

WAREHAM FREE LIBRARY – DECEMBER 2022 STAFF READER'S ADVISORY PICKS

Week of 11/28-12/3/2022



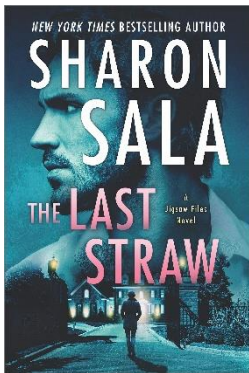
Bri

Title: **I Want to Be a Vase**

Author: **Julio Torres** Illustrator: **Julian Glander**

Juvenile Fiction Picturebook

By far one of the strangest kid's books that I've read in a while! It's about a toilet plunger that wants to be a vase. Throughout the story, there are plenty of other objects wishing to be something else, like a hair dryer that wants to be a vacuum cleaner. In the end, the household objects find creative ways to achieve their dreams! What really got me with this book are the illustrations. The art style uses 3-D shapes and a heavily saturated color palette, giving it a visually unique look that reminds me of stop motion animation.



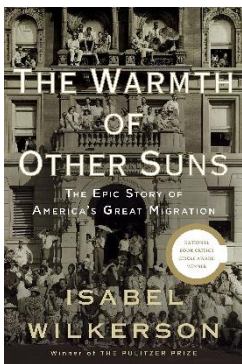
Christina

Title: **The Last Straw (The Jigsaw Files, no. 4)**

Author: **Sharon Sala**

Mystery

The series finale brings us back to Charlie Dodge and Wyrick as they scramble to stop a murderer from claiming another victim. A woman reports that her sister has disappeared from her Dallas apartment and no clues have been left behind to point them in the right direction. Meanwhile, Wyrick is still grappling with a secretive, corrupt organization from her past that is now threatening her life. Charlie is deeply concerned for Wyrick and goes above and beyond to help eliminate this threat, but can he put aside his own challenges to save both Wyrick and a missing person?



Jen

Title: **The Warmth of Other Suns**

Author: **Isabel Wilkerson**

Non-Fiction

An epic and historical story of how and why millions of Black Americans left the South between 1915 and 1970 to escape the brutality of the Jim Crow Laws and find safety, better pay, and more freedom in what is known today as "The Great Migration."



Kathy

Title: **The Harry Bosch Series**

Author: **Michael Connelly**

Suspense Fiction

Instead of just one book, I have chosen a series I love this time! Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch is a Vietnam War Veteran and a tough LAPD Detective fighting for justice, no matter what the consequences. When you read a series you get a much deeper character background allowing you to really 'inhabit' the story. Life experience has helped Harry form his own code of justice for all.



Kaya

Title: **The Testing**

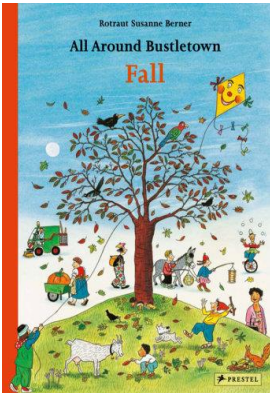
Author: **Joelle Charbonneau**

Thriller/Suspense Fiction

The first in a dangerous and action-packed trilogy set in a dystopian world. After graduation, the best and the brightest high school students are selected to participate in the United Commonwealth program to become potential leaders in a struggling post-war civilization. However, as the main character, Cia, is initiated into the program, she quickly realizes that the stakes are far higher than she anticipated and she must fight to

survive **The Testing**.

The Testing was a thrilling story that inspired me academically and one that I really enjoyed for the action. If you enjoyed *The Hunger Games* or *Red Rising*, I would absolutely recommend this book.



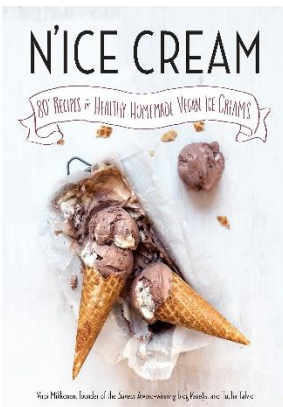
Marcia

Title: **All Around Bustle Town - Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall (Series)**

Author: **Routraut Suzanne Berner**

Wordless Picture Book

This is a four book series that is like Richard Scarry's *Busy World*, but with a European flair on steroids. Your child will spend hours pouring over the detailed illustrations and eventual tell their own stories as they follow the busy lives of the people, flora and fauna in a quaint town. This would make a great holiday gift for a child 2 to 5 years old!!



