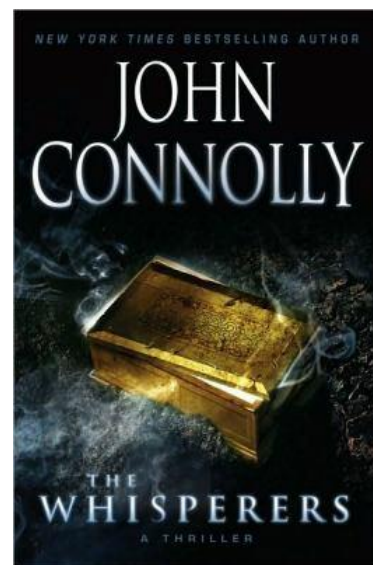
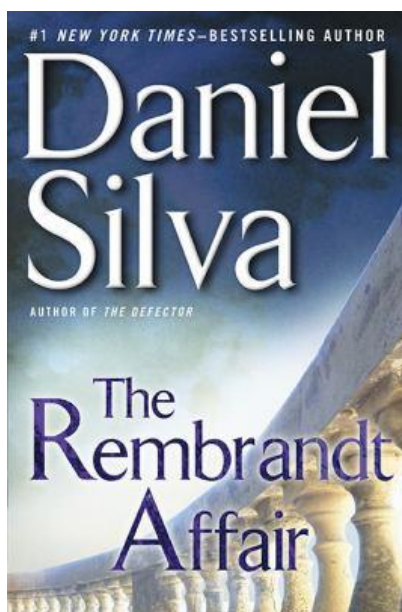


**“The Whisperers” by John Connolly. Atria Books, 2010. \$26.00, 409 pages.**

John Connolly does not disappoint his fans in his latest fast-paced thriller. The setting is the Great North Woods section of Maine in the border area between Canada and the U.S. Some embittered former soldiers who returned from deployment to Iraq are running a smuggling operation of people, weapons, drugs, money laundering and even mysterious objects. What exactly was looted from the Iraq Museum in Baghdad during the war? Dr. Al-Daini, the curator of Roman Antiquities at the Iraq Museum, made a futile search for a non-descript lead box hidden in the museum’s basement. This Persian 16<sup>th</sup> century artifact contained yet another mysterious box. He discovers that everything that once was part of the museum’s holdings is gone. What is unleashed if the smaller box is opened? Private Investigator Charlie Parker is called in to stop the killings that have erupted amongst the former soldiers. Parker is not the only one tracking down this group. A reclusive man named Herod is also looking for the criminals accompanied by his bodyguard. An untenable alliance with a killer named the Collector must be made, much to Parker’s disdain, if he wants to get to the bottom of this mystery. The plot twists and the suspenseful writing style keep your adrenalin flowing until the end.



**“Rembrandt Affair” by Daniel Silva. G.P. Putnam’s Sons, 2010. @26.95, 484 pages.**



Daniel Silva is one of country’s best authors in the thriller genre. The series featuring character Gabriel Allon has been a favorite among his readers. This is the tenth book in the series if you are looking for a new author to try. Silva is a skillful writer that draws the reader headlong into the international intrigue and mayhem. Gabriel has retired to Cornwall with his wife when he is called by Julian Isherwood, a London art dealer for assistance with a problem. A restoration artist was murdered in Glastonbury and a portrait by Rembrandt is missing. Gabriel is asked to find the painting and those responsible for the theft and murder. The case takes him to Argentina, Amsterdam and Switzerland. What are the secrets behind the painting and those willing to kill for it? As Gabriel finds out, greed is a very powerful motivation for breaking several commandments. You won’t be able to put this book down as you follow Gabriel sorting out this case. The writing is superb and the characters are well developed. The first book in the series is “Kill Artist.”

Susan Benning is the Head Librarian at May Memorial Library.

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