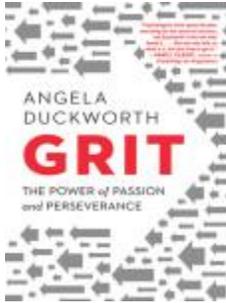


January 2019 Staff Picks

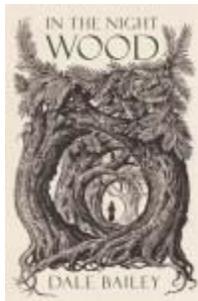
Eileen



***Grit: The Power of Passion and Perseverance* by Angela Duckworth**

"Why do some succeed and others, equally talented, fail?" - Publisher MacArthur Fellow, Angela Duckworth argues that it's "grit," a focused persistence on a goal. "Grit is a book about what goes through your head when you fall down and how that, not talent or luck, makes all the difference." - Publisher

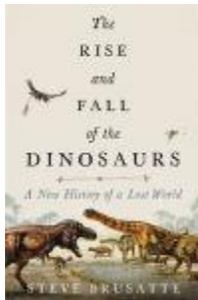
Katherine



***In the Night Wood* by Dale Bailey**

Grieving parents confront a forest haunted by old gods in this slow, atmospheric horror with mythological and fairy-tale roots. So basically my kind of book. Also, it had a lot in common with *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness. Different plot and all, but same sort of themes of grief and Cernunnos. Recommended for fans of mythological fantasy, Katherine Arden, or Neil Gaiman.

Sarah



***The Rise and Fall of the Dinosaurs: A New History of a Lost World* by Steve Brusatte**

"Somewhere around the world a new species of dinosaur is currently being found, on average, once a week. Let that sink in: a new dinosaur every ... single ... week." - Steve Brusatte

Steve Brusatte is a leader in the world of paleontology and is the lead paleontologist for BBC's *Walking with Giants* program. His natural excitement keeps prehistory accessible and intriguing. While weaving a compelling narrative about fossil hunting and scientific discoveries, he thoughtfully ruminates about our origins and the future of humanity. This book is a solid history of the evolution of dinosaurs and their eventual death, a history that is like looking into a pond and seeing your reflection in the lives underneath.

January 2019 Staff Picks

Cheryl



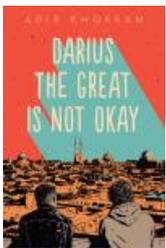
D.I.Y. Kit: Pyrography (Wood burning)

As the library prepared to close for a week in preparation for new carpeting, I looked forward to some anticipated open spaces in my days! I reached for the pyrography kit available for loan at the library before heading home.

Once I found that special "me" time in my day, I sat down with the kit. Opening it was like uncovering a buried treasure, with tools, supplies and instructions to get me started. I supplemented the manual with a quick look at some "how to's" as well as project ideas on the internet, and in no time I found myself burning some holiday ornaments. There were no mishaps and I enjoyed my play time! I found that a "steady as one goes" and "don't linger" with the pen to be important guidelines. Some ornaments are sporting scorch marks which I prefer to think of as star bursts!

The New Year is always a great time to explore. A variety of kits are available at the library, free to borrow and try at no charge. I encourage you to give it a try!

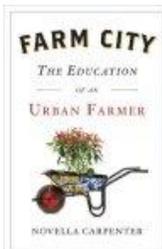
Kelly H.



***Darius the Great is Not Okay* by Adib Khorram**

Darius Kellner would like to clarify a few things: he loves tea, he's a Fractional Persian, and he is not a Soulless Minion of Orthodoxy. Unfortunately for our protagonist, this lands him with depression, bullies, and a family that he doesn't feel at home with. Despite their bond over *Star Wars* and a shared mental illness, Darius and his father Stephen differ in just about every way. He's close with his mother, but resents her as she kept him from learning Farsi and imparted the knowledge instead onto his sister Laleh, the perfect, Persian little girl. Darius has never met his grandparents but a family trip to Iran for a medical emergency changes this. Darius travels to his homeland for the first time where he meets his Babou and Mamou, who he's never seen outside of a video call. As Darius explores the foreign city, he meets boy next door Sohrab. The two become fast friends and overtime, Sohrab becomes the place where Darius realizes he truly fits.

Kelly R.



***Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer* by Novella Carpenter**

Yes, there's a trend here...back to the land books for winter reads from me. This book happens to sit on a shelf at BPL right next to my December staff pick, inspiring me to make it January's pick. Such an interesting story about a young woman from who decides to challenge herself to live off what she can produce for a year...all while living in an apartment in Oakland, CA. She starts gardening in her backyard and quickly decides to make use of an empty lot next door, surprising the neighborhood kids with how vegetables actually grow and not minding too much when they help themselves to some of the fresh vegetables. She also decides to raise animals including two pigs and meets an unlikely friend and teacher while dumpster diving behind a nice restaurant in search of food for two very hungry rapidly growing pigs. Entertaining and educational for those of us who enjoy a good how-to story.