

## All in the Family by Patti Burnside

*“Home is the place where, when you have to go there, they have to take you in.”*  
Robert Frost Poem –*The Death of the Hired Man*

Family novels abound. Some are sagas that march through the decades, linking one family’s story to historic events. Others are domestic dramas that focus on one family’s personal struggles. Then there are novels that closely trace the aftershocks of family secrets as children stumble their way into adulthood. Ann Patchett’s new book, *Commonwealth*, falls into this latter category as the author explores how a chance encounter reverberates through the lives of four parents and six children. Other new “family novels” include *Perfume River* by Robert Olen Butler which examines family ties and the legacy of the Vietnam War through the portrait of a single North Florida family; and *The Orphan Mother* by Robert Hicks, an epic account of one remarkable woman’s quest for justice in the years following the Civil War.

*We Are All Made of Stars* by Rowan Coleman is a beautiful, life-affirming novel about second chances, the power of words, and the resilience of the heart. Similar in theme is *The Mixture as Before* by Rosie Harris, an emotionally compelling family saga about second chances and regaining one’s spirit.

On every page of *Shelter in Place* by Alexander Maksik, we’re reminded of the paradox of how mysterious and delicate family relationships can be.

On a much lighter note, author Gayle Forman gives us *Leave Me*. The author says her new book is for “every woman who has ever fantasized about driving past her exit on the highway instead of going home to make dinner, and every woman who has ever dreamed of boarding a train to a place where no one needs constant attention.”

Check out these and many other new books at your Scott County Public Library.

