

## **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

Alvarez, Julia, Bill Eichner and Belkis Ramirez. *A CAFECITO STORY*. ISBN 9781931498067. \$12.95. 2001. Chelsea Green Publishing Company. Ages 12 and up.

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.

Brown, Paul. *THE WILD ROBOT*. ISBN 0316381993. \$16.99. 2016. Little, Brown Books. Ages 8 and up.

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.

Chernow, Ron. *GRANT*. ISBN 978-1594204876. \$40. 2017. Penguin Press. Biography.

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

DiCamillo, Kate. *LA LA LA: A STORY OF HOPE*. Illus. by Jaime Kim. ISBN 9780763658335. \$17.99. 2017. Candlewick. Ages 4 and up.

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

Jonasson, Jonas. *THE 100-YEAR-OLD MAN WHO CLIMBED OUT THE WINDOW AND DISAPPEARED*. ISBN 14013246492012. \$16.00 2012. Hachette Books. Novel.

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!

Macaulay, David. *THE WAY THINGS WORK NOW*. ISBN 0544824385. \$35.00. 2016. HMH Books for Young Readers. Age 12 and up.

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.

McPhail, David. *MOLE MUSIC*. ISBN 9780805067668. \$7.99. 1999. Henry Holt and Co. Ages 3 and up.

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

Miller, Sarah. CAROLINE: LITTLE HOUSE REVISITED. ISBN 9780062685346. \$25.99. 2017. HarperCollins/William Morrow. Ages teen and up. Novel.

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.

Ng, Celeste. LITTLE FIRES EVERYWHERE. ISBN 9780735224292. \$27.00. 2017. Penguin Press. Ages teen and up. Novel.

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

Perelman, Deb. SMITTEN KITCHEN EVERY DAY. ISBN 1101874813. \$35. 2017. Knopf. Cookbook.

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!

Smith, Patti. M TRAIN. ISBN 9781101875100. \$25.00 2015. Knopf. Ages teen and up. Essays.

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.

Towles, Amor. A GENTLEMAN IN MOSCOW. ISBN 0670026190. \$27.00. 2016. Viking. Ages teen and up. Novel.

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

Willems, Mo. DON'T LET THE PIGEON DRIVE THE BUS. ISBN 078681988X. \$16.99. 2003. Disney Press. PreSchool and up.

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.