

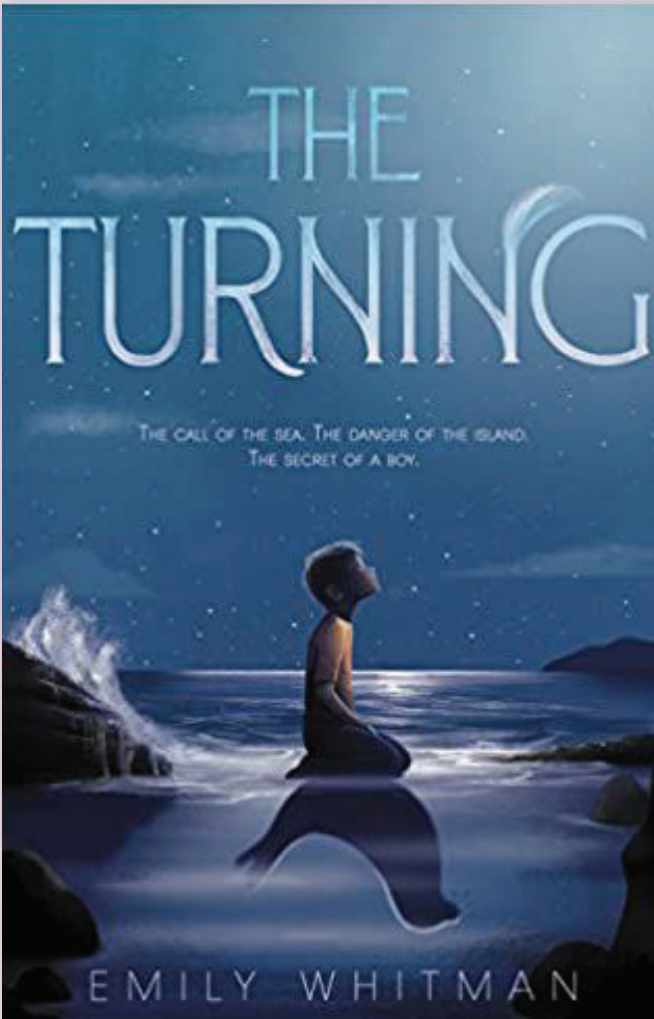
CONTACT US
Alyssa Evans
aevans@dailyastorian.com

WEEKEND BREAK



FOLLOW US
facebook.com/
DailyAstorian

Reading local



'The Turning' is one of the Astoria Library's suggestions.

Enjoy a local book with the help of librarians

By ALYSSA EVANS
The Astorian

Throughout the Pacific Northwest, there are dozens of talented writers, illustrators and locally-focused books. Here are some coastal librarians' favorite local reads.

Astoria Library

Astoria Library Director Jimmy Pearson and his staff have three suggestions.

The first is "Trask" by Don Berry. "(It's my) favorite Oregon novel," Pearson said. "(It's) historical fiction set in Clatsop Plains."

Other suggestions include "Red Clocks" by Oregon author Leni Zumas and "The Turning" by Portland-based author Emily Whitman. "The Turning" won the Oregon Spirit Book Award, given by the Oregon Council of Teachers of English.

Warrenton Community Library

Kelly Knudsen, the director of the Warrenton Community Library, suggests Washington state author Sherman Alexie. The film "Smoke Signals" is based on Alexie's short story "This is What it Means to Say Phoenix Arizona," which is part of his collection titled "The Lone Ranger and Tonto Fistfight in Heaven." The movie was marketed as the first feature film written, directed and produced by Native Americans.

"The book is a collection of short stories and is a mix of several genres, depicting life on the Spokane Indian Reservation. Alexie shares the struggles and dreams of urban Indians and reservation Indians while also sharing traditions of the past and how they survive into the future," Knudsen said. "The stories are honestly raw and unfiltered, and with characters that defy odds and those that don't, leaving readers with just enough hope to read on."

Librarian Carole Feldman suggests Oregon author Devon Monk's "Ordinary Magic" series.

"It's set on the Oregon Coast," Feldman said. "In the series, there's a female chief of police in a city where the gods come for a vacation. They have to leave their powers behind, leading to the chief having to deal with a lot of off the wall things."

Seaside Public Library

Esther Moberg, director of the Seaside Public Library, suggests "Destination Astoria: Odyssey to the Pacific" by Brian Ratty.

