

Steve Hopkins' Bookshelves

This Bookshelf: All Books Authors A through G

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This web page lists all books appearing on the pages of [Executive Times](#) and at <http://bkrev.blogspot.com> from April 1999 through December 2020 for authors last names from A through M. For the pending list (The Shelf of Possibility) and reviews by Steve Hopkins in 2021, visit <http://www.hopkinsandcompany.com/2021books.html>. You can click on the title of a rated book to jump to the detailed book review. Click on the picture of any jacket cover to jump to amazon.com where you can purchase a copy of any book on this shelf. You can jump to an issue of [Executive Times](#) by hitting the date in the "Issue Date" column. When you hit a broken link, send an e-mail to books@hopkinsandcompany.com to request what you want.

Key to Ratings 1999-2012

Outstanding book-read it
now

Highly recommended

Recommended

Mildly recommended

**

Read if your interest is
strong

*

Do Not Read: Take a Pass

DNR

Key to Ratings: 2013 and after

I love it

I like it

It's OK

I don't like it

I hate it

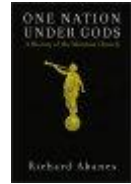
Title (Click on Link to purchase at amazon.com)	Author(s)	Rating	Blog Date	Comments	Click on Picture to Purchase at amazon.com
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One Nation Under Gods: A History of the Mormon Church

Abanes, Richard

Feb 03

Saints Revealed. From Joseph Smith at the beginning to the 2002 Olympics, Abanes presents a history of Mormonism that reveals them to be a cult, not the Christian religion they present to the world.

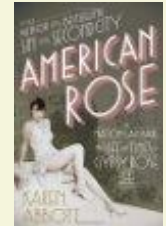


American Rose: A Nation Laid Bare: The Life and Times of Gypsy Rose Lee

Abbott, Karen

2/24/12

Legend. Readers who enjoy biographies of 20th century figures are those most likely to enjoy Karen Abbott's book titled, American Rose: A Nation Laid Bare: The Life and Times of Gypsy Rose Lee. Abbott structured this book like a striptease: she sways back and forth in time and reveals a little here and a little there. The versions of a life presented here are interesting and entertaining. The characters, especially Rose herself, her mother, sister Joan and son Erik are intriguing and complex. Abbott presents the people and their times with vivid anecdotes and finely written prose. I was engaged from beginning to end by this interesting life.



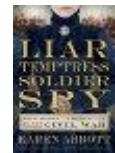
Heroines. Civil war buffs are those readers who will relish Karen Abbott's book titled, Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War. General readers, especially those who like books that provide fine prose about interesting characters, will also enjoy reading this interesting book. Abbott describes the actives of four courageous women during the Civil War: Belle Boyd,

Liar, Temptress, Soldier, Spy: Four Women Undercover in the Civil War

Abbott, Karen

2/24/15

Emma Edmonds, Rose O'Neal Greenhow and Elizabeth Van Lew. Belle was a successful spy for the Confederacy. Emma disguised herself as a man to enlist as a Union soldier. Rose used her contacts with Northern politicians to send information to Confederate generals, and represented the Confederacy abroad. Elizabeth was a Richmond abolitionist who ran a spy ring under the noses of the enemy. Abbott's prose draws readers into the stories of these heroic women, and is likely to keep



readers interested and engaged. I came away from this book both entertained and informed.

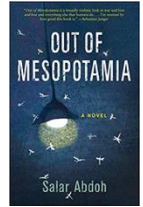
<u>Sin in the Second City</u>	Abbott, Karen	***	<u>Oct 07</u>	Sisters. Riveting non-fiction about the two sisters who ran a first-class brothel in Chicago from 1900 to 1910 and the women they employed, the clients they served and the politicians they paid.	
<u>The Ghosts of Eden Park: The Bootleg King, the Women Who Pursued Him, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz-Age America</u>	Abbott, Karen	****	<u>9/24/19</u>	Remus. I don't read a lot of true crime books, but I've enjoyed Karen Abbott's prior books, so I picked up her latest, <u>The Ghosts of Eden Park: The Bootleg King, the Women Who Pursued Him, and the Murder That Shocked Jazz-Age America</u> . I had never heard of a bootlegger named George Remus who in 1935 owned more than a third of all the liquor in the United States. Thanks to Abbott's fine writing, she pulls readers into the world of this larger than life character and what the USA was like during Prohibition. I defy readers to complete these 400+ pages and not at some time find oneself rooting for George Remus, especially when one's enthusiasm has been enhanced by a few fingers of bourbon.	
<u>Give Me Your Hand</u>	Abbott, Megan	****	<u>9/12/18</u>	Friendship. In her novel titled, <u>Give Me Your Hand</u> , Megan Abbott presents the relationship between two women, Kit and Diane. Just when we begin to think we understand these women, things are not as they appear. Secrets have great power, and ambition can be a powerful force in life. Rivalry takes many forms. Abbott weaves all that together in ways that will remind all readers that life never proceeds in a straight line, and what you think is going on might be far from what's happening.	

