

murder—as well as pre-empting their own— in this fast-paced Swedish thriller.

Priceless: How I went undercover to rescue the world's stolen treasures (2010) / Robert K. Wittman with John Shiffman

[364.162 W832P, Inforum stacks]

Like Boser's *Gardner heist*, *Priceless* covers the art underworld but is told from the perspective of former FBI agent, Robert Wittman. Wittman's memoir centres on his 20-year career as an undercover agent whose strategy was to befriend and betray thieves to recover historical documents and valuable works of art. Compellingly written, art lovers and true crime readers will appreciate the details and suspense in *Priceless*.



ACCESS & PRIVACY

The light of other days (2000) / Arthur C. Clarke and Stephen Baxter

[PR6005 .L3118 L47 2000, Robarts]

The Light of Other Days describes the 24th century in which businessman Hiram Patterson exploits the power of quantum wormholes to view humanity's past, present and future—anytime, anywhere. Use of Patterson's WormCam technology is justified to prepare for the impending asteroid collision with Earth, but the loss of privacy has serious consequences for history and its making. People make unsettling discoveries about the past, and change their behaviour in light of potential surveillance. Whereas documents and artefacts are the primary means for reconstructing history, Clarke and Baxter's work of science fiction provides a provocative thought-experiment involving human omniscience.



The unbinding (2007) / Walter Kirn

[PS3561 .I746 U53 2007X, Robarts]

Originally a serial novel published online, *The Unbinding* is a contemporary psychological fiction novel which echoes themes from *Nineteen-Eighty Four*. Kent Selkirk works for this story's Big Brother, a company called AidSat which protects its customers, in exchange for their privacy and all personal data. Interested in his next-door neighbour and AidSat subscriber, Sabrina, Kirk breaks the rules and requests her data to find out more about her. Akin to the perils of "Facebook-stalking" acquaintances, not knowing who has access to this personal information presents complexities in Kirn's characters' relationships. Although *The Unbinding* is now printed and bound, the first chapter of this satire is still available for free via slate.com.



*INF2180 reading guide prepared by
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Reading Guide for INF2180

*Archives: Access,
Advocacy &
Outreach*



*Suggested leisure
reading and
entertainment*

MEET YOUR VISITORS

From the mixed-up files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler (1967) / E. L. Konigsburg

[JUV FIC K82fr, OISE Children's Literature collection]

Siblings Claudia and Jamie run away from home to New York's Museum of Metropolitan Art in the Newbery Medal-winning *From the Mixed-up Files of Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler*. Vicariously experience this urban adventure through the eyes of school-children as they 'live off the land' by washing up in the museum's pool, forage for coins in the fountain, and rest in a bed fit for a king. Claudia's preoccupation with a sculpture's provenance leads the pair to eccentric Mrs. Basil E. Frankweiler, an elderly patron of the arts. Mrs. Frankweiler strikes a deal with the children, in which they may search her mixed-up files. In this intriguing story, Konigsburg allows us to see museums (and similarly, archives) from the vantage point of children: not necessarily as cultural institutions, but as a comfortable refuges and spaces to engage young inquisitive minds.

Roots (1976) / Alex Haley

[E185.97 .H24 A33, Robarts]

Alex Haley's landmark title, *Roots*, sparked a widespread interest in genealogy when it debuted in 1976. The story opens with the birth of Haley's West African ancestor, Kunta Kinte, in 1750. Later, teenaged Kunta is kidnapped and sold to be a slave in America. Haley's family history spans seven generations and relies largely on conventional written records, but the controversial use of oral history to reconstruct Kunta's life in the book has garnered criticism over the years. Despite charges of plagiarism, the Pulitzer and National Book Prize-winning title celebrated its 30th anniversary in 2007. *Roots* provides a powerful story to understand the African-American experience and the legacy of the slave-trade.

Possession: A romance (1990) / A.S. Byatt

[PR6052 .Y27 P67 1990, Robarts]

In Byatt's work of literary fiction, Maud Bailey and Roland Mitchell are two 20th century scholars, who find themselves researching the romantic affair between two English poets, Randolph Henry Ash and Christabel LaMotte. Readers may also be interested in the way the two academics use primary documents to investigate the poets' lives. The love-letters, poetry,

and other Victorian-styled writings are interwoven with *Possession's* expressive prose which captures Maud and Roland's growing modern-day relationship. As the 1990 winner of the Booker Prize and the Irish Times-Aer Lingus International Fiction Prize, this romance between well-developed characters will be appreciated by lovers of classic English literature as well as connoisseurs of contemporary fiction.

On Gold Mountain (1995) / Lisa See

[F870 .C5 S44 1995X, Robarts]

First published in 1995, journalist-turned-novelist Lisa See's *On Gold Mountain* is a multi-generational family history. Starting with her great-grandfather's late 19th century emigration from China to America's West Coast (Gold Mountain), See's expansive family saga captures much of America's history with respect to Chinese immigration and assimilation. Using primary sources (such as documents and interviews) See transforms her relatives and ancestors' life stories into an engaging volume about the Chinese-American experience.

As long as the rivers flow (2011) / James Bartleman

[PS 8603 .A7854 A74 2011, Robarts]

As long as the rivers flow tells the moving story of a young First Nations girl named Martha, who was taken away from her family to a residential school. Far from her home in Northern Ontario, she is forbidden from speaking her Native language and abused by a pedophilic priest. Ten years and two children later, Martha battles alcoholism as she tries to reunite her family. Written by James Bartleman, the first Native Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, this fictional account complements efforts of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada (TRC) to document the stolen children's experiences in Canadian residential schools.



CRIME & INTRIGUE

National treasure [film] (2005) / Dir. Jon Turteltaub; Prod. Jerry Bruckheimer

[VideoDVD 751983, Media Commons]

Benjamin Franklin Gates is a historian who believes his family's legend that America's Masonic founding fathers hid a treasure dating back to the crusades. Gates is determined to find this treasure before the film's villain does, but he must pilfer the map—one of America's founding documents—from the National Archives. What follows is a series of chases and artefact-deciphering which is reminiscent of Dan Brown's *The Da Vinci Code*. Starring Nicholas Cage, Diane Kruger and other Hollywood favourites, this action-packed adventure film will satisfy the imaginations of treasure-hunters, conspiracy theorists, and fans alike.

The Gardner heist (2008) / Ulrich Boser

[364 .162 B743G, Inforum stacks]

On March 18, 1990, Boston's Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum was robbed of paintings worth over \$500 million. Internationally, this became the largest unsolved case of art theft. Loss of cultural artefacts is devastating to memory institutions and the public, but quite lucrative for criminals. Through this true crime story, Boser uses primary sources to reconstruct the night of the heist, and introduces readers to the art underworld.

The girl with the dragon tattoo (2009) / Stieg Larsson

[PT9876.22 .A6933 M3613 2009X, Robarts]

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo is the first novel in Stieg Larsson's best-selling Millennium Trilogy. Journalist Mikael Blomkvist's reputation is raked through muck when he is sued for libel after accusing a high-profile business mogul of illegal-arms dealings. Far from Stockholm, aging industrialist Henrik Vanger agonizes over the unsolved murder of his niece and decides to hire the disgraced journalist to solve this case in Hedestad. The mysterious computer-hacker and profiler Lisbeth Salander joins Mikael to research Vanger family feuds and secrets in order to uncover the truth. Records and archival evidence found by Mikael and Salander become key-stones in solving the