Personalized Reading Suggestions for *Jane Reader*

# Appeal Factors

I selected authors and books based upon the following subject interests and appeal factors:

* Genres: Recent titles; Mysteries; Thrillers; Romantic Suspense; Multi-book series
* Tone: Happy, light, uplifting; resolved ending; suspenseful/tense
* Setting: Modern/contemporary
* Focus: Character; Action and Events
* Avoid: Books that are over 500 pages; explicit sexual content; dark or cynical humor; gay and lesbian relationships; anti-religion; politics
* Also: Fast pace is important. Favorites include Dean Koontz, James Patterson, Iris Johansen, Robin Cook, and Mary Higgins Clark.

# Authors you might like

## Harlan Coben

## Known for creating one of the most popular characters in mystery fiction, Harlan Coben has now turned to suspense. Coben's characters are ordinary people who find their lives invaded by extraordinary circumstances. Fans of the Myron Bolitar mystery series enjoy the finely plotted puzzles, Myron's strong moral fiber, and the behind-the-scenes glimpse into the world of sports. Coben's suspense employs similar strong characters, a rapid-fire plot, and a first person point of view, allowing the readers to experience each plot twist and emotion with the protagonist. Start with: [Tell No One](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2675940063_tell_no_one).

## Scott Smith

Scott Smith's suspense thrillers feature normal people thrown into unusual or abnormal circumstances. His characters, who he frequently forces into making tough, moral decisions that challenge their own belief systems, lie at the heart of his clever narratives. Smith leaves his readers to make decisions as to whether or not a character's choices are "good" or "bad" not through his own overt or even sublime suggestion, but by presenting a thorough and objective presentation of the full facts of the situation. Start with: [A Simple Plan](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2052227063_a_simple_plan).

## Tess Gerritsen

Formerly a writer of Romance and Romantic Suspense, Tess Gerritsen now uses her knowledge as a physician to write best-selling Medical Thrillers that feature fast-paced action, growing suspense, authentic medical details, and sympathetic characters. Her plots often follow contemporary medical issues, as well as questions of medical ethics. Whether possessing the medical or the investigative expertise, Gerritsen's heroines must work their way through medical clues and track the villains, all while facing life-or-death situations. These stories are dark, filled with nightmare situations and deadly violence. Start with: [Harvest](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1440962063_harvest).

## Carla Neggers

## Carla Neggers is best-known for her many romantic suspense novels, whodunits with an edge of romance, although she also writes contemporary romance. While Neggers' romantic suspense is plot-driven, she creates intriguing and relatable characters throughout her oeuvre, with well-drawn protagonists, secondary characters, and villains alike. Their relationships and interactions are believable and interesting, powered by well-nuanced dialogue, particularly between her romantic protagonists, many of whom are in law enforcement. New England, from Boston to the region's small towns, is a frequent setting. Neggers' storytelling is enhanced by sharp scene-setting, compelling background details, and strong secondary storylines. Start with: [The Widow](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2027188063_the_widow).

## John Hart

Former defense lawyer **John Hart** updates the Southern Gothic mystery in his erudite thrillers, adding a tender heart to an often melodramatic formula, and grounding it in the present day and its challenges. **Hart's** Edgar Award-winning, character-driven novels focus on sympathetically-written protagonists attempting to make the best of bad decisions and bad luck. Their relationships with others, both positive and negative, drive his action-packed plots, and secondary characters are also compellingly written. **Hart's** writing is notable for its sharp turns of phrase and his description of a vibrantly and often violently atmospheric North Carolina. Start with: [The King of Lies](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1978367063_the_king_of_lies).

## Kate Wilhelm

Kate Wilhelm's forays into science fiction, fiction, and mystery offer complex characterizations and detailed plots. Frequently packaging psychological suspense, apt characters and issues real and relevant to modern audiences, Wilhelm weaves fast-paced, tightly-plotted, textured works. Start with: [The Price of Silence](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1943410063_the_price_of_silence).

