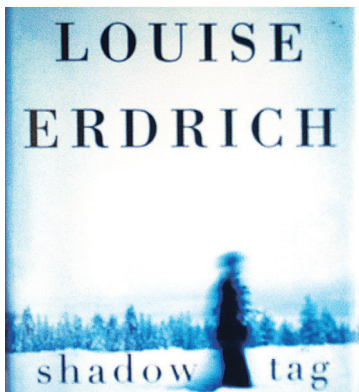


Fall reading

Library staffers review their favourite fall selections



Shadow Tag
by Louise Erdrich
(Fiction)

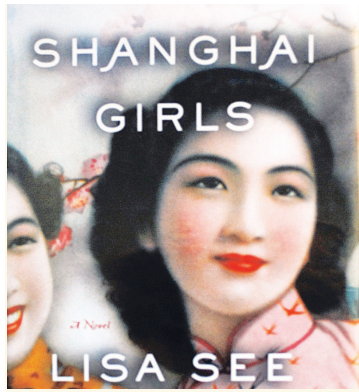
Shadow Tag describes the literary deterioration of one couple's marriage. Irene has discovered that her volatile, painter husband, Gil (whom she no longer loves), has been reading her diary. So she purposefully fills it with adulterous scenes to enrage him, in the hopes that he will leave her.

In the meantime, she keeps a second diary containing her true feelings and thoughts, locked in a safety deposit box. Irene is Gil's model, and has been the subject of several graphically revealing portraits that have won Gil some acclaim. Yet he can't seem to break through to the "big time" and is pigeonholed as a Native American artist.

Irene battles with alcoholism, and can't always protect her children from her husband's frustration and rage.

Shadow Tag is available in regular and large print.

Reviewed by Lisa Hunziger



Shanghai Girls
by Lisa See
(Fiction)

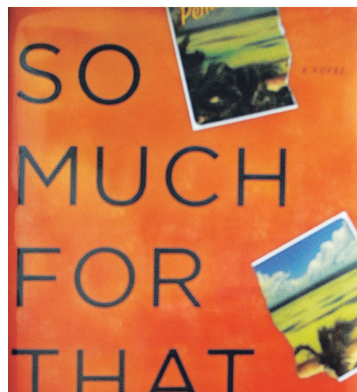
Historical fiction fans will enjoy this novel by the bestselling author of Peony in Love.

It's 1937 in cosmopolitan Shanghai, and sisters Pearl and May have discovered their father has gambled away the family's wealth. In order to repay his debts he must sell the girls as wives to American suitors. It is a tumultuous time, as Japan invades the city. The sisters flee China to Los Angeles' Chinatown, where they battle discrimination and experience first-hand the Communist witch hunts that characterized that era.

The book is a story of sisters who share petty jealousies, rivalries and a life-altering secret, but who are at heart, best friends.

Shanghai Girls is available in regular and large print, on CD and as a downloadable digital audio book from www.downloadcentre.library.on.ca

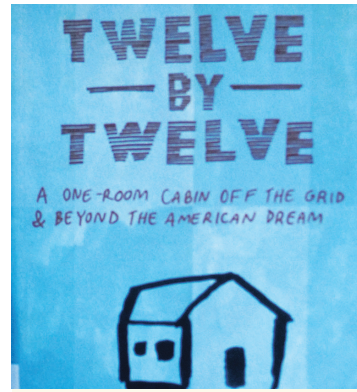
Reviewed by: Lisa Hunziger



So Much For That
by Lionel Shriver
(Fiction)

When Shep Knacker sells his home repair business for a million dollars, his dream retirement plan of an idyllic retreat to a Tanzanian island seems within reach. He isn't convinced that his wife Glynis will want to give up her life in New York City to move to Africa, but he decides to go with or without her. He purchases one-way plane tickets, opens a special bottle of Bourbon, and announces to his wife his intentions. And that is when Glynis tells Shep that she has been diagnosed with a rare cancer, and that she needs his health insurance. The novel explores the American health care system, and the author writes with a dry humor and page-turning energy. Shriver is the author of the award-winning book *We Need to Talk About Kevin*.

Reviewed by Lisa Hunziger



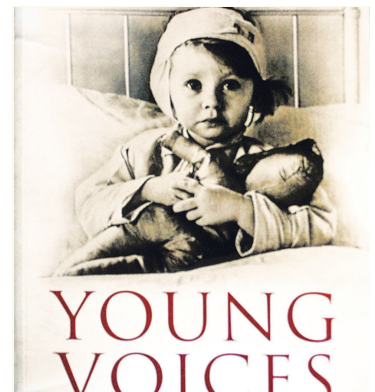
Twelve by Twelve: A One-Room Cabin Off the Grid and Beyond the American Dream
by William Powers
(Non-Fiction)

William Powers is quite used to "roughing it." As a leader of development aid and conservation initiatives in Latin America and Africa, he understands what it is to live in with few amenities. But is it one thing to live where there are no amenities, and quite another to live without them when they are all around you.

On the invitation of a friend, Power's agrees to live for a summer in a twelve-by-twelve foot cabin on a small permaculture farm. During his stay, Powers meets an interesting assortment of other like-minded people, people trying to minimize their impact on the land and support a responsibility towards the environment through organic and sustainable farming practices.

This absorbing book is about one man's search for his own balance in a world that has become obsessed with plenty, wealth and immediate results.

Reviewed by Clare Hanman



Young Voices: British Children Remember the Second World War
by Lyn Smith
(Non-Fiction)

There are countless books about the Second World War, but the majority of them focus on the battles fought. This book is one of the few that focuses instead on the home front.

It consists of many snippets: memories, excerpts from letters, photographs, journal entries and drawings from people who were children during the war. The children represent many different perspectives: what it was like to live in a city under siege; what it was like to be evacuated to the country, or even another country all together; experiences of British children in Europe; European children in Britain; land girls, children in internment camps, conscientious objectors and more.

This eye-opening book is a truly interesting read, shocking in parts, inspiring in others, and very difficult to put down.

Reviewed by Clare Hanman



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