For those who love mystery, intrigue, and surprises, the Library is pleased to offer a special display called Blind Date with a Book. In the spirit of Valentine’s Day, the word “love” is in the title of each book, but you may be surprised by what you’ll find under the brown wrapping. Clues are on the concealed book to help you choose your “blind date.” So, what are you waiting for? Take a chance! Romance awaits you and your mystery book in the Library.

**The Other Einstein**, by Marie Benedict (2016)

A wonderful look into the life and times of Albert Einstein’s first wife. Wonderfully written, it weaves historical facts with a perspective that is quite unique. Mitza Maric Einstein was a brilliant physicist in her own right on a path that could have led her to fame and fortune until she meets Albert. You can’t help but see the lure of Albert, with his intellect and great wit -- she was doomed from his first smile. Mitza finds it easier to deal with math problems than problems of the heart, and hence, her fate is left in the hands of how well she can navigate two worlds. The author helps us to see Mitza’s chosen path from all perspectives and allows the reader to ponder how they see roles and how one can lose themselves in another. ~ Joyce Piazza-Snell

**Simon Vs. The Homosapien’s Agenda**, by Becky Albertalli (2015)

Simon is a regular kid with a huge secret. This story follows the tale of a closeted teenager who falls in love with Blue, who he finds on his school’s blog. Blue is also gay and closeted. As the readers, we follow their love story through email, as they navigate the troubles of high school. There are some ups and downs to their modern-day love story. This book teaches us how hard it is to live as a gay person in a world with a heteronormative ideal. More importantly it teaches us that everyone deserves to love and be loved. ~ James Borelli


This is an outstanding debut novel by a young adult author. She re-envisions Lewis Carroll’s *Alice in Wonderland* with a young black protagonist. McKinney’s Alice deals with the realities of growing up in downtown Atlanta. She is called to cross over into Wonderland to slay monsters that manifest as darkness and violence back in our world. I decided to read this book after seeing this comment by author Angie Thomas (*The Hate U Give*): “A Blade So Black is the fantasy book I’ve been waiting for my whole life. Alice is Black Girl Magic personified.” After so many years of reading fantasy novels with white male heroes, it’s wonderful to read about worlds where diverse ethnic backgrounds and sexual orientations are the norm. ~ Vickie Kline
**Carnegie’s Maid**, by Marie Benedict (2018)

Marie Benedict’s latest novel follows one poor Irish woman’s journey as she rises above her station through pretense and hard work. Those who grew up in Pennsylvania and Pittsburgh specifically will find this imagining of Andrew Carnegie’s early life and possible reason for his philanthropy a fun and captivating read. There is the inevitable upstairs/downstairs romance but the book also explores the limited possibilities for women and immigrants during the mid-1800s and how the recently arrived Irish were exploited by the new class of industrialists. ~ Suzanne Delle


*The Art of Racing in the Rain* is a wonderful read. Enzo is a dog that has more heart and personality than most humans. This interesting take on seeing life and all of its troubles through the eyes of a dog is an awesome read. The backdrop of this heart-warming story finds a race car driver faced with life choices and experiences that each of us have to make in our lives. This book grabs the reader into its characters and you can’t wait to see the next turn. We often can’t see how our lives are really portrayed until we see it through someone else, and in this story it is through the lens of a trusted family dog. I highly recommend sitting down with this book and taking stock in our own stories and how we are truly viewed by others. ~ Joyce Piazza-Snell

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