

FRIDAY THE 13TH SERIES DOCUMENTARY!



JULY 2022

High Plains Library District

CommUNITY

Overly Bombastic

Thriller

Reviews

PAGE 9

New Citizens

PAGE 3

Audio Books

PAGE 5

Friday the 13th

PAGE 7

& More Inside!



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Contents

Welcoming New Citizens	3
Reading on Easy Mode: The Case for Audiobooks	5
Crystal Lake Memories.....	7
Overly Bombastic Thriller Reviews	9



Wonder Play Socialize
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What do **YOU** have to **SAY** about our newsletter?

What do you have to say about our newsletter? Think about this as our Letters to the Editor option. If you have something to say about our newsletter, head to mylibrary.us/letters to get your feedback in the right hands.



*Welcoming **New** Citizens*

On Friday July 1st, HPLD helped welcome 35 new citizens from 12 different countries to full U.S. citizenship!

It's one of our favorite events every year, bringing a wonderful end to the long journey so many have taken, an end that's also a new beginning.

Just to give you an idea of how hard-working our new neighbors are, [give a try to these citizenship test flash cards.](#) These folks are expected to prep for any of these

questions, and yes, there IS a test.

Lots of smiling faces, proud families, and new community members. Truly, it's hard to think of a better way to go into that 4th of July weekend.



Reading on Easy Mode: *The Case for Audio Books*



By Elias Flores

As I propped a Terry Pratchett Discworld novel on the windowsill above my kitchen sink, I thought I was a genius.

Alas, my ingenuity was defeated by the force of gravity, and as I fished a very soggy [Night Watch](#) from the soapy dish water, I thought to myself: There has got to be an easier way to read AND wash dishes!

That evening, I re-discovered a way to read books hands free, without having to balance them on narrow ledges. Not since Steve Guttenberg invented his revolutionary

movable-type printing press, and starred in four out of the seven Police Academy movies, has there been such a monumental shift in how literature is consumed: I'm talking about audiobooks.

Where Audiobooks Began

Audiobooks first emerged in the 1930s, produced by the American Institute for the Blind. They were recorded on vinyl records that held only about 15 minutes of speech on each side. Kids, ask your parents, or that divorced uncle you have with enough disposable income to call himself an audiophile, for more information on vinyl records.

By the mid-1930s, Congress passed an amendment that allowed the Library of Congress to begin producing audiobooks. This newly established Listening Library was geared towards the blind.



Spurred by advancements in technology such as cassettes tapes in the 60s and Compact Discs in the 80s, more publishers, Simon & Shuster, Random House, Warner Publishing, made “Audiobook” an industry standard and available to the masses. Streaming options like Audible followed shortly after in the 90s.

I vividly remember my first experience with the format came in the early 1980s, owning Snow White on vinyl as well as a children’s version of *A View to a Kill* that came with a book and a cassette tape that played a tone when it was time to turn the page.

How It’s Going

Publishers had predicted, and some consumers dreaded, that new formats like ebooks and digital audiobooks would replace physical media, and although this did not happen in the long run, the format wars raged on.

Audiobooks in 2016 saw a 18.2% increase in sales from the previous year, and audio sales topped \$2.1 billion vs the \$1.8 billion for hardcover books.

Why Choose Audiobooks?

30 years later, standing in my kitchen, blow drying a book, I would come to remember the fact that I eventually lost the James Bond book, but the cassette tape I kept for years. The story worked just fine without the book to follow along with, and it became a favorite. There was my solution.

The High Plains Library District offers several ways to consume audiobooks, as well a collection of thousands of titles to choose from.

There is **physical media**, which includes audiobooks on compact discs. The last compact disc player I owned was a boombox that let me dock the first iPod I owned. After Apple redesigned the connector, and I upgraded iPods, that boombox ended up at Goodwill.

Playaway devices are preloaded media players, with the audiobook preloaded on them and on-board controls. Just pop in a battery, plug in your headphones and you’re good to go. Playaway has the advantage of being able to use an aux cable I can plug into any car stereo with an aux input. Unfortunately for me, my car does not have a cassette player, a CD player, or an aux input.

