

# Shelf Life

FAVORITES  
FROM OUR  
SHELVES

## HE READS, SHE READS

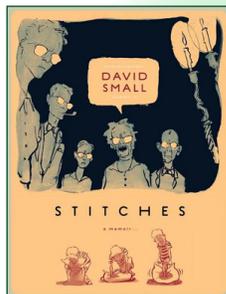
BY DAN & LAURA BERUBE

WINTER 2010

YES, WE ARE BOTH LIBRARIANS. And, yes, we both like to read. Two librarians in one household might seem like too many to some folks. But in our house at least no one is asking you to put down your book and talk or anything silly like that. Hey, we've got reading to do. Another bright spot is that our different reading tastes keep us from fighting over the same books. As in "You can keep your Dave Eggers, I've got my Maggie Stiefvater." So, here are some of our favorite reads from 2009.

### HE READS

*Chronic City* by Jonathan Lethem • What's this novel about? Well, a former child actor struggles to stay connected to his astronaut girlfriend who's stranded in space, all while navigating a near future Manhattan where a giant tiger roams at night and a gray fog hangs perpetually over Wall Street.



*Stitches* by David Small • Many people think that their childhood was tough. After reading this graphic novel, you'll probably be glad that you didn't have David Small's parents. *Stitches* illustrates the author's disturbing but ultimately redemptive story.

*Zeitoun* by Dave Eggers • *Zeitoun* is a gripping account of one man's bewildering, dehumanizing experience in New Orleans during the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. By focusing on a single story, Eggers offers a fresh perspective on the big picture of what happened in Louisiana.

*Juliet, Naked* by Nick Hornby • The usual Hornby elements are here: music obsessed men, the women who try to love them, and the comic mess that ensues. In this world, the Internet is another complicating factor in growing up and facing the music, so to speak.

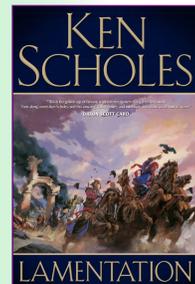
### SHE READS

*Shiver* by Maggie Stiefvater • Grace has always been fascinated by the wolves in the woods behind her house. At the end of one summer, she meets Sam and they form an immediate connection. But as the temperature drops, she finds that there may be more to Sam than meets the eye.

*The Physick Book of Deliverance Dane* by Katherine Howe • With flashbacks to the 17th century and the Salem Witch Trials, some suspense and a little magic, too, the intertwined stories of Connie and Deliverance will have you turning the pages to find out what happens next.

*The Forgotten Garden* by Kate Morton • An epic story about a woman's aborted search for her lost family and the granddaughter who finishes it will take you from Australia to a forgotten garden in Cornwall. Follow the twists and turns of their journey until you discover their family secrets.

*Lamentation* by Ken Scholes • After the destruction of the city of Windwir, a group of people with different backgrounds are forced to work together, using their wits, skills and cunning to keep war at bay in the Kingdoms of the Named Lands. These alternating viewpoints come together to create a fantasy adventure that is hard to put down.



*Awakening* by S. J. Bolton • Reclusive Clara's quiet life is disrupted when a man dies of a snake bite in her small English village. The suspense builds as the snakes multiply and Clara reluctantly becomes ensnared in solving the mystery, discovering in the process that the future holds more for her than a life of solitude.

DAN BERUBE is a Librarian at the Whitmore Library and LAURA BERUBE is a Librarian at the Draper Library

# Q & A With a Dixie Flavor

BY RUBY CHEESMAN

**TWO WONDERFUL SOUTHERN NOVELS** have been Reader's Choice nominees recently: *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett was on the July through October 2009 list, and *The Sweet By and By* by Todd Johnson is on the January through April 2010 list. Recently I asked these two authors a few questions about their writing. Their answers are as witty and entertaining as their books.

**Questions:** Besides the two of you, what other Southern authors are currently writing in your style? And for yourself, what inspires you, what plans do you have for future books, and did you always want to be a writer?

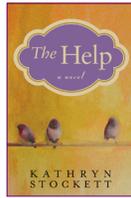
## KATHRYN STOCKETT

- Other Southern authors & inspiration?

