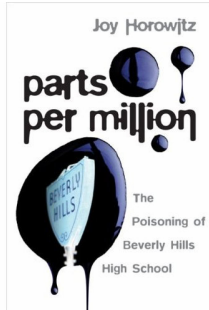


From the Library

August, 2007

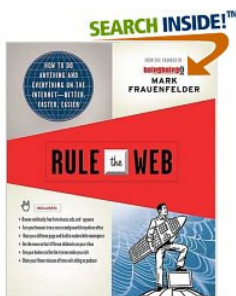
Here is a sampling of new books and movies at City of Commerce Library. These and many more interesting materials can be found on the “New Books” and Recent Arrivals DVD” shelves at the Central Library as well as the collections at the three branch libraries. Stop by the Reference Desk and ask the librarian!

New Non-Fiction



***Parts Per Million*, by Joy Horowitz**

According to the author, the students of Beverly Hills High School are contracting cancer at a rate three times that of students in other parts of the state. Beverly Hills High School also benefits from the revenues of oil extracted by pump from under the school. Horowitz suggests there is a connection between oil extraction and cancer rates, and describes the work of the investigator Erin Brockovich (remember the movie?) as she looks for answers and fights for justice.



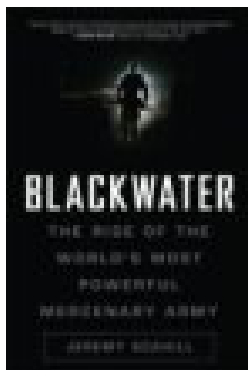
***Rule the Web*, by Mark Frauenfelder**

Many people at the Senior Center have been taking classes on different Web/Internet tools. This book will take you a step further into their own understanding of what a computer with a connection to the Internet can do. And the computer doesn't have to be at home – it can be at the Senior Center, at one of the Commerce libraries, at work, or elsewhere.



***The Diana Chronicles*, by Tina Brown**

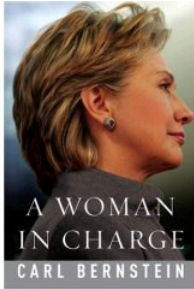
Misunderstood innocent or clever temptress? Saint or vixen? Angel or media manipulator? Diana, Princess of Wales is dead; we'll never really know. Tina Brown, former editor of the British magazine *Tatler* and the American *New Yorker* and *Vanity Fair*, gives new insights based on inside interviews and intensive research. The proof of the pudding is in the eating, they say, and her sons will be her legacy, for better or for worse.



***Blackwater*, by Jeremy Scahill**

How many branches of the American armed forces are there? The Army, the Navy, the Air Force, the Marines, and the Coast Guard, certainly – but what about our mercenary army? Jeremy Scahill, according to Amazon.com, “offers a hard-left perspective on Blackwater USA, the self-described private military contractor and security firm.” Regardless of your political position (this review is

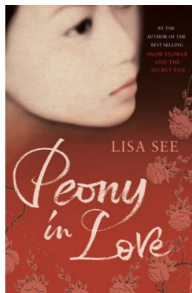
for entertainment purposes), it shows how a standing army can be built which parallels our regular services at a far greater cost.



***A Woman in Charge*, by Carl Bernstein**

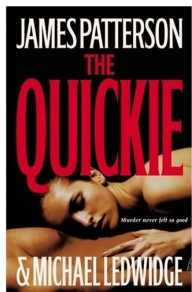
Hillary Clinton is arguably the most powerful woman in American politics today. She is probably the most polarizing as well – people either love her or hate her. Carl Bernstein’s biography gives a three-way insight into her life – the firebrand, the traditionalist, and the martyr – and lets us choose which Hillary we like best. There will be many political biographies appearing in the next 18 months. This is one not to miss.

New Fiction



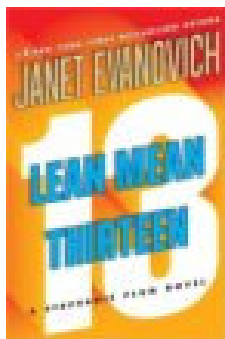
***Peony in Love*, by Lisa See**

Peony in Love will be read in one of the city reading groups in August. It takes place in 17th century China, and is reminiscent of Gabriel Garcia Marquez’s *One Hundred Years of Solitude* in its breadth and depth. The author uses the treatment of women - - their protection, their isolation, the dangers they faced – to help us get a clearer understanding of a China 400 years back in time.