Melissa

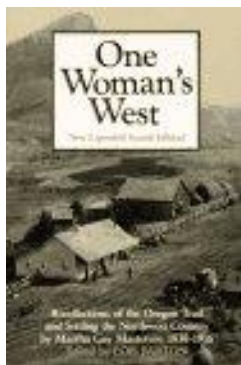
Title: **N'ice Cream - 80+ Recipes for Healthy Homemade Vegan Ice Creams**

Author: **Virpi Mikkonen & Tuulia Talvio**

Cookbook

This cookbook of healthy and unusual ice cream, ice pops, sorbets, milkshakes, ice cream cakes & cookies had me drooling before I opened the cover. I had originally checked out the book for a research assignment without really anticipating the wonderful contents.

With my love of the icy treat, this book written by two Finnish ice cream lovers and food bloggers has me sold on the healthy versions crafted within. Whether you're vegan or just looking for a way to still include dessert in your daily diet, these super easy and wholesome alternatives will leave you feeling good about taking that bite without a single twinge of regret. Yummy!



Christina

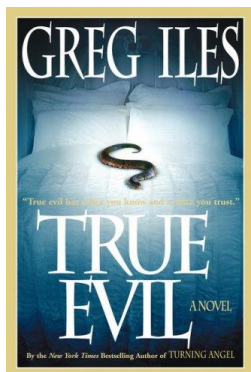
Title: **One Woman's West: Recollections of the Oregon Trail and Settling of the Northwest Country**

Author: **Marsha Gay Masterson**

Historical Autobiography

This is an account of the author's journey along the Oregon Trail with her family. They left the Midwest for Oregon when she was very young. She details the challenges and hardships they encountered along the way, but also mentions relationships they formed and important lessons learned. The reader will also get a glimpse into her life after their trip, which was at times more full of obstacles than it was on the trail.

Overall, this book helped me gain some perspective on the challenges of our time in comparison to those of decades and centuries past. I highly recommend this for anyone looking to expand their knowledge of history or get a sense of what life was like during the time of our country's expansion.



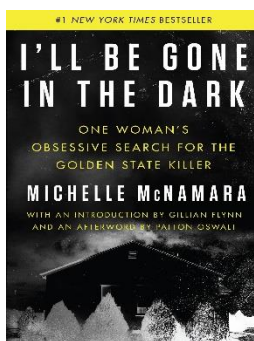
Jen

Title: **True Evil**

Author: **Greg Iles**

Thriller/Suspense Fiction

This book is an electrifying serial killer thriller with a plot that is part suspense, part murder and part thriller. It is about an FBI negotiator and a Southern doctor who is pulled into a terrifying ring of murderous secrets. This book is not for the faint of heart.



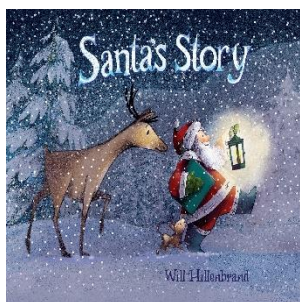
Kathy

Title: **I'll Be Gone in the Dark**

Author: **Michelle McNamara**

Thriller/Suspense Fiction

Riveting true crime! Journalist Michelle McNamara became obsessed with the search for the Golden State Killer. This book is a chronicle of her search and how she conducted it. She tragically died before the book was finished, but the foundation she laid did lead investigators in the right direction and the capture was made just 2 months after publication. A thrilling story that will make you lock your doors!



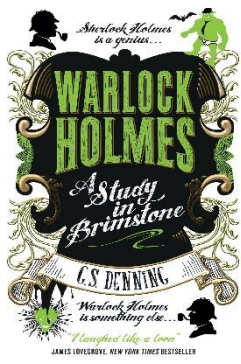
Marcia

Title: **Santa's Story**

Author: **Will Hillenbrand**

Picture Book

This is a fantastic choice for a holiday goodnight story. It is gorgeously illustrated with large double page spreads. It's the night before Christmas - Santa is ready, but his reindeer are not! It seems that Santa has overlooked their holiday tradition, so the reindeer are doing their own thing until he remembers, which of course he does. Santa goes to the top of the hill with his book and lantern and shouts out "STORY TIME!" The reindeer all settle down as Santa begins to read their favorite story.