"This is a fictional account of John Jacob Astor and the fur trappers and traders who made the journey to Astoria, and set up what would one day become Astoria," Moberg said.

Librarian Daniel Cawley suggests "Pinball Theory of the Apocalypse" by Portland-based author Jonathan Selwood.

"It's my new favorite. The book is cool, smart, weird and wickedly funny," Cawley said. "I will read anything by Selwood, even his grocery shopping list. He's a madman."

Ilwaco Timberland Regional Library

Library manager Susan Carney's pick is "Deep River" by Karl Marlantes.

"This is my newest local favorite and the best 700-page project I've tackled, possibly ever," Carney said. "I got to experience our shared local geography, history and culture, all tied together through a family saga-devine ... My appreciation and respect for our Mouth of the Columbia communities grew as well."

Ocean Park

Timberland Regional Library

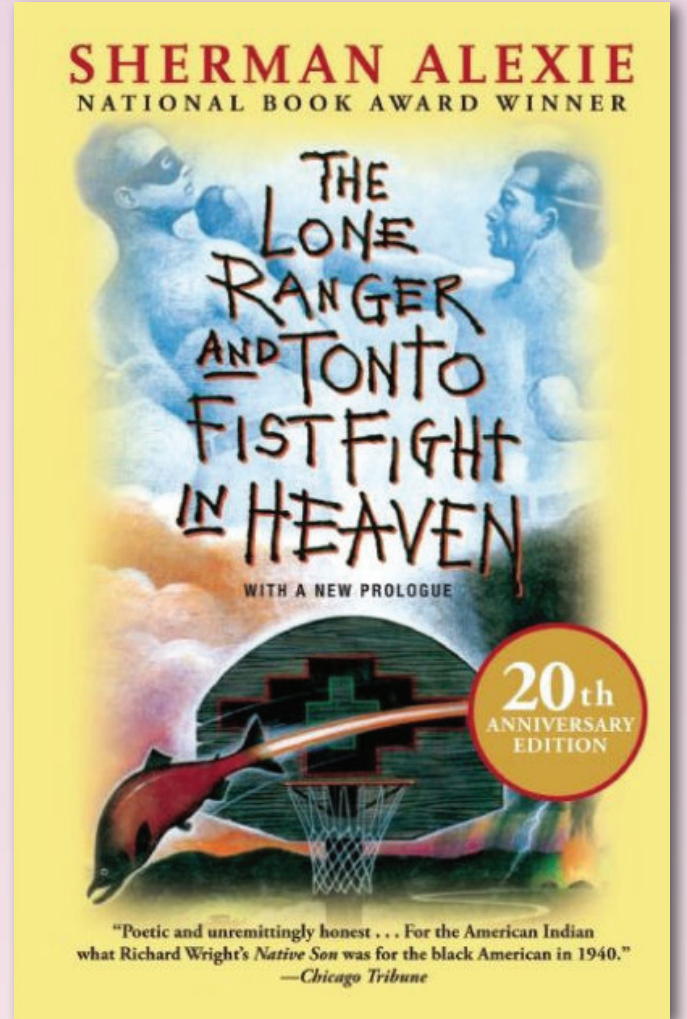
Library manager Jenny Grenfell suggests "A Year in Paradise," which is an autobiographical work about Floyd Schmoie, who was the first naturalist assigned to Mount Rainier.

"This is an older title but I like to go back to it," Grenfell said. "This is the story of the year he and his wife Ruth spent as a young couple living in the lodge at Paradise. Floyd has a lifelong love of the mountain and an appreciation for all its forms of life. He had the ability to share that love with his readers."

