

Never judge a book by its cover on a blind date



By Brock Weir

Depending on your mood, sometimes the best blind dates are the ones where your date the night before is still hanging around at breakfast keeping you interested.

That's just how Reccia Mandelcorn feels. Over the last few months, she had many blind dates that kept her satisfied well into the next morning and now she's doing her best to be a community matchmaker as well.

But, are you ready to head back out into the dating game? There's only one way to tell.

Swing by the Aurora Public Library this week, through February 14, and pick out your blind date.

You won't have a photo on which to swipe left or right, or a photo to tap, but just enough of a tease to whet your appetite and take your date home.

Valentine's Day is fast approaching and it's that time of year to have your Blind Date with a Book.

Dozens of books are now up for grabs at the Aurora Public Library (APL) for you to check out, all wrapped in brown paper, with little more than a teaser written on the wrapping to give you a hint on just what might be inside.

It's up to you to take a chance and, in Ms. Mandelcorn's view, unlike traditional blind dates, you have little to lose.

'It's like someone is fixing you up and you don't really know them, but they have said a few things about the person like they enjoy going for long walks or picking up a coffee at the local coffee shop,' explains Ms. Mandelcorn, APL's Manager of Community Collaboration. 'There is just that little inkling but you don't know until you get there. We're talking about the relationships of our readers, but in a fun way.'

'We look through books and get a fun idea of what the book is. Maybe it is a thriller, and we'll say something like, 'After your date with me, keep the lights on. You might not be able to sleep because you're so excited,' something that will be that little bit of a spark ? and then it's time for your blind date.'

'Think of it as APL's OkCupid, the plus with this is if your date's a dud, you can just bring it back, no questions asked and no hurt feelings.'

If only life were so simple!

So, what are Ms. Mandelcorn and the APL team looking for as matchmakers? They try to pull books that aren't too heavy, nothing really political, and something that is accessible. There are many mysteries, thrillers, romances, plus a few travel books and even a cookbook or two. One vegan cookbook is even in the mix with recipes that were tried out before the book was wrapped and the teaser applied.

'Most of it is just enjoyable reading that you might just want to encounter,' she says. You might be surprised. They say you can't judge a book by its cover and we're challenging readers to go beyond trying to judge a book by its cover, taking a chance when you can't actually see it ? and you have nothing to lose.

'My ideal book blind date is something I start one evening, can't put it down, and continue it the next day just non-stop, just keeping

me enthralled, most especially if it takes me on a little bit of a trip, or takes me to a new genre or an new author ? then I can follow up and read some more. Maybe it is something that wasn't on my list ahead of time, but now I have something new, new places to go, and new areas to explore ? and isn't that what relationships are all about??