BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Reviewed on "Across the Fence" on WCAX
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by Amy Howlett, Vermont Department of Libraries, Jennifer Murray, Director,
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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.


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+


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.


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.


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.


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.

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’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


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.


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.


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.


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.