

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2017



Welcome to the August 2017 issue of *RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER*

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Recommended Reads from the RTC community

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon

Everything, Everything by Nicola Yoon is the author's first young adult novel. It is about a girl named Madeline who has a disease called SCID. SCID stands for severe combined immunodeficiency, and it is commonly referred to as "bubble baby disease." Madeline has lived for 18 years in a sterile, closed house with her mother who is a physician.

Madeline is a bright, amazing young woman who makes the best of life by playing games with her mother, studying with online tutors, and writing brief spoiler book reviews on Tumblr. When a new family moves in next door and Madeline sees Olly for the first time, her life is completely turned upside down. Olly, a white boy with "a pale honey tan" and parkour moves, also sees Madeline and wants to meet her. But her sickness and her overprotective mother won't allow it.

Olly keeps visiting Madeline's house with a bundt cake as an excuse until he gets her email address. From then on, they start getting to know each other through chats. Madeline—half Japanese, half African-American—chronicles her efforts to get to know Olly as she considers risking everything to be with him.

Her understanding and wise nurse Carla, comes to know all about Madeline's feelings - that it's painfully hard to be a teenager with a crush, yearning to venture outside and experience the world - feelings she keeps from her mother. Eventually with the help of Carla and her willingness to take risks, Madeline and Olly fall in love.

I really liked this book as it was short and adorable. I enjoyed the little graphics like when they were instant messaging. It was as if I was reading the feed and it added to the story. Surprisingly, I found out that the graphics were done by the author's husband.

Nikola Yoon has created complex characters with rich dialogue that ranges from humorous to serious. This heart-warming story explores the hopes, dreams and the risks of love in all of its forms.

This wonderful book was recently made into a movie. I hope the movie is as equally beautiful as the book. I can't wait to read Yoon's second book, *The Sun is also a Star*. **Tashi Choden, Assistant Librarian**

Location: FIC FIC Y59e



Quotes:

"Sometimes I reread my favorite books from back to front. I start with the last chapter and read backward until I get to the beginning. When you read this way, characters go from hope to despair, from self-knowledge to doubt. In love stories, couples start out as lovers and end as strangers. Coming-of-age books become stories of losing your way. Your favorite characters come back to life. If my life were a book and you read it backward, nothing would change. Today is the same as yesterday. Tomorrow will be the same as today."

"Maybe we can't predict everything, but we can predict some things. For example, I am certainly going to fall in love with Olly. It's almost certainly going to be a disaster"

This is Where I Am by Karen Campbell

This is Where I Am by Karen Campbell is the story of Deborah and Abdi who are brought together when Deborah - newly widowed and still grieving for her husband - volunteers as a mentor for new immigrants. She is assigned, Abdi, a young Somali man, who has arrived in Scotland seeking asylum, with his four year old daughter, Rebecca. Abdi and Rebecca have recently escaped from Dadaab, a Kenyan refugee camp. The last thing Abdi sees as their truck speeds away are men grabbing his wife, Azira (who is unable to catch up to the truck), and blood.

The story is told over a twelve month period. I liked that some of the chapters begin with a description of a Glaswegian attraction - a place Deborah selects to take Abdi to during their once a month scheduled outing. On one occasion, Abdi brings Rebecca, who has not spoken since leaving Africa. As Rebecca begins to trust Deborah, she slowly begins to speak and we discover why she stopped talking.

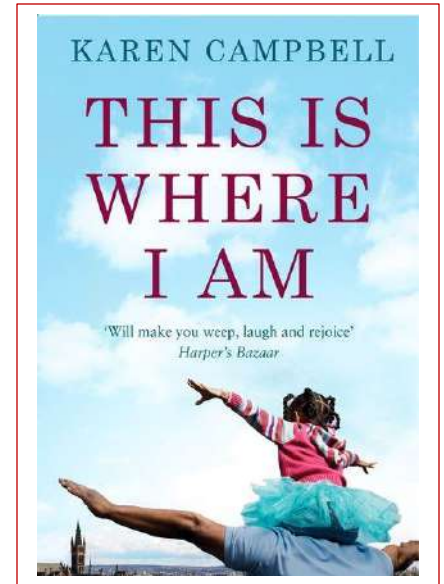
Campbell tells a compelling story and skillfully moves from Abdi's to Deborah's voice as they alternate as narrator with each chapter. Through the technique of two narrators, we hear the story from both perspectives and gain insight into their misunderstandings with each other, and the anger and hurt each keeps inside. Campbell captures the uncertainty and the complexity of Abdi's struggle as he comes to face the past and settles into a new environment.