Streaming! Streaming killed cable, surely it could kill my boredom as well. The process is straightforward, and there is [a stream and download tab on the website](#). It’s an easy way to just start streaming off a laptop or desktop. Run it in the background at work, pop in some earbuds, and your boss is none the wiser.



However, I want to listen to audiobooks at home and in the car, so I just downloaded the apps from the app store. [I got Hoopla and Libby](#). There is a third app, Overdrive, but the Overdrive collection can be accessed through Libby, and Libby has a better

interface. Besides, I’m not interested in Overdrive unless it’s *Maximum*.

My Own Experience With Audiobooks

Once I downloaded the Libby app, I created an account, searched for “High Plains,” used my library card number, and bam, free audiobooks and ebooks.

I connect my wireless headphones via Bluetooth, and I even found some gaming headphones that let me listen to my phone and my videogame at the same time! I can enjoy the latest Jack Reacher adventure and still hear Super Mario stomping turtles.

My car also has Bluetooth. My audiobook starts back up without me having to take my phone out of my pocket. As far as selection and content goes, I can borrow four titles per month on Hoopla and ten titles at a time on Libby. If one app doesn’t have something, usually the other will. I can search and narrow by format: audiobooks only. The interface is intuitive (skip chapters, fast forward or rewind 30 seconds). I have options like searching the table of contents, setting bookmarks, and I can even adjust the playback speed. You always know in hours and minutes how much is left in the book.

I tried listening to something 2x speed to finish twice as fast, but it sounded like [that guy from the Micro Machines commercials](#). Again, kids, ask your parents.

There are some very talented and engaging people reading the stories, you don’t have to listen to the same boring voice in your own head like you do when you read with your eyeballs. They do different voices for the characters, like a parent reading to their child. Some are author-read, so comedy books are like listening to an extended live performance. Some even have full casts and sound effects like the radio dramas our grandparents listened to, without the Ovaltine commercials.

Next time the weather makes you want to curl up with a good book, consider audiobooks instead, because you have other things to do with your hands and your eyes. Wash dishes, cut carrots, drive to Montana. You still get the same satisfaction and the bragging rights of someone who can say the book is better than the movie.

Crystal Lake Memories

Ah, summer. Lots of great memories of fun by the lake. Unless the lake we're talking about is Crystal Lake, home to Camp Crystal Lake, which is where Jason Voorhees spent most of his..."career"? Can we call what Jason did a "career"? "Reign of terror" might be better. "Supernatural spree of horror" is also a little more descriptive, if a bit long.

Now, before you run away because slashers aren't your thing, you should know that today's film, [Crystal Lake Memories](#), isn't a slasher, and you don't have to enjoy the Friday the 13th movies to love it.

I'll prove it. I'll admit it here...whew, this is tough...I don't love the Friday the 13th movies.

Here, I'll do a quick review of each movie in the series, just so you get an idea of where I stand:

Friday the 13th: C'mon, it's not fair to make the killer a character we don't even really see until the end. That's cheating.

Friday the 13th Part 2: this movie has, hands-down, the most pointless, silly scene for the sake of nudity that I've ever encountered in a movie. It's quite possibly the laziest thing I've ever seen on film, and I've seen A LOT of Roger Corman movies.

Friday the 13th Part 3(D): The actors have since admitted that the crew didn't care even a little about the acting or scenes or story, it was all about filming in that sweet, sweet third dimension. When the cast of the third installment in a slasher says the level of attention paid to the acting was noticeably low, you know the movie's in trouble.

Friday the 13th: The Final Chapter: One of the better entries, probably my personal favorite with some of the action, Corey Feldman, and Crispin Glover just generally being Crispin Glover, but calling it "The Final Chapter" is amazingly, hilariously off target.

Friday the 13th: A New Beginning: This one started production under a fake name, even hiding what the movie really was from the actors until shooting started. Dick Weiland, who played Roy: "It wasn't until I saw Part V that

I realized what a piece of trash it was. I mean, I knew the series' reputation, but you're always hoping that yours is going to come out better."

