

The following is a tentative list of new fiction releases for **NOVEMBER, 2009**. **Most titles on this list are on order for the library and can be reserved, but will not be available until the release date.**

*Compiled by Judy Kamiat, West Boynton Branch Library*

Larry Bond & James DeFelice, **LARRY BOND'S RED DRAGON RISING**, (416 pgs) 11/10

Building off the World War III premise Larry Bond helped Tom Clancy to establish in *Red Storm Rising*, this new series looks at the world under an omnipresent Chinese superpower. When rapid climate change leads to mass riots in China, a new Communist premier seeks to relieve pressure by marching on traditional Chinese enemies in Southeast Asia. Desperately coping with its own problems, the US wants to avoid nuclear war at all costs - but ultimately must fight to preserve world peace.

Charles Brokaw, **THE ATLANTIS CODE**, (432 pgs) 11/10

A thrill-seeking Harvard linguistics professor and an ultra secret branch of the Catholic Church go head-to-head in a race to uncover the secrets of the lost city of Atlantis. The ruins of the technologically-advanced, eerily-enigmatic ancient civilization promise their discoverer fame, fortune, and power... but hold earth-shattering secrets about the origin of man. While world-famous linguist and archaeologist, Thomas Lourds, is shooting a film that dramatizes his flamboyant life and scientific achievements, satellites spot impossibly ancient ruins along the Spanish coast. Lourds knows exactly what it means: the Lost Continent of Atlantis has been found. The race is on, and Lourds' challengers will do anything to get there first. Whoever controls the Lost Continent will control the world. "Brokaw holds readers until the last stone is turned. *Kirkus Reviews* **FIRST NOVEL**

Sandra Brown, **RAINWATER**, (256 pgs) 11/3

The year is 1934. With the country in the stranglehold of drought and economic depression, Ella Barron runs her Texas boardinghouse with an efficiency that ensures her life will be kept in balance. Between chores of cooking and cleaning for her residents, she cares for her ten-year-old son, Solly, a sweet but challenging child whose misunderstood behavior finds Ella on the receiving end of pity, derision, and suspicion. When David Rainwater arrives at the house looking for lodging, he comes recommended by a trusted friend as "a man of impeccable character." But Ella senses that admitting Mr. Rainwater will bring about unsettling changes. However, times are hard, and in order to make ends meet, Ella's house must remain one hundred percent occupied. So Mr. Rainwater moves into her house...and impacts her life in ways Ella could never have foreseen.

Roy Chaney, **THE RAGGED END OF NOWHERE**, (272 pgs) 11/10

Bodo Hagen is CIA, but his return to Las Vegas after 10 years is entirely personal. Bodo's brother, Ronnie, was shot to death at Hoover Dam just days after Ronnie came back to Vegas from a stint with the French Foreign Legion. As Bodo retraces his brother's steps, he gets reacquainted with a slew of rough characters from his past, including John McGrath, the cop investigating Ronnie's killing; Marty Ray, owner of a small casino called Diamond Jim's; and an old girlfriend, Maxine Peach. Bodo learns that Ronnie was trying to fence a rare artifact with a strange past that others are willing to buy or kill for. "Chaney has a knack for deft characterization, and uses Ronnie's French Foreign Legion connection to great effect. The ambiguous ending suggests a sequel." *Publishers Weekly* "A fast-paced debut, winner of the second annual Tony Hillerman Prize for the best first mystery set in the West. The ending is a zinger of a cliff-hanger.... for fans of Brad Thor." *Library Journal* "A wildly entertaining tale." *Booklist*  
**FIRST NOVEL**

Patrizia Chen, **IT TAKES TWO** (256 pgs) 11/3

Francesca Rivabuona is fifty and exhausted by the monotony of her life. Stuck in a stale marriage with grown children who have long since fled the coop, and desperate to escape the endless cycle of Upper East Side dinner parties and charity luncheons, she jumps at the chance to write an article about Buenos Aires for a glossy travel magazine. Francesca is instantly captivated by Buenos Aires's palpable rhythm. She explores the city with her new friends — a group of tango dancers who give her an insider's scoop into the best Buenos Aires has to offer — and rediscovers the sense of passion and excitement she thought she had relinquished forever. As Francesca learns to master the sensual movements of tango dancing, she begins to let down her guard — on the dance floor, in the bedroom, and in her personal life. Embarking on a steamy love affair with Argentina's most famous plastic surgeon, she knows that she has been irrevocably transformed by the pulsing, erotic thrill of life in Argentina. "Chen takes her adventure over the top with this breathless, lush take on middle-aged romance, sex and happy endings. Sure, it's cheesy, but there's an undeniable charm to the optimism." *Publishers Weekly*  
**FIRST NOVEL**

