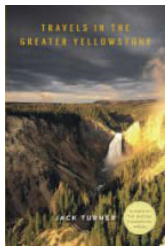
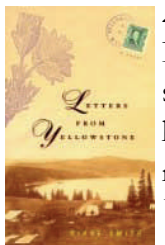


Yellowstone National Park Booktalk



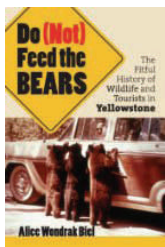
1. *Travels in the Greater Yellowstone*. Jack Turner. 2008. 288 pages. **Nonfiction: Travel/Nature**

A compelling, lyrical combination of travel and nature writing, *Travels in the Greater Yellowstone* presents twelve essays, each detailing a different trip through the Greater Yellowstone region. The area and its ecosystem, which the author calls "ground zero" for conflict between preservation and development, encompasses two National Parks, three National Wildlife Refuges, parts of six National Forests, and eleven wilderness areas. Turner's trips—hiking, skiing, climbing, canoeing, kayaking, and driving—take place during every season, and his accounts offer an often controversial "mixture of adventure, nostalgia, and Americana."



2. *Letters from Yellowstone*. Diane Smith. 1999. 226 pages. **Historical Fiction**

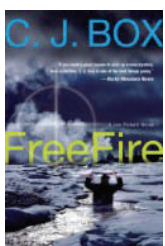
In the spring of 1898, a young medical student and botanist enthusiastically accepts an invitation to join a field study in Yellowstone National Park. Professor H. G. Merriam, director of the study of the park's native plant life is utterly unprepared when he discovers that the eagerly anticipated A.E. Bartram is a young woman named Alexandra. Told entirely through correspondence sent from and between the characters, *Letters from Yellowstone* offers a fascinating and detailed view of the early days of the park and the struggle to catalogue and understand its flora and fauna before human interference makes the goal unattainable. Nature enthusiasts, both amateur and professional, will enjoy the detailed descriptions of the park's plant and animal life in this leisurely paced, character-driven historical novel.



3. *Do (Not) Feed the Bears: The Fitful History of Wildlife and Tourists in Yellowstone*.

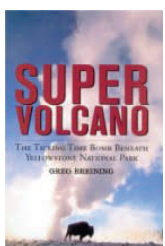
Alice Wondrak Biel. 2006. 150 pages. **Nonfiction: History/Natural history**

Do (Not) Feed the Bears presents a detailed and deeply researched study of human-bear interactions in Yellowstone National Park from the park's creation to the present day. The author devotes chapters to the major stages of this tenuous and often dangerous relationship, beginning with the early days of the park and its zoos, evolving into organized feeding and "bear shows" to the more ecologically sound contemporary policy. Particularly interesting in this densely written history is the exploration of the shift in National Park Service attitude and policy about bears and the decades-long struggle to make the public aware of and compliant with the rules.



4. *Free Fire*. C.J. Box. 2007. 368 pages. **Mystery**

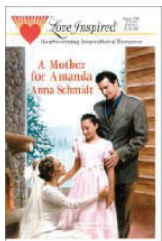
When the governor of Wyoming approaches shunned ex-Game Warden Joe Pickett and offers him his job back if he'll look into a multiple murder case in Yellowstone National Park, Joe quickly agrees, though he's not really sure what there is to investigate. Everyone in the state knows exactly who the killer is because—despite his full confession—the murderer was released without charge after exploiting an archaic legal loophole that makes trial by jury impossible within a narrow tract the park. As Joe's investigation hurtles forward, he finds disturbing signs of conspiracy in the ranks of the park's rangers, makes links to energy-hungry bio-fuel corporations, and is thrown off balance when his heartbreaking family history erupts like one of a thousand Yellowstone geysers. *Free Fire* is a timely, tense, and fast-paced mystery populated by interesting, well-drawn characters that fans of series mysteries will want to get to know better.



5. *Super Volcano: The Ticking Time Bomb beneath Yellowstone National Park*. Greg Breining. 2007. 256 pages. **Nonfiction: Science and natural history**

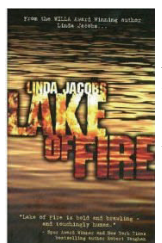
Few of the millions of visitors to Yellowstone National Park are aware that they're standing atop one of the world's largest, most active, and destructive volcanoes. Using existing field research and his own interviews with geologists and paleontologists, journalist Breining describes the explosive history of the area, explores the likelihood of another eruption and its potential global, and compares data on other volcanoes—historical and contemporary. The author's direct, approachable discussion of the subject moves the reader quickly through the book and makes the science involved accessible to the lay reader. Photos and maps are presented throughout the book, which also includes a brief reference section, a glossary of geological terms, and a thorough index.

