

Reading Resolutions for the New Year Kris Wiley for The News-Review

I love the clean slate of a new year, when I investigate the new books being published, consider the mountain of books on my end table and set my reading goals.

There are lots of online lists of the hottest titles for 2025, including Goodreads, Time and Oprah Daily. I will compile a list with links in Roseburg Public Library's Jan. 7 e-mail newsletter. To subscribe, visit the library's website at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org and click on "Sign up for the library's weekly newsletter."

I am eagerly anticipating "Onyx Storm," the third book in the Emyrean romantasy series by Rebecca Yarros. I devoured the first two titles, "Fourth Wing" and "Iron Flame," and fell hard for the enemies-to-lovers couple of Violet and Xaden, dragon riders who join forces to save their world from evil.

I am not a big fantasy reader, but I'm hooked on the Emyrean series because of the saucy romance, the action-packed plot and the cliffhanger endings. Plus, dragons.

You have time to catch up before "Onyx Storm" hits shelves Jan. 21.

Mysteries are more my thing, and I'm a big fan of S.A. Cosby, whose latest, "King of Ashes," is being described as a "Godfather"-esque crime novel set in the South. While you wait for it to drop in June, catch up with a couple of Cosby's other novels. My favorites are "Razorblade Tears" and "All the Sinners Bleed," both of which explore family dynamics, violence and racism in Cosby's home state of Virginia.

I enjoy a narrative nonfiction book every once in a while, and "Everything Is Tuberculosis" by John Green looks like a good one. The subtitle, "The History and Persistence of Our Deadliest Infection," leads me to believe I'm in for a deep dive into the disease I have read about in fiction for decades. It will be released in March.

And yes, the author is the John Green of young adult fiction fame – "Paper Towns," "The Fault in Our Stars," "Looking for Alaska" – as well as his most recent work, "The Anthropocene Reviewed: Essays on a Human-Centered Planet."

I spend most of my reading time on new books so I can share what has just hit the library's shelves, but every once in a while it's nice to catch up on backlist titles.

To that end, I'm slowly working my way through Donna Leon's Commissario Brunetti mystery series set in Venice, Italy, and Ann Cleeves' Vera Stanhope mystery series set in England. Both feature well-developed characters and a great sense of place. Special thanks to the library's Online Book Group members who have been raving about these series for years.

Finally, my project this year is to read “Middlemarch” by George Eliot. I’ve heard nothing but great things about this doorstopper of a book (800 pages!) set in 19th century England. I’ll let you know how it goes.

I always love talking books, so drop in to the library or email me at kwiley@roseburgor.gov and share your reading goals for the year. Happy reading!

Next week’s library events

Wednesday, January 8, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, January 8, 3-4:30 p.m. – Teen Drop-In Hangout

Thursday, January 9, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, January 9, 5:30-6:30 p.m. – Legos & Building for all ages