

RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

Welcome to the SEPTEMBER 2021 issue of RTC LIBRARY E-NEWSLETTER

In this issue: Recommended Reads: Bridge Across my Sorrows, The Angel's Game, The Bridges of Madison County.

Recommended Reads from the RTC community

Bridge across my sorrows: by Christina Noble

“I came to Vietnam because of a dream I had almost twenty years ago. The dream told me to work with the children of this poor, jangled, disease-ridden country...Here my dream, my destiny, would be fulfilled. Here the pain and the sorrow and the anger of my childhood in Ireland would be resolved. I would work with the street children of Ho Chi Minh City. I would work with the ill and the unwanted, with the lonely and the misbegotten, with the throw-away children of this war-torn country. I would work with the children who were living as I had lived so long ago in Dublin...Vietnam would be the bridge across my sorrows. “

Christina Noble writes about her childhood in Dublin. Her mother dies when Christina is a young girl; her father is an alcoholic and cannot take care of the family. Christina ends up in an orphanage, and is sexually abused. She marries a violent man. Despite all this she finds the will to fight back and this brings her to Vietnam. The first half of the book is about Christina's life in Dublin and later in England. The second half details her work in Vietnam.

Christina is a remarkable woman and her story is both heartbreaking and inspiring!

More information about the work being done by Christina Noble Children's Foundation:

<http://www.cncf.org/en/home/index.php>

Thank you
Kerstin Brütte
Former Librarian

The angel's game: Carlos Ruiz Zafon

This is a dark, macabre gothic fable. It's an adventure of intrigue, romance, and tragedy. A young author, the narrator of the novel David Martin, has settled in an old dilapidated tower house in the Raval district of Barcelona, Spain. David writes stories under a pseudonym. He has survived a difficult childhood and has taken refuge in the world of books. He is about to become a bestselling author, but not everything turns out as intended. His life is darkened by unhappy love and the agreement he signed with a publisher turns out to be a slave contract. One day a publisher comes out from the shadows and gives him a strange offer that he cannot resist. The publisher asks David to write a book unlike anything that has ever existed. In return, he will receive a large sum of money – and perhaps something more. When David begins writing he realizes that there is a connection between his haunting book and the shadows that surround him. Has he signed a contract with the devil or an angel? Soon he finds himself trapped in enigmatic and nightmare-like maze from which he cannot escape.

Quotes from the book:

- “A writer never forgets the first time he accepted a few coins or a word of praise in exchange for a story. He will never forget the sweet poison of vanity in his blood and the belief that, if he succeeds in not letting anyone discover his lack of talent, the dream of literature will provide him with a roof over his head, a hot meal at the end of the day, and what he covets the most: his name printed on a miserable piece of paper that surely will outlive him. A writer is condemned to remember that moment, because from then on he is doomed and his soul has a price.”
- “Every book has a soul, the soul of the person who wrote it and the soul of those who read it and dream about it.”
- “It's curious how easy it is to tell a piece of paper what you don't dare say to someone's face.”
- “Every work of art is aggressive, Isabella. And every artist's life is a small war or a large one, beginning with oneself and one's limitations. To achieve anything you must first have ambition and then talent, knowledge, and finally the opportunity.”
Another book by the same author: The shadow of the wind.

**Thank you
Kerstin Brütte
Former Librarian**

The bridges of Madison county: by Robert James Waller

“A man. A woman. The heat of an Iowa summer. And the brief encounter whose passion will last a lifetime.”

This is the story of Robert Kincaid, a photographer from Bellingham, Washington, working at the National Geographic. He sets out in search for the covered bridges of Madison County, Iowa, where he encounters a farmer's wife Francesca Johnson. They spend only four days together but these four days change their lives forever. It's about love and how it is to be loved so intensely that life is never the same again. Francesca has to make a very difficult decision – should she follow her heart which means leaving her obligations, husband and children. Francesca never told anyone about the affair but she wrote down everything in a diary which her two adult children read after she has died.

Quotes from the book:

- “The old dreams were good dreams; they didn't work out, but I'm glad I had them.”
- “It's clear to me now that I have been moving toward you and you toward me for a long time. Though neither of us was aware of the other before we met, there was a kind of mindless certainty bumping blithely along beneath our ignorance that ensured we would come together. Like two solitary birds flying the great prairies by celestial reckoning, all of these years and lifetimes we have been moving toward one another.”
- “We are the choices we make.”

The novel is one of the bestselling books of the 20th century. It has also been adapted into a movie in 1995 starring Meryl Streep and Clint Eastwood.

Thank you
Kerstin Brütte
Former 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. Tell us a little about the book and why you liked it in 250-500 words. If interested, send your review to gyanupradhan@rtc.bt or come by the library and see the library staff.

Thanks!!

YOU MUST TELL YOURSELF, "NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS, OR HOW HARD IT GETS, I AM GOING TO MAKE IT..."-Les Brown.