Friday the 13th Part VI: Jason Lives: The retcons begin...Jason's got superpowers. Which is stupid, but this far into any horror series, it's not really a matter of whether or not it's stupid, it's whether "stupid" is the strategy or the unfortunate result.

Friday the 13th Part VII: The New Blood: One of the original concepts for this was condo developers covering up Jason's killings to build luxury condos at Crystal Lake. That movie sounds so good and so 80's, and instead we got some

nonsense about a girl with telekinetic powers fighting Jason.

Friday the 13th Part VIII: Jason Takes Manhattan: The original idea for this movie was Jason on a cruise ship, which sounds awesome. THEN it was Jason in Manhattan, which involved him in a Madison Square Garden boxing ring and a showdown on the Brooklyn Bridge. Also awesome. What we got instead was...well, it felt like they shot both movies, cut them together, all the good stuff



was destroyed in a horrible accident, so they put together a movie from all the boring junk left on the cutting room floor.

Jason Goes to Hell: The Final Friday: It starts strong, a “damsel in distress” tricking Jason into a trap, and it ends strong with Freddy’s glove popping out of the ground and dragging Jason’s mask down under the dirt, teasing a Freddy versus Jason bout. That said, when the best part of your movie is the teaser that it might cross over with a better franchise, that tells you what you need to know.

Jason X: Jason, as the Leprechaun, as the Cenobites, Critters, Dracula...as most franchises do when they’re totally out of ideas, Jason went to space. It did result in one of Roger Ebert’s more out-of-character reviews: “This sucks on so many levels.” Okay, he was quoting the movie, but still, pretty hilarious.

Freddy Vs. Jason: The fight everyone wanted to see, only problem was it came about a decade too late. It’s like watching Michael Jordan play one-on-one with Larry Bird today instead of in the early 90’s.

Friday the 13th (2009): It’s competent, but in a post-Scream, post-Cabin-In-The-Woods world, I don’t think a dude walking around with a big knife at a camp is enough movie to get me into a pair of pants and out of the house.

Now that I’ve shown my disdain for the Friday the 13th series, I’ll probably have my Cult Movie Guild membership card revoked. Which is fine. I put it through the laundry on accident one time, and it turns out those CMG cards aren’t even laminated. It’s almost like this guild is totally made up and I wasted \$12,000 on membership dues. I should get my money back. If you see a guy named “Skeeball” selling Cult Movie Guild cards outside of Best Buy, will you tell him to call me regarding a refund?

In truth, even though I don’t love Friday the 13th, Jason and Friday made an impact. Tom Savini, horror effects master, worked on the series. Kane Hodder did a 40-second stunt burn, shattering the record at the

time. How many kids ran around in hockey masks on Halloween?

If only there were some way, some shortcut to learning all about the Friday the 13th series without actually watching 12 movies...

Enter: [*Crystal Lake Memories*](#), an inside look at the series, tons of interviews with actors, producers, writers, special effects teams, all kinds of people who were involved with making so many bloody, messy, Fridays. And the best part is, you don’t have to particularly love the series to love this doc.

Now, I’ll be honest with you. This movie is almost 7 hours long in total. So it’s still a shortcut, but not like a MAJOR one.

Crystal Lake Memories IS the highest-rated Friday movie, by far. Whether you use IMDB or Rotten Tomatoes or what have you, people are happier watching *Crystal Lake Memories* than they are the actual movies profiled.

Maybe hit the bulk store for popcorn. Set a timer and do some stretching every couple hours. I don’t know if Amazon sells those *Clockwork Orange* headsets that hold your eyes open, but it might be worth a look.

If you like director commentaries, you’ll dig this one.

If you like to see how they managed special effects back in the day before the answer was inside a computer, you’ll love this.

If you like those “where are they now” sorts of things, this is up your alley.

Really, the makers of *Crystal Lake Memories* deserve all the credit in the world for condensing the Friday series into a mere 7 hours. They’ve earned their Cult Movie Guild membership cards, for sure. Somebody get Skeeball on the phone. And maybe we should hook him up with a laminator.

