

Book Recommendations for All Ages
Kris Wiley
Roseburg Public Library

It's only February, and I have a pile of new books I'm excited to share with readers. All of the titles are available in digital or physical format at Roseburg Public Library.

Jojo Moyes is one of my go-to authors for heartfelt family stories with a feel-good romance, and her latest, "We All Live Here," is another winner.

Lila is a divorced mother of two living in a fixer-upper with her stepfather, who moved in after her mother's death. She's struggling to make ends meet as a writer whose last book - on marriage - published just when her husband's affair came to light.

If that isn't enough, Lila's biological father shows up, moves in and upends all Lila thought she knew about him ... and her mother.

Throw in two potential love interests, and Lila has her hands full - and you'll root for her every step of the way.

"Light Enough to Float" is a wonderful novel in verse for teens of all ages about a 14-year-old's struggles with anorexia and anxiety written by Lauren Seal, a Canadian author who writes from her own experiences.

Evie is admitted into an inpatient psychiatric unit to treat her illness, and I felt as though I was right there with her as she increases her caloric intake, makes new friends, turns off social media and diet influencers, realizes not everyone has her best interests in mind, and articulates the root causes of her illness.

I caution that it discusses triggering topics, but it's a book about a young person who wants to live, and I saw her fighting for herself and a hopeful future.

"Wintergirls" by Laurie Halse Anderson still is the most amazing book I've read about teens who have eating disorders, but "Light Enough to Float" and "Louder Than Hunger," a junior book by John Schu, are excellent recent books on the topic.

"All the Blues in the Sky" is a novel in verse and vignettes from Oregon author Renée Watson that features Sage, a 13-year-old girl whose best friend just died suddenly when she was hit by a car.

The setting is New York City, and the book is a mix of Sage's memories of her friend and the simple fact that Sage's life goes on - she makes new friends in a school grief group, meets a boy and participates in a flying program.

"All the Blues in the Sky" is a beautifully written book for tweens that realistically examines the range of emotions that comes with the grieving process.

Have you read something you want to recommend? Fill out a Patron Pick form at the library or online at www.roseburgpubliclibrary.org, or email a brief review to library@roseburgor.gov. We feature patron recommendations in the library's weekly e-newsletter and on a display in the library.

Next week's library events

Wednesday, March 5, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Wednesday, March 5, 12 p.m. – Umpqua Haiku

Wednesday, March 5, 3-4:30 p.m. – Teen program: reed baskets

Thursday, March 6, 10:15 a.m. – Storytime with Aurora

Thursday, March 6, 4-5 p.m. – Children's artist exploration: Georges Seurat