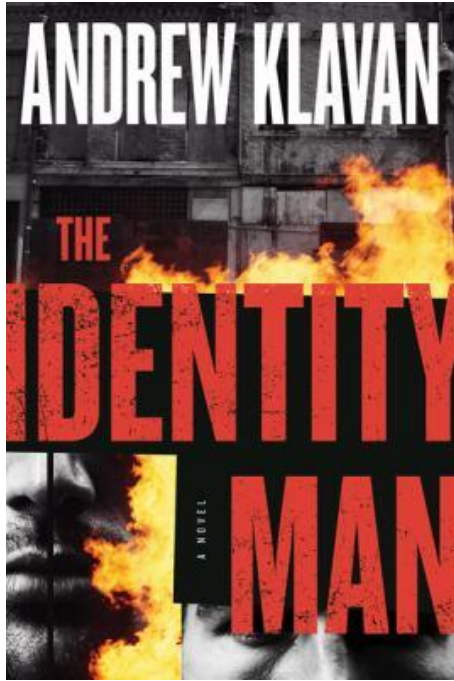


“The Identity Man” by Andrew Klavan.

Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company, 2010. \$25.00, 280 pages.

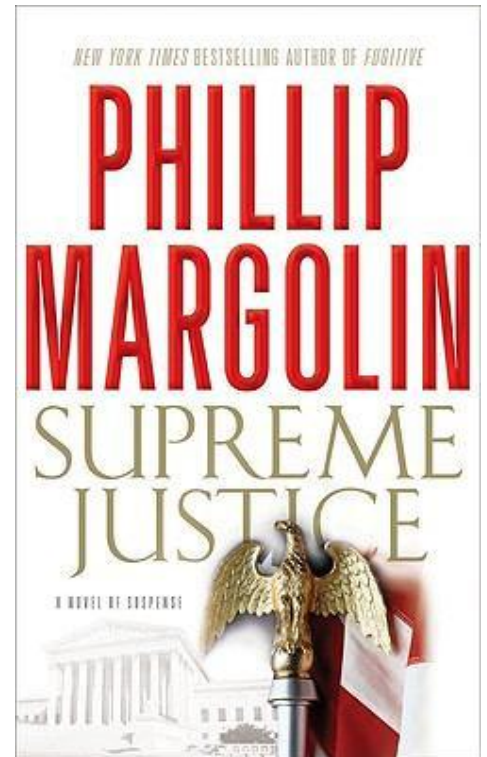


Fans of Andrew Klavan will enjoy his latest novel which has an interesting plot. John Shannon, a petty thief, is framed for murder. Shannon is given a second chance to escape the justice system and punishments through a new identity. A text message and a meeting with a stranger named the Identity Man allows him to create a new existence. What seems like a Cinderella “do-over” quickly becomes another nightmare in Shannon’s life. The city where he has been planted is corrupt with crooked politicians, gangsters and criminals. The cops cannot be trusted and Shannon is jolted to a new reality. They all want him dead. Who has made him the scapegoat? Shannon must uncover why he is a pawn before he ends up dead. Klavan has won the Edgar Award twice and many of his books have been made into movies. The action is fast paced and probably Clint Eastwood will soon be directing the movie version. Some of his other novels are “Don’t Say a Word,” “True Crime,” and “Empire of Lies.”

“Supreme Justice” by Philip Margolin.

HarperCollins Publisher, 2010. \$25.99, 312 pages.

Character Dana Cutler, from “Executive Privilege” returns in Margolin’s new novel. She is called in to investigate why a Supreme Court Justice suddenly resigns and why another is physically attacked. Is it because death row inmate Sarah Woodruff’s court appeal has hit the docket? As she pursues the case she finds that there is a connection to John Finley, the man Woodruff is accused of murdering. What is the connection between the freighter full of drugs and a shootout that occurred years ago in which Finley was the sole survivor? Cutler enlists the help of Keith Evans and Brad Miller. The mission turns risky as the president’s nominee for the Supreme Court is threatened by a rogue intelligence agency. The writing is crisp and suspenseful. You will stay up late reading to see how the mystery unravels. Margolin, a former criminal defense attorney, expertly writes about legal storylines. His background with murder trials is evident in his writing. Margolin has won the Distinguished Northwest Writer Award. He resides in Oregon.



Susan Benning is the Head Librarian at May Memorial Library. Visit us on the web at www.alamancelibraries.org. Bring your children downtown to Holiday Magic on Friday December 3, 2010. The Friends of the Library and the Times-News are sponsoring fun activities at the library for children from 6:00-8:00 pm.