Melissa

Title: **Warlock Holmes - A Study in Brimstone (AUDIOBOOK version!)**

Author: **G.S. Denning** Narrator: **Robert Garson**

Audiobook - Victorian Steampunk/Mystery/Fantasy Fiction Mashup

"THE DOMINION OF MAN IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE. The age of demons is upon us.

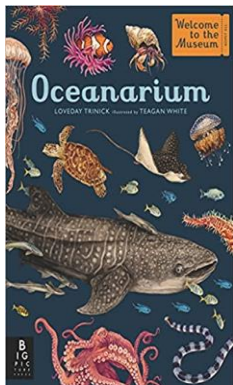
This, I recognize, is largely my fault and let me take just a moment to apologize for my part in it. I am very sorry I doomed the world. Really, just... absolutely, horribly sorry." This story opens with these lines uttered by a completely apologetic and absolutely WONDERFUL Dr. Watson.

This first book (in a series of 5) contains six spoofs based on several of Conan Doyle's well-known works and will appeal to those familiar with them. However, even without foreknowledge of the parodied works, you will enjoy Denning's unusual version of a detective story.

We know Doyle's Holmes to be a deductive genius; however, his counterpart in Denning's series is the complete opposite. Far kinder than Sherlock would ever be, Warlock is less than clever, but can call on the power of a host of demons for support. Luckily for him, he also has an incredibly forgiving, sensible and SMART roommate in Dr. Watson. Poor man, he is forced to come to Warlock's (and his own) rescue time and again.

All I can say is "prepare to laugh" - this book is not for those looking for a seriously challenging experience. A comedic mashup of stories based on Sherlockian canon, it will have you giggling out loud. I highly recommend getting the audiobook version as Robert Garson gives a truly remarkable (and ridiculous) narration - he brings the author's outrageous cast of characters to living, breathing, and fumbling life. However you choose to meet Warlock Holmes (et al.) - in print or in audio - I hope you have as much fun as I did following the crew through an alternative Victorian landscape filled with arcane powers wielded in polite (and impolite) society.

Week of 12/12-12/17/2022



Bri

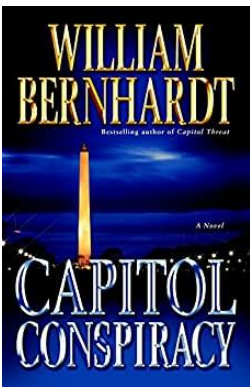
Title: **Oceanarium**

Author: **Loveday Trinick** Illustrator: **Teagan White**

Juvenile Non-Fiction Picturebook

It's the perfect kid's book for any aspiring marine biologist! It's an oversized picture book and the illustrations are really stunning. When you open the book, the right side has full color illustrations of various ocean creatures, and the left gives descriptions of each of them including their scientific names and fun facts about them. I've got a soft spot for strange and obscure marine animals, so I really enjoyed this one. The

Oceanarium is the newest book in the *Welcome to the Museum* series, which has other fun books like the *Fungarium*, *Planetarium*, and *Botanicum*. It's a great series and I love to flip through the books to look at all of the details in the illustrations.



Christina

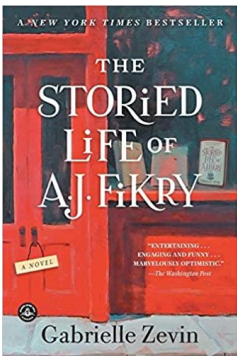
Title: **Capitol Conspiracy (Book 16 - Ben Kincaid Series)**

Author: **William Bernhardt**

Suspense/Thriller

Two American government officials are murdered, followed up by an attempt to assassinate the president. During the attempt, twelve other lives become collateral damage. In response to these tragic events, the president begins a campaign to amend the U.S. Constitution with an anti-terrorism law that would severely restrict civil freedoms.

