

New York Times

BESTSELLERS

COMBINED PRINT & E-BOOK FICTION

1. KILL ALEX CROSS, by James Paterson
2. V IS FOR VENGEANCE, by Sue Grafton
3. 11/22/63, by Stephen King
4. THE LITIGATORS, by John Grisham
5. DEVIL'S GATE, by Clive Cussler and Graham Brown

COMBINED PRINT & E-BOOK NONFICTION

1. STEVE JOBS, by Walter Isaacson
2. KILLING LINCOLN, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard
3. IMPERFECT JUSTICE, by Jeff Ashton with Lisa Pulitzer
4. HEAVEN IS FOR REAL, by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent
5. GABBY, by Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly with Jeffrey Zaslow

HARDCOVER FICTION

1. KILL ALEX CROSS, by James Paterson
2. 11/22/63, by Stephen King
3. V IS FOR VENGEANCE, by Sue Grafton
4. THE LITIGATORS, by John Grisham
5. DEVIL'S GATE, by Clive Cussler and Graham Brown

HARDCOVER NONFICTION

1. STEVE JOBS, by Walter Isaacson
2. KILLING LINCOLN, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard
3. IMPERFECT JUSTICE, by Jeff Ashton with Lisa Pulitzer
4. JACK KENNEDY, by Chris Matthews
5. HOW I GOT THIS WAY, by Regis Philbin

PAPERBACK TRADE FICTION

1. THE HELP, by Kathryn Stockett
2. THE NEXT ALWAYS, by Nora Roberts
3. THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO, by Stieg Larsson
4. SING YOU HOME, by Jodi Picoult
5. THE TIGER'S WIFE, by Téa Obreht

Paperback Mass-Market Fiction

1. SMOKIN' SEVENTEEN, by Janet Evanovich
2. THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS, by Debbie Macomber
3. CRESCENT DAWN, by Clive Cussler and Dirk Cussler
4. SECRETS TO THE GRAVE, by Tami Hoag
5. CROSS FIRE, by James Patterson

Paperback Nonfiction

1. HEAVEN IS FOR REAL, by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent
2. THE IMMORTAL LIFE OF HENRIETTA LACKS, by Rebecca Skloot
3. UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS, by Jennifer S. Holland
4. OUTLIERS, by Malcolm Gladwell
5. FINISH FIRST, by Tucker Max

E-Book Fiction

1. KILL ALEX CROSS, by James Paterson
2. V IS FOR VENGEANCE, by Sue Grafton
3. THE LITIGATORS, by John Grisham
4. 11/22/63, by Stephen King
5. ZERO DAY, by David Baldacci

E-Book Nonfiction

1. STEVE JOBS, by Walter Isaacson
2. IMPERFECT JUSTICE, by Jeff Ashton with Lisa Pulitzer
3. HEAVEN IS FOR REAL, by Todd Burpo with Lynn Vincent
4. GABBY, by Gabrielle Giffords and Mark Kelly with Jeffrey Zaslow
5. KILLING LINCOLN, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard

Hardcover Advice & Misc.

1. GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS 2012, edited by Craig Glenday
2. PAULA DEEN'S SOUTHERN COOKING BIBLE, by Paula Deen with Melissa Clark
3. GO THE TO SLEEP, by Adam Mansbach. Illustrated by Ricardo Cortés
4. NEARING HOME, by Billy Graham
5. SPONTANEOUS HAPPINESS, by Andrew Weil

Paperback Advice & Misc.

1. THE FIVE LOVE LANGUAGES, by Gary Chapman
2. WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU'RE EXPECTING, by Heidi Murkoff and Sharon Mazel
3. LUCKY PEACH ISSUE 2, edited by David Chang and others
4. THE HAPPINESS PROJECT, by Gretchen Rubin
5. CRAZY LOVE, by Francis Chan with Danae Yankoski

Children's Picture Books

1. HOME FOR CHRISTMAS, by Jan Brett
2. IF YOU GIVE A DOG A DONUT, by Laura Numeroff. Illustrated by Felicia Bond
3. LLAMA LLAMA HOLIDAY DRAMA, by Anna Dewdney
4. HEAVEN IS FOR REAL FOR KIDS, by Todd and Sonja Burpo. Illustrated by Wilson Ong
5. PRESS HERE, by Hervé Tullet

Children's Chapter Books

1. THE SON OF NEPTUNE, by Rick Riordan
2. THE LEGO IDEAS BOOK, by Daniel Lipkowitz
3. EVERYTHING ON IT, by Shel Silverstein
4. THE INVENTION OF HUGO CABRET, written and illustrated by Brian Selznick
5. WONDERSTRUCK, by Brian Selznick

SURE-FIRE THRILLER

offers fictional account of 'Kill bin Laden'

BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
FOR THE CT

KBL: Kill bin Laden by John Weisman. Nov. 2011 by William Morrow. Hardcover, 302 pgs. \$26.99.

