BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Reviewed on "Across the Fence" on WCAX
Monday, December 4, 2017 at 12:10 p.m.

Reviewers Amy Howlett, Springfield Town Library; Joy Worland, Joslin Memorial Library, Waitsfield; and Judy Simpson of WCAX


Joe’s trip to the Dominican Republic takes an unexpected turn when a terrific cup of coffee leads him to coffee farmer Miguel and his family.


Sea otters inadvertently push the button that activates robot Roz, washed ashore on an island. She needs to figure out animals and learn how to communicate to survive.


Unassuming, courteous to women, masterful general, a president who fought white supremacy after the Civil War. Is Ron Chernow commenting on current politics?


Lush purples and goldens, very few words, and a small girl’s facial expressions and body language tell a story of loneliness evolving into connection.


A centenarian escapes through the window one afternoon—and finds himself involved with criminals, lots of cash, and an elephant named Sonya. A novel about LIFE!


Aimed at children, perfect to share, a classic for understanding the engineering behind all kinds of machines. Blu-Ray players, a twin-rotor helicopter, a violin, or simple screw.


A violin-playing mole realizes that through inspiration and perseverance, he can not only find self-fulfillment but he can also change the world.

For those who love Laura Ingalls Wilder and realize that being “Ma” came with a lot of responsibility, terribly hard work, and isolation. Fan fiction at its best.


Newcomers and a controversial adoption in Midwest suburbia engender questions about race, motherhood, expectations, and loyalty.


Make fabulous food, mostly vegetarian, in a tiny NYC kitchen while the family waits. Artichoke galette, seared kale and a crisp fried egg, one-bowl cakes. Yes!


Photographs and lyrical language convey Smith’s thoughts on loss, the passage of time, travel, and artists she admires, with lots of references to good strong coffee.


A aristocrat imprisoned in the Hotel Metropol in 1922 while Russian history plunges along ofor the next 30 years. Can the habits and education of a lifetime sustain him?


The bus driver needs a break. While he is away, it's your job to keep the pigeon from driving the bus. The pigeon can’t understand why you won’t let him drive the bus.