Knowing that it will be difficult to win support for his proposal, the president enlists the help of Senator Ben Kincaid, who was personally affected by the outcome of the assassination attempt. While Ben understands the reasoning behind the president's actions, he believes that there is more going on than meets the eye. With the assistance of his wife, who is also his chief of staff, Ben readies himself for what could be the biggest challenge of his life. *Trigger warning: There are some fairly graphic depictions of violence/torture in the book.*



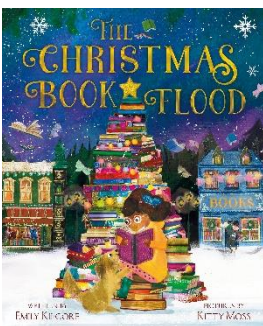
Jen

Title: **The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry**

Author: **Gabrielle Zevin**

Fiction

This novel has humor, romance and a touch of suspense. It is about a middle-aged man who owns a failing independent bookstore on Alice Island off the Coast of Massachusetts. Following the death of his wife, Fikry becomes lonely, angry and a bit of a literary snob. The themes in this story include friendship, grief and loss, the importance of bookstores in the community, finding your soulmate, people helping people and the love of books.



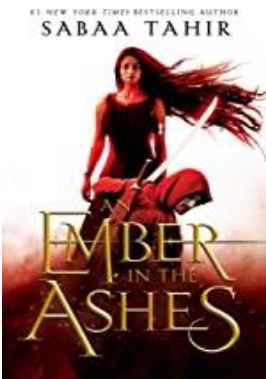
Marcia

Title: **The Christmas Book Flood**

Author: **Emily Kilgore** Illustrator: **Kitty Moss**

Holiday Picture Book

This is a whimsical and beautifully illustrated story of Iceland's Christmas Eve tradition that revolves around the magic of books and an entire country's love of reading. Everyone plans, researches, and makes lists of books to give to loved ones, family and friends. Then the fun and excitement of shopping for the special gifts! Finally, on Christmas Eve families and friends gather together to celebrate while unwrapping their new treasures and settling down to read, read, read the night away.



Melissa

Title: **An Ember in the Ashes (Series - Book 1 of 4)**

Author: **Sabaa Tahir**

YA Fiction/Fantasy

An empire based on ancient Rome (all brutality and martial law) with Scholar slaves versus Soldiers and an active Resistance, a young girl fights for her remaining family by infiltrating the Empire's premier military academy.

Lia is the child of the slaughtered resistance leaders living in anonymity with her grandparents when her brother is arrested for treason. She will do ANYTHING to secure his freedom - even

return to the resistance that cost her parent's lives. Elias is a student in the academy, not just any student, he's considered the finest soldier ever. What no one knows is that he dreams of the day when he can free himself (and his world) from the empire's tyranny. These two are destined to meet and the result will change their world forever.

I was enthralled with the incredibly well-developed characters, worldscape, word-craft and storyline - Sabaa Tahir is a talented author. This book will keep you flipping pages as quickly as you're able to follow the fate of Laia & Elias as the author interweaves their individual and communal stories. There are satisfying villains, unlikely heroes and plot twists galore in this emotionally charged and well-paced story. You will find yourself invested in the outcome and anticipating the next book in the series.

Week of 12/19-12/24/2022



Bri

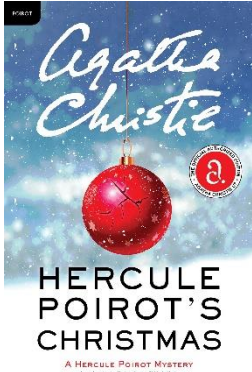
Title: **Bug Boys**

Author: **Laura Knetzger**

Juvenile Graphic Novel

I really enjoyed Bug Boys by Laura Knetzger - it was one of those series that I grabbed off the shelf because I thought the cover was pretty and I liked the artistic style.

It's a relatively unassuming series of short stories following two young beetles - best friends - as they adventure through their world. I had no expectations prior to reading it, and found it surprisingly thought-provoking and funny. Fun to read while it also challenges young readers to do some introspection about their place in the larger world.



Christina

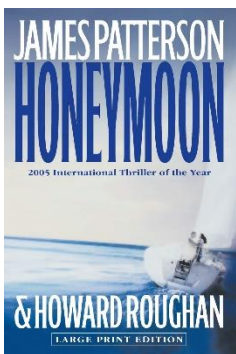
Title: **Hercule Poirot's Christmas**

Author: **Agatha Christie**

Suspense/Thriller

In this somewhat gruesome tale, Simeon Lee (an elderly multimillionaire) invites his family to a Christmas gathering at his home. During the visit, Mr. Lee informs them all that he is planning to amend his will after the holiday, greatly displeasing his guests. On Christmas Eve he is found to have been brutally murdered in his own bedroom, despite the door having been locked.

