

Ready or not, here come the holidays! To help you prepare for the family gatherings and feasts, we've compiled some wit and wisdom from notable authors about the day of thanks and the spirit of the season.

- Lou



"Thanksgiving is the holiday that encompasses all others. All of them, from Martin Luther King Day to Arbor Day to Christmas to Valentine's Day, are in one way or another about being thankful."

— Jonathan Safran Foer

"I am grateful for what I am and have. My thanksgiving is perpetual...O how I laugh when I think of my vague indefinite riches. No run on my bank can drain it, for my wealth is not possession but enjoyment."

— Henry David Thoreau

"What we're really talking about is a wonderful day set aside on the fourth Thursday of November when no one diets. I mean, why else would they call it Thanksgiving?"

— Erma Bombeck

"To give thanks in solitude is enough. Thanksgiving has wings and goes where it must go. Your prayer knows much more about it than you do."

— Victor Hugo

"The observance of Thanksgiving Day — as a function — has become general of late years. The Thankfulness is not so general. This is natural. Two-thirds of the nation have always had hard luck and a hard time during the year, and this has a calming effect upon their enthusiasm."

— Mark Twain

"Thanksgiving was nothing more than a pilgrim-created obstacle in the way of Christmas; a dead bird in the street that forced a brief detour."

— Augusten Burroughs

"After a good dinner one can forgive anybody, even one's own relations."

— Oscar Wilde

"Thanksgiving is so called because we are all so thankful that it only comes once a year."

— P.J. O'Rourke

"Gratitude is the inward feeling of kindness received. Thankfulness is the natural impulse to express that feeling. Thanksgiving is the following of that impulse."

— Henry Van Dyke

"And it was never but once a year that they were brought together anyway, and that was on the neutral, dereligionized ground of Thanksgiving, when everybody gets to eat the same thing, nobody sneaking off to eat funny stuff — no kugel, no gefilte fish, no bitter herbs, just one colossal turkey for two hundred and fifty million people — one colossal turkey feeds all...It is the American pastoral par excellence and it lasts twenty-four hours."

— Philip Roth

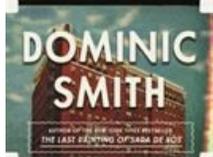
"There is one day that is ours. Thanksgiving Day is the one day that is purely American."

— O. Henry



## BOOK OF THE MONTH:

*The Electric Hotel* [Historical Fiction; Cinematographers]  
by Dominic Smith



Author Dominic Smith transports us back in time to the beginning of the silent film era, balancing poignant, emotional portrayals of the stars and players who are finding new meaning in their lives off-screen while the new medium defines them on-screen.

Meet Claude Ballard, a far past-his-prime director living in 1962's Hollywood seediness: the rundown Knickerbocker Hotel. It's there Ballard is contacted by a PhD candidate in film history, which begins the unlocking and unraveling of the depth of Smith's story. Ballard reveals to the student that he owns a long-lost print of his first feature film, which prompts the young scholar's excitement and curiosity. Ballard opens up about the film's genesis and its aftermath, and all the twists and turns that came with it, which includes heart-rending memories of the woman who inspired and captivated him.

Ultimately, Dominic Smith gives us a multi-faceted story that is part homage to old Hollywood and part love story, filled with cinematic plot points and rich characters – all the stuff of real-life Hollywood lore.

Colleen

All Staff Picks are available through the Ocean State Libraries system.

JAYNE

- \* **Coventry: Essays** by Rachel Cusk [Essays; Motherhood; Feminism; Marriage]
- \* **Things We Didn't Talk About When I Was a Girl** by Jeannie Vanasco [Memoir; Rape Victims; Sex Crimes]

Jen

- \* **Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators** by Ronan Farrow [Non-Fiction; Sexual Harassment; Harvey Weinstein]
- \* **When Life Gives You Pears: The Healing Power of Family, Faith, and Funny People** by Jeannie Gaffigan [Memoir; Brain Tumor; Humor]

Kristin

- \* **Assassin Nation** by Kyle Starks and Erica Henderson [Graphic Novel; Action; Humor]
- \* **Five Midnights** by Ann Davila Cardinal [Murder Mystery; Puerto Rico; Local Legends]
- \* **Gideon the Ninth** by Tamsyn Muir [Science Fiction; Necromancers; Mystery]

Mary Anne

- \* **Drop Shot** by Harlan Coben [Mystery; Detective Story; Sports Agents]
- \* **Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA** by Amaryllis Fox [Biography; Terrorism; C.I.A.]
- \* **Rising: Dispatches from the New American Shore** by Elizabeth Rush [Travel Writing; Coastal Changes; Climate Change]

Niles

- \* **Custer: The Controversial Life of George Armstrong Custer** by Jeffrey D. Wert [Biography; Generals]
- \* **The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia** by Candace Fleming [History; Russia; Nicolas II]