# Titles you might enjoy— Fiction:

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| Book Jacket | [Broken Prey](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1873206063_broken_prey) by John SandfordThe first victim is a young woman, probably flayed alive and raped. Lucas Davenport, head of Minnesota's Bureau of Criminal Apprehension, is assigned to the case by his boss, the governor, who fears political fallout if a serial killer is on the loose. A tip puts Davenport and his team on the trail of a recently paroled sexual offender. Charley Pope never killed anyone, but conventional wisdom indicates his rage may escalate. But the planning that went into the crimes seems to exceed Charley's capabilities. Lucas also entertains the possibility that Charley was a "robot" for three Hannibal Lector types in the asylum's high-security section for the criminally insane. The seventeenth Prey thriller is a cut above recent entries in the series. For one, it's a real whodunit, with the killer not revealed until the last couple chapters. Second, it contains supersized servings of all the elements readers have come to treasure in the series: Davenport's quirky, self-deprecating, and ironic worldview; plenty of graveyard humor; and a dynamic sense of place, from the Minnesota countryside to bustling Minneapolis to the foreboding gothic architecture of the asylum. (BookList starred review). **Reason:** Fast-paced, suspenseful, and plot-driven, this is a read-alike for a number of your favorite authors. First in a series. |
| Cold City | [Cold City](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2757685063_cold_city) by F. Paul WilsonReaders who might be tempted to cry “enough already with Repairman Jack!”—those for whom 15 novels are plenty, not to mention three Teen Jack books—might be dismayed to learn that this is the first in a new trilogy about the fix-it man, whose projects usually wind up involving him in life-or-death battles with evil (or perhaps that should be Evil). But never fear: this tale, set in 1990 and chronicling Jack’s early adventures in New York City, is more entertaining than the series has been in quite awhile. Its prose is refreshingly nimble, not lumbered by the extensive backstory that weighs down other books in the series, and Jack himself—a younger, less experienced version of the familiar character—is likable and even kind of goofy. Jack fans will snap this new book up, but it can also be safely recommended to readers who have grown tired of the increasingly dark and impenetrable Jack novels. A breath of fresh air for a long-running crime-fiction franchise (BookList review). **Reason:** A great new series from a writer who is often favorably compared to Dean Koontz. |
| Learning to Swim | [Learning to Swim](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2576505063_learning_to_swim) by Sara J. HenryFreelance writer Troy Chance, the protagonist of Henry's impressive first novel, impulsively, and literally, dives into trouble when she sees a youngster fall from a ferry boat on Lake Champlain. Troy manages to rescue the boy, discovers that his fall was no accident, and after brief, anonymous reports to the police, embarks on an ill-conceived attempt to become the boy's protector. Bonding with the boy, she eventually learns his name, Paul Dumond; his age, six; and that he and his mother had been kidnapped and his mother later shot and killed. Troy locates Paul's Canadian father, Philippe, and reunites father and son, but she is unwilling to end her involvement. When the police can't find the kidnappers, Troy starts to probe more deeply into the lives of Philippe, his abducted wife, and Paul's captivity. Henry adroitly handles Troy's exposure to new emotions as she re-examines her life and relationships (Publishers Weekly review). **Reason:** Suspenseful mystery; recent title; winner of the 2011 Mary Higgins Clark Award (mystery without explicit sex or violence; protagonist who overcomes obstacles in an inspiring way). |
| Book Jacket | [Sweet Talk](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2712274063_sweet_talk) by Julie GarwoodIn this intrigue-laden, passion-filled romantic thriller, beautiful IRS attorney Olivia Mackenzie is committed to making the most of her life, alone. Though she has recovered from her childhood illness, Olivia won’t let anyone get close enough to suffer with her should her condition recur, and her abusive father has taught her not to trust anyone. When she meets handsome FBI agent Grayson Kincaid after a crooked businessman mistakes her for an agent and assaults her, her resolve begins to weaken. Grayson seems to understand Olivia’s fears regarding her outwardly charming but vicious parents and the lengths they will go to protect their own wealth and prestige. As Grayson protects Olivia after further attempts on her life, they both become increasingly aware that the attraction and concern they feel for one another shows no sign of abating. Some cumbersome writing weighs down the story, but a great plot with strong characters and red-hot romance will keep readers engaged (Publishers Weekly review). **Reason:** Fast-paced romantic thriller. Recent title and resolved ending. |
| Got the Look | [Got the Look](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1916860063_got_the_look) by James GrippandoWhat is the price of a human life? That is the central question confronting Florida lawyer Jack Swyteck as he grapples with kidnapping and treachery. He's just beginning to believe that new girlfriend Mia Salazar might be the one when he discovers she's married. Jack dumps her and, while licking his wounds, finds out that she is the latest victim of a serial kidnapper. Or has her husband killed her and faked the entire incident? Jack must use all of his instincts to uncover the truth, even if he doesn't like the answers. Fans of legal thrillers will devour this novel; first-time readers of former trial lawyer Grippando and the Swyteck series will not feel left out. Jack is a wonderful character, and the main mystery is both puzzling and shocking (Library Journal starred review).**Reason:** A fast-paced novel with great characters and a compelling theme. |
| Shiver | [Shiver](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/2757671063_shiver) by Karen RobardsSet in St. Louis, this spellbinding novel of romantic suspense from bestseller Robards stars Samantha “Sam” Jones, a 23-year-old single mother, who struggles to make ends meet by working nights repossessing cars while taking classes for EMT certification during the day. Her mundane life goes terribly askew after she finds an injured man in the trunk of a BMW she’s repossessing. Before she can decide what to do, she’s assaulted and thrown into the trunk with the man. In a fight for survival, Sam and her trunk mate, who turns out to be an undercover FBI agent, Danny Panterro, must seek a way to outwit their captors, members of a drug cartel. Sam’s fiery determination to stay alive and keep her four-year-old son safe is the perfect match for Danny’s tenacity as an undercover agent. Sensual love scenes help propel the novel toward its explosive conclusion. **Reason:** Another great romantic suspense novel by a leader of the genre. A very recent title with a fast pace and resolved ending. |
| Superstition | [Superstition](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1489118063_superstition) by David AmbroseAn intensely terrifying story of a ghost literally created by the power of the human mind. When all attempts to terminate the ghost fail, a desperate struggle for survival escalates as those who created the spirit fall victim to the heinous forces of the unknown.**Reason:** Ambrose is a read-alike for Dean Koontz and Stephen King, and this title should not disappoint – creepy, with a page-turning plot. |
| Book Jacket | [Always Time to Die](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/item/show/1864477063_always_time_to_die) Elizabeth LowellWhen family historian Carolina (Carly) May is hired to compile the history of the Castillo family, she arrives in Taos, New Mexico to attend eighty year old Senator A. J. Quintrell's funeral. His widow Sylvia has been in a coma for years, and her sister, Miss Winifred, is the one who hired Carly to record the Castillo history. These two families have been entwined for generations, and A. J. and Sylvia's son Josh is Governor of New Mexico. He is planning a run for the Presidency. Daniel Duren has returned home to heal from injuries he received with St. Kilda Consulting Company. Dan has some unfinished business here, but before long, he is drawn in to helping Carly with her work. Suddenly, he must use all his training to keep her safe as deep, dark secrets are uncovered. Ms Lowell has created a multi-layered mystery that seeps evil. Small towns breed rumors that can turn bloody, and no one can be trusted. Ms Lowell has more twists and turns in this book than a roller coaster. ALWAYS TIME TO DIE is a true masterpiece (Rendezvous review). **Reason:** A character-driven, suspenseful thriller with romance and a breakneck-paced plot. |

