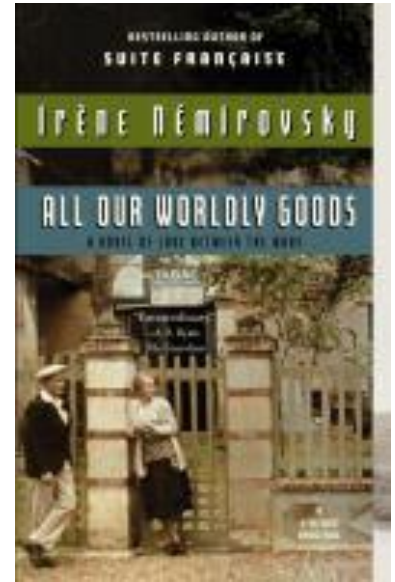


“All Our Worldly Goods” by Irène Némirovsky.

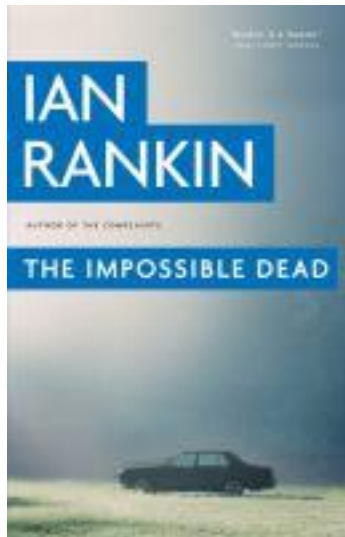
Vintage, 2011. \$14.95, 272 pages.

Fans of Némirovsky’s “Suite Française” will be happy to see this title translated from French. The author excels at telling a dramatic story heartfelt by readers empathizing with the memorable characters. The author has captured the essence of life in France in the time period between 1910 until the Second World War. Her characters inspire readers because of the resilience to adversity exhibited by Pierre Hardelot and Agnès Florent. Their love for each other is not allowable because of the different social standings. After all, a member of a Florent family of brewers could not possibly marry into the paper mills Hardelot family. A love-sick Pierre becomes engaged to Simone. The scenes are memorable and you will long remember this poignant story. Life changes radically for all when the war starts. The author writes, “...they asked for no more than time. A few more months of peace, another year, one more carefree summer....Nothing more.” Reminiscent of Daphne du Maurier’s novels, I was entranced and could not stop reading this book. Irène Némirovsky, the author of a dozen books, was born in Russia in 1903 and died in Auschwitz in 1942. Her popularity as a writer continues today as more readers worldwide become familiar with her works when they are translated.



“The Impossible Dead” by Ian Rankin.

Hachette Book Group, 2011. \$25.99, 391 pages.



Ian Rankin’s latest novel is exceptional with intricate plots and fast paced thriller action. Main character, Malcolm Fox, is part of the Internal Affairs division nicknamed the “Complaints” investigating Detective Paul Carter for misconduct in the picturesque town of Kirkcaldy. He is assisted by Sergeant Tony Kaye and Constable Joe Naysmith. No one seems to be cooperative when the “Complaints” come to town to interview DI Scholes and DDs Haldane and Michaelson. In fact, the team hits the proverbial stone wall. They get the runaround daily from the uncooperative locals as the team plods along at a frustrating pace. The investigative trail goes back to 1985 when there was activism, kidnappings and murders. What powerful politicians were involved? Rankin is superb at capturing the gritty essence of the police scene and procedural minutiae. Fox comes close to some treacherous truths and the track even leads to his family. Rankin enjoys

widespread appeal overseas and has gained popularity in the United States. Ian Rankin has won numerous awards including the Edgar Award and the Gold Dagger Award. He lives with his family in Edinburgh. The first book in this series is “The Complaints.”

Susan Benning is the Manager of the May Memorial location. Visit us on the web at www.alamancelibraries.org.