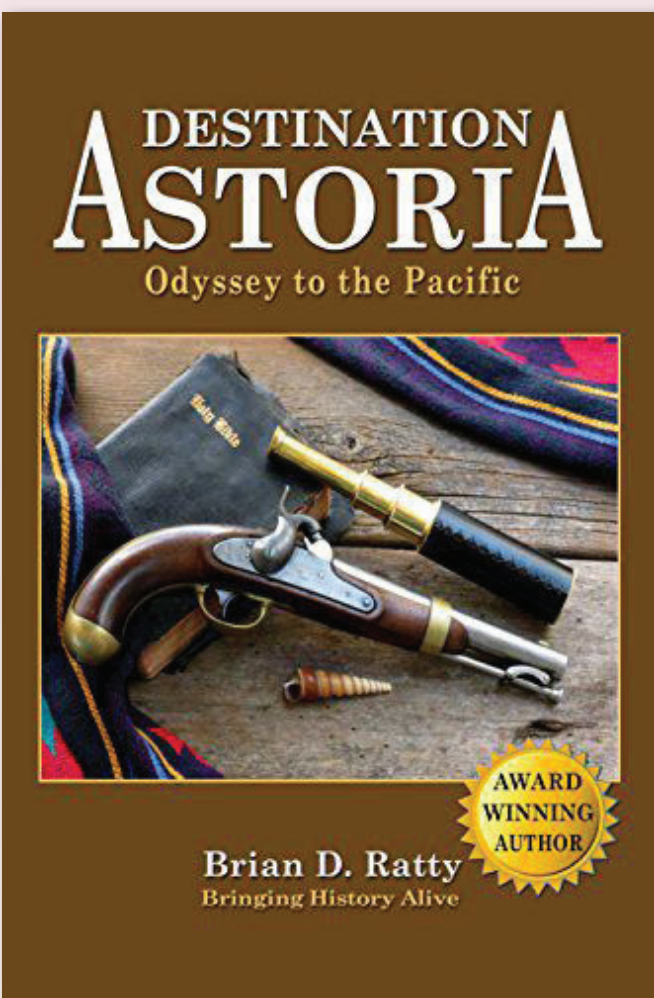
Naselle Timberland Regional Library

Library manager Michelle Zilli recommends "The Highest Tide" by Jim Lynch.

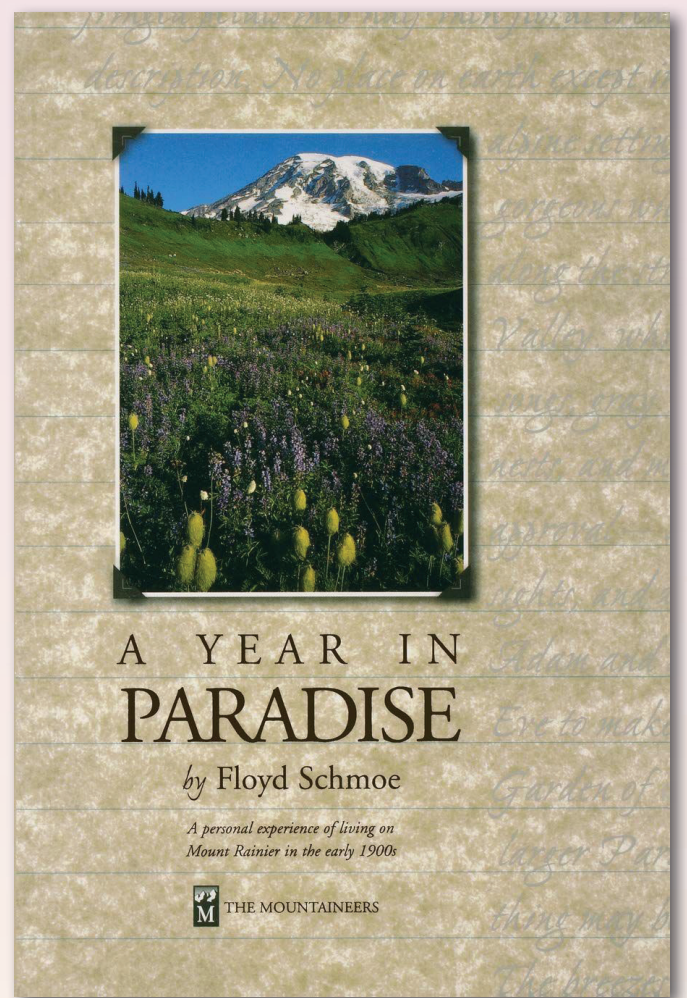
"It's about 13-year-old Miles, who explores the Puget Sound at night, reads Rachel Carson and can't quite figure out the girl next door," Zilli said. "He has a vast knowledge and great love of all things marine and begins to discover unlikely creatures in his roamings, including a dying giant squid. It's a great coming-of-age tale that also shares so very well a sense of place and inhabitants of the Pacific Northwest."