Michael Crichton, **PIRATE LATITUDES**, (320 pgs) 11/24

The Caribbean, 1665. A remote colony of the English Crown, the island of Jamaica holds out against the vast supremacy of the Spanish empire. Port Royal, its capital, is a cutthroat town. In this steamy climate there's a living to be made, a living that can end swiftly by disease—or by dagger. For Captain Charles Hunter, gold in Spanish hands is gold for the taking. Word in port is that the galleon *El Trinidad*, fresh from New Spain, is awaiting

repairs in a nearby harbor. Heavily fortified, the impregnable harbor is guarded by the bloodthirsty Cazalla, a favorite commander of the Spanish king himself. With backing from a powerful ally, Hunter assembles a crew to infiltrate the enemy outpost and commandeer *El Trinidad*, along with its fortune in Spanish gold. The raid is as perilous as the bloodiest tales of island legend, and Hunter will lose more than one man before he even sets foot on foreign shores, where dense jungle and the firepower of Spanish infantry stand between him and the treasure.

Clive Cussler & Justin Scott, **THE WRECKER**, (480 pgs) 11/17

Set in 1907, the second thriller to feature detective Isaac Bell (after *The Chase*) pits Bell against "the Wrecker," who's been destroying trains and railroad facilities around the country for no apparent reason. These horrific incidents are wreaking havoc on the plans of Osgood Hennessy, the Southern Pacific Railroad's president, who's constructing the massive Cascade Canyon Bridge in Oregon. If the project isn't completed by winter, Hennessy's bankers will withdraw financing and his company will be destroyed. "There's plenty of excitement to be had in a world where massive, fire-breathing trains fly along at speeds of up to 120 mph. Readers will find many thrills and much diabolical cleverness along the way." *Publishers Weekly* "Richly enhanced with well-researched historical and technological details, Cussler's latest offers a welcome change of pace from the Dirk Pitt books.... a very enjoyable romp." *Library Journal*

Sue Grafton, **U IS FOR UNDERTOW**, (416 pgs) 12/1

It's April, 1988, a month before Kinsey Millhone's thirty-eighth birthday, and she's alone in her office doing paperwork when a young man arrives unannounced. He has a preppy air about him and looks as if he'd be carded if he tried to buy booze, but Michael Sutton is twenty-seven, an unemployed college dropout. Twenty-one years earlier, a four-year-old girl disappeared. A recent reference to her kidnapping has triggered a flood of memories. Sutton now believes he stumbled on her lonely burial when he was six years old. He wants Kinsey's help in locating the child's remains and finding the men who killed her. It's a long shot but he's willing to pay cash up front, and Kinsey agrees to give him one day. As her investigation unfolds, she discovers Michael Sutton has an uneasy relationship with the truth. In essence, he's the boy who cried wolf. Is his current story true or simply one more in a long line of fabrications?

John Grisham, **FORD COUNTY (Stories)**, (320 pgs) 11/3

In his first collection of short stories John Grisham takes us back to Ford County, Mississippi, the setting of his first novel, *A Time to Kill*. Few other details were available on this latest Grisham's offering.

Linda Howard, **ICE**, (208 pgs) 11/10

Gabriel McQueen is home on holiday leave from the military when his father, the county sheriff, asks him to check on a distant neighbor whom no one has heard from in a while. With an ice storm approaching there is concern for the woman's safety. When Gabriel arrives at the woman's house he spots armed strangers inside. Gabe manages to sneak the woman out of the house without alerting her captors, but only momentarily. Then the hunt is on as they flee into the freezing winter woods.