Assisted by local police, renowned detective Hercule Poirot takes on the challenge of solving the heinous crime. With so many houseguests with motive to kill the domineering Mr. Lee, can Poirot fit the pieces of this puzzle together to reveal the murderer?



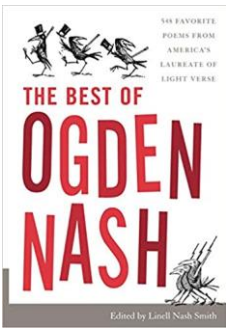
Jen

Title: **Honeymoon**

Author: **James Patterson**

Fiction

In this scary, sexy novel, is a sizzling, twisting tale of a "black widow" motivated by greed. She's killing her husbands (or fiancés) as soon as she has access to their fortunes. Throughout the book we see how she is able to lead multiple lives and juggle her different men. There is, however, an FBI agent who is trying to track down this femme fatale.



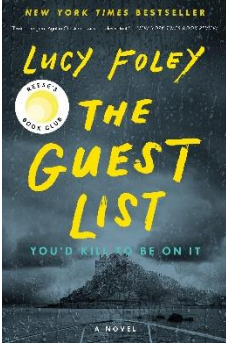
Kathy

Title: **The Best of Ogden Nash**

Author: **Ogden Nash** Editor: **Linell Nash Smith**

Poetry

A poet for the people! Nash's poetry is always entertaining. At Christmas time, our family favorite was "The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus." On a quiet winter night, reading through his collected poems will make you think - and probably laugh!



Kaya

Title: **The Guest List**

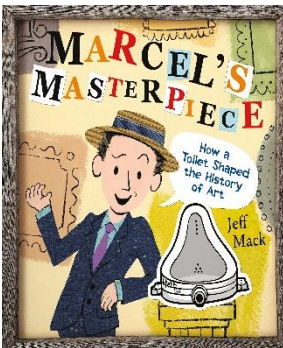
Author: **Lucy Foley**

Poetry

I wasn't sure about this book at first. The mystery caught my eye on Hoopla as an audiobook and by the second, or third, "boys will be boys" that I read, I was feeling a bit huffy. But, ohhhhhhh my gosh, was it worth it to stay through to the end. The shocking drama - WOW! Every discovery outdid the last and I was blown away. If you liked Agatha Christie's *The Hunting Party*, or the film *Promising Young Woman*, I would

absolutely recommend this as your next read!

The story takes place on a haunted island where a very posh wedding is taking place. As the guests arrive, interact and reminisce about their history together, dark secrets are revealed - and a thirst for revenge begins to twist its way through the night. Foley creates an intensely disturbing environment, layering details in a whirlwind of a plot with an interesting variety of characters that seem to be affected by the island itself.



Marcia

Title: **Marcel's Masterpiece: How a Toilet Shaped the History of Art**

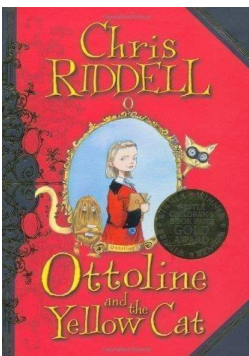
Author: **Jeff Mack**

Picture Book - Historical Fiction

Is a banana taped to a wall and named THE GALLERY a piece of art? In 2019, that banana was sold to a collector for \$120,000. This type of ART is called Dadaism. Marcel Duchamp started the *Dada* art movement by drawing a mustache on Mona Lisa, attaching a bicycle wheel to a stool, and turning a urinal upside down and entering it into an art show as a fountain. These and many other fun

ideas challenged the way people thought about art and what could be art.

The book is illustrated in the *Dada* art style and visualizes many of Duchamp's masterpieces in ways that children will enjoy. The book encourages children to think about art and the world in new and interesting ways. I loved it and learned so much from this title!