Out of Mesopotamia

Abdoh, Salar

11/9/20

Endless. For an immersive mediation on war, read Salar Abdoh's novel titled, Out of Mesopotamia. From the perspective of protagonist Saleh, a journalist, we struggle to make sense of those who are engaged in what seems like endless war. With great skill, Abdoh can be poetic and authentic in the same sentence. We're led into the darkness of war where we find some form of enlightenment about why we do what we do. Most readers will finish this novel somewhat weakened by proximity to the fragility of life.

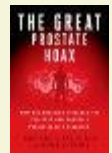


The Great Prostate Hoax: How Big Medicine Hijacked the PSA Test and Caused a Public Health Disaster

Ablin, Richard J. and Ronald Piana

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

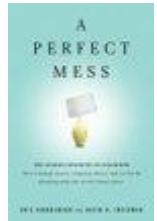


A Perfect Mess

Abrahamson, Eric and David H. Freedman

June 07

Tidy. Authors meander through a premise that things may be done better through disorder rather than via neatness and order. Readers fixated on one way of acting will learn that alternatives can work better.

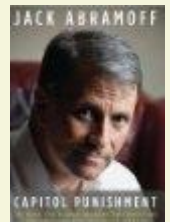


Capitol Punishment: The Hard Truth About Washington Corruption From America's Most Notorious Lobbyist

Abramoff, Jack

Unread

I looked at the photos and read the first few pages. I concluded quickly that I really didn't want to know anything more about Abramoff, especially from him. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



Speaking Freely

Abrams, Floyd

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

SPEAKING
FREELY

Books of the First Amendment
FLOYD ABRAMS

[The Soul of the First Amendment](#)

Abrams, Floyd

[7/6/17](#)

Conflicts. In my heart, I really do want the First Amendment of the United States Constitution to protect me. Protecting you, I'm not so sure about. Floyd Abrams has specialized in first amendment issues, and he explores the broad protections of that amendment in a finely written book titled, [The Soul of the First Amendment](#). I especially enjoyed his review of the conflicts, current and historic, between free speech and national security, especially in the form of publication of classified material. Every citizen can benefit from some time thinking more about the first amendment, and I recommend this book as a way to stimulate that thinking. After reading it, you may be willing to accept that even I should be covered by this amendment. I'm almost ready to accept that you deserve the same treatment.



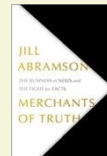
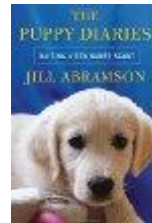

[Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America](#)



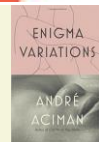
Abrams, Stacey

[11/24/20](#)

Formidable. Stacy Abrams drew national interest when she ran for governor of Georgia and was beaten in a close race in 2018 by Brian Kemp, whom she claimed suppressed Democratic votes. In her book titled, [Our Time Is Now: Power, Purpose, and the Fight for a Fair America](#), she describes her life and the progress she's made in Georgia to register new voters and build a Democratic force for change. Readers of this book will find the story of a formidable woman whose work over the past decade in Georgia led to the state voting for Biden in 2020, and as I write this, awaiting the results of a runoff election on January 5, 2021 to select two U.S. senators.



<u>Merchants of Truth: The Business of News and the Fight for Facts</u>	Abramson, Jill	****	<u>4/19/19</u>	<p>Subscribe. Former <i>New York Times</i> executive editor Jill Abramson has written a great account of the disruption of the news media, a book titled, <u>Merchants of Truth: The Business of News and the Fight for Facts</u>. She understands this business from the inside and has gained perspective from the outside to assess what all this turmoil means for American life. Many people are losing faith and trust in a free press. Readers who value journalism should read this book and then subscribe to another high-quality newspaper in your town or someplace else.</p>	
<u>The Puppy Diaries: Raising a Dog Named Scout</u>	Abramson, Jill	***	<u>12/16/11</u>	<p>Scout. Jill Abramson's book, <u>The Puppy Diaries: Raising a Dog Named Scout</u>, will appeal to those readers who live with dogs and those who don't. The first group will want a puppy after reading the book, and so will the second. Abramson is the executive editor of <i>The New York Times</i>, and part of this book came from a popular column she wrote on the paper's website at the time Scout came into her life. Her writing keeps a reader interested and engaged in all the big and little things about living with a puppy.</p>	
<u>Bleeding Out: The Devastating Consequences of Urban Violence--and a Bold New Plan for Peace in the Streets</u>	Abt, Thomas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
The Wonder Garden	Acampora, Lauren	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