Hmm, can I reverse that question and say, there are plenty of amazing writers that I have read over and over with the hopes that I could learn to write in their style? *Mudbound* by Hillary Jordan, *The Well and the Mine* by Gin Phillips... anything written by Kaye Gibbons. I can't think about these books and authors without smiling and sighing and getting chills of envy in the best way possible.

- Future books?

The manuscript for Book 2 is due on my publishers desk January 1, 2011. It also takes place in Mississippi during The Great Depression and it's about a family of mostly women, struggling to survive in a time when women weren't generally the breadwinners. These



women are quite creative in the way they choose to make money. Oh and Amy Einhorn, if you're reading this, I'm a tiny bit behind schedule.

- Did I always want to be a writer?

I sold my first book in third grade to some sucker on the playground for 25 cents. (Title: *The Little Ant*. Print run: 1). From then on, I was hooked. I guess I've wanted to be a writer longer than I've been allowed to ride my bike off my parent's street.

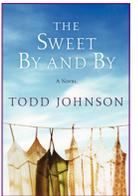
## TODD JOHNSON

- Other Southern authors?

You asked both Kitty [Kathryn] and me about other new Southern authors, so I have to mention a mutual friend of ours, Susan Rebecca White from Atlanta. Her first book, *Bound South*, was published around the same time as *The Sweet By and By*. Her next book is due out in May, and I've been lucky enough to read it in advance. Susan is a gifted writer with a wonderful sense of humor and most of all, great compassion.

- Inspiration?

I like to think of inspiration in the literal sense -- breathing in. So inspiration really comes from awareness, the extent to which I'm open to everything around me, all of life. I think inspiration is different from influence. For example, I'm influenced by a lot of great writers, and for that matter, artists of all kinds. But I think inspiration is something less tangible, more expansive.



*Continued on page 4*

## LIVE THE CHANGE: KEEPING RESOLUTIONS ALL YEAR LONG

BY BOBBIE PYRON

AH, NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS. We make them, we try to keep them (really, we do!), and then we break them. What did you vow to change this year? Here are some books to help you succeed.

*This Year I Will...How to Finally Change a Habit, Keep a Resolution, or Make a Dream Come True* by M.J. Ryan. Life coach Ryan outlines a concrete and practical strategy for following through on those resolutions while dealing with day-to-day life. In this easy-to-read book, Ryan tackles the obstacles that keep us from reaching our goals. But, of course, one of the biggest obstacles to change is our negative self-talk.

In *Excuses Begone!* Dr. Wayne Dyer won't accept any excuses for not getting rid of that same, tired negative attitude that defeats us every time we try to change. Wayne presents a laundry list of conscious and subconscious crutches used by just about everyone, along with ways to cast them off once and for all.

And once you do, changing is *Easier Than You Think*, according to

author Richard Carlson. The same guy who reminded us not to sweat the small stuff gives us 39 techniques for making positive changes in all aspects of life. The secret, he says, is to target small changes you can make which will ultimately add up to a world of difference. Most of the changes are in attitude.

*Fit from Within* by Victoria Moran makes a strong case for real change only coming from within. Even if you want to lose 20 pounds, quit smoking or run three miles a day, you must first look within.

In the end, the resolve to change is about one thing: *Creating Your Best Life* by Caroline Miller and Dr. Michael Frisch. Life coach Miller and clinical psychologist Frisch maintain that happiness requires having clear-cut goals that give a sense of purpose and direction. The authors supply dozens of interactive exercises and quizzes to help identify one's most important needs, ambitions and wishes. Once you can identify those things, setting and keeping goals is a piece of cake!

BOBBIE PYRON is a Librarian at the Holladay Library

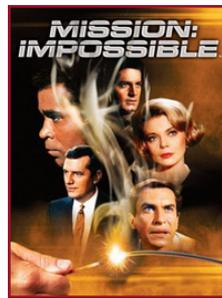
# CLASSIC TELEVISION: THE '60s

BY LESLIE SCHOW

THE 1960S SAW SOME big changes in television broadcasting. Viewership increased as programming expanded to include news, live presidential debates, and even man's first step on the moon. People spent more time watching television, and the number of available programs grew.

Comedies continued to be popular with such programs as *Get Smart* (1965-1970), *Hogan's Heroes* (1965-1971), and *Gomer Pyle* (1964-1969). *The Monkees* (1966-1968) sang their way into the hearts of America, hanging on the coattails of Beatlemania.