# Book news and events

* [Next Reads](http://www.nextreads.com/join.aspx?OptinPageID=118&SID=b20c73d0-4aca-4f76-8657-41aed17eec35): Get book suggestions by email or RSS feed
* [Reading Addict Blog](http://www.tulsalibrary.org/blog/reading-addict)-- *Slightly skewed book thoughts by seriously dedicated librarians*
* Follow Tulsa City-County Library on [Twitter](http://twitter.com/#!/tulsalibrary) and [Facebook](http://www.facebook.com/tulsalibrary).
* See what’s new at Tulsa City-County Library with [Wowbrary](http://www.wowbrary.org/nu.aspx?p=2362--GEN&more).
* [Local Author Events](http://www.nextreads.com/Display2.aspx?SID=b20c73d0-4aca-4f76-8657-41aed17eec35&N=494592) at the Tulsa City-County Library and around Tulsa.

# Resources

In addition the Tulsa City-County Library [Catalog](http://tccl.bibliocommons.com/dashboard) and my own reading lists and annotations, I used the following resources to compile your personalized reading suggestions.

The author information and some book annotations of fiction titles are from *NoveList*, a terrific database with author read-alikes, series information, fiction prize-winners and convenient links to the Tulsa City-County Library catalog. You may access *NoveList* from home or any TCCL location with your library card number.  Go to the “Explore” section of the website, select “Reader Tools,” and click on Novelist.

# A Final Note

Thank you for using *Your Next Great Read*, aReaders’ Advisory service of the Tulsa City-County Library. We were delighted to share our knowledge of the wide range of books available to you for pleasure reading. Please give us feedback! You can reach us at (918) 549-7323 or rlaskus@tulsalibrary.org.