Kate Jacobs, **KNIT THE SEASON: A Friday Night Knitting Club Novel**, (272 pgs) 11/3

In this holiday special, friends brought together by a Manhattan knitting shop continue to gather for their weekly knitting sessions, this time focusing on Dakota, the young daughter of the shop's original owner. Dakota is running the shop and attending culinary school, intending to revamp the shop as a knitting café. Feeling overwhelmed, she decides to visit her grandmother in Scotland to gain some perspective and learns a lot about her late mother in the process. "Word of mouth was key to the success of the first two books (*The Friday Night Knitting Club*, *Knit Two*), and a major motion picture is in the works." **Library Journal**

J.A. Jance, **TRIAL BY FIRE**, (368 pgs) 12/1

In bestseller Jance's fifth Ali Reynolds thriller (after *Cruel Intent*), the ex-TV journalist takes over a media-relations job at the county police department in her hometown of Sedona, Ariz., after the previous flack is sent on administrative leave for misconduct. Soon after being fitted for the mandatory Kevlar vest, Ali goes to the site of a subdivision fire that has left an unidentified woman in critical condition. All signs point to arson, but the fire's amnesia-ridden survivor is the only one who knows the truth. With the help of a hospital nurse who's also a nun, Ali—mostly undercover in a red wig in the hospital's burn unit waiting room—slowly pieces together the victim's identity and her relationship to the fire.

Stephen King, **UNDER THE DOME**, (1,088 pgs) 11/10

When the small town of Chester's Mill, Maine, is surrounded by an invisible force field, the people inside must exert themselves to survive. The situation deteriorates rapidly due to the dome's ecological effects and the machinations of Big Jim Rennie, an obscenely sanctimonious local politician and drug lord who likes the idea of having an isolated populace to dominate. Opposing him are footloose Iraq veteran Dale "Barbie" Barbara, newspaper editor Julia Shumway, a gaggle of teen skateboarders and others who want to solve the riddle of the dome. "It's a nonstop thrill ride as well as a disturbing, moving meditation on our capacity for good and

evil...irresistibly compelling." *Publishers Weekly* "Regular King readers will rejoice at his return to his strengths. Some will balk at the page count, but a fast pace and compelling narrative make the reader's time fly." *Library Journal* "It's vintage King: wonderfully written, good, creepy, old-school fun." *Kirkus Reviews*

Barbara Kingsolver, **THE LACUNA**, (528 pgs) 11/3

Kingsolver's new novel, her first in nine years (after *The Poisonwood Bible*), focuses on Harrison William Shepherd, the product of a divorced American father and a Mexican mother. After getting kicked out of his American military academy, Harrison spends his formative years in Mexico in the 1930s in the household of Diego Rivera; his wife, Frida Kahlo; and their houseguest, Leon Trotsky, who is hiding from Soviet assassins. After Trotsky is assassinated, Harrison returns to the U.S., settling down in Asheville, N.C., where he becomes an author of historical potboilers and is later investigated as a possible subversive. "Narrated in the form of letters, diary entries and newspaper clippings, the novel achieves a rare dramatic power that reaches its emotional peak when Harrison wittily and eloquently defends himself before the House Un-American Activities Committee (on the panel is a young Dick Nixon). Kingsolver masterfully resurrects a dark period in American history with the assured hand of a true literary artist." *Publishers Weekly* "This is her most ambitious, timely, and powerful novel yet. Well worth the wait." *Library Journal*

Dean Koontz, **BREATHLESS**, (352 pgs) 11/24

Grady Adams avoids the contemporary world and chooses instead to spend his time crafting furniture, or in the forests and meadows surrounding his mountain home. One day, while on a walk, he glimpses two beautiful furred animals unlike anything he's ever seen before. The sighting sets in motion a journey of mystery, menace and wonder. Along for the ride is local veterinarian Camellia Rivers as everything readers thought they knew about the natural world is challenged.

James Patterson, **I, ALEX CROSS**, (400 pgs) 11/16

Alex Cross's niece is found brutally murdered. Overcome with grief, Alex vows to take down her killer before he strikes again. But shortly after he begins the investigation, Alex discovers that his niece had gotten mixed up with some very important, very dangerous people. And she's not the only one who has disappeared. The hunt for the murderer leads Alex and his girlfriend, Detective Brianna Stone, to a place where every fantasy is possible, *if* you have the credentials to get in. Alex and Bree are soon facing down some very important, very protected, very dangerous people in levels of society where only one thing is certain--they will do *anything* to keep their secrets safe.

