



Let's look at Libby

Somewhere among the top ten things on my gratitude list is the internet. In fact, it may be making its way up the ladder. This is an ideal time to learn to use the **Libby app** to download books in e-format or onto certain models of Kindle or other devices. We can do it from home (or anywhere) and the books we download will be automatically returned to the ether in two weeks.

Here's the scoop on how to do that and a few book ideas to get started.

Please notice that the library now has a blog link on its homepage at www.wicksonlibrary.org. These instructions are on a blog entry about Libby. First, you do need a library card. If you don't have one, call the library and leave a message. Someone will return your call and set you up with a card and a password over the phone.

Download the app using the usual method. The app you are searching for is Libby (think Library). Create an account, and you're in business. This is an intuitive app that works well on a phone or select other devices.

You can search for books by availability (sorting out ones that aren't available now) as well as a variety of genres (thrillers, historical fiction, new books, popular books, and so on). Once you've found a book that sounds interesting, just click on the button to download it.

The app will tell you how many e-books or audio books exist for each book, how many are currently checked out, and how long the wait list is, both in terms of "three people waiting for each of five books," and a time estimate until one will be available for you. If you finish your book faster than fourteen days, it is polite to return it early to move the wait lists along.

One hint: If you discover you enjoy checking out books through Libby, don't worry too much about the wait lists. Just get in line for short lists and long lists and grab a couple with no wait lists, and they just pop up before you know it.

I explored a few categories today (and ended up with a book of course). Here's what I found. Like me, you can make your own What's New list. After all, what's important is that it is new to you.

A debut novel by James McGregor, **Going Dutch**, got high praise among critics. The narrator sounds like such a quirky character with intense flaws he is determined to ignore, that I downloaded it. It had no wait list, and I grabbed it.

Another book I never heard of, Deb Olin Unferth's **Barn 8**, had a wait time of only two weeks, so I got in line for that one. Who could resist a novel about a heist involving stealing a million chickens in the middle of the night. "Catastrophe ensues." I can't wait. Critics call it a political drama with razor sharp wit.

Depending on your idea of escape, you can download right now Daniel Defoe's **A Journal of the Plague Year**, a fictionalized account of 1665 London in the midst of the Great Plague. (I passed on that one but still. It's topical.)

Celeste Ng's **Little Fires Everywhere** currently has eight holds per copy, so a matter of over four months to get. (I've read it. It's worth the wait.)

Liane Moriarty's thriller, **Nine Perfect Strangers**, is available and is also coming out as a TV series starring Nicole Kidman and Melissa McCarthy.

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