

## **“From the Stacks”**

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A Copper Queen Library Column

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### **All Good Things**

In Isaac Asimov's *Foundation* series, a mathematician develops a branch of mathematics that can predict the future. He foresees the fall of the Empire and a huge loss to humanity, so creates the Foundation, the greatest Library in the Universe, holding all of humankind's accomplishments. This Library was my dream house when I was a young girl. I set my goal to read every book ever written, something I later understood to be impossible. Now, I just enjoy the excitement of new books continually being written, and the pleasure of discovering previously unknown treasures hidden in the stacks of the Copper Queen Library.

From all of the new and anticipated books hot of the press, like *Fear* by Bob Woodward, to the well-thumbed pages of beloved old friends, like George Orwell's *1984*, part of Banned Books Week, the stacks at the CQL are filled with hidden delights. Your Librarian plays the key role of curator and archivist, making decisions based on the Community he or she serves. Looking for a book or a movie at the CQL is like listening to the radio and knowing that you have found the best DJ in the world. You might not be familiar with what is playing, but you know it will be good. Behind all the history held in the Rare Books Collection, lie the choices of our first Librarian, Mr. Pritchard and the mining executives from that bedrock of early American Culture, New York. The current treasure trove is thanks to our Library Manager and DJ, Jason Macoviak. He chooses the best in non-fiction, fiction, children's books, and niche collections like our Seed Library books. We are also lucky to get amazing donations, such as Poco's Owner & Chef, Kelly Galligan's entire cookbook collection, of which she now often comes in to peruse, checking on favorite recipes.

The Rare Books Room is where I started our first exercise class, Beginning Ballet, turning the 111 year old wooden chairs around to become a ballet barre of the perfect height, and where I stood doing plies and tondues, reading the creased and much handled spines that were the first books in Bisbee, before Arizona was even a State. A title caught my eye, a book by Charles Lummis, my first boyfriend's (great) grandfather, a book I had never seen, but knew all the stories it held, firsthand from his family. I danced in a room full of books and old friends and marveled at how versatile a Library can be.

Looking for films at the CQL is my secret delight, with the ever growing Criterion Collection holding some of the best films ever made, both foreign and domestic. We can

only get a few at a time, but the Friends of the CQL support this passion, and Jason curates a gem of a collection. Sometimes though, you can find that overlooked film, like Drew Barrymore's 2009 directorial debut, "Whip It", based on the novel *Derby Girl* by Shauna Cross, a cult classic amongst Derby Girls. It might not ever make it to Criterion, but for a girl like me, who put on her skates when she woke up, and did her best not to take them off until rolling into bed, the sheer pleasure of Barrymore's light touch on the passion of roller derby, is a fine way to spend a few hours of an evening.

And always, after a day at the Library, before I can go to sleep, I must read one of the many books waiting for me at home. Although my "to read" shelf still holds Mary Gaitskill's *Mare*, George Saunders' *Lincoln in the Bardo* (I am savoring the wait), and *Artemis*, by Andrew Weir, amongst quite a few others, *Florida*, by Lauren Groff, finally came back on the Library shelves after being put on hold by one patron after another, so I checked out this anticipated delight rather than waiting for a trip to the bookstore. Lately my dreams have been filled with the ghosts of alligators and the humid swamps of Florida.