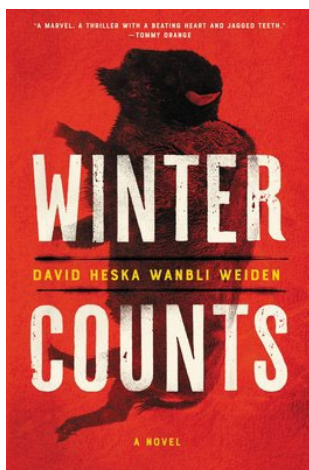
Get *Crystal Lake Memories* at High Plains Library District.



Overly Bombastic Thriller Reviews

We get a lot of requests for thrillers, and sometimes it's hard to make the recommendations live up to the books themselves. Because they're just that thrilling! But you know what? HPLD doesn't back down from a challenge. So here are some over-the-top reviews of some thrillers for you.

horribly wrong. Just holding this one in your hands is like picking up a stick of dynamite you found on the ground in the center of a metal concert's mosh pit. You'll feel the danger press through your palm, up your arm, and all through your chest, and yet, somehow, you won't be able to let go.



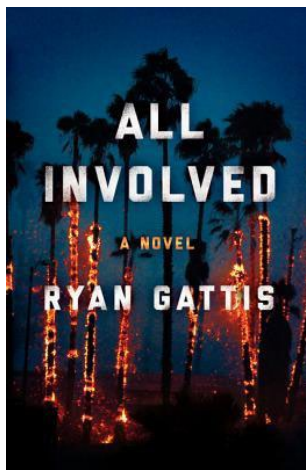
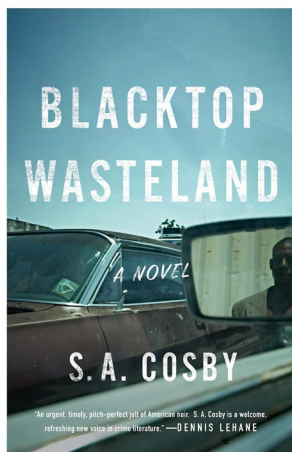
[Winter Counts by David Heska Wanbli Weiden](#)

If you don't have good page-turning calluses, you'd better break out some athletic tape and get ready, because otherwise you're liable to bleed out while reading this one; that's how fast you'll be turning pages in this mystery/thriller. It's a legitimate health hazard to blast through this tale that follows drug money from the Rosebud Reservation in South Dakota, all the way to Denver, and back again. Reading

it on the beach is an absolute NO because the scent of blood is sure to bring sharks. You might not even be safe on the prairies of Colorado. I've heard sharks can go anywhere, properly motivated, and you're basically begging a Dracula to show up.

[Blacktop Wasteland by S.A. Cosby](#)

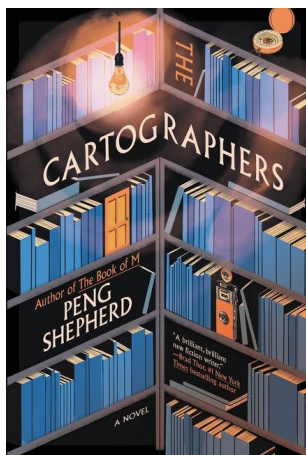
We sent a pleading letter to the publisher on this one. Current bookbinding technology cannot possibly contain the action when our friend Bug decides to go in on a heist and, of course, it goes



[All Involved by Ryan Gattis](#)

You know how people call a book "electrifying" or a "rollercoaster?" This is a nuclear-powered carousel that spins so fast it pops off its mount and goes sailing up into the air where it explodes into a billion flaming pieces, which rain down on the theme park below, causing a complete riot among a group of visiting mixed martial arts brawlers who were just there to have a good time. That's the energy of this thriller where some bad dudes use

the chaos in post-Rodney-King-verdict Los Angeles to cover up their settling of some scores.



