

## BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

*Reviewed on "Across the Fence" on WCAX  
Tuesday, December 1, 2015 at 12:10 p.m.*

by Amy Howlett, Vermont Department of Libraries, Jennifer Murray, Director,  
South Burlington Library and Judy Simpson of WCAX

Allen, Sarah Addison. **LOST LAKE**. ISBN 978-1-250-01980-6. \$26, 2014. Hardcover, St. Martin's Press. \$16, 2015. Paper, St. Martin's Griffin.

Kate returns to the lake where she spent the happiest summer ever, introducing her daughter to the people and places of her past while building herself anew.

Coville, Bruce. **DIARY OF A MAD BROWNIE**. ISBN 978-0-385-39247-1. \$17, 2015. Hardcover, Random House.

A Brownie's oath is to maintain order, mixed in with a bit of mischief. Scottish Angus has moved to the US—finds it hard when he is bound to the messiest 11-year-old in town. Age 9+

Crombie, Deborah. **NECESSARY AS BLOOD**. ISBN 978-0-06-128753-4. \$25, 2009. Hardcover, William Morrow. \$14, 2010. Paper, Avon A.

Scotland Yard's Gemma Jones and Duncan Kincaid are working together in London's East End to solve the disappearance of a toddler's parents, while their wedding planning is at a standstill.

Doig, Ivan. **LAST BUS TO WISDOM**. ISBN 978-1594632020. \$29, 2015. Hardcover, Riverhead Books.

It's 1951 and Donal Cameron, 11, is shipped east from Montana on Greyhound, "the dog bus." A novel of the '50's—green stamps, hoboes, memory books and the one boy's growth.

McCullough, David. **THE WRIGHT BROTHERS**. ISBN 978-1476728742. \$30, 2015. Hardcover, Simon & Schuster.

Wilbur and Orville—the two hardworking Dayton, Ohio boys behind the first prolonged flight. McCullough satisfies with research and a story about genius supported by engineering.

Mitchell, Jack. **HUG YOUR CUSTOMERS**. ISBN 978-4013-0034-0. \$26, 2003. Hardcover, Hachette Books.

Jack Mitchell has updated his family's business history and customer service practices. Create a great organization, aim to win, and show terrific customer appreciation.

Montgomery, Sy. **THE SOUL OF AN OCTOPUS**. ISBN 978-1451697711. \$26, 2015. Hardcover, Atria Books.

The octopus—a blue-blooded invertebrate that solves puzzles, turns red when excited, and knows the specialists at the New England Aquarium. Read out loud for the holidays?

Rowling, J.K. **HARRY POTTER AND THE SORCERER’S STONE**. ISBN 978-0590353403. \$27, 1998. Hardcover, Scholastic Press. \$11, 1999. Paper, Scholastic.

Rowling’s classic tale of a boy in a magical boarding school is ready for a new audience. The first book came out in 1997. Give Harry, Ron and Hermione to adults and children. Age 8 up

Stein, David Ezra. **I’M MY OWN DOG**. ISBN 978-0763661397. \$16, 2014. Hardcover, Candlewick.

Toddlers love independence—and so does the hero of this charming picture book. He knows how to get his own slippers, and teach his pet, a fellow wearing a tie, to sit. Preschool up.

Stevenson, Bryan. **JUST MERCY: A STORY OF JUSTICE AND REDEMPTION**. ISBN 978-0812994520. \$28, 2014. Hardcover, Spiegel & Grau. \$16, 2015. Paper, Spiegel & Grau.

Bryan Stevenson is the founder of the Equal Justice Initiative to defend the wrongly condemned living on death row. Here’s a compelling story about making a difference.

Thompson, Laurie Ann. **EMMANUEL’S DREAM: THE TRUE STORY OF EMMANUEL OFOSU YEBOAH**. ISBN 978-0449817445. \$18, 2015. Hardcover, Schwartz & Wade.

Emmanuel means God is with us, and it’s also the name of a boy in Ghana, West Africa, who grew up spreading the message that people with disabilities can change the world. Preschool.

Watt, Mélanie. **BUG IN A VACUUM**. ISBN 978-1-77049-645-3. \$22, 2015. Hardcover, Tundra Books.

A dog has lost its toy and a bug is caught in a vacuum, so both are grieving their way through the stages of loss, coming out at acceptance. Age 5 to 9.



This publication is supported by the Institute of Museum and Library Services, a federal agency, through the Library Services and Technology Act.