Abdi is kindhearted and befriends an odd assortment of local Glaswegians, who Campbell captures in their native dialect. Not everyone, however, is accepting of immigrants and Abdi on occasion faces racism and discrimination as others see him as nothing but a dumb immigrant. A term he often calls himself. Before coming to Scotland, Abdi was a fisherman turned teacher and it is his dream to attend college and teach once again.

Abdi and Rebecca move into new housing, Abdi is accepted into college, and starts a job in a fish market (courtesy of Deborah's brother-in-law). Things begin to look up until one day, Abdi's world is shaken apart and he is forced to face his demons.

This is Where I Am is a heartwarming story of loss, grief, friendship, and hope. At a time when refugees are fleeing war and famine around the world, Campbell has provided us with a story into which we can step into the shoes of a recent immigrant. Through Abdi, we experience the plight of immigrants fleeing their troubled homeland, a familiar world now lost to them and the challenges and uncertainty they confront on a daily basis as they begin to rebuild a life for themselves in a strange, sometimes welcoming and sometimes hostile new land. Highly recommended. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

**Location: FIC
FIC C1871t**



Quotes:

"I lift the picture frame that sits on the shelf, wish beyond almost anything that my family's faces were inside it."

"I am not in Kenya. I am not in Kenya. Part of me is. Kenya is very far way, but it inhabits me, always. My blood is in its soil and its soil is in my blood. Buried in the soles of my feet."

"Her tone is . . . tart. This is a new word I've learned, and I love its clever playfulness, how it mimics the sensation of sour rhubarb which is in a tart and sour expression which is in Deborah."

"My stomach shrinks as the landscape expands."

"I could accept the sun had left us, but I struggled to understand where the moon was. At home, the moon and stars are so big, you can see by them, work by them through the night."

"The country that you have been sent to, that had said it would welcome you, and then sends you to hell, now welcomes you again."

The Garden of Evening Mists by Tan Twan Eng

The Garden of Evening Mists by the Malaysian author, Tan Twan Eng, is a beautifully written historical novel set in Malaysia that begins in the late 1980s and takes us back in time to the early 1950s with flashbacks to WWII.

Yun Ling, a judge, has taken an early retirement from the bench after being diagnosed with the onset of dementia. She returns to the Cameron Highlands where she once lived after the defeat of Japan in WWII. On her return, her friend Frederick and current owner of Majuba Tea Estate, suggests she write down her memories. As Yun Ling begins to do so, she observes: *"I have spent most of my life trying to forget, and now all I want is to remember. I will have to uproot my memories in the soil I have buried them in."* During the war, Malaya was invaded and held captive by the Japanese, who ruled with a brutal hand, committing atrocities on the local population. Yun Ling survived her internment, her older sister, Yun Hong forced to be a 'comfort woman', did not.

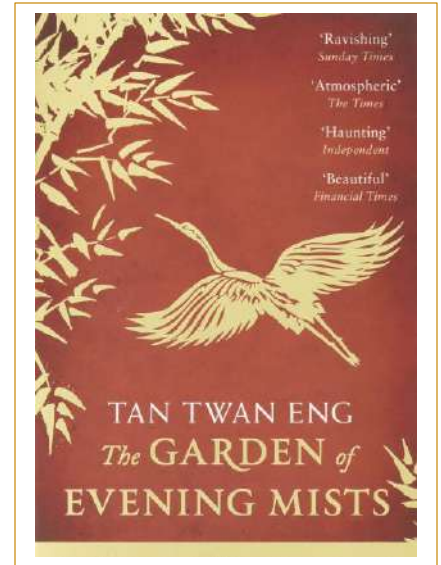
Following the war, after first successfully prosecuting Japanese war criminals, Yun Ling arrives at Majuba to stay with Magnus (an Afrikaans who learned about tea growing while a prisoner of the British in Sri Lanka) and his Chinese wife, Emily. While there, Yun Ling visits nearby Yugiri (meaning Evening Mist) to ask Aritomo to build a Japanese Garden in memory of her sister. Before the war, the sisters had visited Japan and Yun Hong had fallen in love with their gardens. Aritomo we learn was once a gardener to the emperor (a family tradition dating back to the 16th century). He refuses to do so, but agrees to accept Yun Ling as his apprentice.

