



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

San Diego Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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LOCAL MYSTERY AUTHOR ONA RUSSELL TO DISCUSS LATEST NOVEL

“The Natural Selection” is the Second Installment of the Sarah Kaufman Mystery Series

SAN DIEGO – The City of San Diego Public Library will host an author reading and book signing by Ona Russell on Monday, September 22, 2008 at 6:30 p.m. in the Wangenheim Room of the Central Library, located at 820 E St. in downtown San Diego. This event is free to the public and parking meters are not enforced after 6 p.m.

Russell will read from her latest novel, *The Natural Selection*, a socially and politically relevant historical mystery that takes place in Tennessee in 1925 against the backdrop of the Scopes “monkey” trial. It includes actual courtroom excerpts and vividly portrays the Scopes trial's central figures: John Scopes, William Jennings Bryan, Clarence Darrow and, especially, H.L. Mencken.

The story begins with Sarah's visit with her cousin Lena, a college professor at a small Tennessee college. Soon, Sarah reluctantly agrees to help investigate the mysterious death of one of Lena's colleagues. With the dead professor's own cryptic message as a guide, Sarah travels the short distance to Dayton, Tennessee, where the Scopes “monkey” trial is underway. There she meets the famous journalist H. L. Mencken, who provides her with information that could help unravel the mystery.

What follows is a harrowing and complex path of dead-ends, bigotry and brutality, a journey that shatters Sarah's own preconceptions, takes her to the depths of her own desire and ultimately leads her back to the college where Darwin's controversial theory of evolution resurfaces in a

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manner she never could have predicted.

Russell is currently working on a third Sarah Kaufman mystery, set in Los Angeles during the 1920s oil boom. She writes and lectures nationally on the topic of literature and the law and has been published in numerous newspapers, academic journals and magazines. For more information, visit www.onarussell.com.

Learn about other events at the San Diego Public Library's Central Library and 35 branches, find links to numerous additional resources, or search for materials in the Library's catalog online at www.sandiegolibrary.org.

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