

## MAGAZINE

# Stark Library's Derek Gordon shares favorite books, audiobooks

**Kelsey Davis** The Repository

Published 5:40 a.m. ET Sept. 29, 2021

Derek Gordon is a lifelong resident of Canton and is the Director of Special Projects at Stark Library. His primary responsibilities are overseeing the current renovation projects of multiple library branches across the district. He also co-hosts the “What’s Up Stark” podcast featuring interviews with a variety of movers and shakers in Stark County.

## What is your guilty pleasure book?

I am not a big supernatural or sci-fi reader, but I found “*Lincoln in the Bardo*” by George Saunders very unique and entertaining. It has an incredible audiobook cast and blends a fascinating ghost story with a sweet, sad and slightly morbid historical tale of President Lincoln’s visits to the grave of his young son, Willie.

**More:** Walsh University's Joanna Jacobo-Escobar shares books that impacted her life

## What section of the library or bookstore do you visit first?

This might be blasphemy to some readers, but I now listen to more audiobooks than I read hard copy books. In my opinion, autobiographies read by the author are the most insightful and enjoyable audiobooks. Plus, they often add a bunch of commentary that isn’t in the hard copy version. A couple of recent and random winners were “*Bossypants*” by Tina Fey, “*Neil Patrick Harris*” by Neil Patrick Harris, “*Black Klansman*” by Ron Stallworth and “*Stories I Only Tell My Friends*” by Rob Lowe.

## What is the book you always come back to?

“*The Book with No Pictures*” by B.J. Novak. Our two little boys love when we read it to them.

**More:** Amanda Kloots relives Nick Cordero’s death in new book: ‘I couldn’t even see the keyboard’ through tears

**What is next up on your reading list?**

*“Gumption” by Nick Offerman and “Body” by Bill Bryson.*

**What do you tell people you’re reading?**

Anything by *Malcolm Gladwell*. He has a wonderful way of explaining very complicated social issues in a very clear and thoughtful way. The subjects he chooses to research and his insights are always very thought-provoking.

**But what are you actually reading?**

*“Dad is Fat” by Jim Gaffigan*

**More:** Commentary: COVID stress, learning loss and summer reading

**What is the first book you remember reading?**

*“Harry the Dirty Dog” by Gene Zion*

**What is a book you wish you had written?**

*“A Course Called Ireland” by Tom Coyne*. A brilliant concept if you are a golfer or someone who loves to travel. He walked the entire perimeter of Ireland and golfed nearly every course along the way.