

THE SCHOOL OF NIGHT

BY ALAN WALL

Part scholarly mystery, part thriller, this novel grips the reader from the opening moment when its narrator, BBC editor Sean Tallow, steals two Elizabethan-era tomes from a university library. In the Harriot Notebooks, as they are called, he hopes to find reference to the enigmatic School of Night, a group of Elizabethans possibly including George Chapman, the writer who obliquely hinted at its existence, and the charismatic adventurer, Sir Walter Raleigh. Tallow is convinced Harriot will furnish proof not only of the existence of the school but will also reveal which of the group's members was the real author of the plays commonly believed to have been written by William Shakespeare. As Sean examines the manuscript, he must also come to terms with the death of his childhood friend, Daniel Pagett (always referred to as "dear dead Dan"), who Sean hero-worshipped for many years. Dan did not make it into Oxford with Sean, but went on to amass a fortune and marry Sean's high school sweetheart. After 20 years of study, Tallow is ready to award the authorship to Christopher Marlowe (a favorite of Shakespeare conspiracy theorists), deciding that Marlowe's death in a fight at a bar was actually staged, and that he escaped to Italy, where he wrote the famous plays. In a stunning and unexpected climax, Dan's fate is revealed to be linked to Sean's investigations. Readers familiar with the underworld of debate swirling around Shakespeare's oeuvre won't be surprised by the theories bandied about here, but they should enjoy the tale nonetheless.

Available at Wayne in Fiction

THE GEOGRAPHER'S LIBRARY

BY JON FASMAN

When Paul Tomm, a reporter for the Lincoln Carrier, a small Connecticut newspaper, looks into the demise of Jaan Puhapaev, an elderly academic found dead in his cluttered house, nothing seems out of the ordinary—until the pathologist performing the autopsy is himself killed in a freak car accident. Various locals and acquaintances offer reminiscences of the late professor that suggest he was an extremely complicated (and perhaps dangerous) character. Tomm's discoveries lead him to a lovely young woman, a network of international smugglers and hidden alchemical libraries.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction

THE ICON

BY NEIL OLSON

Matthew Spear, a young Greek-American curator at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, meets the lovely Ana Kessler, a sometime art dealer who has inherited an impressive collection from her mysterious grandfather. Matthew soon discovers that the jewel of the old man's cache is none other than the Holy Mother of Katarini—a sacred icon long thought destroyed in a fire. But while Matthew recognizes the icon's value as a work of art—and a star in his crown if he can add it to the museum's collection—he soon discovers that it carries a far greater significance to numerous people, including his own grandfather and godfather. What Matthew does not realize is that his own connection to the icon will thrust him into a byzantine web of death and deception, as other parties pursue it for their own means. All believe the icon to be a source of fantastic and inexplicable power, and all were somehow connected to the events that transpired in a small Greek village during World War II. As he experiences the peculiar resonance of the icon, and sees the hold it has on others, Matthew begins to understand that the only way out of his entanglement is to discover what really happened in that Greek village sixty years earlier. And he will soon be forced into a harrowing situation where he must decide who lives and who dies, and will have to reexamine virtually every aspect of his life—the loyalties within his family, his feelings for Ana, and even the question of his own faith. Is the icon chiefly a relic of historic and artistic significance? Or is it something more still—a vessel imbued with the spirit and power of Christ himself?

Available at Wayne in Fiction



Wayne Public Library

461 Valley Road, Wayne, NJ 07470

Phone: 973-694-4272

Preakness Branch Library

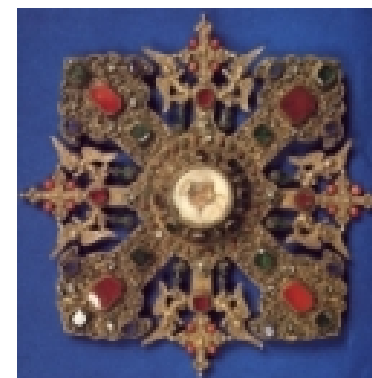
1006 Hamburg Tpke, Wayne, NJ 07470

Phone: 973-694-7110

www.waynepubliclibrary.org

IF YOU LIKE

The Da Vinci Code ... 3



HERE ARE MORE
FAST-PACED,
PUZZLING THRILLERS
WITH INTRIGUING
DETAILS FROM THE
WORLDS OF ART,
RELIGION, POLITICS,
SCIENCE AND THE
OCCULT!

