

# Carver County Library Suggests *Winter Reads: Humor by the Hearth*

## **Eric Dregni – [Vikings in the Attic](#) (973.04395 DRE)**

Growing up with Swedish and Norwegian grandparents with a dash of Danish thrown in for balance, Eric Dregni thought Scandinavians were perfectly normal. Who doesn't enjoy a good, healthy salad (Jell-O packed with canned fruit, colored marshmallows, and pretzels) or perhaps some cod soaked in drain cleaner as the highlights of Christmas? Only later did it dawn on him that perhaps this was just a little strange. Dregni goes beyond the lefse and lutefisk to reveal the little-known tales that lie beneath the surface of Nordic America.

## **Mindy Kaling – [Why Not Me?](#) (FRA 2015)**

The Hollywood actress shares her ongoing journey to find contentment and excitement in her adult life. Kaling turns the anxieties, the glamour, and the celebrations of her second coming-of-age into a laugh-out-loud funny collection of essays that anyone who's ever been at a turning point in their life or career can relate to. And those who've never been at a turning point can skip to the parts where she talks about meeting Bradley Cooper.

## **Stephen McCauley – [My Ex-Life](#) (MCC 2018)**

David Hedges's life is coming apart at the seams. His job helping San Francisco rich kids get into the colleges of their (parents') choice is exasperating. His ex asks him to join her at the seaside town north of Boston to get her unmotivated daughter, Mandy, in shape for her senior year in high school. The author's confused but lovable characters and his plentiful one-liners provide the wit and charm.

## **Jennifer McGaha – [Flat Broke with Two Goats : A Memoir of Appalachia](#) (630.9756 MCG 2018)**

When life gets your goat, bring in the herd. What started as a last-ditch effort to settle large debts became a journey that revealed both the joys and challenges of living close to the land. Told with bold wit, unflinching honesty, and a firm foot in the traditions of Appalachia, Flat Broke with Two Goats blends stories of homesteading with the journey of two people rediscovering the true meaning of home.

## **Amy Newmark – [Chicken Soup for the Soul - My Crazy Family](#) (306.85 MYC 2018)**

Everyone thinks their own family is crazy. In these 101 stories of crazy, embarrassing, annoying and dysfunctional families, Chicken Soup for the Soul contributors humorously and lovingly share those special moments that have become cherished memories. You'll nod in recognition, laugh out loud, and maybe even tear up a little as you see yourself and your own family in these stories of sometimes dysfunctional, but always loving, families.

## **B. J. Novak – [One More Thing: Stories and Other Stories](#) (NOV 2014)**

Across a dazzling range of subjects, themes, tones, and narrative voices, the many pieces in this collection are like nothing else, but they have one thing in common: they share the playful humor, deep heart, sharp eye, inquisitive mind, and altogether electrifying spirit of a writer with a fierce devotion to the entertainment of the reader.

## **Nick Offerman – [Good Clean Fun](#) (648.08 OFF 2016)**

Nick Offerman own a woodshop in Hollywood that shop produces not only fine handcrafted furniture, but also fun stuff-kazoos, baseball bats, ukuleles, even mustache combs. This book takes readers behind the scenes of the woodshop, with instructions for popular projects. The reader will also find writings by Nick, offering recipes for both comestibles and mirth, humorous essays, and odes to his own woodworking heroes.

**Pamela Paul – [My Life with Bob: Flawed Heroine Keeps Book of Books, Plot Ensues](#) (818.603 PAU 2017)**

Pamela Paul has kept a single book by her side for twenty-eight years. This book has a name: Bob. Bob is the author's Book of Books, a journal that records every book she's ever read, from Sweet Valley High to Anna Karenina. Paul weathers disastrous foreign exchange experiences, living abroad, travel, and relationships (personal and professional), and she does it all inspired by and accompanied by books. The plot is fine; the flawed heroine does what flawed heroines are supposed to do: learn, and make the reader laugh, cry, think, and probably learn something.

**P.Z. Reizin – [Happiness for Humans](#) (REI 2018)**

When Tom and Jen, two lonely people, are brought together by an intriguing email, they have no idea their mysterious benefactor is an artificial intelligence who has decided to play Cupid. Even though they live on separate continents, and despite the entrance of another, this time wholly hostile, AI who wants to tear them apart forever - love will surely find a way. *Happiness for Humans* is a thoroughly modern love story that will appeal to fans of The Rosie Project and Sleepless in Seattle. This debut novel is irreverent, zany, and hilarious; a romantic comedy for the digital age.

**Sarah Stonich – [Laurentian Divide](#) (STO 2018)**

Poignant portrayals of life on the edge in northern Minnesota border country, from the best-selling author of *These Granite Islands* and *Vacationland*. The town's residents gather at the local diner and talk of spring weather, the latest gossip, roadkill, and the daily special. Stanich's characters of this remote town leap off the page and remind us once more of the inescapable lurches of the heart and unexpected turns of our human comedy.