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6. *A Mother for Amanda*. Anna Schmidt. 2000. 255 pages. **Christian romance**

When Chicago teacher Beth Baxter participates in an exchange with a school in Yellowstone National Park, she gets more outdoor adventure than she expected, starting when a hungry bear attacks her car (while she's still in it) and she is rescued by her neighbor (and the park's chief ranger) Greg Stone. Greg, a widower who abandoned his faith when his wife died, is too busy running the park and raising his daughter to contemplate romance—especially with a city-bred teacher. But challenges and near-disasters draw Beth and Greg closer, leading Greg to heal and rediscover the faith he lost. Praised for her endearing and realistic characters and descriptions of Yellowstone, Schmidt's book is a sure bet for fans of gentle, heartwarming evangelical romances.



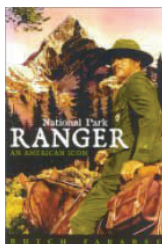
7. *Lake of Fire*. Linda Jacobs. 2006. 538 pages. **Historical romance**

After an adventurous entry into Yellowstone National Park, highlighted by a stagecoach robbery and a rescue by a handsome stranger named Cord, wealthy Chicagoan Laura Fielding finds more excitement awaiting her. Laura's cousin is flaunting an engagement ring given to her by none other than Laura's protector, William Cordon Sutton, who turns out to be competing in a bid to buy a hotel—against the man Laura's father has his sights on as a son-in-law. As complex and dangerous as the business and cultural conflicts among the story's vividly drawn characters are, the personal entanglements are the book's driving force. *Lake of Fire* is a long, fast-paced romance filled with the flirtatious banter, sexual tension, and angst romance fans appreciate. Jacobs particularly excels in her detailed, well-researched descriptions of 1900 Yellowstone, which plays a third lead in the romance.



8. *Fire Flight: A Novel*. John Nance. 2003. 349 pages. **Thriller**

When his old boss begs retired airborne fire fighter Clark Maxwell to come out of retirement to help in the battle against forest fires across the Yellowstone and Grand Tetons National Parks, Clark jumps back into the game. Almost as soon as he climbs back into the cockpit of his air tanker, though, the battered fleet of converted (and often antique) military and civilian aircraft start falling from the sky. Pushed by suspicions of sabotage and conspiracy, Clark serves double duty—combating the cataclysmic fires from above while he races to find the reason his friends and colleagues keep dying. This page-turning airborne thriller is packed with details of aviation, firefighting, and the fascinating and little-known realm where the two fields meet.



9. *National Park Ranger: An American Icon*. Charles R. 'Butch' Farabee Jr. 2003. 180 pages.

Nonfiction: History

In this book author Farabee (a retired National Park Service superintendent) presents the history and evolution of the National Park Ranger. Easy to read with its many informational sidebars and contemporary and historical photographs, *National Park Ranger* is an excellent resource for any readers curious about one of America's most romanticized and recognizable icons. Farabee highlights topics such as women in the NPS; the Park Service's changing policies on conservation, wildlife, and fire prevention; and the many different kinds of rangers, the jobs they do, and the dangers they face doing them. There is also a detailed section on how one becomes a ranger, which could be of particular interest to people looking into a career in the National Park Service.



10. *The Last Season*. Eric Blehm. 2006. 352 pages. **Nonfiction: True mystery/biography**

In the summer of 1996, veteran seasonal back-country ranger Randy Morgenson hiked out of camp on an expected three-day patrol of his assigned area of California's Kings Canyon National Park and disappeared. As the search and rescue operation began Randy's friends and colleagues discussed the confusing array of possibilities, beginning with the simplest explanation that he'd been accidentally injured and was waiting desperately for rescue and moving quickly to the more disturbing idea that the increasingly depressed ranger could have committed suicide or even been the victim of foul play. In *The Last Season*, author Blehm skillfully weaves the engaging story of the search and rescue operation with a thoughtful and respectful biography of Morgenson, from his naturalist upbringing in Yosemite National Park to the days leading up to his disappearance. Throughout, both Morgenson's and the author's reverence for the wilderness that shaped Randy's life shine through. Fans of *Into Thin Air* and *Into the Wild* should find *The Last Season* a satisfying read, as will biography and nature enthusiasts.