BOOK OF Q

BY JONATHAN RABB

Before entering seminary, Ian Pearse joins a Catholic relief mission to aid refugees from the Bosnian conflict. He falls in love with a Croatian woman, but returns to America. Uncertain of his calling and unable to forget Petra who, unbeknown to him has borne his child, the young priest becomes a student of ancient Christian texts at the Vatican. When a monk friend asks him to keep safe an ancient scroll unearthed in an old church and disappears, Ian's comfortable world unravels. With unknown assailants pursuing him, he turns to a trusted friend, an expert in ancient languages, for help in translating the scroll, which contains the text of a Manichaean document and an encoded map. The Manichaeans, a zealous early Christian sect thought to be extinct, appear to be still active, conspiring secretly to infiltrate the Catholic Church. Carrying the map, Ian sets out to find what it may reveal about the roots of Christianity. His search takes him to Greece, and back to Bosnia, Petra, and his son. Ultimately, he unlocks the mystery of the scroll, but his faith is shaken, and he leaves the priesthood. Mysticism, fundamentalism, ruthless ambition, and the search for truth, whatever the cost, are the pieces of this exciting puzzle, and they all fit together in a dramatic conclusion

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction and on Cassette at Wayne

THE THIRD TRANSLATION

BY MATT BONDURANT

Walter Rothschild, a middle-aged Egyptologist at the British Museum, has abandoned his wife and child to spend his time obsessively poring over the dusty inscriptions of a dead civilization. He is forced to reconnect with life when he is seduced by a mysterious woman who then steals an ancient papyrus containing the key to the enigmatic hieroglyphics of the Stela of Paser. The conspiracy trail leads Walter to a modern-day cult of the Egyptian sun god, Aten, protected by a menacing team of pro wrestlers. In Bondurant's ambitious debut, a sprawling picaresque is infused with mythic resonance by linking it to ancient Egyptian literature and mythology and to concepts in avant-garde physics, including black holes, general relativity and string theory.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction and on Cassette at Wayne



CODEX

BY LEV GROSSMAN

On a two-week vacation before he heads for a new post in London, 25-year-old golden boy Edward Wozny volunteers his services to the Wents, the duchess and duke of Bowmry, two of the firm's biggest clients. Since he assumes they require his financial expertise, he is exasperated-and then intrigued-to discover they wish him to catalogue a collection of ancient books in the attic of their New York apartment. Captivated by the library of rare manuscripts, Edward finds himself oddly content in this mystifying world of words. A special request adds extra urgency to the assignment: he is asked to find a possibly mythical codex by 14th-century monk Gervase of Langford, A Viage to the Contree of the Cimmerians. Most scholars believe that the text-which predicts the coming of the apocalypse and may conceal Went family secrets-never existed, and that view is shared by Margaret Napier, a hard-nosed graduate student whom Edward enlists to aid him in his daunting task. Fixated on locating the codex, Edward becomes equally preoccupied with MOMUS, an intricate, frighteningly vivid computer game. Cyberworld and real world are more connected than Edward realizes, and he gradually discovers that the game is intimately related to his literary sleuthing. A trip to England and a well-orchestrated final twist bring this intelligent, enjoyable novel to a fittingly understated conclusion.

Available at Wayne in Fiction



SIXTH LAMENTATION

BY WILLIAM BRODERICK

Father Anselm, a barrister-turned-monk, is deeply troubled when a former SS officer claims sanctuary at Larkwood Priory, generating considerable unwelcome publicity. Fifty years earlier, Edward Schwermann and a French collaborator had brutally destroyed a group formed to save Jewish children, then avoided arrest at the end of World War II when a Catholic monastery in France gave them fake identities so that they could escape and hide in Britain. Even as Schwermann is put on trial for war crimes, a dying Agnes Aubret begins to write down her experiences in occupied France and Auschwitz for her granddaughter, whose efforts to understand Agnes's past lead her directly to Schwermann's trial. At the same time, Father Anselm's superior sends him to the Vatican, where he is charged with the task of determining the Church's role in facilitating Schwermann's escape. In a reverse of his hero's path, Broderick was a friar before becoming a barrister, and he has based his story on the wartime experiences of his own mother. Patrons will enjoy reading the historical fiction mixed with mystery and courtroom drama.

Available at Wayne & Preakness

CROSS BONES

BY KATHY REICHS

Forensic anthropologist Dr. Temperance "Tempe" Brennan gets caught in mysteries past and present when she's called in to determine if illegal antiquities dealer Avram Ferris's gunshot death is murder or suicide. An acquaintance of Avram suggests the former: he hands Tempe a photograph of a skeleton, taken in Israel in 1963, and insists it's the reason Avram is dead. Tempe's longtime boyfriend, Quebecois detective Andrew Ryan, is also involved with the case, so the duo head to Israel where they attempt to solve the murder and a mystery revolving around a first-century tomb that may contain the remains of the family of Jesus Christ. This find threatens the worldwide Christian community, the Israeli and Jewish hierarchy and numerous illegal antiquity dealers, any of whom might be out to kill Tempe and Ryan. ... The plot is based on a number of real-life anthropological mysteries, and fans of such will have a good time, though thriller readers looking for chills and kills may not find the novel quite as satisfying.

Available at Wayne & Preakness in Fiction