

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2016



Welcome to the April issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

In this issue: Recommended Reads

“Read the Book-Watch the Movie”

Special e-resource of the Month: Direct access to ScienceDirect!

Ever wonder what RTC faculty and staff are reading?

Reading Club News and Upcoming Events

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

***Bridge to Terabithia* by Katherine Paterson**

Bridge to Terabithia won the Newbery Medal for children's literature in 1978. It is a beautiful story about friendship and the power of friendship to transform lives.

Jess is eleven and somewhat of a loner. He likes to draw (an activity looked down upon by his father) and has hopes to become the fastest runner in the fifth grade. He has been running all summer and feels confident he will achieve his goal, until that is, Leslie, the new girl in fifth grade dashes by him on the very first race. Off to a shaky start, they soon become the best of friends. In Leslie and her family, Jess finds a confidence in himself he hasn't known before. Leslie encourages him to explore his imagination and his artistic talent. In Jess, Leslie is accepted and admired for you she is, rather than the odd girl her classmates make her out to be.

Paterson's characters come alive and we easily imagine thinking the thoughts that run through Jess's 11 year old mind as he visits the Smithsonian with Miss Edmunds or later at the Burke's home. Jess has a special, yet often times antagonistic, relationship with his six year old sister, May Belle, and we watch their bond grow throughout the story.

I saw the movie before I read the book and didn't expect that I would cry knowing how the story ends and yet, there I was on the last page my eyes filled with tears. Such is the power of a captivating story.

Amrita McKinney, Librarian

Location: FIC

Call No.: FIC P296b



Quotes

“Jess drew the way some people drink whiskey. The peace would start at the top of his muddled brain and seep down through his tired and tensed-up body. Lord, he loved to draw.”

“He didn't worry about a shirt because once he began running he would be hot as popping grease even if the morning air was chill, or shoes because the bottoms of his feet were by now as tough as his worn-out sneakers.”

***Are You Afraid of the Dark* by Sidney Sheldon**

As I start reading through the pages, I am strongly drawn towards the flow of the story. In the beginning I was thrown a little here and there, slightly confused as to what the author was yet to unfold. In a day or two, during those sweet passing hours, the story took hold. Now you ask, what assisted me to achieve this appreciation of the story. Here are a few words I would like to share.

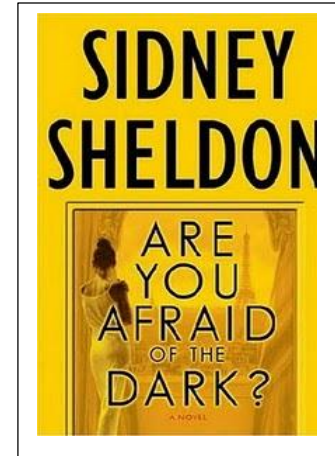
From the author's side, the power of being able to create picturesque scenes in the minds of the reader is what I liked most. The author's manner of using descriptive words both in areas of work and romance kept me curious from one sentence to the next. I admired his creation of situations which at times kept me worried and were filled with suspense.

This is the story of Diane and Kelly, two brave women who shatter the world's largest think tank. I am on edge when Diane, is on the verge of death and Kelly calls out to her and they are both saved from the armed man who is hiding behind a door. I was proud when these brave women avenged the death of their husbands.

I feel the real charm of the story would not have been there without feeling the love and loyalty we come to know that exists between the wives and their husbands.

Any story can be made beautiful, it all lies in what the readers take from it. **Jangchuk, BA Eng & Evs Student**

Location: MSS (Media Sharing Space)



Quotes

"At the defendant's table sat Anthony Altieri, slouched in a wheelchair, looking like a pale, fat frog folding in on itself. Only his eyes were alive and every time he looked at Diane Stevens in the witness chair, she could literally feel the pulse of his hatred."

"As Diane observed their departure, she remembered the first time she had watched Richard coach the boys. He had talked to them as though he were their age, in language they understood and they loved him for it..."

***The 3 Mistakes of My Life: A Story about Business, Cricket and Religion* by Chetan Bhagat**

I recently read an article which proclaimed that if you wanted an editor to read your book, you had to grab them from the very first page. This, I think, is true for the reader as well.

