

The Bookworms

Grafton Fans Will Like Muddled ‘X’

“X” by Sue Grafton; © 2015, Putnam, 403 pages

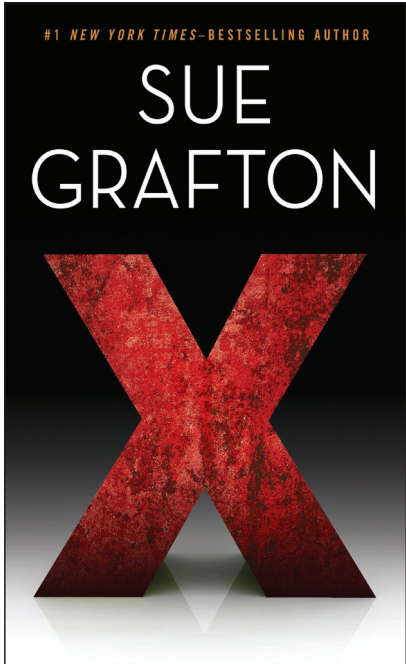
BY TERRI SCHLICHMEYER

The months spent with your ex are better forgotten.

You don’t even like to think about them, in fact, and you rarely discuss them. That’s all in the past now, and best that it stay that way. Or is it? What if lessons learned from your ex back then can save the life of someone today? In the new book “X” by Sue Grafton, recovered memorabilia leads to an eXtra disturbing discovery.

Ruthie Wolinsky was at a total loss. Recently widowed when her husband was murdered under shady circumstances, Ruthie was trying hard to clean up his paperwork and get rid of junk. She’d hired someone for the latter, but the former was trickier — made more so by the strange call from the IRS, asking for receipts from 15 years ago.

Private investigator Kinsey Millhone had once worked with Ruthie’s late husband and though she was no fan of Pete Wolinsky, she adored Ruthie and agreed to help. As she waded through moldering boxes in search of old receipts, Kinsey remembered that Pete had been secretive so she wasn’t surprised to find a hidden envelope and an odd code. Pete had obviously been working on a case that he wanted kept quiet; that intrigued Kinsey,



who hated unfinished messes.

What else could she do but complete his case — especially since she’d been stiffed by a client who’d lied to her from the start? The woman said her name was Hallie Bettancourt and that she was looking for someone she’d put up for adoption years before. Bettancourt had paid in cash, but the \$100 bills were counterfeit

and so was her name. It hadn’t been a big job, but Kinsey wanted her money.

The code Pete had fashioned was easily broken — Kinsey’s landlord, Henry, loved doing cryptograms — but the names it yielded didn’t make sense. How could a woman long-dead be of any interest to anyone today? And how did Pete end up with a few old pictures and a Bible from a lifetime ago? Better question: why did someone else want them enough to threaten Kinsey on her own turf?

My very first thought while reading “X” came to me long before I’d even reached the middle of the first chapter: there’s a lot of filler in this novel. Readers — even those starting this series from here (and that’s OK, by the way) — don’t generally need a paragraph on the ingredients in bread or on making coffee.

I point this out because the whodunits you’ll find in this latest installment from author Sue Grafton are classic Millhone, but the padding becomes a distraction after a while. I’m sure I’m not alone in thinking that those pages could have been more mystery and less mud to slog through.

And then again, you’ve read Grafton’s other 24 books (A through W and short stories). Can you stand to miss this one, the third-from-the-presumably-last? No ... really, you know you can’t. This is the book mystery fans have been waiting for, and they may otherwise find “X” to be X-cellent.

Schrag To Speak At Majestic Bluffs

Life in a small town has its unique charms, and Phyllis Schrag will explore them during her entertaining presentation, “Baseball, Preachers and Funerals.” Schrag, independent scholar from Sioux Falls, will speak at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 4, in the Gathering Place at Avera Majestic Bluffs.

“Baseball, Preachers and Funerals” is a presentation in a storytelling format and provides a humorous yet poignant look at small-town life. Its setting is a place where all the town kids were needed to have their own “World Series,” preachers had an impact on children’s development, and funerals were simply a part of life. Lessons gleaned from baseball, preachers and funerals present a child’s perspective of life in a small town.

