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Free Tax Preparation

AARP will be providing free services (by appointment only) at UCPL again this year. Contact us at 423-743-6533 for more info on how to schedule your visit with the AARP tax advisor.



Recent adds to our Amazon Wishlist



Let your shelf do the talking!
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I found a new favorite. *The Beach House* by Rachel Hanna was a great read. Though you won't find shocking plots or out of this world details, you will find a story that is relatable to the reader. Best part is, it's book one of a series!! I give it 5 stars for a comfort read!

New author to UCPL

Mariah Stewart

Grab a read from her *Wyndham Beach* series next time you are in the library. We'd love to hear your feedback!



Black History Month Facts:

- Carter G. Woodson founded Negro History Week in 1926 to shine light on and encourage schools to study the lives of Black Americans.
- During the '60s, Negro History Week became nationally recognized and expanded to a month long celebration.
- President Gerald Ford officially claimed February as Black History Month in 1976. The month seemed fitting as Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass's birthdays fell in the month of February.

Going Down The Rabbit Hole By Thomas Gaetano

George Orwell



Even if someone never read any novels by George Orwell, chances are the name is immediately recognized and associated with grim stories about how far humanity can fall into oppressive dystopian power structures. I went down that rabbit hole after finally reading his most famous novel, 1984, and found out about his own experiences during colonial England and the Spanish Civil War. According to his biography in the Signet Classics print of 1984, he served in the Imperial Police Force in Burma and under the loyalist forces in Spain. He clearly was inspired by these first hand experiences of humanity at its worst to write ominous warnings about the dangers of unchecked totalitarianism. Additionally, during his life he adamantly opposed a biography to ever be written about his life. While never clearly stating his motives, those closest to him attributed this to his reclusiveness and disbelief that any writer can definitely speak of his true inner self beyond psychological speculation. I suppose George Orwell (aka Eric Blair), did not want a picture of his inner self catapulted into the zeitgeist of the future by anyone other than himself.

<https://www.nytimes.com/1972/11/12/archives/the-unknown-orwell-by-peter-stansky-and-william-abrahams.html>

Agatha Christie

One of my favorite episodes of the revamped science fiction series, Doctor Who, focused on the classic crime novelist Agatha Christie. In the story, a famous mystery is presented in which Christie disappears and eventually is found after 11 days without an explanation. Certainly it is a bit of historical fiction created to serve the plot about an alien monster attacking a party in the 1920s. However, after going down the rabbit hole, I found the story to actually be true. She did leave her Berkshire home in early December of 1926, and thanks to her fame from publishing mystery crime thrillers, many took immediate notice. Her whereabouts were investigated by a thousand policemen and even Sir Arthur Conan Doyle! She was spotted enjoying herself at the renowned Harrogate Hotel and was not in any distress. In fact, quite the opposite as she checked in using the name of her husband's mistress and participated in the hotel festivities. She never spoke of her disappearance, claiming to have no memory of it. Maybe she was in a distress driven fugue state, or maybe she just wanted to keep one mystery all to herself. We'll probably never know for sure.

historyextra.com/period/20th-century/agatha-christie-disappearance-mystery-facts-poirot-miss-marple-detective/

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