



ALL ABOUT BOOKS

March/April 2006

Largo Public Library Readers' Advisory Group

“The sole substitute for an experience which we have not ourselves lived through is art and literature.”

Alexander Solzhenitsyn

After You've Read Oprah's Pick...

Earlier this year, Oprah Winfrey selected Elie Wiesel's *Night* for her Book Club, saying that Wiesel's account of life in the Nazi death camps “should be required reading for all humanity.”

Since *Night* was first published in English in 1960, many authors have kept the memory of the Holocaust alive through their work. The experience of the Holocaust and the lessons to be gleaned from it have been transmitted from generation to generation not only by memoirs and history books, but also by fiction.

Writers of Holocaust-themed fiction include both survivors, such as Nobel peace prize winner Wiesel, and younger writers, two and three generations removed from World War II, such as novelists Jonathan Safran Foer and Nicole Krauss.

Each of these writers preserves the memory of the Holocaust in his or her own way: through historical fiction, set during World War II, or through a contemporary story, in which the Holocaust, or memory of the Holocaust, has an impact.

Holocaust-themed novels are fiction for both individual reflection and group discussion. Pick up a copy of our booklist **Read & Remember** at the first floor Information Desk for a list of suggested recent titles, with links to discussion guides, for yourself or your book group.

Holocaust Remembrance Day in the United States this year is April 25, 2006.

Sources:

“Holocaust Remembrance Day,” United States Holocaust Memorial Museum web site, www.ushmm.org (Dec. 2005).

Wyatt, Edward, “Oprah's Book Club Turns to Elie Wiesel,” [New York Times](http://www.nytimes.com) (January 16, 2006).

Get Ahead of the Crowd

Have you had the experience of discovering that a favorite author has a new book out, only to find that dozens of other readers have placed their requests for the book ahead of you?

Get ahead of the crowd: Pick up our new monthly booklist **Coming Soon! to Largo Public Library**, available at the first floor Information Desk and in the High Demand area near check out.

Each month we'll list upcoming titles by popular authors that we've ordered, as well as selected soon-to-be-published books that are getting some "buzz" in book reviews. In many cases, you'll hear about new books in **Coming Soon!** before they are advertised to the public in the media.

You can place a request through our catalog computers for any book the catalog indicates that we have "On Order." When the book is received in the Library, we'll fill the requests for it in the order the requests were received. For assistance in placing a request, see staff at the first floor Information Desk or second floor Reference Desk.

Mystery Lists You Might Have Missed

Mystery lovers are among Largo Public Library's most voracious readers. Many readers enjoy mystery series whose settings and sleuths reflect their own interests or give them a glimpse of a different era, occupation, or location.

The Largo Public Library Readers' Advisory Group recently compiled two new booklists for mystery lovers:

Supper Sleuths: Culinary Mysteries includes selected titles from more than 10 different authors, with a description of the main character of each series. Culinary mysteries are usually cozy mysteries that prominently feature food or cooking, sometimes with recipes included. The sleuths are almost always amateurs who have sniffed out a murder or a crime. The detective may dine well, or may run a catering service, restaurant or bakery. The sleuth is usually, but not always, a woman who solves the mystery through intuition and her knowledge of human nature. Fine dining meets murder!

Medieval Mysteries includes selected titles from nine different authors, with a description of the main character and time period for each series. Medieval mysteries take place in the time period between the fall of the Roman Empire and the beginning of the Renaissance (400-1500 AD). These mysteries generally feature main characters from the intelligentsia of their day: monks, nuns, physicians, and masters at universities.

Pick up copies of these new booklists at the Information Desk in the fiction area on the first floor.

The Second Story

Resources for Writers

Are you a writer as well as a reader? Many local writers rely on Largo Public Library for their research needs. Our nonfiction collection on the second floor has a large collection of handbooks especially for writers, as well as reference materials on a wide variety of topics.

Our collection of handbooks for writers includes general guides to writing, handbooks for writing particular kinds of fiction and nonfiction, guides for writing fiction set in specific historical periods, and handbooks for marketing and publishing your work.

Pick up our pamphlet **Resources for Writers @Largo Public Library** at the Reference Desk on the second floor as a guide for your research. The pamphlet contains:

- A selected list of handbooks for writers;
- Tips for searching our catalog;
- Instructions on locating and requesting books from other libraries;
- An outline of the Dewey Decimal Classification System as a guide for browsing the shelves; and
- A selected list of our online databases, many of which can be accessed from home through our web site, containing full-text reference book material and articles.

Staff at the Reference Desk can assist you in finding the research materials you need.

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