

JAZZ PARIS

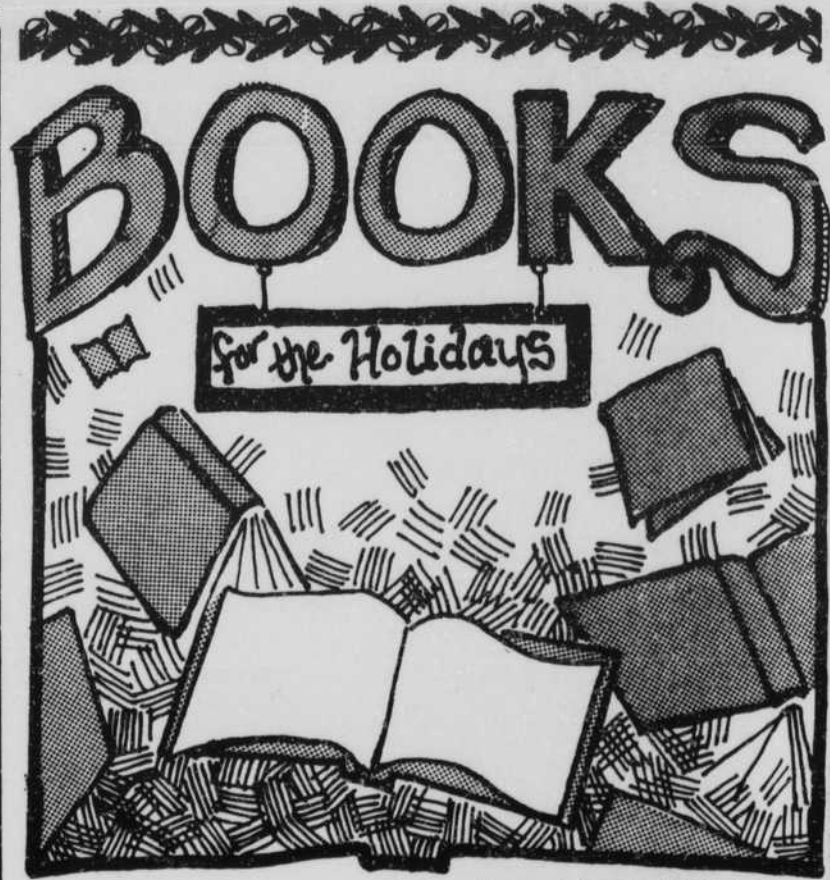
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Stephanie Cannon/Daily Nebraskan

Books bring variety to holiday gift giving

By William Rudolph
Staff Reporter

Having yourself a literary little Christmas seems easier than ever this holiday season, as a bonanza of books make gift-giving easy in 1988. Unlike clothing that might not fit or fabulous meat and cheeses of the world assortments, one can easily match a book to a person with a little imagination and persistence.

Afficionados of trashy literature won't have to worry about having been naughty or nice this year, as a host of popular literature waits to be put under the tree. Current best-selling titles include espionage titles "The Cardinal of the Kremlin" by Tom Clancy and Leon Uris' "Mitla Pass." On the naughty side, Judith Krantz and Sidney Sheldon both have new novels out for the holidays, not to forget "Dynasty"

star Joan Collins' "Prime Time," Peter Straub's "KoKo" and Stephen King's "The Watch Tower" can put a chill into a winter night's reading. And on the more literary lists, Anne Tyler's "Breathing Lessons" and Larry McMurtry's "Anything For Billy," a fictionalized account of Billy the Kid, are big sellers. Last but certainly not least, "The Queen of the Damned," the conclusion to Anne Rice's erotic and mesmerizing Vampire Chronicles, is forecast as a strong Christmas seller, according to area bookstores. And for those who want to spend most of their semester break reading, James Michener delivers yet another hefty saga in "Alaska."

In mass market, Stephen King's "The Tommyknockers" and the ever-popular Danielle Steel's "Kaleidoscope" make hot selling, stocking-stuffer paperbacks for those who couldn't get them at the library, said Waldenbooks manager Jen Wattles.

According to Wattles, quick-selling biographies this season seem to be "Gracie," George Burns' account of his late wife, Grace Allen; and Shirley Temple Black's autobiography "Child Star," the story behind the real ride on the Good Ship Lollypop.

For shoppers looking to put a little laughter into someone's holiday season, Gary Larson's "Far Side Gallery #3" and the Far Side 1989 box calendar can come to the rescue of those unable to get enough of the comic strip in the Daily Nebraskan alone. Comic page rivals Calvin and Hobbes may give Larson a run for his money. Kathryn Kelley of the Nebraska Bookstore foresees tremendous popularity for Spy Magazine's "Separated at Birth," a collection of unlikely celebrity photo pairings, such as Geraldine Ferraro and David Bowie.

For the younger people on a gift list, Kelley said Maurice Sendak's new "Dear Millie" and Chris Van Allsburg's familiar "The Polar Express" have both been selling well, while Wattles mentioned Shel Silverstein's classic "Where the Sidewalk Ends" as a safe bet for a present.

Finally, spoofs of popular magazines are still prevalent for the animal lover's holiday present. This season, "Vanity Fur" and "Teddy's Bearzaar" take their places on the shelf beside "Pupple" and last year's popular "Catmopolitan" and "Dogue."

Don't forget gift books this season. A survey of area bookstores revealed "Christmas in America," the photo collection by the same team who produced "A Day in the Life of America" and "Imagine: The Life of John Lennon" to be likely contenders for space on coffee tables in the coming year.

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