

“Manners DO Matter”

Workshop for ages 7-12 only
Saturday, June 16th
1:00-2:30 pm

Must register. Min/Max: 10/25
Last day to register is Wednesday, June 13th

presented by **STEPPING**
INTO *Etiquette*



Saturday, June 9th
10:00 am - 3:00 pm
at the library!

Sidewalk Book Sale!



Books &
more at
great
prices!

Friday, June 22nd
10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Fill a reusable
bag for \$5!

Hillside Public Library

405 Hillside Ave
Hillside, IL 60162
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www.hillsidelibrary.org

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Off the Shelf

Newsletter of the HILLSIDE PUBLIC LIBRARY



Summer 2012

Summer Hours

M-Th 10 am-9 pm
Fri & Sat 10 am-5 pm
Closed on Sundays

Library will close
at 5 pm on July 3rd

CLOSED July 4th

Book Corner

Douglas Losey, Library Director

Reading is an activity, like exercise, that can often get squeezed out of our daily schedule. Even though I work in a library, I also find it hard at times to read. Sometimes it is because life is too hectic at the moment or there is nothing that I really want to read at that moment. Fortunately, I have found opportunities to read more, and more importantly books I really want to read.

There have been a couple of books recently that I found impossible to put down. The book, *The Expats* by Chris Pavone is the story of Kate, who has had to cut short her 15-year career because her husband, Dexter, received a lucrative job offer in Luxembourg. Between interesting trivia points about Luxembourg and the daily humdrum of life, the story communicates the daily boredom of being an at home parent, after years in a career. This is done with sly humor and insightful observations which keep the book from itself becoming boring.

As Kate goes through her daily routines her curiosity is peaked and her skills as an ex CIA agent have her investigating her husband Dexter and their new friends Julia and Bill. The action escalates and surprises jump out at us. It is a fun suspenseful spy novel set in a suburban mindset. The ending is the final twist in the back and forth game of deceit and betrayal that keeps the novel moving.

In contrast to *The Expats*, two books by Connie Willis also had me fully engaged. *Blackout* and *All Clear* are novels set in the year 2060, when history is studied in person by time traveling historians. The three main characters, from 2060, are Michael, Merope, and Polly. They finally get to travel to World War II, but the once-reliable mechanisms of time travel are showing significant glitches. Stranded in London during the Blitz, Polly must find the other historians from her time period. As the three come together, to figure out how to return to their time, their lives become more intertwined in the day to day life of wartime London and the nightly bombings.

Both novels have engaging characters and a suspenseful series of events that illuminate the stress of life under the Blitz. I found myself living with the characters in London and wondering if they changed history and potentially the outcome of World War II. Through both books my interest was always maintained and I could barely wait to get back to London and find what happened next. The ending is melancholy but heartwarming while also tying up the loose ends.

I found *The Expats* and both *Blackout* and *All Clear* to be exciting books that I could not put down. As we slide into rerun season on TV and the warm days leave us wanting to go somewhere else, I suspect these books could be the perfect solution to summer boredom.



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