

# San Diego Public Library & Foundation Holiday Gift and Borrowing Guide

These books, hand-selected by San Diego Public Library staff, make great holiday gifts or can be checked out at the library if you want to read them yourself!

## NONFICTION

**[Evolution: the First Four Billion Years](#)**, by Michael Ruse and Joseph Travis

“More than 100 authors contributed to this book marking the 150th anniversary of Darwin’s *The Origin of Species*.” – Marc Chery, Literature & Language Librarian, Central Library

**[Assisted Loving: True Tales of Double Dating with My Dad](#)**, by Bob Morris

“A funny and bittersweet story about dating and love.” – Jack Albrecht, Branch Manager, San Carlos Branch Library

**[Churchill](#)**, by Paul Johnson

“An outstanding new biography of Winston Churchill written with insight and charm.” – Catherine Greene, Branch Manager, La Jolla/Riford Branch Library

**[Click: What Millions of People Do Online and Why it Matters](#)**, by Bill Tancer

– Jennifer Geran, Librarian, History & World Affairs, Central Library

**[I’m Dreaming of a Green Christmas](#)**, by Anna Getty

“Great ideas on celebrating holidays in eco-friendly style, including ideas to stay green all year long.” - Barbara Schwartz, Branch Manager, Rancho Penasquitos Branch Library

**[Sum: Forty Tales from the Afterlives](#)**, by David M. Eagleman

“A neuroscientist explains concepts of infinity and death in human terms.” – Jennifer Geran, Librarian, History & World Affairs, Central Library

**[I Want That! How We All Become Shoppers](#)**, by Thomas Hine

– Jennifer Geran, Librarian, History & World Affairs, Central Library

**[College Vegetarian Cooking: Feed Yourself & Friends](#)**, by Megan Carle

“You don’t have to be in college or even be a vegetarian to enjoy this cookbook’s simple but flavorful recipes.” - Barbara Schwartz, Branch Manager, Rancho Penasquitos Branch Library



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## **FICTION**

**[The Shadow of the Wind](#)**, by Carlos Ruiz Zafon

"This mystery is beautifully written. It's about books. It's about words. And it's about life." -- Deborah Barrow, San Diego Public Library Director

**[The Last Embrace](#)**, by Denise Hamilton

"Fans of Film Noir will enjoy this edgy mystery set in 1949 Los Angeles." – Barbara Schwartz, Branch Manager, Rancho Penasquitos Branch Library

**[The Beautiful Things that Heaven Bears](#)**, by Dinaw Mengestu

"Beautifully crafted debut novel from an Ethiopian émigré." – Marc Chery, Literature & Language Librarian, Central Library

**[Exodus](#)**, by Leon Uris

- Melissa Martin, Librarian, Science Section, Central Library

**[Mutant Message Down Under](#)**, by Marlo Morgan

- Melissa Martin, Librarian, Science Section, Central Library

**[The Eight](#)**, by Katherine Neville

- Vanessa Goodman, Young Adult Librarian, Central Library/Teen Space

**[What Was Lost](#)**, by Catherine O'Flynn

"This beautifully crafted novel recounts how the repercussions of a girl's disappearance can last for decades." – Jennifer Geran, Librarian, History & World Affairs, Central Library

## **YOUNG ADULT**

**[Thirteen Reasons Why](#)**, by Jay Asher

– Melissa Martin, Librarian, Science Section, Central Library

**[Catching Fire](#)**, (follow up to *The Hunger Games*) by Suzanne Collins

– Zelia Thompson, Library Clerk, San Carlos Branch Library

**[The Graveyard Book](#)**, by Neil Gaiman

– Melissa Martin, Librarian, Science Section, Central Library

**[Bartimaeus Trilogy](#)**, by Jonathan Stroud

"Nathaniel, a magician's apprentice, summons up the djinni Bartimaeus and instructs him to steal the Amulet of Samarkand from the powerful magician Simon Lovelace. A great teen read!" – Vanessa Goodman, Young Adult Librarian, Central Library/Teen Space

## **CHILDREN**

**[A Christmas Carol](#)**, by Charles Dickens

"This classic is a great read over the holidays for all ages and is available at the Library in a variety of different formats." -- Adolfo R. Ocampo, Serra Mesa-Kearny Mesa Branch Youth Services Librarian

**[Goodnight Goon](#)** and **[The Runaway Mummy](#)**, by Michael Rex

"Fun twists on popular children's classics." – Melissa Martin, Librarian, Science Section, Central Library

**[I Love My New Toy, My Friend is Sad or I Will Surprise My Friend](#)**, by Mo Willems

"Wonderful books for beginning readers." – Melissa Martin, Librarian, Science Section, Central Library

**[The Polar Express](#)**, by Chris Van Allsburg

"A terrific holiday story for children." – Mark Harryman, Youth Services Librarian, Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library

**[Dream Soul](#)**, by Laurence Yep

"Teens will enjoy this story of a 15-year-old Chinese-American girl who tries to convince her parents to celebrate Christmas." – Mark Harryman, Youth Services Librarian, Point Loma/Hervey Branch Library