Ordinarily, I'm not a huge fan of military tales. My husband loves Tom Clancy and tried to get me to read one of his blockbusters, but I couldn't do it. I've enjoyed a couple of movies based on Clancy books, but reading them is different.

That was not the case with John Weisman's novel based on the death of Osama bin Laden, the terrorist mastermind behind the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon that resulted in the loss of 3,000 American lives.

This novel is spellbinding. Maybe because I remember all too well the destruction, death and devastation of 9/11. Maybe because of the mixed emotions I felt when I learned that bin Laden was dead at the hands of U.S. Navy SEALs.

I was proud of the fact that we'd found the terrorist and brought him to justice. I do believe he was one of a few truly evil humans. I am still in awe of what our military did. I applaud every current, past and future member of the United States' armed forces. I am grateful for what they do.

But, when I learned that bin Laden had been killed, I struggled with my happiness over his death. As a Christian, it was tough for me to justify being happy over another human's death. And I know that I'm not

the only person who had or has mixed emotions about bin Laden's death. Weisman addresses those emotions in the character of a Navy SEAL who is a devout Christian yet understands that certain individuals — like bin Laden — are so evil that they need to be taken out before they take out more innocents.

Bottom line, I'm glad bin Laden is off the planet and no longer poses a threat to any of us. I'm grateful that a few brave people made sure he could do no more harm.

And that is one of the main points of Weisman's book. I don't have any personal military experience. My father and two uncles served during World War II. My husband served at the tail-end of Vietnam. A couple of my cousins were in Vietnam. My stepson served in the Marines during the early stages of the War on Terror, and lost good friends and comrades in Fallujah. My cousin was one of the early casualties in Afghanistan. While working as a reporter at *The Courier-Times*, I had the privilege of interviewing and writing about several World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans.

And I think *KBL* does a great job of honoring the men and women who have and continue to serve this great nation and protect our freedom.

Aside from offering a great, subtle commentary on the wonders of our military, Weisman also vividly points out the fact that our soldiers are human beings, with the same emotions, thoughts and doubts as the rest of us.

The author knows how to set a scene and provide rapid-fire action that keeps read-

ers on the edge of their seats. When painting practice or battle scenes, Weisman uses present-tense, terse dialogue that puts the reader smack in the middle of the action. And as the book winds down — to its eventual climax with the death of bin Laden — the sense of urgency grows ever stronger.

Weisman allows readers a view into the minds and hearts of the United States' bravest, toughest warriors. He does it brilliantly and with a great deal of respect.

At the same time that he's showing us deep respect for our military, Weisman provides a spot-on commentary about our politicians. He points out flaws on both sides of the aisle, with what I perceive as great accuracy.

Weisman takes us back to mistakes made by presidents Jimmy Carter, Gerald Ford, Bill Clinton, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush. He also, without naming him specifically, points out character flaws in our current commander in chief. Weisman's point is that, no matter how they start out, by the time they reach the White House, all of our leaders are controlled by their own ambition and partisan, political handlers. And that politics often interfere with what's right and good and perhaps truly best for the country.

No matter your politics, Weisman's fictional account of what went on behind the scenes and at the scene of Osama bin Laden's death is a captivating, exhilarating, inspiring tale. He deftly places readers in the thick of the action.

Many times while reading this novel, I felt like standing up and shouting, "Hoo-yah!" It is a wonderful tribute to our military.

BOOK BITS



BY PHYLISS BOATWRIGHT
FOR THE CT

"On Nov. 22, 1963, three shots rang out in Dallas, President John F. Kennedy died, and the world changed. What if you could change it back?"

So begins the publisher's description of Stephen King's latest tour de force, titled, simply, *11/22/63*.

I haven't read the book, but it is on my Christmas list. I read a few pages on a recent trip to the bookstore, but knowing that I won't have time to read it until Christmas break, I didn't get it, thinking Santa might listen to some hints. As a charter school teacher now, I don't have the time I used to have to devote to pleasure reading, but I sure plan

to catch up during the generous holiday break.

