

LIBRARY STAFF SUGGESTIONS What We Read in 2005

No, we don't spend all our time reading (sometimes we're searching Google), but here are some books we read in the past year. They might not have been published in '05, but we read them then, so here they are.

--Nancy Sprague--

***The Voyageurs*, by Margaret Elphinstone.**

An intriguing historical novel that takes place in Canada in the early 1800s, filled with interesting characters - fur-trappers, strong women, Quakers.

***Bold spirit: Helga Estby's Forgotten Walk Across Victorian America*, by Linda Hunt. ([Women's Center E168.H94 2003](#))**

Story of a Norwegian immigrant from Spokane who attempted to walk across America with her daughter in 1896. The way the tale was pieced together from small, scattered sources, such as newspaper accounts, was part of the appeal of the book for me.

--Beth Hill--

***A Million Little Pieces*, by James Frey (NIC [HV5831.M6 F74 2003](#))**

***Tipping Point How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference*, by Malcolm Gladwell (UI Library Main Stacks [HM1033.G53 2000](#))**

Earlier book by the author of *Blink*, one of this year's oft mentioned best books.

--Karen Hertel--

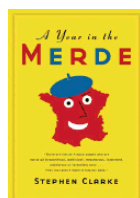
***The Shadow of the Wind*, by Carlos Ruiz Zafón ; translated by Lucia Graves ([BROWSING RUIZ ZAFON](#))**

Perfect for a librarian--book burning/banning, Spanish history, mystery, and the bookseller angle. The really great thing is it was recommended by my dentist while he was cleaning my teeth. The guy got so excited while talking about it he jabbed me in the gum.

--Nancy Young--

***A Year in the Merde*, by Stephen Clarke ([BROWSING CLARKE](#))**

A hilarious novel about a young British guy who attempts to set up an



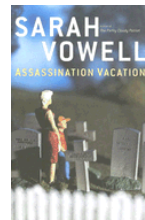
English type tearoom in Paris. Needless to say, he runs into all kinds of trouble vis a vis language, love, and business.

***Candyfreak: A Journey Through the Chocolate Underbelly of America*, by Steve Almond. (UI Library Main Stacks [HD9330.C653U513 2004](#))**

Another funny read, this one a memoir of the author's lifelong love affair with candy of all kinds. Bits of his family life are hinted at, but the real hook is the memory of certain types of candy, where he was when he met them, and what they meant to him. Great for anyone with a sweet tooth and/or a favorite childhood treat.

***Alex: The Fathering of a Preemie*, by Jeff Stimpson. (UI Library Main Stacks [RJ250.S745 2004](#))**

Compelling and honest account of one family's struggle to help their 21 ounce son survive his first year, which was spent in hospitals. Even if you're not a parent, this is scary stuff. If you are a parent, it's breathtakingly harrowing.



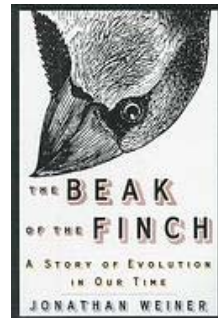
***Assassination Vacation* by Sarah Vowell. (NIC Stacks [E176.1.V89 2005](#))**

The kind of book that the word "quirky" was made for. Focus is on three presidents (Lincoln, Garfield, McKinley) who were killed in office and the author's pilgrimages to places related to them. Vowell also gives the reader her honest, sometimes scathing, views on current politics.

Best title of the year that I haven't read yet:

***Madame Bovary's Ovaries: Darwinian Look at Literature*, by David P. Barash and Nanelle R. Barash. (UI Library Main Stacks [PR878.E95B372 2005](#))**

--Debra Spidal--



***Beak of the Finch; A Story of Evolution in Our Time*, by Jonathan Weiner (UI Library Main Stacks [QL696.P246W45 1994](#))**

This book was written in 1994 and is considered a classic in the study of evolution. It recounts twenty years of observing the evolution of Darwin's finches in the Galapagos Islands.

--Susan Mueller--

***World Enough and Time*, by James Kahn**

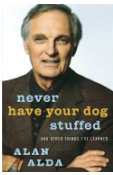
A fantasy/science fiction story pitting humans against chimeras (genetically manipulated animal/human crosses) when few remember that humans once ruled the world. It is a good representative of the fantasy/science fiction genre and sounds a cautionary note about tampering with species through genetic modification.

***The Reformation*, by Diarmaid MacCulloch (UI Library Main Stacks [BR305.3.M23 2004](#))**

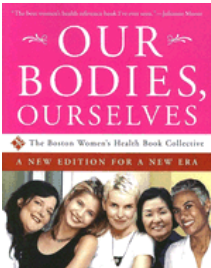
For an overview of the reformation through time and landscape this is an excellent work. A good introduction to the complexity of the movement we refer to as the Reformation. The bibliography is a starting point for those wanting to study the Reformation in more depth.

--MaryAnn Boehmke--

***Never Have Your Dog Stuffed; and Other Things I've Learned*. by Alan Alda.**



Engaging; couldn't put it down.
Almost as good as a "MASH" rerun!



***Our Bodies, Ourselves: A New Edition for a New Era*. Boston Women's Health Book Collective. (UI Library Main Stacks [RA778.N49 2005](#))**

A wealth of information. I bought a copy for my 13-year-old daughter.

***P is for Potato: An Idaho alphabet*, by Stanley F. Steiner & Joy Steiner. Illustrated by Jocelyn Slack. (UI Library Main Stacks [PZ7.S787P5 2005](#))**

A great A-Z book on the state of Idaho for kids and adults. Illustrations are beautiful with muted pastel colors.

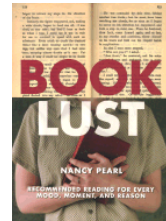
***The First Day of Winter*, by Denise Fleming.**

I put this one in my "Grandma Wanna Be" box. A charming, rhyming story with delightful illustrations, teaching counting at the same time.

***Eats, Shoots & Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation*, by Lynne Truss. (UI Library Main Stacks [PE1450.T75 2004](#))**

***The Da Vinci Code*, by Dan Brown. (UI Main Library Lost)**

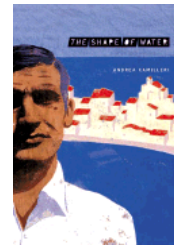
***Book Lust: Recommended Reading for Every Mood, Moment, and Reason*, by Nancy Pearl (UI Main Library [Z1035.9.P38 2003](#))**



--Mike Pollastro--

I've been reading several books in a series by **Barbara Hambly**, mysteries with the protagonist being Benjamin January, a free man of color, set in New Orleans in the 1830's or so. The first I read was ***A Free Man of Color***, a worthy beginning to the series. ***Sold Down the River*** (UI Library Main Stacks [PS3558.A4215S65 2000](#)) was also very worthwhile reading. Historical setting and details complement the intensity of the latter parts of each book.

I should probably keep this series to myself until I finish all of them, but all of the books in a detective series by **Andrea Camilleri**, with anti-hero protagonist, police inspector Salvo Montalbano, set in Sicily, are delightful with many humorous touches. Start at the beginning with ***The Shape of Water*** (UI Library Main Stacks [PQ4863.A3894F6713 2002](#)) and you'll be hooked as I am.



The other book I enjoyed greatly was a classic about baseball: ***The Glory of Their Times; the story of the early days of baseball told by the men who played it***, by **Laurence Ritter**, a collection of interviews of players mostly from the early part of the 20th century.