SECOND LOOKS

Last month, Booklist Reference and Collection Management Editor Rebecca Vnuk revisited two novels that played a role in her success as a readers’-advisory librarian. Read her blog post, True Confessions: V. C. Andrews Made Me the Librarian I Am Today, and check out her Second Look reviews, below.

If you bring up V. C. Andrews to just about any woman who came of age in the 1970s and '80s, it’s very likely that she’ll squeal and tell how the books were passed around at slumber parties or procured from the cool older girls at school. The first two books in Andrews' Dollanganger series—Flowers in the Attic (1979) and Petals on the Wind (1980)—have been reissued yet again, timed to the release of movie versions on the Lifetime network. Though the reissued versions are missing the iconic black covers with the peek-a-boo frames, the titillating stories inside remain the same and, in their way, have aged remarkably well.

The Dollanganger series follows four siblings—teenagers Christopher and Cathy and four-year-old twins Cory and Carrie—from their wretched childhoods all the way through their lives, mainly focusing on how Chris and Cathy try to break free from their dysfunctional and haunted past. (A prequel published six years after the initial success of Flowers in the Attic goes back a generation and sheds a very different light on some of the characters and events from throughout the rest of the series.)

**Flowers in the Attic**, by V. C. Andrews

*Flowers in the Attic* begins with the tragic death of the siblings' father, which forces their mother, Corrine, to go back to her family estate to seek literal and financial shelter. We find out that Grandmother Olivia banished Corrine and her husband because the pair—first cousins—never should have married. >> read more

**Petals on the Wind**, by V. C. Andrews

Without giving away too much, *Petals on the Wind* picks up right after the siblings escape Foxworth Hall—only Cory hasn't made it out with them. The remaining three are taken in by Paul, a kind doctor who takes pity on them and becomes their legal guardian. >> read more
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Adult - Nonfiction

Religion

Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most, by Marcus J. Borg

★ The Historical David: The Real Life of an Invented Hero, by Joel S. Baden

Social Sciences

Redeeming the Dream: The Case for Marriage Equality, by David Boies and Theodore B. Olson

★ Capital: The Eruption of Delhi, by Rana Dasgupta

"Dasgupta, whose novel-in-stories, Tokyo Cancelled (2005), emphasized the surrealiities and dislocations of globalization, offers a rich and troubling nonfiction examination of Delhi, his adoptive home and the site of some of globalization's most dramatic transformations."
Saving Container Plants: Overwintering Techniques for Keeping Tender Plants, by Alic McGowman and Brian McGowman

Saving Vegetable Seeds: Harvest, Clean, Store, and Plant Seeds from Your Garden, by Fern Marshall Bradley

Cookery


Caribbean Potluck: Modern Recipes from Our Family Kitchen, by Suzanne Rousseau and Michelle Rousseau

Vodka: How a Colorless, Odorless, Flavorless Spirit Conquered America, by Victorino Matus

Literature

★ My Struggle: Book Three, by Karl Ove Knausgaard

The Zhivago Affair: The Kremlin, the CIA, and the Battle over a Forbidden Book, by Peter Finn and Petra Couvéé

History

Between Two Homelands: Letters across the Borders of Nazi Germany, by Hedda Kalshoven

Emilie Davis's Civil War: The Diaries of a Free Black Woman in Philadelphia, 1863–1865, by Emilie Davis and edited by Judith Giesberg

Price of Fame: The Honorable Claire Boothe Luce, by Sylvia Jukes Morris

"With Luce's authorization and access granted to diaries and other personal documents, Morris offers a very intimate portrait of a powerful and fascinating woman."

Romany and Tom, by Ben Watt

When Britain Burned the White House: The 1814 Invasion of Washington, by Peter Snow

Adult - Fiction

General Fiction

The Angel of Losses, by Stephanie Feldman

The Biographical Dictionary of Literary Failure, edited by C. D. Rose

Breakwater Bay, by Shelley Noble

Elegy on Kinderklavier, by Arna Bontemps Hemenway

A Long Time Gone, by Karen White

The Mountain, by Drusilla Modjeska
"The richness of Modjeska's storytelling—it's hard to believe this is a debut novel—demands the reader's full attention but more than repays it."

