

**Yes sister, no sister : my life as a trainee nurse in 1950s Yorkshire** Jennifer Craig

*Yes Sister, No Sister* is the autobiography of what it was like to train as a nurse in Leeds in the 1950's. This was a fascinating read, and really shows the differences between the nursing education today and what it was like back then. I found this book really hard to put down, and I was glued from start to finish. Jennifer tells her audience in her own words about her good and bad experiences in her training. It tells of the interesting characters she came across, whether they were patients or the Sisters who taught the students. It is funny, inspiring and sad at times, but all the while still a good read. I would recommend this to anyone who has been a nurse, is a nurse, or like me, training to be a nurse, or anyone who loves good stories about nursing. *Reviewed by Jasmine*

NF 610.73 CRA

**Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption** Laura Hillenbrand

*Unbroken* chronicles the amazing life of American, Louis Zamperini. An Olympic competitor in the 1936 Berlin Games, Louis starts training for the Tokyo Olympics in 1940. However, when World War II breaks out in Europe, the Tokyo Games are cancelled. Drafted into the Army Air Corps, Louis is posted to an island in the Pacific. One day, whilst out on a search and rescue mission, Louis's bomber ditches into the ocean, leaving Louis and two other crewmen adrift on a tiny raft in shark infested waters. After many weeks floating along on the current, starving, thirsty and constantly harassed by sharks, the survivors wind up in Japanese territory. Louis's journey has only just begun.

*Unbroken* is the extraordinary true story of a juvenile delinquent turned Olympic runner turned War hero. A riveting read, it will appeal to a wide readership. *Reviewed by Jill*

NF 940.547252 ZAM

**The life and times of a brown paper bag**

Kevin Milne

Kevin Milne's memoir is not just about his life, but also a potted history of his 4 decades working in the broadcasting industry. Milne is probably one of the more well-known television presenters in New Zealand having spent 27 years with that good old consumer affairs programme, "Fair Go". Battling on behalf of the little guy, taking on scammers, con artists, dodgy dealers and big business bullies, Kevin Milne has ended up in 2010, being voted the most trusted face on television.

*The life and times of a brown paper bag* gives us an insight into the cases (some of them hilarious) investigated by the Fair Go team and is a reminder of just how compelling, good investigative journalism can be.

Milne also opens up about his family and home life and his colleagues at TVNZ. A really good read – lots of laughs. *Reviewed by Jill.*

NF 791.45 MIL



Adult Services

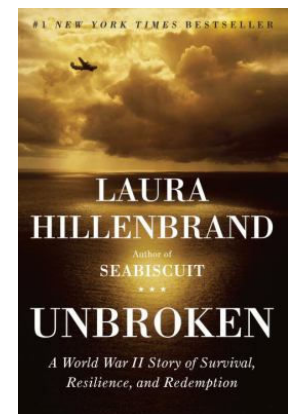
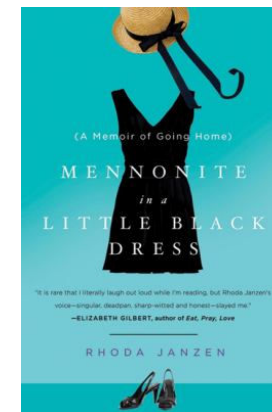
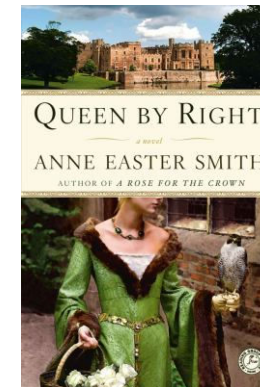
211 1765

Email: [adults@ilibrary.co.nz](mailto:adults@ilibrary.co.nz)

Website: [www.ilibrary.co.nz](http://www.ilibrary.co.nz)

Date: July 2011

# Staff Picks 23



## FICTION

### **Queen by right** Anne Easter Smith

This is the latest novel about the War of the Roses from Anne Easter Smith. It goes back to the start, to Richard, Duke of York and wife, Cecily Neville. It is evident that both Richard and Cecily love each other very much, which is a rare occurrence when the marriage has been arranged. It follows Cis from when she first met Richard to the crowning of their son, Edward, as king of England. When she first meets him, he has just been made an orphan by King Henry. His father tried to revolt against the Henry and proclaim himself king. This is because Richard and his father had more right to the throne than Henry (a family tree at the start shows this very well). So Richard must now grow up with this shadow over his head, and he spends the majority of his life trying to prove that he is loyal to the king.

