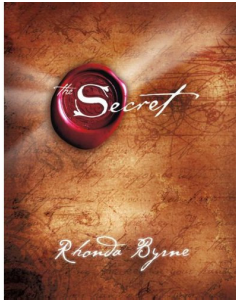


Here is a sampling of new books and movies at City of Commerce Library. These and many more interesting materials can be found on the “New Books” and Recent Arrivals DVD” shelves at the Central Library as well as the collections at the three branch libraries. Stop by the Reference Desk and ask the librarian!

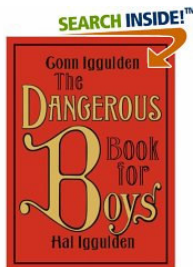
## New Non-Fiction



### ***The Secret*, by Rhonda Byrne**

Fragments of a Great Secret have been found in the oral traditions, in literature, in religions and philosophies throughout the centuries. For the first time, all the pieces of “The Secret” come together in an incredible revelation that will be life-transforming for all who experience it.

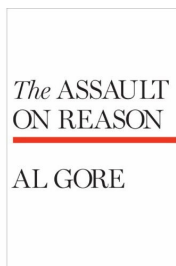
In this book, you'll learn how to use “The Secret” in every aspect of your life -- money, health, relationships, happiness, and in every interaction you have in the world. You'll begin to understand the hidden, untapped power that's within you, and this revelation can bring joy to every aspect of your life. This (and all books and DVDs this month) are Los Angeles Times bestsellers.



### ***The Dangerous Book for Boys*, by Conn Iggulden**

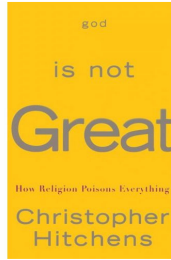
The authors of this book – two brothers – believe that boys don't have much fun anymore. Their suggestions are not dangerous; that's just the hook to get people to open it. Instead, it's almost a *Boy Scout Handbook* of how to tie knots, use a compass, do magic tricks, and even play cards so that winning is guaranteed (if you don't get caught). Neither the authors nor publishers thought it would sell many copies, but to everyone's surprise it took off. It's

probably more popular among adults than kids. And girls will get just as much fun out of it as boys. Any time spent with this book is time not on a video game.



### ***The Assault on Reason*, by Albert Gore**

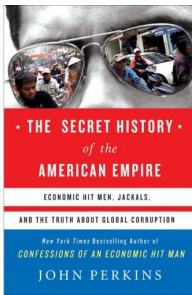
Al Gore expresses his concerns with free and open debate in *The Assault on Reason*. He argues that the marketplace of reasoned debate our country was founded on is being endangered by a variety of allied forces: the use of fear and the misuse of faith, the distractions of our entertainment culture, and the concentrations of power in the national media and the executive branch.



### ***God Is Not Great, by Christopher Hitchens***

This is a very challenging book written by a highly intelligent man, one whose political beliefs vary widely (liberal in many areas, pro-Iraq War in others). He received a thorough religious education, so his writing is not based on poor research or ignorance. His studies led him to the conclusion that faith in a higher power has hurt humanity. His alternatives to having faith are not particularly appealing. The

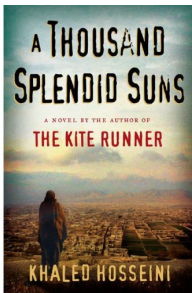
author is highly entertaining on talk shows and on TV interviews and is one of the few people who can hold his own against the fiercest hosts. His audience may not like what they read or believe what Hitchens says, but his message may help his readers understand how the world has come to be as it is.



### ***The Secret History of the American Empire, by John Perkins***

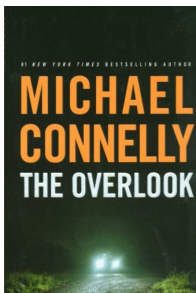
In Perkins's view, American presidents willingly comply with their CEO masters, distributing foreign aid to corrupt Third World leaders. Economists admit that loans and "expert advice" to poor nations are often harmful. Perkins's assertions that the U.S. assassinated Ecuador's reformist president and connived at genocide elsewhere are not absurd, merely unproven. While it is not fully researched, it is popular.

## **New Fiction**



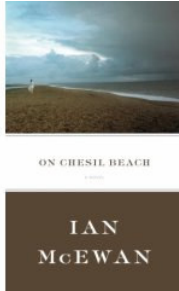
### ***A Thousand Splendid Suns, by Khaled Hosseini***

Following on the success of *The Kite Runner*, a book chosen by many cities across the United States as their "one city/one book" selection, Hosseini returns us to Afghanistan. His theme in this book: the oppression of women in a male-dominated society where women are valued primarily for their ability to serve and to produce sons. While breathtakingly violent at times, Hosseini gives his Western readers a "peek behind the burqa" (veil).



