, CD](#)

Booked for Murder, by RJ Blain

Great urban fantasy about magical, militant librarians. Good world building and interesting characters.

[Tamzan, Adult Services](#)
[eBook](#)

Transcendent Kingdom, by Yaa Gyasi

A movingly told story of a young woman and her relationship with her mother and late brother that explores the deep bonds of family and how we process grief.

[Meneka, Community Engagement](#)
[Book, Large type, eBook, eAudiobook](#)

Mexican Gothic, by Silvia Moreno-Garcia

SO GOOD! 1950s glam, a huge family secret, a heartfelt romance, and a house haunted by fungi. Beautifully written and so easy to get caught up in. Best book I've read in years.

[Clare, ALF Board Member](#)
[Book, Large type, eBook, eAudiobook](#)

Non-Fiction

Faith Still Moves Mountains: Miraculous Stories of the Healing Power of Prayer, by Harris Faulkner

Harris Faulkner's collection of powerful, true-life stories of resilience, healing, rescue, and protection reminds us of God's power now more than ever.

[Teresa, Mountain View Library](#)
[Book](#)

Grains for Every Season: Rethinking Our Way with Grains, by Joshua McFadden, Martha Holmberg

My go-to cookbook! Helpful grain descriptions & versatile recipes are featured. Incorporate some new ideas into your pantry or just utilize traditional standby grains differently.

[Amanda, Adult Services](#)
[Book](#)

Hunt, Gather, Parent, by Michaela Doucett

This refreshing take on parenting provided practical tools for raising thoughtful, helpful, and generally less whiny kids. I estimate a 60% decrease in household whining as a result.

[Chelsea, ALF Board Member](#)
[Book, eBook](#)

Rambutan: Recipes from Sri Lanka, by Cynthia Shanmugalingam

A beautifully written and photographed cookbook that tells the story of Sri Lanka through family history and food.

[Meneka, Community Engagement](#)
[Book](#)

Delete That: (and other failed attempts to look good online), by John Crist

Crist offers heartfelt, laugh-out-loud observations on the absurd ways we all try to make ourselves look better online.

[Teresa, Mountain View Library](#)
[Book](#)

The Hidden Half: The Unseen Forces that Influence Everything, by Michael Blastland

I received this book for Christmas and finally made the time to read it. It wasn't what I expected but I found it entertaining and innovative. It encouraged me think about things in a different way.

[Shanna, Anchorage Library Foundation](#)
[Book](#)

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