<u>Life, on the Line: A Chef's Story of Chasing Greatness, Facing Death, and Redefining the Way We Eat</u>	Achatz, Grant	***	<u>3/27/11</u>	<p>Passion. If you think Alinea chef Grant Achatz' cooking is quirky, interesting and enjoyable, you're likely to feel the same about his memoir, <u>Life, on the Line</u>. Not only does he tell his own story, but his business partner, Nick Kononas, injects a second voice to enhance the story of the life of chef Achatz so far. This memoir is a captivating story of the relentless pursuit of becoming the best at the work for which one has passion. In the case of Achatz, it has been cooking for his whole life. From the family restaurant in Michigan, to culinary school, to Thomas Keller and the French Laundry, and onto his award-winning Alinea, Achatz tells the story of working hard at what he loves to do. He became ill with life-threatening stage 4 cancer, and the standard protocols for treatment would have removed his tongue, rendering him useless as a chef. An alternative treatment worked, and while he lost all taste for months, he is now back in the kitchen and opening a new venture. Even those readers who have no interest in cooking will find this book to be an inspirational story of persistence, hard work, and the relentless pursuit of a dream.</p>	
<u>Call Me By Your Name</u>	Aciman, Andre	***	<u>Oct 07</u>	<p>Passion. Debut novel uses beautiful prose to relate the coming of age of a seventeen year old boy who falls madly in love.</p>	
<u>Enigma Variations</u>	Aciman, Andre	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	

Find Me

Aciman, Andre

12/16/19

Time. Andre Aciman revisits characters from his 2007 novel titled, *Call Me By Your Name*, decades later in another finely written novel titled, Find Me. The title plays out in multiple ways in the novel, to the pleasure of readers. I was delighted by Aciman's exploration of time. Here's one sample, from page 46: "Basically, we don't know how to think of time, because time couldn't care less what we think of time, because time is just a wobbly, unreliable metaphor for how we think about life. Because ultimately it isn't time that is wrong for us, or we for time. If may be life itself that is wrong. ... because there is death. Because death, contrary to what everyone tells you, is not part of life. Death is God's great blunder, and sunset and dawn are how he blushes for shame and asks our forgiveness each and every day." Here's another sample from page 104, "And besides, if I give you an hour now, you'll want a day. And if I give you a day, you'll want a year. I know your type." Fans of the earlier novel will love the return of Oliver and Elio. As a last grabber for you: Samuel and Miranda meet on a train. Read the novel to find out what happens next.

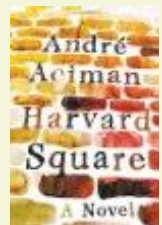


Harvard Square

Aciman, Andre

8/6/13

Assimilation. Scores of novels present stories of the experience of immigrants in America. Andre Aciman's contribution, Harvard Square, contrasts the assimilation of the narrator with that of his friend, Kalaj. The narrator is visiting colleges with his son, and that leads him to reflect on his own college days and the friendship he and Kalaj developed as fellow immigrants from North Africa. Aciman captures the longing to fit in as well as the desire to be at home, whatever and wherever that is. Aciman's fine writing and focused dialogue kept me interested and engaged from beginning to end.

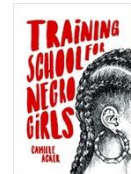


Training School
for Negro Girls

Acker, Camille

3/26/19

Range. I enjoyed the range of experience represented in the characters in each of the stories in the debut collection by Camille Acker titled, Training School for Negro Girls. The situations, mostly set in the District of Columbia, are recognizable and insightful. I especially enjoyed *Mambo Sauce*, in which a black woman who moved from Brooklyn interacted with the owners and patrons of a neighborhood food joint. The contrast between how Constance and her white boyfriend approached the mambo sauce and the restaurant was perfect. Short stories can leave some readers wanting more exposition, but I found in each of these stories, Acker gets the genre just right: we glimpse into the lives of people we recognize and the ways in which they behave tell us something about human nature.