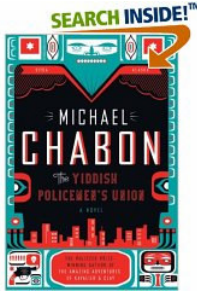
### ***The Overlook (large print), Michael Connelly***

Michael Connelly's thirteenth outing with Harry Bosch unfolds on the streets of Los Angeles. Harry has a new partner, a rookie, who Harry must bring up to speed while investigating an execution-style murder in the Hollywood Hills. *Publishers Weekly* said that it "spared no punches when it comes to complexity and suspense.



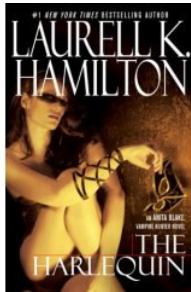
***On Chesil Beach*, by Ian McEwan**

In 1962, a young man and woman are married in the English university town of Oxford. Both are very much in love, and neither is wise to the ways of the world. This short novel is a description of their wedding night, which is filled with as much misunderstanding about life and communication as it is with happiness that they waited for one another.



***The Yiddish Policemen's Union*, by Michael Chabon**

In the days following World War II, what would life be like if the Jews had not been given the State of Israel, but only lent a portion of the Alaska Territory? This is a murder-mystery unlike any we've ever seen before – where Yiddish is the spoken language, but the story reads like a Raymond Chandler novel. Chabon is the author of several other novels, the most famous of which is *The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay*.



***The Harlequin*, by Laurell K. Hamilton**

It's a vampire novel set in St. Louis. I don't know why it's so popular, except that it keeps popping up on "guilty pleasures" lists. Maybe Laurell Hamilton's writing is like a box of See's (blood-filled) Candies! It's been a big seller in Los Angeles, so my guess is that it's a great get-away book for the summer, even if you're not going any farther than your back yard.

**New DVDs**

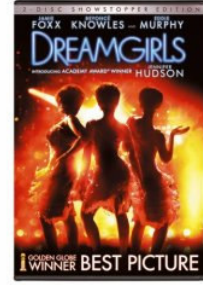
***Borat*, with Sacha Baron Cohen**

A man from Kazakhstan comes to America to learn about the wonders of the United States and take what he has learned back to his home country. It is a very silly and funny movie written by and starring Sacha Baron Cohen, a man with a thousand characters inside him (imagine an English Robin Williams). If you want to forget about everything except laughter for a few hours, this is the movie for you.



***Dreamgirls*, with Eddie Murphy and Jennifer Hudson**

Are the Dreamgirls the Supremes? Is this a thinly-veiled story about how the group came to be? It is an adaptation of a popular Broadway musical from the early 1990s which took years to come to the big screen. This was Jennifer Hudson's breakout movie, and she won an Oscar for her performance.



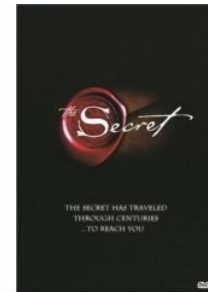
***The Queen*, with Helen Mirren**

What do you do when you have everything, can say nothing, and your former daughter-in-law is killed in a car crash in Paris along with a new boyfriend? You very quietly and very calmly do what you've always done, only to find it doesn't work any longer. Helen Mirren plays Queen Elizabeth II and gives her audience an idea of what it's like to be trapped in a role you've promised God and country to uphold. An excellent performance.



***The Secret*, with Rhonda Byrne**

A woman from Salt Lake City writes on the amazon.com website about *The Secret*: "I think the power of the mind can help us deal with the strife in our lives, and to me that is the real secret. Anyone who is going through hard times can focus their mind on their many blessings and start to feel grateful. It isn't that your life around you changes as much as your perception does."



***Apocalypto*, with an ensemble cast**

From amazon.com: "Forget any off-screen impressions you may have of Mel Gibson, and experience *Apocalypto* as the mad, bloody runaway train that it is. The story is set in the pre-Columbian Maya population: one village is brutally overrun, its residents either slaughtered or abducted, by a ruling tribe that needs slaves and human sacrifices. We focus on the capable warrior Jaguar Paw (Rudy Youngblood), although Gibson skillfully sketches a whole population of characters--many of whom don't survive the early reels. Most of the film is set in the dense jungle, but the middle section, in a grand Mayan city, is a dazzling triumph of design, costuming, and sheer decadent terror."