Bhagat has perhaps also read that advice. The opening of *The 3 Mistakes of My Life* is sure to draw you in. It begins: *It is not everyday you sit in front of your computer on a Saturday morning and get an email like this:*

“Dear Chetan. This email is a combined suicide note and a confession letter.”

Does it grab you? It did me. I've been curious to read a Chetan Bhagat novel to see why he is so well liked. I enjoyed his talk at last year's Mountain Echoes event and he is one of the Library's most checked out authors. I was, however, less eager to write a review, thinking, students are already reading him, is it really necessary? But... for those who have yet to discover this popular author, I'd like to recommend this book.

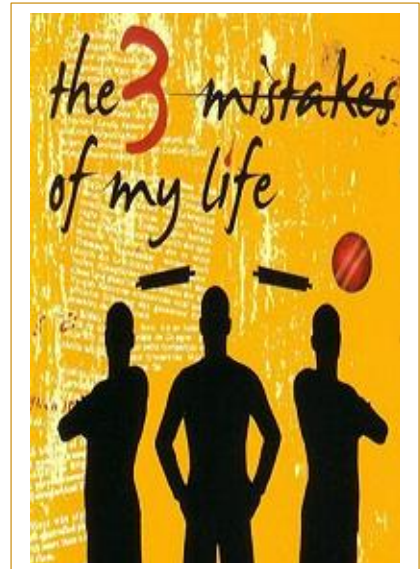
While I am none the wiser about cricket, although many pages are devoted to the sport, I rather enjoyed the obsession Govind and his two friends, Ish and Omi feel for the game (having once upon a time felt that passionate about baseball and the NY Yankees). In addition to cricket, the book addresses the religious tensions between Muslims and Hindus, which often lie beneath the surface and like a powder keg ignite in destructive ways, as they do in this story. We encounter Omi's complicated family loyalties, the growing relationship between Ali (a potential cricket superstar) and Ish, and Govind's relationship with Vidya (Ish's younger sister). Discover Govind's three mistakes, which have lead him to such despair and, of course, learn how things work out in the end.

This is a light, engaging read you will enjoy, if... you haven't already read *The 3 Mistakes of My Life*. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: FIC

Call No: FIC B5751th

P.S. We have Chetan Bhagat's other books as well.

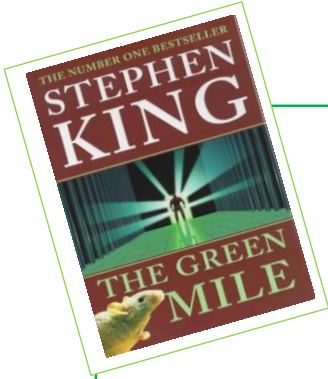


Quotes:

“Why on earth had I started this business? What an idiot I am? Why couldn't I open a sweet shop instead? Indians would always eat sweets. Why sports? Why cricket?”

"A 'very good friend' is a dangerous category with Indian girls. From here you can either make fast progress or if you play it wrong, you can go down to the lowest category invented by the Indian women ever - rakhi brother. Rakhi brother really means 'you can talk to me, but don't even freaking think about anything else you bore'."

"Life is tough when you are always talking to people smarter than you."



Read the book, watch the movie! (both are available on the MSS)

I'd watched *The Green Mile* a few times before reading the book and enjoyed it each time. I hadn't realized the book (or for that matter another prison story, *The Shawshank Redemption*) was written by horror/supernatural author, Stephen King, a writer I had previously dismissed, being no fan of horror. Surprise, surprise! I liked the book as much as the movie. King, I discovered is a darn good writer and storyteller.

The Green Mile is set in early 1930's Louisiana. Mostly within Cold Mountain Penitentiary on E-Block, Death Row, aka The Green Mile. As Paul says, "They usually call Death Row the Last Mile, but we called ours *the Green Mile* because the floor was the color of faded limes."