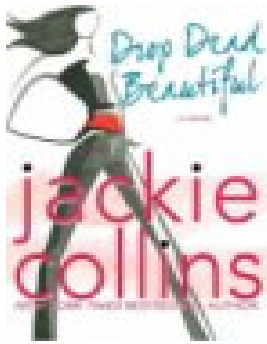
***The Quickie*, by James Patterson**

Patterson is a “genre” writer, and his genre is cops. He’s made a lot of money by writing exciting stories of police action. The bookseller amazon.com says that “this story of love, lust and dangerous secrets will have readers' hearts pounding to the very last page.”



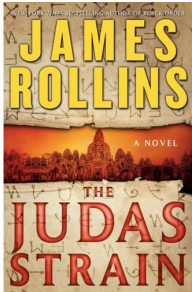
***Lean Mean Thirteen*, by Janet Evanovich**

Stephanie Plum is probably America’s most famous bounty hunter, and she bumbles her way through her latest case, only to find herself the prime suspect in a murder. She has to make her own getaway when her ex-husband’s ex-business partners believe she has the key to \$40 million...and then there are the taxidermists and grave robbers! This is the thirteenth in a series, and Stephanie’s sure to be back for more.



***Drop Dead Beautiful*, by Jackie Collins**

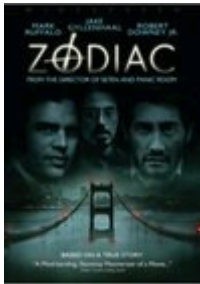
Reviewers refer to this as a “vendetta romance”, and it features the return of Lucky Santangelo, a Mafia princess Jackie Collins created in 1999. The usual words like “juicy”, “page-turner”, and “revenge” appear in reviews, so it’s clearly a summertime read. Don’t read it for deep thought. Instead, read it to rest your eyes from the television.



***The Judas Strain*, by James Rollins**

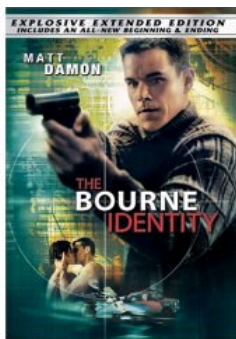
Rollins has written the third book in his “Sigma Force” series and this one is as exciting as the previous two. The “Judas Strain” refers to an outbreak of a plague, contained since the time of Marco Polo, which threatens the world. The bad guys (the “Guild”) and the Force battle around the world, with exciting scenes in the Mediterranean, the Far East, and on the high seas. Will good prevail? I won’t spoil the story for you.

New DVDs



***Zodiac*, with Jake Gyllenhaal and Robert Downey, Jr.**

A serial killer haunted San Francisco in the late 1960s and early 1970s. This cop drama combines elements of the classic thriller with excellent detective work. An overwhelming majority of purchasers of this DVD from the online company amazon.com gave it a three-star or four-star rating. Sixty-eight voters out of 80 can’t be wrong – or can they? Come into the library and find out.



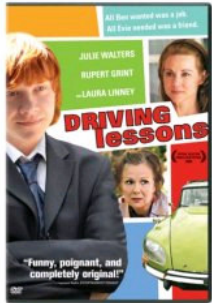
***Bourne Identity*, with Matt Damon**

Who is Jason Bourne? By the end of the first 15 suspenseful minutes, you know he is a ruthless fighter who can escape any trap and attract beautiful women. But what is his purpose? And who wiped his memory? Finding out is more than half the fun. Can Matt ever go back to being the sweet young guy from “Good Will Hunting”? Watch this and see!



300, with an ensemble cast

This was spring's action-adventure movie featuring 300 Spartans (the good Greeks) fighting an army of Persians (ugly, nasty, evil, tattooed, and grotesquely pierced people). Based on a popular graphic novel by Frank Miller, "300" combined animation and live-action to produce video-game-like effects with you-were-there blood and guts. It's not a movie to share with the younger kids, but the teens in your family might like sitting down with you to watch it.



Driving Lessons, with Rupert Grint

Did you like the Harry Potter movies, especially the red-headed Ron Weasley character? He's in a movie of his own in "Driving Lessons". He plays a young man, son of a pastor and his wife, all living in the suburbs of London. He wants driving lessons, and his mother encourages him to get a job. He gets a job, a girlfriend, and learns to drive. He also loses his virginity (so it's PG-13 – caution, grandparents with grandkids). Nice performances by everyone.



Thunderpants, with an ensemble cast

The picture says it all, don't you think? It's a family movie, safe for kids of all ages. (It's not as naughty as an Eddie Murphy movie.) The young hero's unfortunate physical condition turns into an asset when he is selected to become an astronaut. Also starring Rupert Grint, apparently pre-Harry Potter. Break out the popcorn...and crack a window!