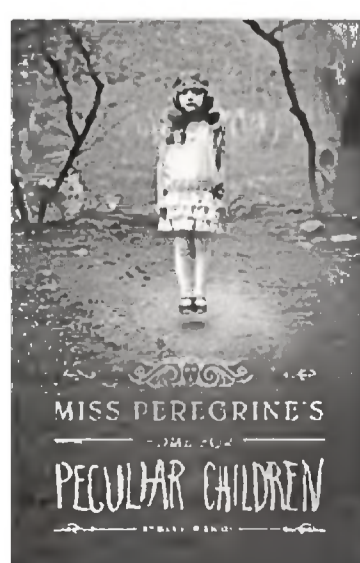
Returning to the book description: "Stephen King — who has absorbed the social, political, and popular culture of his generation more imaginatively and thoroughly than any other writer — takes readers on an incredible journey into the past and the possibility of altering it."

The synopsis states that the story begins with Jake Epping, a 35-year-old English teacher in Lisbon Falls, Maine, who makes extra money teaching GED classes. He asks his students to write about an event that changed their lives, and one essay blows him away — a gruesome, harrowing story about the night more than 50 years ago when Harry Dunning's father came home and killed his mother, his sister, and his brother with a sledgehammer. Reading the essay is a watershed moment for Jake, his life — like Harry's, like America's in 1963 — turning on a dime. Not much later his friend Al, who owns the local diner, divulges a secret: His storeroom is a portal to the past, a particular day in 1958. And Al enlists Jake to take over the mission that has become his obsession — to prevent the Kennedy assassination.

Now if that doesn't sound

fascinating, I don't know what does. I used to love Stephen King books, although I would only read them in the summer time, when I could sit outside in the broad open daylight. I haven't read one for a while now, because, like many prolific authors, King started repeating himself a bit. His writing was still brilliant; it just seemed as if the plots were basically the same.

This book, though, I gotta read.



Amanda Weaver, Children's

Services librarian at the Person County Public Library, recommended *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children* by Ransom Riggs a while back, and although I checked it out, I haven't been able to read it either. But I scanned a few pages, and it looks like it would be great fun for tweens and teens, if you have any young'uns in that age group on your Christmas shopping list. The synopsis goes thusly:

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs.

It all waits to be discovered in *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*, an unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets 16-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of *Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children*. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow — impossible though it seems — they may still be alive.

At the

LIBRARY

Library programming for December

On Tuesday and Wednesday, Dec. 13 and 14, the Person County Public Library will offer Christmas Storytime for preschoolers at 10:30 a.m. each day.

On Thursday, Dec. 15, Rags To Riches will perform "The Gingerbread Boy" at 4 p.m. for kids of all ages.

On Wednesday, Dec. 21, the library will offer a showing of Christmas Classic Movie at 3:30 p.m. The 90-minute movie is good for ages five and up.

On Thursday, Dec. 29, the Teen Book Club will meet at 4 p.m. in the Library Gallery.

The library will be closed for Christmas from Dec. 24 to Dec. 27. It will reopen Wednesday, Dec. 28, at 9 a.m.

Friends of Library offering new 'Let's Talk About It' series

Join the Friends of the Person County Library for the 2012 "Let's Talk About It" series beginning Sunday, Jan. 29. The 2012 series, "Altered Landscapes — North Carolina's Changing World," features books written in the new millennium by nationally recognized and award-winning men and women who were born and raised in North Carolina.

Through fiction or history-based memoir, depicting love and loss, family and friendship, longing and conviction, the authors move their characters, sometimes wrenchingly, through childhood into the adult world. As innocence is lost and life's ever-present challenges are made evident, the questions of whether to stay or go, to journey onward or to return home, to accept or fight back, come to the forefront. Fortitude, faith, and forgiveness, or lack thereof, shape decisions made at life's turning points, and we, like the characters, come to realize that "hope exists where it always has, in human hearts, in strong memories, in a commitment to reach across the divide to hold another's hand" as described on the North Carolina Humanities Council Web site.

The five books to be discussed every other Sunday afternoon on Jan. 29, Feb. 12 and 26, and March 11 and 25 are *Salt* by Isabel Zuber; *Garden Spells* by Sarah Addison Allen; *If You Want Me to Stay* by Michael Parker; *Blood Done Sign My Name* by Timothy Tyson and *Plant Life* by Pamela Duncan. A guest scholar will provide an insightful presentation and lead a discussion from 2 to 4 p.m. each session. The books are loaned to participants free of charge and will be available at the library circulation desk beginning Monday, Dec. 12.

Book reviews and synopses can be found at www.Amazon.com or other bookseller Web sites. The program is made possible by a grant from the North Carolina Humanities Council, a statewide nonprofit and affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in partnership with the North Carolina Center for the Book, a program of the State Library of North Carolina.

Those interested are invited to pick up the books, and join in with opinions, insights, and enthusiasm on five Sunday afternoons in winter.

Person County Public Library
319 S. Main Street
Phone: 597-7881

Hours of Operation
Monday -Thursday, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m. until 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Closed Sundays