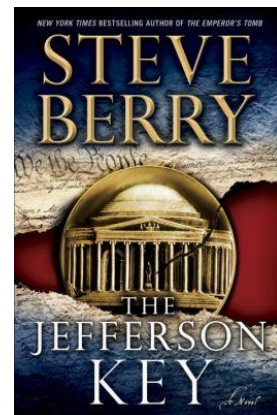
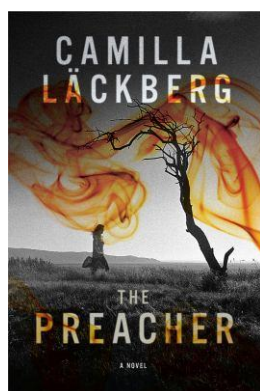


“Jefferson Key” by Steve Berry. Ballantine Books, 2011. \$26.00, 451 pages.

One has to admit that the fertile minds of authors come up with the most intriguing plots imaginable. Steve Berry has piqued the interest of history aficionados with his latest thriller starring favorite character Cotton Malone. Malone thwarts an assassination attempt on the life of President Danny Daniels in downtown Manhattan. Malone’s heroic actions trying to disable a remote controlled high powered rifle aimed at the President’s motorcade puts his life in danger as the Secret Service return fire at him. Things go from bad to worse as a second remote controlled mortar weapon from another room starts to fire below at the presidential limo speeding away. Watching the unbelievable unraveling of his master plan from a safe distance like a spectator is the mastermind. Malone enlists the help of Cassiopeia Vitt to track down the organization responsible. Berry’s writing style provides an adrenaline rush as the action pummels non-stop as the team investigates a secret society, a historical Jeffersonian cipher, and an unresolved mystery invented by Andrew Jackson. Is there a connection between the attempt on President’s life and the other four previous presidential assassinations? You will enjoy this book and the pages will be flipping fast while you postpone your household chores. I can just imagine this on the big screen with an overpaid actor. Steve Berry continues work on his foundation, History Matters in St. Augustine, Florida.



“Preacher,” Camilla Läckberg . Pegasus Books, 2011. \$25.95, 419 pages.



As you probably know already by the length of the hold lists, the popularity of Swedish crime writers is currently enormous. Most are familiar with the Stieg Larsson series of books. If you are looking for new authors in the same genre, you might want to try Camilla Läckberg. Some of her books are still being translated, but you can start with the Fjällbacka series, titled “Ice Princess”, “Preacher” and “Stone Cutter.” This set of murder mysteries hold their own individually as the storylines are well developed and the plot is often dual layered with generational sub stories. The psychological imprint of the characters makes these books not to be missed. “Ice Princess” is set in Fjällbacka, and is the story of Erika Falck returning to her childhood home and finding a longtime friend has been murdered. “Preacher” begins when a young boy finds a body in King’s

Crevice. As the body is being removed for examination, two more skeletons are found in the same place. Eventually it is determined the remains were women who went missing in the 70’s. The town of Fjällbacka has many secrets including family and neighbor conflicts. The town is not as peaceful and idyllic as it seems. “Stone Cutter” nominated for Best Swedish Crime novel is on backorder and hopefully will be in by the time you finish the other two books. Läckberg’s books were made into movies and a mini-series in Sweden.

Susan Benning is the Head Librarian at May Memorial Library. Catch up on library happenings on Facebook at <http://www.facebook.com/AlamanceLibraries>. For information about the adult Summer Reading Program named Novel Destinations please call 229-3588.