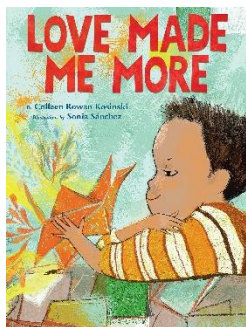
Melissa

Title: **Ottoline and the Yellow Cat**

Author: **Chris Riddell**

Juvenile Fiction Chapter Book

One of my very favorite (and talented) illustrators and authors, Chris Riddell tells the tale of Ottoline & Mr. Munroe (her hairy companion) and their adventures tracking down both missing dogs and jewelry. Ottoline is basically an 'orphan' as her parents are globe-trotting adventurers in search of unique collections. They keep in touch by seemingly clairvoyant postcards and have Ottoline's well-being supported by a HUGE group of interesting services (pillow plumpers, light bulb changers, etc.). Riddell's wonderfully intricate and amusing illustrations will have you completely invested in the story and clamoring for more.



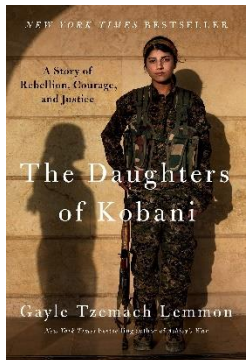
Bri

Title: **Love Made Me More**

Author: **Colleen Rowan Kosinski**

Children's Picturebook

Ready for a story about a little boy growing up and the milestones in his life told from the perspective of his origami crane? I liked it because I've got a soft spot for origami cranes, but the story was actually really cute! The book explores themes of family, love, and the passage of time. It's a great story that encourages kids to think about items special to them and to ask the adults in their lives about the things they've kept from their childhood.



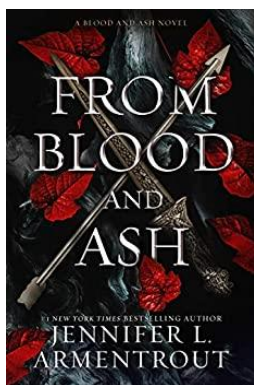
Jen

Title: **The Daughters of Kobani**

Author: **Gayle Tzemach Lemmon**

Non-Fiction

A riveting, edge of your seat tale of a group of Syrian- Kurdish women who took up arms against the terror group ISIS. It's a story of women fighting evil with unimaginable courage and winning against all the odds; but, it's also about women defying a culture that would deny them their rights.



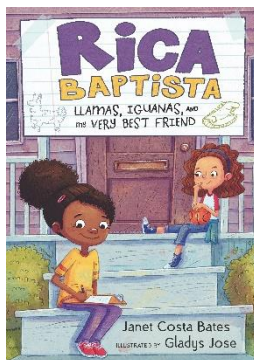
Kaya

Title: **From Blood and Ash**

Author: **Jennifer L. Armentrout**

YA Fantasy Fiction

For Sarah J. Maas 'A Court of Thorns and Rose' fans - buckle up for a thrilling ride with this book. It has everything - vampires, werewolves, spice, action, kingdoms of violence and vengeance, and monsters (both creature and human). The main character, Poppy, plays 'Maiden' in a kingdom that looks to the gods for salvation from blood-thirsty creatures in the woods. As Poppy awaits the day of her Ascension, however, she begins to question her culture's teachings...



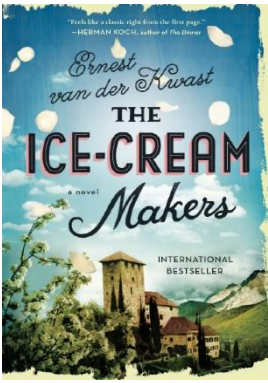
Marcia

Title: **Rica Baptista: Llamas, Iguanas and My Very Best Friend**

Author: **Janet Costa Bates**

Juvenile Realistic Fiction Chapter Book

Humorous, engaging, and fast paced, this first title of a new series introduces a big-hearted protagonist who discovers the joys of family, friendship, and pets. This story will encourage readers to keep on trying and persevere in the face of worry. An added bonus to the story are fun details about Rica's family who are Cape Verdean!



Melissa

Title: **The Ice-Cream Makers**

Author: **Ernest van der Kwast**

Fiction

Giovanni Calamine is pursuing his dream - a career in the international literary field of poetry - when he receives a call summoning him home to Italy as heir to the family ice cream business. Herein lies a tale spun over multiple generations of the pull of family obligations and the desire to break with tradition. Told with humor and love, this story deals with issues both logistical and philosophical while whetting your appetite for

more... ice cream!