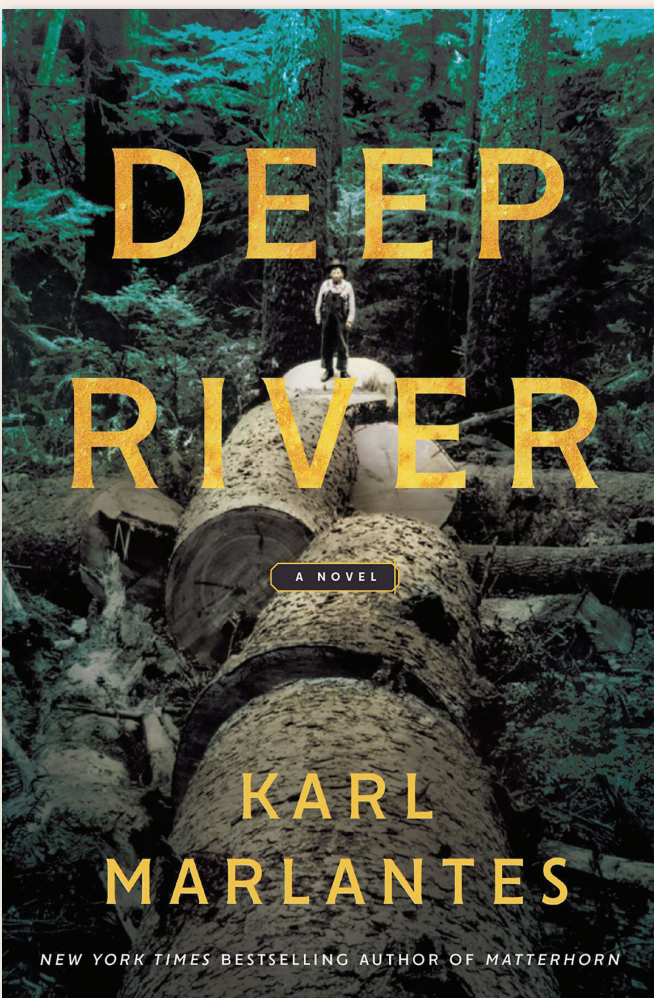
Warrenton Community Library Director Kelly Knudsen recommends Sherman Alexie.



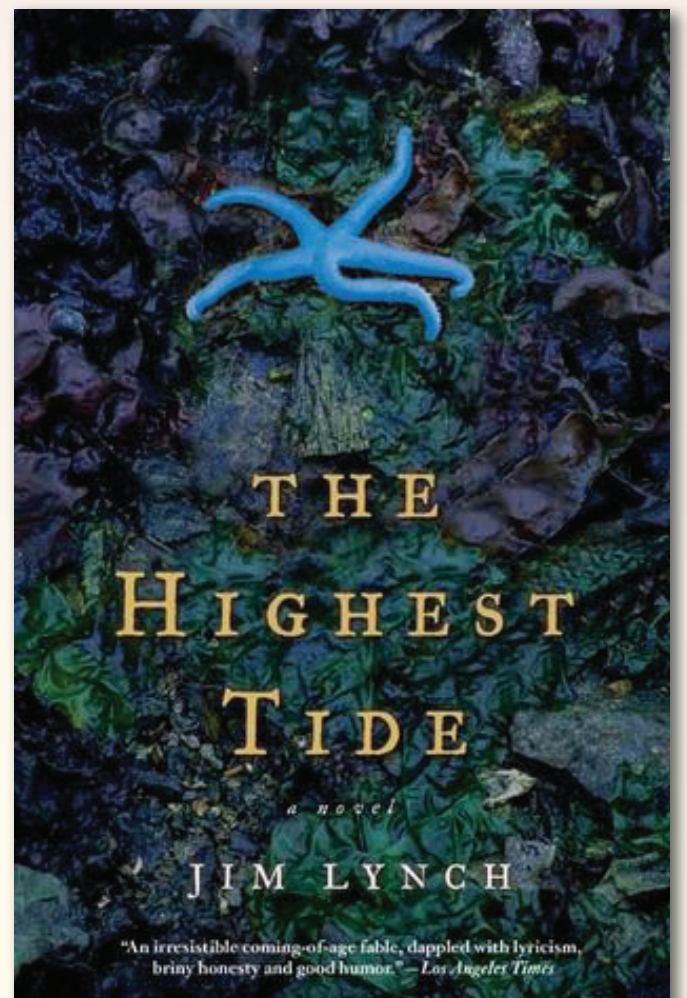
Seaside Public Library Director Esther Moberg recommends 'Destination Astoria.'



Ocean Park library manager Jenny Grenfell recommends 'A Year in Paradise.'



Susan Carney, Ilwaco's library manager, recommends 'Deep River.'



'The Highest Tide' is Naselle library manager Michelle Zilli's pick.