The presentation is free and open to the public.

This program at Avera Majestic Bluffs was made possible by the South Dakota Humanities Council, an affiliate of the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Kaylor Opry Slated For Sept. 4

KAYLOR – The Germans from Russia Heritage Society will host another “Kaylor Opry” program on Friday, Sept. 4, at 7 p.m. at the Society’s Heritage Hall on north Main Street in downtown Kaylor.

The Opry is a program of old time country and gospel music performed by local musicians.

There is no charge, but a freewill offering is taken for the potluck refreshments which are served at intermission.

For more information or to be on the program, you may call 605-212-9011.

Hay Country Jamboree at Gayville Sept. 5

GAYVILLE – Gayville Hall presents its monthly musical variety show, The Hay Country Jamboree,” at 8 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 5, in Gayville.

Jamboree regulars, including banjo player and funnyman Dan Kilbride and Iowa’s “Singing Farmer” Ervin Pickhinke, will be joined by award-winning cowboy poet Ed Nesselhuf, who will share some of his verses and emcee, and the popular Yankton duo, Mike Hilson and Jay Gilbertson, for a lively two-hour show.

Jamborees always feature three-or-more musical acts on stage together trading old-time popular tunes, country, bluegrass, and humor by turn. The fast-paced shows include a short intermission midway and are presented in an alcohol-free, family-friendly setting.

Gayville Hall is at 502 Washington Street in Gayville. Call (605) 267-2859 for ticket information.

Yankton Library Closed On Labor Day

The Yankton Community Library, 515 Walnut, is closed on Monday, Sept. 7, for Labor Day.

Beginning on Tuesday, Sept. 8, fall/winter hours are in effect, with the following hours of operation:

- * Monday through Thursday: 9 a.m.-8 p.m.
- * Friday and Saturday: 9 a.m.-5 p.m.
- * Sunday: 1-5 p.m.

For further information, call the library at 605-668-5275.

Special Cramer-Kenyon Tours Offered

Regular tours (from 1-4 p.m. Wednesday-Sunday) of the Cramer-Kenyon Home, 509 Pine, Yankton, end on Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7.

Special arrangements for tours can be made by calling the house at (605) 665-7470 or the Caretaker Veronica Trezona at (605)660-5612.

Author, Illustrator To Discuss New Book

Join author Marilyn Kratz and illustrator Beverly Behrens at the Yankton Community Library on Sunday, Sept. 13, from 2-3:30 p.m., as they launch their new book “Quilts and Country Gardens-Remembering a Simpler Time.” Talks begin at 2:30 p.m., with book purchasing and signing taking place both before and after the presentations.

Kratz states, “The incentive to gather a second group of my newspaper columns into this book comes from comments of those who read the first one, ‘Feed Sack Dresses and Wild Plum Jam – Remembering Farm Life in the 1950s.’ So many people told me that book brought back happy memories of their days growing up rural. It gives me great pleasure to give readers another glimpse into that simpler time.

“The quilt block designs and botanical prints in this book were painted by my long-time friend Beverly Behrens, an artist who grew up in rural Alcester. I have enjoyed working with her in our first joint project. Her watercolor prints add not only color but warmth and interest to this book.”

Marilyn Kratz drew from her experiences growing up on a farm in southeastern South Dakota to write columns for a weekly newspaper, *The Observer*, published in Yankton. She has had almost 700 articles, stories, and poems published, many in children’s magazines. This is her sixth book. She retired after 31 years teaching elementary school and resides in Yankton with her husband. She enjoys reading, gardening, singing with her church choir and visiting her grandchildren.

Beverly Behrens was the only person in her grade in the one-room school she attended in southeastern South Dakota. She was often occupied with art projects at the back of the room while the teacher met with other classes up front. This led her to study art at the University of South Dakota. She has painted scenes from as close as her home state of South Dakota to as distant as Monet’s garden in Giverny, France. In recent years, she has found added inspiration in botanical art. Besides teaching adult classes, she is active in art fairs, solo shows, guild activities, and juried exhibits of the American Society of Botanical Artists. Creating quilts is also among her pursuits. She paints in her home studio near the Middlefork Savanna, where she and her husband enjoy the flora and fauna of the Illinois prairie.