**Parade**, by Shuichi Yoshida

**The River's Memory**, by Sandra Gail Lambert

**Suzanne Davis Gets a Life**, by Paula Marantz Cohen

**Sweet as Cane, Salty as Tears**, by Ken Wheaton

**The Symmetry Teacher**, by Andrei Bitov

**Crime Fiction**

**Ark Storm**, by Linda Davies

**Blacklist**, by Jerry Ludwig

**Book Clubbed**, by Lorna Barrett

**Come, Sweet Death!** by Wolf Haas

**A Cut-Like Wound**, by Anita Nair

**Dead Float**, by Warren Easley

**Don't Look Back**, by Gregg Hurwitz

**A Grave Matter**, by Anna Lee Huber

**Gregory's Game**, by Jane A. Adams

**Guilty Parties**, edited by Martin Edwards

"For mystery fans who have limited reading time, or for those who like the 'dip in, dip out' approach, this compilation of short stories is just the ticket."

**The Healing of Luther Grove**, by Barry Gornell

**Ill-Gotten Panes**, by Jennifer McAndrews

**Season of Storms**, by Susanna Kearsley

"Kearsley (*The Firebird*, 2013) seems to be channeling Mary Stewart or Victoria Holt in this mesmerizing modern gothic, originally published as a mass market paperback in 2001."

**The Silent History**, by Eli Horowitz, Matthew Derby, and others

Historical Fiction
The End of Innocence, by Allegra Jordan
The Major's Daughter, by J. P. Francis

The Miniaturist, by Jessie Burton
"It's a pleasure to discover an author who wields language in striking ways, and Burton's setting and story line are equally singular. In her enticing debut, set in 1680s Amsterdam, she counterbalances her mischievous premise with stark commentary on greed, hypocrisy, and prejudice."

Romance

Avenge Me, by Maisey Yates
Bride of a Scottish Warrior, by Adrienne Basso
Crave the Night, by Lara Adrian
The Escape, by Mary Balogh
Gilded Lily, by Delphine Dryden

How to Lose a Lord in 10 Days or Less, by Elizabeth Michels
Love and Let Spy, by Shana Galen

The Sweet Spot, by Stephanie Evanovich
"Evanovich's breezy style, witty dialogue, and likable characters make this a great summer read. Her fans will be thrilled she's given Chase and Amanda, who appeared as a married couple in Big Girl Panties (2013), their own book."

Takedown, by Cat Grant
What's Done in the Dark, by ReShonda Tate Billingsley
Scandalize Me, by Caitlin Crew
The Secrets of a Scoundrel, by Gaelen Foley

SF/Fantasy & Horror

Rogues, edited by George R. R. Martin and Gardner Dozois
The Phantom Coach: A Connoisseur's Collection of the Best Victorian Ghost Stories, edited by Michael Sims
Shattering the Ley, by Joshua Palmatier

Graphic Novel

Happy Birthday, Babymouse, by Jennifer L. Holm and Matthew Holm and illustrated by Jennifer L. Holm

Youth - Nonfiction
Folklore & Fairy Tales

The Six Swans, by Jacob Grimm and Wilhelm Grimm and illustrated by Gerda Raidt

Sports & Recreation

Baseball Is . . ., by Louise Borden and illustrated by Raul Colon

Feelings & Behavior

Being Me with OCD: How I Learned to Obsess Less and Live My Life, by Alison Dotson

Youth - Fiction

Armond Goes to a Party: A Book about Asperger's and Friendship, by Nancy Carlson and Armond Isaak and illustrated by Nancy Carlson

Books Always Everywhere, by Jane Blatt and illustrated by Sarah Massini

Bravo, Chico Canta! Bravo!, by Pat Mora and Libby Martinez and illustrated by Amelia Lau Carling

Bumblebee Bike, by Sandra Levins and illustrated by Claire Keay

Count on the Subway, by Paul DuBois Jacobs and Jennifer Swender and illustrated by Dan Yaccarino

Dalia's Wondrous Hair / El cabello maravilloso de Dalia, by Larua Lacamara

Go! Go! Go! Stop! written and illustrated by Charise Mericle Harper

"This is a terrific book for kids to enjoy, learn from, and, yes, think about. Even in their larger world, children will come to the conclusion that life works better when you know when to stop and go (and when to slow down)."

Green Is a Chile Pepper: A Book of Colors, by Roseanne Greenfield Thong and illustrated by John Parra

"Here's a cheerful color-concept book that presents a slice of Latino culture through food and fun. Each double-page spread introduces a color in rhyming, explanatory verse; attractive art; and a colored bubble with the word in English and Spanish."

If an Armadillo Went to a Restaurant, by Ellen Fischer and illustrated by Laura Wood

Let’s Dance, Grandma! written and illustrated by Nigel McMullen

Miles to the Finish, written and illustrated by Jamie Harper

My Best Friend, Maybe, by Caela Carter
"Leavened with a sweet touch of romance, this meaningful tale of second-chance friendship should appeal to older teens looking for a meatier summer read."