Although the book is not your classic horror tale, there's plenty of unpleasantnries to be found in its rendering of human situations. There is the horror of racial prejudice and hatred that allows an innocent black man, big John Coffey, to be convicted for two heinous murders committed by someone else and the horror of good, decent, compassionate men who must put him to death. There is the horrible death of "Del" in the electric chair, burned alive because a sadistic guard purposefully forgets to soak the sponge.

There is the supernatural too, in John Coffey's gift of healing, which puts him in the wrong place at the wrong time as he tries to revive two dead girls. His attempt lands him on death row, where he uses his gift in assorted ways. Coffey is an overly sensitive person who feels the pain of others. In one conversation with Paul, he says, "... I'm tired of people being ugly to each other. I'm tired of all the pain I feel and hear in the world every day. There's too much of it — it's like pieces of glass in my head, *all the time*."

The story is told by Paul Edgecombe, one-time prison officer in charge of the Green Mile. In the book, Paul is writing a novel, in the movie, he is telling his story to Elaine, a female companion at the senior citizen's home. Paul, now over 100 years old, is wondering whether Coffey's gift is perhaps a curse.

The movie, starring Tom Hanks, is a faithful adaptation of the book and the actors take on the life of the characters so vividly created by King. I thought the actors perfectly cast, and their performances superb. The camaraderie between Paul, Brutal, Harry, and Dean on the Green Mile is nicely executed and just how much Percy's behavior disrupts "The Mile". *The Green Mile* was nominated for four Academy Awards, and although it came away with no Oscars, the following year it picked up a number of wins at other award ceremonies.

Both the book and movie are highly recommended. Check them out!

Science Direct

As a developing country, Bhutan currently has free access to four Research4Life databases: AGORA, ARDI, HINARI, and OARE

These databases keep on getting better and easier to use!

The newest development...

As a Research4Life participant, we now have direct access to ScienceDirect. This is pretty darn exciting and empowering for you as an RTC student, faculty or staff member.

ScienceDirect primarily focuses on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) research. However, as you can see from the publication subject categories below and my search strategy on the next page, it does contain articles in the social sciences.

Many universities and colleges pay thousands of dollars for ScienceDirect. I hope you will make good use of our free access.

Keep in mind: Not everything in AGORA, ARDI, HINARI, and OARE can be found in ScienceDirect, so check out these databases as well.

To Read more: [Transitioning from Research4Life to ScienceDirect](#)