For more information about this event, contact the library at 668-5275.

Art Forms

Summer Arts Festival Was Great Success

BY JULIE J. AMSBERRY

Yankton Area Arts

The 31st Summer Arts Festival was once again a successful week-end at Riverside Park! The weather was beautiful and the artists were busy! Congratulations to our Best of Show winners: in Fine Crafts, Barnwood Trays from Omaha, Nebraska, and in Fine Arts, RBrooks Designs from Britton, South Dakota. Both were new artists to the festival this year! Honorable Mention in Fine Crafts was Oxbow Natural Landscapes from Bellwood, Nebraska, and in Fine Arts, Cedarosa Studios from Mission Hill! The festival, however, wouldn’t be possible without the endless hours our volunteers dedicate to the event each year! Special thanks to the Godfather of Summer Arts Festival and Assistant Director Craig Sherman!

The current exhibit at the GAR Hall Art Gallery, titled #ArtHappensHere, is a new exhibit featuring the yearly activities of Yankton Area Arts. Guests will see artwork created by the 2014-15 sixth grade students at Yankton Middle School with the help of artist and teacher, Cheryl Peterson-Halsey. Also on exhibit is a multitude of 2015 Art Adventure projects under the title “South Dakota: 125 Years.” Elementary students in the Yankton Public School System studied and created South Dakota landscapes, animals, flowers, and buildings. Be sure to admire the costume pieces made and on display by this year’s Art Advocate of the Year, Pam Kallis. Then join us for a reception in her honor tonight (Friday) from 5-7 p.m.

Yankton Area Arts houses two art groups throughout the year who each have items on display: the River City Area

Woodcarvers and the Connecting Artists. We also hold various classes and events throughout the year including Kids Studio Art Classes, the Summer Concert Series, Summer Arts Festival, Crimson Door, Tour of Homes, Meridian en Blanc, Kids Art Fest and community art projects ... all of which are represented in this fun, interactive exhibit! #ArtHappensHere is on exhibit at GAR Hall through Oct. 6.

YAA was honored to take part in Graffiti Night & Downtown River Walk Tour on Wednesday, Sept. 2. With the help of renowned artists Mickey Harris, Yankton River-Walk, and First Dakota Bank, we had a great time adding color to the former Goetz Law Office building. Thank you to all the volunteers, kids, parents, and friends to helped us with the underwater-themed graffiti! If you haven’t seen it yet, be sure to drive by soon ... it won’t be there for long!

Thank you, Yankton, for helping me to have a fantastic first year at Yankton Area Arts! Please let us know how we are doing, visit our gallery, become a member, volunteer to help us out, and follow us on Facebook and Twitter!

Yankton Area Arts is a non-profit arts organization located at 508 Douglas Avenue in Yankton. The G.A.R. Hall Art Gallery is open to the public free of charge from 1-5 p.m. weekdays and from 1-3 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call the YAA office at (605) 665-9754 or email yaa@iw.net.



Julie AMSBERRY

New At The Library

Here's what's new at the Yankton Community Library this week:

ADULT BOOKS

- **Bombs Away** by Harry Turtledove; Fiction
- **The Color of Light** by Emilie Richards; Fiction
- **Darkness the Color of Snow** by Thomas Cobb; Fiction
- **Deceptions** by Kelly Armstrong; Fiction
- **Everybody Rise** by Stephanie Clifford; Fiction
- **Gone Cold** by Douglas Corleone; Fiction
- **In the Dark Places** by Peter Robinson; Fiction
- **Jack Pine** by William Hazelgrove; Fiction
- **Last Bus to Wisdom** by Ivan Doig; Fiction
- **Last Words** by Michael Koryta; Fiction
- **Lavina** by Mary Marcus; Fiction
- **Lawyer for the Dog** by Lee Robinson; Fiction
- **The Nature of the Beast** by Louise Penny; Fiction
- **A Pattern of Lies** by Charles Todd; Fiction
- **The Race for Paris** by Meg Waite Clayton; Fiction
- **The Sage of Waterloo** by Leona Francombe; Fiction
- **The Taming of the Queen** by Philippa Gregory; Fiction
- **Tom Clancy’s Op-Center: Into the Fire** by Couch & Gladorisi; Fiction
- **The Tusk That Did the Damage** by Tania James; Fiction
- **We Never Asked for Wings** by Vanessa Diffenbaugh; Fiction
- **Approaching the End of Life** by Donna Schaper; Nonfiction
- **The Born Frees** by Kimberly Burge; Nonfiction
- **Born Survivors** by Wendy Holden; Nonfiction
- **For the Love** by Jen Hatmaker; Nonfiction
- **Good and Cheap** by Leanne Brown; Nonfiction
- **I’m Happy for You (Sort of...Not Really)** by Kay Wills Wyma; Nonfiction
- **Mess** by Barry Yourgrau; Nonfiction
- **Rethinking Narcissism** by Dr. Craig Malkin; Nonfiction
- **Saban: The Making of a Coach** by Monte Burke; Nonfiction
- **Scraps** by Vera Vandenbosch; Nonfiction
- **Something Must Be Done About Prince Edward County** by Kristin Green; Nonfiction
- **Team Genius** by Karlgaard & Malone; Nonfiction

ADULT AUDIO BOOKS

- **Friction** by Sandra Brown; Fiction
- **The Night Sister** by Jennifer McMahon; Fiction
- **Silver Linings** by Debbie Macomber; Fiction
- **Who do You Love** by Jennifer Weiner; Fiction

YOUNG ADULT BOOKS

- **A Little in Love** by Susan E. Fletcher; Fiction
- **13 Days of Midnight** by Leo Hunt; Fiction
- **Weightless** by Sarah Bannan; Fiction
- **It’s the Student Not the College** by Kristin M. White; Nonfiction

Did you know that you can reserve an item from home? Staff will then notify you as soon as the item is available.

Fall Square Dance Festival Set For Hermosa Sept. 11-12

HERMOSA — The South Dakota State Square Folk and Round Dance Association, is sponsoring the Fall State Square Dance Festival in Hermosa Sept. 11-12. The event will be hosted by the Southern Hills Promenaders Square Dance Club. The theme of the festival is “Play Me Some Mountain Music in Hermosa.”

The Summer Festival activities will begin with a Trail-In Dance Friday evening, Sept. 11, with Bear Miller, Denver, calling and Lurita Fugier, Hermosa, will be the round dance cuer. The dance begins at 8 p.m. Pre-Rounds start at 7:30 p.m. All sessions will be held at the Hermosa School Gym at

114th Street.

On Saturday, Sept. 12, there will be a Plus Dance beginning at 9:30 a.m. with Bear Miller calling. The Spring Festival begins at 1:30 p.m. on Sept. 12. The South Dakota Square Dance Association calls do the calling for the afternoon. Hank Prasnicki, Big Stone, will be the afternoon Master of Ceremonies, and Fugier will be the round dance cuer. There will be business sessions before the 7:30 p.m. Grand March. Fugier will be the evening Master of Ceremonies, the evening round dance cuer.

The public is invited to view any and all sessions.

Library Board Of Trustees To Meet

The Yankton Community Library Board of Trustees will hold its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept.

9, in the library meeting room, 515 Walnut For further information, call 668-5275.



HAPPY LABOR DAY

It’s time to salute the hardworking men and women who keep America going strong. Your dedication, commitment and work ethic are the backbone of our country’s continued success. We hope you enjoy a well-deserved day off, and a safe and relaxing holiday weekend.

With Our Thanks on Labor Day,



AMERICAN
FOODS GROUP.

1000 Cattle Drive, Yankton, SD

A Salute to our Hardworking Employees!

Thank you for all of your hard work in the factory, in the office, in the field and beyond. Your efforts help keep our business and our community strong. We salute your commitment to a job well done. We hope you enjoy a great holiday weekend of festivities and relaxation!

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