

Library Ladies, January 2010: Best Reads of 2009

As librarians, we are often asked for book recommendations, and thought you might like to read about our favorites from the past year. While personal favorites are, of course, subjective, we hope one of these will become one of your favorites. For other book recommendations, click on "Best Sellers" in the [Prescott Public Library catalog](#). Here you will find a variety of best seller lists as well as lists of new library acquisitions in various categories. We hope you enjoy these favorites!

*Bagpipe Brothers: The FDNY Band's True Story of Tragedy, Mourning, and Recovery* by Kerry Sheridan. 2006. The dark attack of September 11 was experienced on many different levels, perhaps most profoundly by the Firemen of New York who also volunteer to play pipes and drums. These individuals not only had to help clean up the wreckage, but continue in their jobs, and perform for parades and countless memorial services for their fallen comrades. This they did hundreds of times over the first year following the event. A moving story of strong and often humble people who demonstrate the triumph of the human will.--Russell Miller

*The Book Thief* by Markus Zusak. Grades 9 and up. 2007. Death first encounters nine year old Liesel Meminger when he comes to claim the soul of her younger brother at a train station in Germany. With undeviating emotion, Death narrates the story of the young German girl who steals a book she cannot read while in route to live with her foster parents. Liesel's gift for reading and storytelling brings joy to the people living amongst the horrors and hardships of World War II Germany: her foster parents, Rudy, her best friend, Max, the Jewish refugee hiding in her basement, the mayor's melancholy wife, and a cantankerous elderly neighbor.--Jennifer Kendall

*The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo*, by Stieg Larsson. 2008. This complex mystery of family, love story and financial intrigue is a very satisfying novel. Harriet Vanger, a scion of one of Sweden's wealthiest families, disappeared over forty years ago. All these years later, her aged uncle continues to seek the truth of her disappearance. He hires Mikael Blomkvist, a crusading journalist recently convicted for libel and disgraced, to investigate. Blomkvist, aided by the pierced and tattooed punk prodigy Lisbeth Salander taps into a vein of unfathomable iniquity and astonishing corruption. You will want to read the whole Millenium trilogy. Translated from Swedish.--Margaret Espinoza

*The Help*, by Kathryn Stockett. 2009. *The Help* tells the engrossing story of a group of socially connected young white women and their black maids in Jackson, Mississippi in 1962. One of the young women, an aspiring writer, convinces some of the maids to tell their stories, revealing both inequities and heartbreaks. First time novelist Stockett's keen sense of time and place and skillful use of dialect transport the reader to the Deep South during this volatile period in Civil Rights history. Humor, plot twists and a satisfying ending further add to the enjoyment of this novel.--Julie Pavri

*The Library Ladies (& Gentleman) are on the staff of Prescott Public Library.*