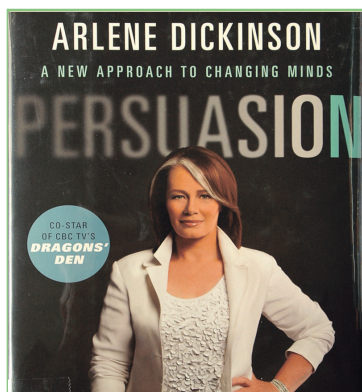


Winter reading

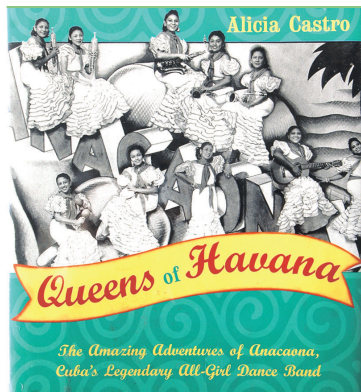
Library staffers review their favourite winter selections



Persuasion: A New Approach to Changing Minds by Arlene Dickinson (Non-Fiction)

Arlene Dickinson is a Canadian success story. As a single mother with four children at the age 31, armed with only a high school diploma and the fierce determination to support her small family, she worked her way to be a partner of Venture Communications in one short year, and in 10 years turned the company into one of the biggest marketing corporations in the country. In this book she explains that the root of her success is persuasion, the art of getting yes for an answer by developing relationships, reciprocity, and personal authenticity. Filled with practical advice about everything from selling yourself at a job interview to asking for a promotion, this book shows how anyone with the will to do it, can get ahead in business.

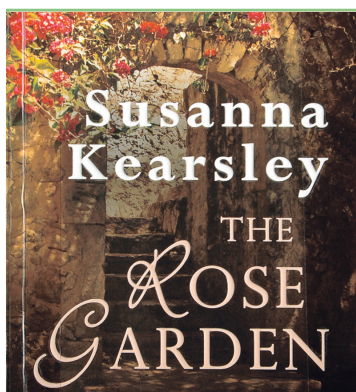
Reviewed by Clare Hanman



Queens of Havana: The Amazing Adventures of Anacaona, Cuba's Legendary All-Girl Dance Band by Alicia Castro with Ingrid Kummels and Manfred Schafer (Non-Fiction)

The night life of Havana, Cuba was very much a man's world in the 1930s. Needless to say, when a group of eleven sisters and friends hit the scene with their own dance band, they created quite a stir. Written by Alicia, one of these sisters through her niece Ingrid, this book brings to life the little-known history of the music and mayhem of Cuba in the mid 20th century, including the hard work of show business and the challenges of being an all female band— and a band of mostly sisters at that. As their success increases, the girls embarked on a European tour and crossed paths with many celebrities of the day. This is a light-hearted read about a fascinating period in history and an amazing family.

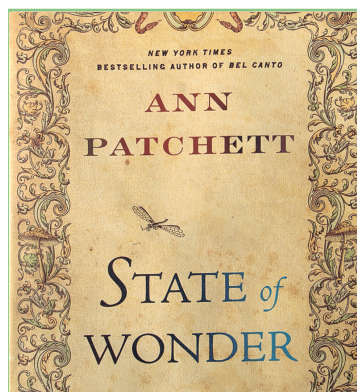
Reviewed by Clare Hanman



The Rose Garden by Susanna Kearsley (Fiction)

After the death of her beloved sister, Eva Ward leaves California and returns to Trelowarth Manor in Cornwall where they spent their childhood summers. Eva connects not only with old family friends who own Trelowarth, but also with people who had lived there in the early 1700s. She discovers she can travel through time to when Trelowarth was a smuggling hub during the Jacobite Rebellion. She is attracted to a charismatic sea captain named Daniel Butler, the original owner of Trelowarth, and is drawn into the intrigue of his smuggling and a plot to overthrow the newly crowned King George I in the Jacobite uprisings. Conflict and tension mount between the two times as Eva has to decide where she truly belongs— in the present or in the past.

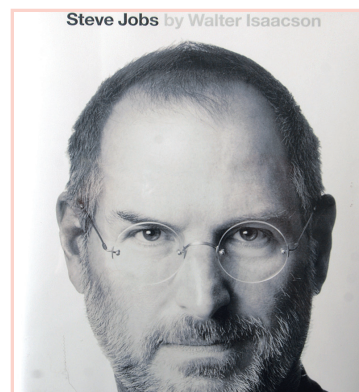
Reviewed by Etta De'ath



State of Wonder by Ann Patchett (Fiction)

An absorbing adventure that takes research scientist, Dr. Marina Singh, from her comfortable office in a Minnesota pharmaceutical company, deep into the Amazon Jungle to check on her former teacher, Dr. Annick Swenson, who is developing a top-secret, new drug. Singh follows in the footsteps of a close colleague, Anders Eckman, who has just died under mysterious circumstances while working with Swenson. Survival for all concerned depends on Singh's strength and tenacity as she not only confronts the insect— and snake-infested Brazilian jungle— dodging poison arrows and negotiating with a Cannibal tribe— she must also face demons from her own past. But this Heart of Darkness tale is not without redemption. A good escape read.

Reviewed by Patti Post



Steve Jobs by Walter Isaacson (Non-Fiction)

On October 5, 2011, the news that Steve Jobs has succumbed to pancreatic cancer sent shockwaves through the technology industry. This authorized biography is based on over 40 interviews with Jobs and more than a hundred interviews with his colleagues, family and friends. And while Jobs was well aware this book was being written, he insisted that he never wanted to read a word of it. This book describes Steve Jobs' entire life: from his childhood as an adopted son of working class parents to his on-and-off working relationship with Apple. Intertwined with all the gadgets and the business deals, there is the story of Steve's personal life, his children, and marriage. It is a mesmerizing account of an amazing man who led an unbelievable life.

Reviewed by Clare Hanman

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