Once Cecily and Richard are married, they become very wealthy and together they own much land between them. This status leads Richard to English holdings in France and Ireland, before he is forced to come back to assert his right in England. This novel follows his frustration at not being able to take his place at the king's side, due to powerful enemies. However, it also follows Cecily, and how she must also fight to keep her family alive and well. It shows how powerful and powerless women could be, in a time when a woman was little more than her husband's possession. Cecily Neville was a strong woman who fought tooth and nail for everything that she had. As a result, she will forever be known as "Proud Cis". She is also the ancestor of the current royal family in the UK.

I really loved this book. Sometimes the politics became confusing, but the author provided a family tree, a map and a list of characters at the start which helped immensely. I would recommend this to anyone who loves historical fiction, and to anyone who enjoys reading medieval fiction. *Reviewed by Jasmine.*

Historical EAS

### **Dark Prince: Author's Cut Special Edition** Christine Feehan

When originally published back in 1999 *Dark Prince* was one of the first paranormal romances. This is a story that encompasses despair, danger, adventure, mystery, love and passion. Since I first read it years ago, it has been a favourite book of mine. However I always felt that something was missing. But the extra 100 pages included in the author's cut, has fleshed out the story nicely, given more depth to the characters and providing deeper insight into the Carpathian culture.

Mikhail Dubrinsky and Raven Whitney are the two lead characters. Mikhail is the prince of the Carpathians, the powerful leader of a wise and secret ancient race that thrives in the night. While Raven Whitney, is a telepath who has helped hunt some of the worlds most depraved serial killers. From the moment they meet, Raven and Mikhail are helpless to resist the desire that sparks between them.

Mikhail is a wonderful lead character with his mental roller coaster while Raven proves his equal as his soul's saviour.

Readers of the twenty-one books in the series will enjoy the revised edition of the thriller with its marvellous underlying premise while newcomers will find this is an excellent way to enter Christine Feehan's Dark Carpathian series. *Reviewed by Jillian.*

Suspense FEE

## NON FICTION

### **Mennonite in a little black dress: a memoir of going home** Rhoda Janzen

Author Rhoda Janzen left her Mennonite upbringing when she left graduate school and for many years lived the secular life. When her husband leaves her for Bob, whom he met on a gay website, and then shortly after she is involved in a car

accident, she makes the decision to go back home to her family to give herself time to heal.

Back in the fold, Janzen describes for us what life is like living the Mennonite way and tells us what her childhood was like. She talks about shameful foods and wounding words, and she does it in such a delightful, philosophical, and conversational way. There are definitely some laugh-out-loud moments despite the issues with her former husband. At the end of the book, Janzen gives a quick "Mennonite for Dummies" type overview which is also hilarious.

I loved this book. Author Rhoda Janzen has such a deadpan, dry style of wit – and her use of language – just beautiful. You could say that *Mennonite* is like chick lit for the literary. *Reviewed by Jill*

NF 811.6 JAN

### **Unbearable lightness: a story of loss and gain** Portia De Rossi

You know your internal monologue - that little voice inside your head that helps you to mull things over, weigh up pros and cons and remind you of things that you'd thought you'd forgotten about? Mostly that little voice is a good thing, but sometimes it can be a little incessant. It can nag away at you, keep you awake at night and generally drag you down. And in the case of Portia De Rossi, that little voice (more incessant than most) just about cost her everything.

*Unbearable Lightness* allows us to 'hear' Portia's internal monologue and we can see how that little voice drags her into a downward spiral, allowing her eating disorder to escalate out of control. A real eye-opener, *Unbearable Lightness* describes the mindset of someone who first suffers from Bulimia, then Anorexia, and finally, her journey towards self-acceptance. An awe-inspiring read, which, whilst sad, is also at times unintentionally funny, as the author tries to justify to herself her own behaviour and mindset. Un-put-downable. *Reviewed by Jill*

NF 791.45 DER