[The Cartographers by Peng Shepherd](#)

You might think a thriller centered around map-making would be boring. But that's like saying *Die Hard* is a boring movie about a minor setback in an architecture project. *Indiana Jones* is a movie about an archaeology professor who opens a box. *Demolition Man* is a movie about a man who does some minor property damage in



the pursuit of a suspect. Read *The Cartographers*, and the next time you open the maps app on your phone, your heart will be racing, you'll break a sweat, and the stress acne will be OUT OF CONTROL. Does anyone else get stress acne? Just me?

[The Paradox Hotel by Rob Hart](#)

You know how time travel in *Back to the Future* involved 88 MPH and 2.1 gigawatts

to move around in time? Instead of trying to harness lightning or a locomotive, they could've just found a copy of *The Paradox Hotel*, a crime/time travel thriller powerful enough to blast you through time and back, and if they'd just tossed this book on the passenger seat of that DeLorean, they probably could've powered through at least 2 or 3 more sequels. Maybe a Jurassic Park crossover.

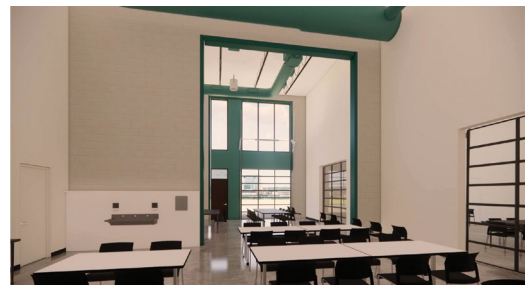
Did YOU have a great library experience? Like, ever?

If you're reading HPLD's newsletter, we're betting the answer is "Yes." Or possibly even "YES!"

To let our staff know that they're having an impact in your community, we're proposing a quick letter-writing campaign. Write your favorite HPLD staff member a letter, and if they're up for it, we'll ask them to read it out loud for the first time on video. That way, they can see how much you appreciate them, and you can see how much your words mean to them!

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Library Innovation Center



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Spring 2023**

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- Multi-Sensory Children's Installations
- Courtyard
- 3-D Printers
- Woodworking Machines
- Event Space
- Sound & Video Studio



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501 8th Ave, Greeley





LIBRARIES

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Administration & Support Services

2650 West 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Carbon Valley Regional Library

7 Park Avenue
Firestone, CO 80504
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Centennial Park Library

2227 23rd Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Eaton Public Library

132 Maple Avenue
Eaton, CO 80615
(970) 454-2189

Erie Community Library

400 Powers Street
Erie, CO 80516
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Farr Regional Library

1939 61st Avenue
Greeley, CO 80634
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Fort Lupton Public & School Library

425 S. Denver Avenue
Fort Lupton, CO 80621
(303) 857-7180

Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

400 S. Parish Avenue
Johnstown, CO 80534
(970) 587-2459

Milliken Location of the Glenn A. Jones, M.D. Memorial Library

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5039

Hudson Public Library

100 S. Beech Street
Hudson, CO 80642
(303) 536-4550

Keenesburg Branch of Hudson Public Library

140 Main Street
Keenesburg, CO 80643
(303) 349-2982

Kersey Library

332 3rd Street
Kersey, CO 80644
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Lincoln Park Library

1012 11th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Nantes Library

703 Birch Street
Gilcrest, CO 80623
(970) 737-1035

Northern Plains Public Library

216 2nd Street
Ault, CO 80610
(970) 834-1259

Outreach

2650 W. 29th Street
Greeley, CO 80631
1-888-861-READ(7323)

Platteville Public Library

504 Marion Avenue
Platteville, CO 80651
(970) 785-2231

Riverside Library & Cultural Center

3700 Golden Street
Evans, CO 80620
1-888-861-READ(7323)

AFFILIATED LOCATIONS

Hazel E. Johnson Research Center at the City of Greeley Museum

714 8th Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 350-9220

Poudre Learning Center

8313 West F Street, Greeley, CO 80631
(970) 352-1267

PUBLIC COMPUTER CENTERS

Briggsdale Community Library

210 Main Street
Briggsdale, CO 80611

Milliken Public Computer Center

1109 Broad Street
Milliken, CO 80543
(970) 660-5045

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