Eng introduces us to the beauty and serenity of Japanese gardening and the art of *sakkei*, borrowed scenery. We learn something too about the Zen of archery, Japanese woodblocks and *horimono*, the art of Japanese tattooing.

This is a poignant story about forgetting and remembrance. Eng's descriptions are poetic and vibrantly expressive. His writing drew me into the story and the environment he describes: the lush tropical forests and the serenity of Yugiri. The images his words create in my mind's eye stay with me long after finishing this wonderful novel. One of my favorite descriptions is his *"The foothills began here, rising into mountains tonsured in clouds."* Once I looked up the word tonsure and saw a picture of a tonsure haircut, I smiled, and thought of the many times I have seen the same picturesque mountain scene here in Bhutan. Eng has gifted me the words to describe this magical, delightful sight.

Highly recommended. **Amrita McKinney, Librarian**

Location: FIC
Call No.: FIC E571g



Quotes:

"The pearls around her neck were as delicate as morning dew beaded on a spider web."

"Feel your body expanding as you breathe: that is where we live, in the moments between each inhalation and exhalation."

"Your mind is just like a strip of flypaper hanging from the ceiling. Every thought, however fleeting and inconsequential, sticks to it."

"In the space between releasing the bowstring and the arrow hitting the target, I discovered a quiet place I could escape into, a slit in time in which I could hide."

"They couldn't kill me when we were at war. And they couldn't kill me when I was in the camp... but holding on to my hatred for forty-six years... that would have killed me."

"A garden is composed of a variety of clocks, Aritomo had told me. Some of them run faster than others, and some of them move slower than we can perceive."

"Don't look so angry, lah - old people are allowed to be tactless. Otherwise where's the fun in growing old?"

Read the book, watch the movie!



Girl with the Pearl Earring

Book by Tracy Chevalier

Movie starring: Scarlett Johansson and Colin Firth

Girl with a Pearl Earring offers the reader an interesting look into the story behind the famous painting (sometimes called the Mona Lisa of the North) by Dutch painter, Johannes Vermeer. Chevalier creates an engaging tale to answer the question - Who is the girl in the picture and what was her relationship to the painter?

Set in Delft, Holland in the 17th century, *Girl with a Pearl Earring* tells the story of sixteen year old Griet, who goes to work as a maid for the Vermeer family after her father is blinded in an accident while making ceramic tiles. Griet is responsible for the Vermeer household's washing and shopping, as well as cleaning the artist's studio. Appreciating her inquisitiveness and perception, Vermeer entrusts Griet to purchase his painting material and to mix his paints. As they work together, he begins to see her as someone who possesses an artistic bent and may understand his art. On one occasion, Vermeer points to the clouds and asks Griet to tell him their color. At first, she answers white. But as she looks more closely, she says gray, and yellow, and blue. In another instance, she boldly moves an object for his painting, aware that it creates a better picture. But will he think so? Will he be angry? Their relationship evolves into something more than master and maid. This does not, of course, go unnoticed under the watchful eyes of Vermeer's mother-in-law, his jealous wife (who is banned from the studio), and his eldest daughter, Cornelia.

Meanwhile, Griet is pursued by Pieter, the handsome butcher's son, who wants to marry Griet and the lecherous van Ruijven, art patron and Vermeer's benefactor, who is enchanted with the "wide-eyed girl", but who has less noble intentions in mind. Van Ruijven wants Vermeer to paint a picture of him and Griet together, a request Vermeer refuses. But he does agree to paint Griet alone, and this is to have calamitous consequences for Griet.

The movie omits a number of interesting characters, other paintings, and side stories that include Griet's brother, Frans, and sister, Agnes, all of which Chevalier masterfully weaves into the larger story. I enjoyed the book very much. It is better (as books often are) than the movie. Having said that... the movie is a pleasant adaptation (although some might find it slow in parts). Visually, the movie offers a captivating look at life in 17th century Holland. It depicts the lifestyles of the time, the hardships of a maid's life, and the limits Griet faces due to her "station in life".

The actors are well cast and the supporting staff enhance the movie and capture the tensions within the household. Scarlett Johansson plays a convincing demure Griet while Colin Firth portrays Vermeer as a man of few words, a serious precise painter with a large family to support.

The book:
Location: FIC
Call no: FIC C5271g

The movie:
Available on the MSS

New to the RTC Library?