J.D. Robb, **KINDRED IN DEATH**, (384 pgs) 11/3

New York City law officers have more technological weapons at their disposal in Robb's near-future series, but so do criminals, including the sadistic rapist killer who strikes down Deena MacMasters, the 16-year-old daughter of police captain Jonah MacMasters, in the 30th full-length novel to feature homicide detective Lt. Eve Dallas (after *Promises in Death*). MacMasters specifically asks that Dallas, who has a knack for clever insights and deductions, lead the investigation into his daughter's murder. An impressive team of professionals—augmented by Dallas's husband, Roarke, and his young protégé, Jaime Lingstrom—begins the arduous task of collecting and analyzing data. Clues suggest Deena may not be the only victim targeted by her killer and increase the pressure on Dallas and her cohorts. “Robb combines sex, horrific crime, forensics and technological wizardry for another winner sure to please her many fans.” *Publishers Weekly*

David Robbins, **THE BROKEN JEWEL**, (432 pgs) 11/10

Robbins's ninth novel tells the dramatic story of the 1945 rescue of 2,100 American and allied prisoners from the Los Baños camp near Manila. Middle-aged gambler Remy Tuck and his teenage son, Talbot, have been civilian prisoners since the Philippines fell to the Japanese in 1942. Packed into the miserable Los Baños, where the Japanese starve, beat, abuse and murder the prisoners, Remy and Talbot use their wits and courage to survive. Across the camp, Carmen is a young Filipina woman forced to be a sex slave for Japanese soldiers. She and Talbot forge a relationship via long-distance glances through barbed wire. Once the Americans invade the Philippines and plan a daring mission to rescue the prisoners from certain death, Remy, Talbot and Carmen risk their lives to aid the paratroopers coming to their rescue. “This is a terrific story of the triumph of the human spirit, loaded with suspense, historical accuracy and fast-paced action...the best WWII Pacific campaign novel in a long time.” *Publishers Weekly* “Robbins's magnificent story will inspire readers to learn more.” *Library Journal* “A remarkable story, brilliantly told.” *Kirkus Reviews*

Nora Roberts, **BED OF ROSES**, (368 pgs) 10/27

In her second bridal-themed romance about four friends who run Vows, a Greenwich, Conn., wedding planning business, Roberts focuses on Emma Grant while her partners, MacKensie, Parker and Laurel, play supporting roles. In the first installment of this planned quartet, Vows' bridal photographer got engaged, and now florist Emma wonders if she can find true love with old friend Jack Cooke, who is also very close to Emma's associates. When Emma kisses Jack, her “spark-o-meter” melts from the blazing heat, but their romance's setbacks are smoothed out with a little

help from their friends. "Those with a TiVo full of Bridezillas should enjoy it, thanks largely to Roberts's effortless wit." *Publishers Weekly* "Ardent, sexy, and romantic, this satisfying story overflows with friendship and laughter." *Library Journal*

Al Roker & Dick Lochte, **THE MORNING SHOW MURDERS**, (320 pgs) 11/24  
 Roker teams with Lochte (*Sleeping Dog*) on a crime novel that revolves around a fictional TV program much like NBC's The Today Show. Billy Blessing, a New York City celebrity chef who owns a restaurant and does a variety of segments on Wake Up, America!, has just begun filming a reality food show when he becomes a suspect in a murder case after Rudy Gallagher, Blessing's executive producer on the show with whom he has clashed, dies after eating some poisoned coq au vin from Blessing's restaurant. When the Manhattan DA shut downs the restaurant and Gallagher's replacement suspends him from his main television gig, Blessing turns sleuth. "Snappy prose and well-developed characters will leave readers wanting to see more of Blessing." *Publishers Weekly*

