



A World of Knowledge

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LIBRARY COLUMN

Thrillers quench thirst for page-turners

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NEWTON—Action-packed thriller novels are a perennial favorite when it comes to reading popularity. These page-turners fill the best-seller lists with a variety of sub-genre offspring: medical, legal, action, mystery, crime, eco, spy, disaster, political.

Catawba County Library System has them all, from authors from Jeffrey Archer to James Zagel. All told, these novels represent a large portion of popular fiction today with plot-driven story lines. Put simply, the books are too good to put down.

For patrons who enjoy medical and legal thrillers, local librarians have prepared two brochures highlighting some outstanding books in the collection.

Great Medical Thrillers spotlights such well-knowns as Michael Crichton. Crichton, the brains behind such blockbusters as *ER*, *Andromeda Strain* and *Jurassic Park*, succumbed to cancer last year. His ability to blend science with huge theatrical concepts kept him at the top of his game for decades.

One prime example: *Terminal Man*. The set-up: Harry Benson, prone to violent, uncontrollable seizures is under police guard after attacking two people. Dr. Roger McPherson is convinced he can cure Benson. During specialized experimental surgery, Benson learned how to control his brain and escapes, a homicidal maniac loose in the city.

Other medical thrill-masters include Tess Gerritsen, Robin Cook and Michael Palmer.

Fans buy into the plotlines just as legal thriller fans love what's heating up in the courtroom.

Great Legal Thrillers suggests library fare involving crime-busting Perry Masons of the 21st century.

Ever-popular John Grisham continues to ride the crest with his latest offering, *The Associate*, the story of about a young Yale graduate who harbors a dangerous secret that falls into the hands of the wrong people.

Scott Turow's *Reversible Errors* involves the battle over a reopened case of a death-row inmate who may be innocent. Brian Haig's *Secret Sanction* involves a quest to reveal the truth about senseless deaths of a battalion of Serbs in Kosovo at the hands of the Green Berets in an investigation that leads all the way to the White House.

To check the availability of these and other titles, contact any library branch or check on-line at www.catawbacountync.gov/library .

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