The Cold War spawned several spy programs. *Mission: Impossible* (1966-1973) took an elite team of men and women around the world, solving problems that were too hot for the government to officially handle. *I Spy* (1965-1968) saw Bill Cosby and Robert Culp traveling the world as undercover agents of the government, posing as a tennis pro and his trainer.



The race to space also inspired programming. *Star Trek* (now known as "The Original Series") started—but never completed—its five-year mission in 1966. Cancelled after only three seasons, it inspired an animated television series, five live-action television series, theatrical movies, and generations of avid fans who have kept the convention business alive and well. *Doctor Who* (1963-1989), a British import, also garnered an enviable fan base.

*Dark Shadows* (1966-1971) was one of the more memorable soap operas from this era. Before Bella and Edward, there was Barnabas Collins. Born in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, he became a vampire and spent the next 200 years locked in a coffin on the family estate. The story really began when a distant relative of his unwittingly released him.

Crime dramas became even more popular with programs such as *Hawaii Five-O* (1968-1980). Based in downtown Honolulu, Steve McGarrett and his men battled organized crime, murder, kidnapping, and anything else bad enough to come to the attention of the state police. Then there was *The Mod Squad* (1968-1973). Three young outsiders worked undercover to help the police battle crime, clearing their own criminal records in the process.

All of these shows, and many others from this era, are available on DVD at your local library.

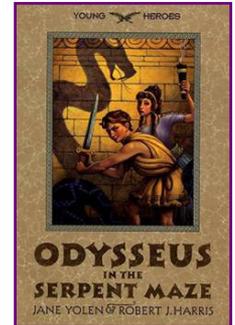
LESLIE SCHOW is Manager of the Herriman Library

# Lightning Strikes Again: Read-Alikes for *The Lightning Thief*

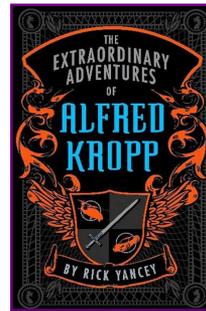
BY STEPHANIE BERTIN

SINCE IT WAS FIRST published in 2005, boys from 10 to 15 have been devouring the Percy Jackson series by Rick Riordan. The adventures of Percy, half-blood son of the god Poseidon, are full of non-stop action as he faces numerous characters from ancient Greek mythology in a modern setting. The final book in the series came out in 2009 and a movie version of the first book is set for release in early 2010. Guys (and girls) looking for a similar read may want to try one of these books:

*Odysseus in the Serpent Maze* by Jane Yolen and Robert Harris • For those who want more adventures in Greek mythology, check out this book (the first in a series) from award winning author Jane Yolen. A teenage Odysseus is bored until he and his friend are thrown overboard during a storm and then are captured by pirates who also have a young Helen of Troy and her cousin Penelope as captives. Escape is just the beginning of their adventure as the four teens face a series of mythical challenges including a satyr and a serpent with a hundred heads.



*Skulduggery Pleasant* by Derek Landy • When Stephanie's uncle mysteriously dies and leaves her everything, she is attacked. Her rescuer is a Skulduggery Pleasant, a walking, talking skeleton detective who can throw balls of fire. Skulduggery and his dry humor accompany Stephanie in a quest to stop a powerful ancient weapon from falling into the wrong hands. The non-stop action and mythological creatures will appeal to Percy Jackson fans.



*The Extraordinary Adventures of Alfred Kropp* by Rick Yancey • After being tricked into stealing King Arthur's legendary sword Excalibur, Alfred finds himself facing off against an evil knight who wants to use the magical properties of the sword to take over the world. Fast-paced with humor and lots of action, readers will find themselves rooting for this unlikely hero.

*The Merchant of Death* by D.J. MacHale • Bobby Pendragon seems to have it all: he's doing well in school, is popular, and is the star of his school's basketball team. Then his uncle visits and asks Bobby for help. He explains that Bobby is a Traveler, able to move between time and space. Bobby is transported to an alternate dimension where he must end a civil war in medieval land ruled by a magical tyrant.

*Storm: The Infinity Code* by E.L. Young • Teenage inventor Will is recruited to join STORM (Science and Technology to Over-Rule Misery), a group of teen geniuses who want to change the world for the better. When one of their fathers is kidnapped, they are drawn into an adventure trying to save the world from a mad scientist who has created a deadly weapon.