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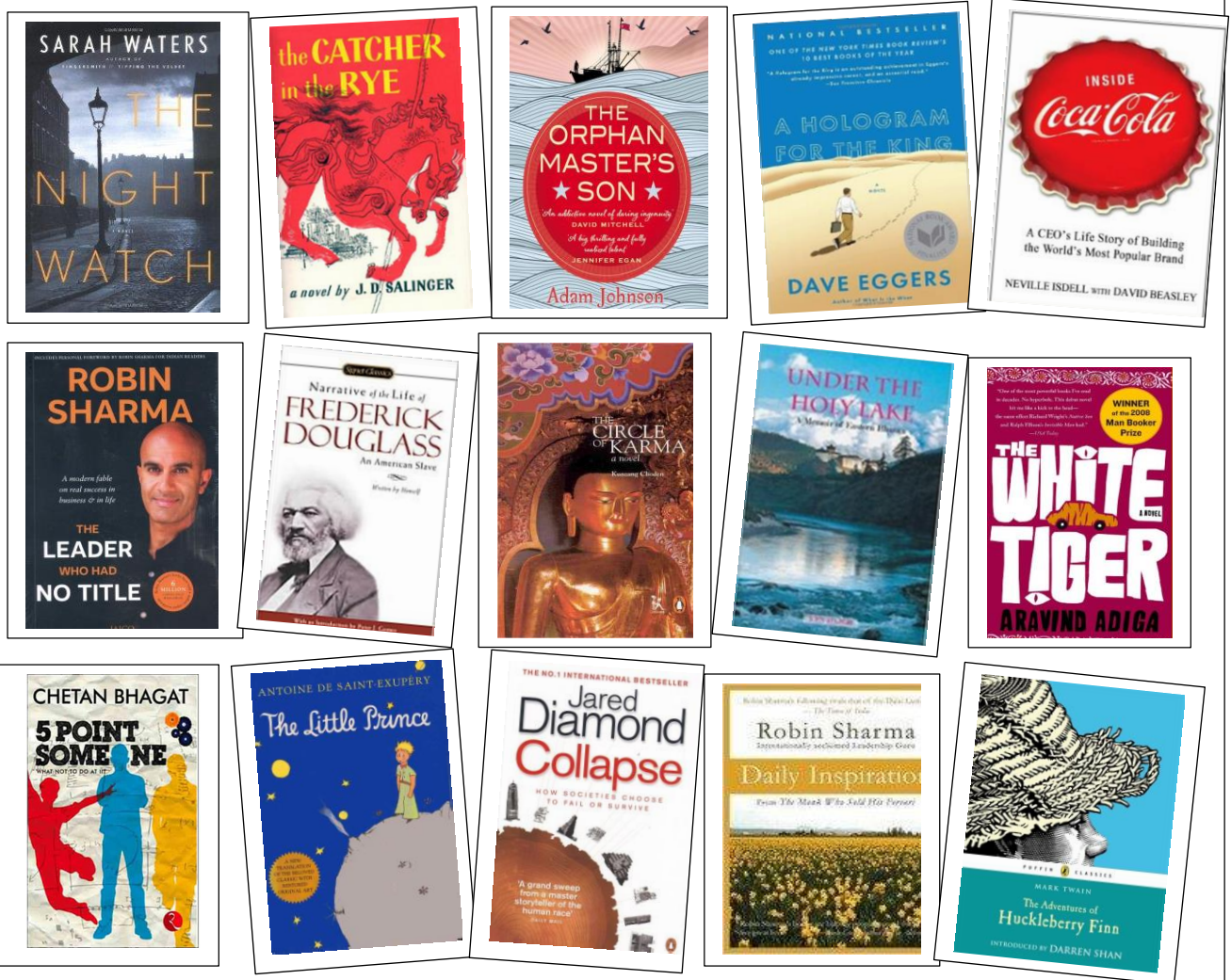
Our User Name and Password can be found on the RTC Cloud in the Library PUBLIC Folder, Access Instructions for Databases Subfolder.

Use the Username and Password for either AGORA, ARDI, HINARI, or OARE.

Contact the Librarian if you would like to learn more about either ScienceDirect or the Research4Life databases.

Have you ever wondered what faculty and staff at RTC are reading?

Come to the Library and check out the new display of books RTC faculty and staff have enjoyed and discover who's reading what.



News from the Reading Club

On 22 March, a group of faculty, staff and students gathered at the Executive Center to enjoy an interesting and engaging talk by Ivor Hanson. Ivor discussed his determination to write a book and the challenges and rewards he encountered writing his memoir: **Life on the Ledge: Reflections of a New York City Window Cleaner**. Ivor has donated a copy of his book to the Library. Check it out. Location: MAIN, CALL No: 818 H2511L 2005

On 5 April, the Reading Club met to discuss the book: **Please Look After Mom** by Korean author Shin Kyung-sook. Faculty, staff and students from a number of different programs gathered to share stories about moms and the compare similarities between Korean and Bhutanese cultures as more youth migrate to the cities. We all gave the book a thumbs up. The book is available to download on the MSS.

Upcoming Reading Club events

On April 19, join us for a Poetry Reading and a Q & A with the Poets. The poets will read and discuss their poems, which were recently published in: **Folded into a Paper Boat: a Collection of Poetry from Bhutan**. The Library has copies. Check them out. Location: MAIN, CALL No.: 895.1 B5752f 2015

The Reading Club has selected its next book. Join us in reading: **A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini. We will meet on the 3rd of May to share our thoughts on the book. The book is available to download on the MSS.

Campus Crush

Follow budding RTC author, Kezang Choden's (B.A Sociology and Political Science) story: **Campus Crush** in upcoming issues of *Bhutan Today*. Chapter 1 began in the Thursday, March 31, 2016 issue. (Available in the Library).

WANTED: Book Reviews for the next Library Newsletter

Have you read a good book recently? Want to share your thoughts on the book with others? Send your review to amckinney@rtc.bt or come by the library and see me. Thanks!