Philip Roth, **THE HUMBLING**, (160 pgs) 10/21  
 Simon Axler wowed theater critics with his outsize talent and persona for 40 years, taming major roles from Shakespeare to Chekov to Miller, but one evening at the Kennedy Center, he suffers a meltdown so terrifying and complete that he consigns himself to an institution for a month of group, art, and physical therapies. The blockage cannot be explained away through normal psychiatric channels, so Axler retreats to his country estate, where he fantasizes about the shotgun in the attic, unable to summon the courage to play the role of a man committing suicide. An unexpected visit from Pegeen Stapleford, the daughter of old friends and 25 years his junior, sets the stage for a recurring Roth theme, the pathos of the aging artist seeking revitalization through an all-encompassing sexual liaison. "The svelte narrative amounts to an unsparing confrontation of self." *Publishers Weekly*

Edward Rutherfurd, **NEW YORK**, (880 pgs) 11/10  
 Rutherfurd celebrates America's greatest city in a saga that showcases his ability to combine historical research and storytelling. As in his earlier, bestselling novels, he illuminates cultural, social, and political upheavals through the lives of a diverse set of families. As he recounts the intertwining fates of characters rich and poor, black and white, native born and immigrant, Rutherfurd brings to life the momentous events that shaped New York and America: the Revolutionary War, the emergence of the city as a great trading and financial center, the excesses of the Gilded Age, the explosion of immigration in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, the trials of World War II, the near-demise of New

York in the 1970s and its roaring rebirth in the '90s, and the attacks on the World Trade Center. Sprinkled throughout are cameo appearances by historical figures ranging from George Washington to Abraham Lincoln to Babe Ruth.

Jeff Shaara, **NO LESS THAN VICTORY: A Novel of World War II**, (480 pgs) 11/3

The conclusion to Shaara's WWII European theater series contains a mix of real life military leaders and fictional soldiers in combat, recapitulating the last five months of the war, from the Battle of the Bulge to the liberation of concentration camps. Shaara's real-life figures (generals Dwight D. Eisenhower and George S. Patton, Field Marshal Gerd von Rundstedt) mostly appear to discuss strategy, while fictional characters carry the narrative by doing the fighting. Thanks to Shaara's visceral descriptive powers, we ride on a bombing mission with bombardier Sergeant Buckley as his B-17 flies through the flak-filled skies over Germany. With Private Benson, we feel the cold, deprivation and sense of dislocation of the Ardennes. And we sit in an observation post right on the Germans' doorstep as Captain Harroway calls down artillery fire on the enemy. "Fans of military fiction will definitely gobble this up." ***Publishers Weekly***

Andrew Vachss, **HAIKU**, (224 pgs) 11/3

Ho was a revered sensei, but when his dismissive arrogance caused the death of a beloved student, he renounced not only his possessions but also his role as a master, and now roams the streets in search of a way to atone. Drawn by his presence, a group forms around him: Michael, an addicted gambler; Ranger, a Vietnam veteran with a tenuous grip on reality; Lamont, a once-fearless street-gang warlord turned hopeless alcoholic; Target, a relentless "clanger" who speaks only by echoing the sounds of others; and Brewster, an obsessive collector of hardboiled paperbacks he stashes in an abandoned building. Late one night, Michael spots a woman in a white Rolls-Royce throwing something into the river. Convinced that the woman is a perfect blackmail target, he attempts to recruit the others to search for her. But news that Brewster's library is slated for demolition turns this halfhearted effort into a serious mission to find the ultimate problem-solver: money, and with it a new home for Brewster's precious collection. "Compelling prose.....introducing an engaging if damaged hero." ***Publishers Weekly***

Joseph Wambaugh, **HOLLYWOOD MOON**, (xxx pgs) 11/24

Trouble ensues after a husband-and-wife team of identity thieves, the weak-willed Dewey Gleason and his domineering mate, Eunice, cross paths with Malcolm Rojas, a creepy teenager with major anger-management issues. The heart of the story, though, comes from the vignettes of life on

patrol among the cast of the station cops, including "Hollywood" Nate Weiss, the actor turned cop; Weiss's beautiful partner, Dana Vaughn; and the surfer duo, Flotsam and Jetsam. "Spare and punchy prose fuels descriptions so on target that readers will feel they are riding shotgun, gazing out on Tinseltown's tawdry landscape." ***Publishers Weekly***  
"Crimes escalate and fun abounds." ***Booklist***