

The Library Book

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Summary:

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On the morning of April 28, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library. As the moments passed, the patrons and staff who had been cleared out of the building realized this was not the usual fire alarm. As one fireman recounted, "Once that first stack got going, it was "Goodbye, Charlie." The fire was disastrous: it reached 2000 degrees and burned for more than seven hours. By the time it was extinguished, it had consumed four hundred thousand books and damaged seven hundred thousand more. Investigators descended on the scene, but more than thirty years later, the mystery remains: Did someone purposefully set fire to the library—and if so, who?

Weaving her lifelong love of books and reading into an investigation of the fire, award-winning New Yorker reporter and New York Times bestselling author Susan Orlean delivers a mesmerizing and uniquely compelling book that manages to tell the broader story of libraries and librarians in a way that has never been done before.

In *The Library Book*, Orlean chronicles the LAPL fire and its aftermath to showcase the larger, crucial role that libraries play in our lives; delves into the evolution of libraries across the country and around the world, from their humble beginnings as a metropolitan charitable initiative to their current status as a cornerstone of national identity; brings each department of the library to vivid life through on-the-ground reporting; studies arson and attempts to burn a copy of a book herself; reflects on her own experiences in libraries; and reexamines the case of Harry Peak, the blond-haired actor long suspected of setting fire to the LAPL more than thirty years ago.

Along the way, Orlean introduces us to an unforgettable cast of characters from libraries past and present—from Mary Foy, who in 1880 at eighteen years old was named the head of the Los Angeles Public Library at a time when men still dominated the role, to Dr. C.J.K. Jones, a pastor, citrus farmer, and polymath known as "The Human Encyclopedia" who roamed the library dispensing information; from Charles Lummis, a wildly eccentric journalist and adventurer who was determined to make the L.A. library one of the best in the world, to the current staff, who do heroic work every day to ensure that their institution remains a vital part of the city it serves.

Brimming with her signature wit, insight, compassion, and talent for deep research, *The Library Book* is Susan Orlean's thrilling journey through the stacks that reveals how these beloved institutions provide much more than just books—and why they remain an essential part of the heart, mind, and soul of our country. It is also a master journalist's reminder that, perhaps especially in the digital era, they are more necessary than ever.

The Library Book by Susan Orlean [3.5 stars] *The Library Book* is chock-full of fascinating information. Orleans focuses on the Los Angeles public library system and jumps from the 1986 library fire, to the history of L.A.'s libraries, to several personal stories about librarians, to a discussion about homelessness, to the future of libraries and more. Amazon.com: *The Library Book* (9781476740188): Susan Orlean ... Everybody who loves books should check out *The Library Book*. . . . Orlean, a longtime New Yorker writer, has been captivating us with human stories for decades, and her latest book is a wide-ranging, deeply personal, and terrifically engaging investigation of humanity's bulwark against oblivion: the library. *The Library Book* - susanorlean.com About the Book. Susan Orlean re-opens the unsolved mystery of the most catastrophic library fire in American history, and delivers a dazzling homage to a beloved institution "our libraries. On the morning of April 29, 1986, a fire alarm sounded in the Los Angeles Public Library.

The Library Book by Rebecca Gray - Goodreads *The Library Book* is filled with essays, stories and autobiographical pieces by a range of authors and journalists from different backgrou. Amazon.com: *The Library Book* (9781481460927): Tom Chapin ... "Chapin and Mark's "Library Song" is reinvigorated into an inviting picture book.... The digital-and-pencil illustrations are quite appealing.... the singsong-y text and the action...carry the entertaining story. *The Library Book* (2015) - IMDb Directed by Travis Calvert. With Adrien Brody, Cheryl Texiera, Björn Alexander, Nina Rausch. A stranger returns an overdue book to his home library.

The Library (book) - Wikipedia *The Library* by Andrew Lang is a late 19th-century book published by Macmillan & Co. as part of the "Art as Home" series. Continuing the tradition of de Bury's *The Philobiblon* and Dibdin's *Bibliomania*, *The Library* is a half-serious look at the craft of book-collecting for the amateur bibliophile. *The Library Book* - Simon & Schuster * "This cheerful picture book opens on a rainy Saturday morning.... Written in 1989, with upbeat lyrics, natural-sounding rhymes, and a catchy tune, the song "The Library Song" creates a surprisingly good text for a picture book. Public Libraries Who invented the first public library? Benjamin Franklin in 1731 along with some of his friends created the Library Company of Philadelphia and it was the first library in America that

The Library Book

let members borrow books if they paid a subscription fee. This made it the first lending library in America and it invented the model for public libraries.

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