STEPHANIE BERTIN is a Librarian at the Kearns Library

# 新年快乐!

## CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH YOUR KIDS

BY JANELL PEARCE MATTHEUS

LOOKING FOR SOMETHING FUN and educational to do with your kids this winter? Introduce them to Chinese New Year. According to the Chinese Zodiac, the Year 2010 is the Year of the Tiger, which begins on February 14, 2010 and ends on February 2, 2011. The tiger is a sign of courage, fearless and fiery. This fighter is revered by the ancient Chinese as the sign that wards off the three main disasters of a household: fire, thieves and ghosts. (Unfortunately there is no mention of pay cuts, lay offs or H1N1 flu. . .)

Books about Chinese New Year:

- *Happy New Year! : Kung-hsi fa-t'sail* by Demi
- *Chinese New Year* by Alice K. Flanagan
- *Celebrating Chinese New Year* by Diane Hoyt-Goldsmith
- *Chinese New Year* by Sarah Moyses
- *Story of the Chinese Zodiac* by Monica Chang

According to the Chinese zodiac, children born in the year of the tiger are cheerful and curious with a zest and passion for life. Intelligent and friendly, tigers are natural born leaders who will do best when given the ability and creative freedom to express themselves. Parents should know that tiger children seek approval from their family and criticism can be especially hurtful.

Picture books about Chinese New Year:

- *D is for Dragon Dance* by Ying Chang Compestine
- *The Runaway Rice Cake* by Ying Chang Compestine

- *My First Chinese New Year* by Karen Katz
- *Bringing in the New Year* by Grace Lin
- *This Next New Year* by Janet S. Wong

Early Readers:

- *Buster Changes His Luck* by Marc Brown
- *Max Celebrates Chinese New Year* by Adria F. Klein

Novels:

- *Happy New Year, Julie* by Megan McDonald (American Girl, Julie #3)
- *The Chinese New Year Mystery* by Carolyn Keene (Nancy Drew Notebooks #39)

Crafts and Activities:

- *Moonbeams, Dumplings & Dragon Boats: A Treasury of Chinese Holiday Tales, Activities, & Recipes* by Nina Simonds, Leslie Swartz and the Children's Museum of Boston
- *Chinese New Year Crafts* by Karen E. Bledsoe

And don't forget New Year's celebrations in Salt Lake like the concert by the very famous Chinese Children's Choir from Beijing who will perform at Cottonwood High (5715 S. 1300 E., 801-646-5264) at 7:00 p.m. on February 26, 2010.

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JANELL PEARCE MATTHEUS is a Librarian at the Whitmore Library



Q&A With a Dixie Flavor • Continued from page 2

• Future books?

I'm working on the next novel now. The hardest thing is always protecting the time I need to do my work. After living in New York City for years, my current home is in rural Connecticut. I think it's taken a little time for people to understand exactly what it is I do during the day. My office is at home, so people used to often simply drop in if they saw my car in the driveway. In a way, I love it -- it reminds me of being at my grandmothers' houses in the South when I was a child. But needless to say, it doesn't really support a writer's necessary solitude. It helps now that so many people have read *The Sweet By and By*, because, for better or worse, I'm less of a mystery. I think people believe I actually have a job!

• Did I always want to be a writer?

I wrote privately for years before ever attempting to publish anything, but when I was growing up, I wanted to be a musician. I started singing in the Cherub Choir at church when I was three years old. I seriously doubt we were cherubs. Still, I went

on to sing in other choirs, as well as play in the school band and orchestra. In fact, I was in All-State Band in North Carolina on both clarinet and bassoon. Some of my friends (and their parents) didn't know exactly what a bassoon was, so I learned to tell them incredulously that it was the Grandfather in *Peter and the Wolf* and that it sounded sort of like a duck with a really low voice. After college and graduate school, I spent a number of years as a professional singer in New York City, doing countless commercial jingles for television and radio, as well as singing back-up for major artists. And I had a career in the theatre as well. But what always interested me, going back to my family life in NC, was great storytelling. The ability to tell a good story earned you a place at the grown-up table on holidays. So in that sense, the eventual dream of writing a novel grew out of something that had been a natural part of my life, inherently valued and encouraged by everyone around me.

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RUBY CHEESMAN is Manager of the Bingham Creek Library