Here are some things you'll want to know!

The Library provides access to the following Full Text databases:

[Academic Search Complete](#) – a comprehensive scholarly, multi-disciplinary full-text database, with more than 8,500 full-text periodicals, including more than 7,300 peer-reviewed journals. In addition to full text, ASC offers indexing and abstracts for more than 12,500 journals and a total of more than 13,200 publications including monographs, reports, and conference proceedings. **NOTE:** ACS is accessible only through the campus wi-fi.

[ScienceDirect](#) – available through Research4Life, RTC has access to the world's leading source for scientific, technical and medical research. **NOTE:** For Instruction on how to use ScienceDirect and needed Username and Password, access the RTC Cloud folder: *Library PUBLIC Folder / Access Instructions for Databases*. Available on and off campus.

[AGORA](#) – Global Online Research in Agriculture provides access to full-text articles in more than 6,000 journals and 5,800 ebooks. **NOTE:** For Username and Password access, RTC Cloud: *Library PUBLIC Folder / Access Instructions for Databases* (subfolder).

[OARE](#) – Online Access to Research in the Environment (OARE) provides full-text to more than 6,500 journals, 18,000 ebooks, as well as other information resources. **NOTE:** For Username and Password, access RTC Cloud: *Library PUBLIC Folder / Access Instructions for Databases* (subfolder).

[HINARI](#) – Research in Health contains 14,000 journals, 33,000 ebooks, and over 90 other information resources. **NOTE:** For Username and Password access RTC Cloud: *Library PUBLIC Folder / Access Instructions for Databases* (subfolder).

[The Library Webpage](#) – provides helpful links to Online Resources to get you started on your research.

[The Library Catalog](#) – provides access to over 5,500 books, government publications, and more.

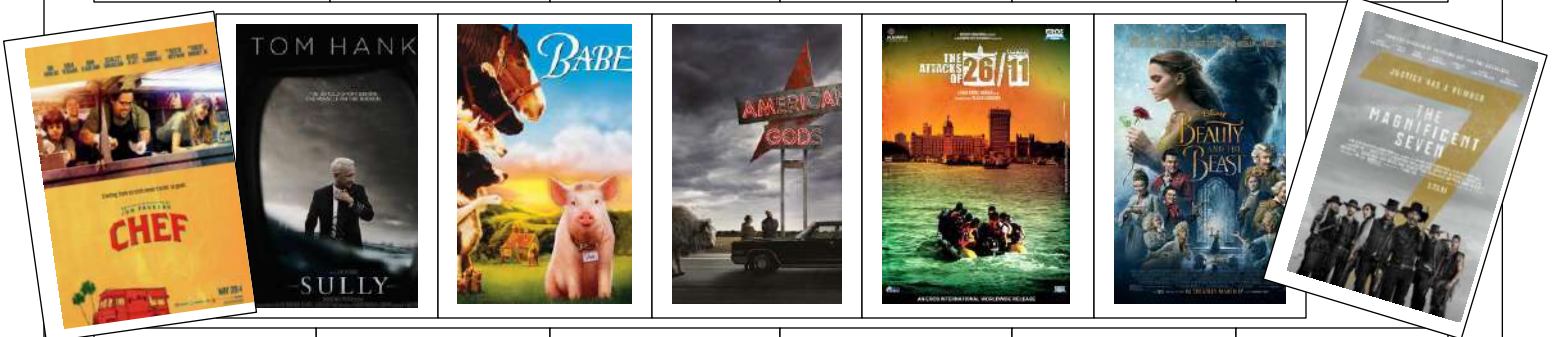
[Media Sharing Space](#) – provides access to over 1000 movies, documentaries, and TV shows.

Currently available to download from library computers only.

Need assistance? Ask a Librarian. We're here to help!

Recently added Movies and TV Shows

The Library recently added lots of movies and TV series to the MSS (below is just a sample). Currently, these movies are available to download from any of the computers in the Library. We've got documentaries, academy award winners, animation, American and Korean TV shows, foreign films, classics, and all-time favorites in all genres ... With over 1000 movies to choose from, there is sure to be something to suite your fancy.



Need help finding a movie? Ask a Librarian.

Wanted! Book reviews from Faculty, Staff, and Students

If you have read a good book and would like to contribute a review to the Library Newsletter, we would love to receive one from you. If interested, come to the library and talk to one of the librarians. Thanks!!