**My Name Is Bob**, by James Bowen and Garry Jenkins and illustrated by Gerald Kelley

**My New Friend Is So Fun!**, written and illustrated by Mo Willems

**On the Road to Find Out**, by Rachel Toor

**Petal and Poppy and the Spooky Halloween**, by Lisa Clough and illustrated by Ed Briant

**Pete the Cat: Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star**, written and illustrated by James Dean

**The Real Prom Queens of Westfield High**, by Laurie Boyle Crompton

**Summer State of Mind**, by Jen Calonita

**Tales from a Not-So-Glam TV Star**, by Rachel Renee Russell

**These Gentle Wounds**, by Helene Dunbar

**The Twins' Little Sister**, written and illustrated by Hyewon Yum

**Whisper**, by Chris Struyk-Bonn

**Mystery**

**Below the Surface**, by Tim Shoemaker

**The Body in the Woods**, by April Henry

"The fast-paced plot, mirroring familiar TV crime procedurals, makes this a good choice for reluctant readers, especially as it's possible to follow the clues and identify the killer before the final showdown."

**Countdown**, by Natalie Standiford

**The Incredible Twisting Arm**, by Kate Egan and Mike Lane and illustrated by Eric Wight

**Romance**

**Played**, by Liz Fichera

**SF/Fantasy**

**Battle of the Beasts**, by Chris Columbus and Ned Vizzini

**City of Heavenly Fire**, by Cassandra Clare

**Dangerous Creatures**, by Margaret Stohl and Kami Garcia

"This fast-paced, entertaining supernatural read is the latest title in the best-selling Beautiful Creatures series and follows one of Lena Duchannes' most
infamous frenemies: Lena's childhood friend, confidante, and cousin, Ridley Duchannes. As Ridley herself says, 'She's not bad, she's just drawn that way.'

The Ether: Vero Rising, by Laurice Molinari

Firstborn, by Loria Ann Grover

Flame, by Amy Kathleen Ryan

The Forever Song, by Julie Kagawa

Fury of the Seventh Son, by Joseph Delaney and illustrated by Patrick Arrasmith

Homicidal Aliens and Other Disappointments, by Brian Yansky

Love Reborn, by Yvonne Woon

Minion, by John David Anderson

Mouseheart, by Lisa Fiedler and illustrated by Vivienne To

The One, by Kiera Cass

Raging Star, by Moira Young

Revolutionary, by Krista McGee

Sylva and the Lost Treasure, by Margaret McNamara and illustrated by Catharine Collingridge

Time and the Tapestry: A William Morris Adventure, by John Plotz and illustrated by Phyllis Saroff

Victories, by Mercedes Lackey and Rosemary Edghill

Audio

Exposure, by Kathy Reichs and read by Cristin Milioti

The Goldfinch, by Donna Tartt and read by David Pittu

🌟 The Intern's Handbook, by Shane Kuhn and read by Pete Simonelli

"Simonelli's tone matches Kuhn's suspenseful dark comedy and creates an entertaining listening experience for those who appreciate the bad guy's point of view."

Timmy Failure: Now Look What You've Done, by Stephan Pastis and read by Jared Goldsmith

"Timmy Failure's days are filled with self-imposed drama, and Goldsmith does an excellent job portraying the chaos that is Timmy's life."
The Winner’s Curse, by Marie Rutkoski and read by Justine Eyre

Professional Reading

Community Library Programs That Work: Building Youth and Family Literacy, edited by Beth Maddigan and Susan Bloos

Games in Libraries: Essays on Using Play to Connect and Instruct, edited by Breanne A. Kirsch

Guide to Reference in Medicine and Health, edited by Christa Modsiedler and Denise Beaubien Bennett


The New Academic Librarian: Essays on Changing Roles and Responsibilities, edited by Rebecca Peacock and Jill Wurm

Poetry Aloud Here 2: Sharing Poetry with Children, by Sylvia M. Vardell

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Adult: The Arts in Young Adult Literature, by Lois Thomas Stover and Connie S. Zitlow

"Unlike many other thematic YA literature books, this one provides long essays about different aspects of the arts, grounded in analysis of selected YA novels on the topic."

Read On . . . History: Reading Lists for Every Taste, by Tina Frolund

Success with Library Volunteers, by Leslie Holt and Glen E. Holt

"Examples are drawn from a variety of successful programs, such as the King County (Washington) Library System, and provide many solid references to further information available online. Libraries seeking to begin or strengthen volunteer services will find this book valuable."

Teen Games Rule! A Librarian's Guide to Platforms and Programs, edited by Julie Scordato and Ellen Forsyth

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