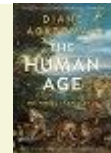


The Human
Age: The World
Shaped By Us

Ackerman, Diane

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



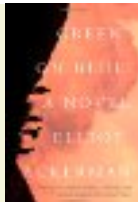
Dark at the
Crossing

Ackerman, Elliot

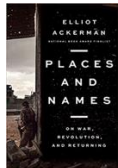
6/2/18


Disoriented. Most elements of Elliot Ackerman's novel titled, Dark at the Crossing, are disorienting. Protagonist Haris Abadi is a confused man, an Arab American trying to cross the border from Turkey into Syria to fight the regime. His plans are disrupted when he is robbed, and he finds that crossing the border is not that easy after all. His darkness increases after a husband and wife, Amil and Daphne, take him in, and he questions his allegiances. Borders are physical and psychological, and Ackerman explores longing and loss with great skill in this finely written novel.




Green on Blue	Ackerman, Elliot	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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Places and
Names: On War,
Revolution, and
Returning

	Ackerman, Elliot	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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<u>Waiting for Eden</u>	Ackerman, Elliot	*****	<u>1/22/19</u>	<p>Intensity. Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy Elliot Ackerman's novel titled, <u>Waiting for Eden</u>. Protagonist Eden survived an explosion in Iraq and is at a Texas burn center thanks to the efforts of medical personnel who saved his life. What's left of Eden weighs 70 pounds, down from his normal 220. Eden's distinction is that his were the worst wounds of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that didn't immediately end in death. Eden's wife Mary has spent three years at his bedside waiting for him to communicate, heal or die. The narrator is a ghost: Eden's best friend who died in that blast in Iraq, who is also waiting for Eden to join him in death. These three characters are complex, and Ackerman develops them with depth. From the beginning to the end of the novel, Ackerman maintains an intensity while he develops multiple levels of meaning and explores issues of loyalty, suffering and betrayal.</p>	
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Boss Tweed:
The Rise and
Fall of the
Corrupt Pol
Who Conceived
the Soul of

	Ackerman, Kenneth D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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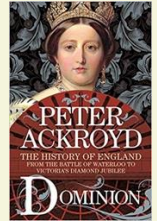
Modern New
York

[Dominion: The History of England from the Battle of Waterloo to Victoria's Diamond Jubilee](#)

Ackroyd, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



The Clerkenwell
Tales

Ackroyd, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

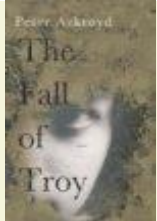


[The Fall of Troy](#)

Ackroyd, Peter

[July 08](#)

Manipulating. Fictionalized account of two 19th century archeologists who search ancient Troy for adventure and loot, manipulating each other and their craft as they proceed.

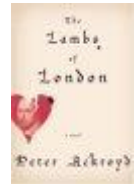


[The Lambs of London](#)

Ackroyd, Peter

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Read, but not reviewed.

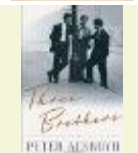


Three Brothers

Ackroyd, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

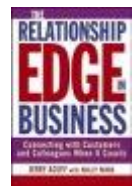



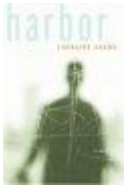

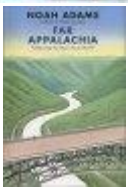
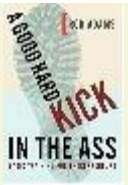
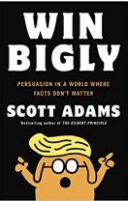
The relationship
edge in business
: connecting
with customers
and colleagues
when it counts

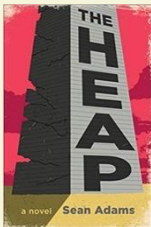
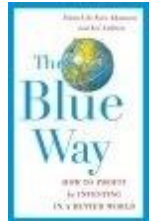
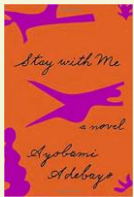
Acuff, Jerry

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



<u>Hardly Children</u>	Adamczyk, Laura	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Harbor</u>	Adams, Lorraine	***	<u>Feb 05</u>	Alien. Debut novel explores Arab Muslim immigrants struggling in Boston, Brooklyn and Montreal. Fine portrayal of cultural confusion, terror and predators.	
The Room and the Chair	Adams, Lorraine	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
<u>Far Appalachia: Following the New River North</u>	Adams, Noah	***	<u>06/01</u>	A virtual vacation lush with images, rapids, people, stories in Adams' slow, deliberate writing style.	
<u>A Good Hard Kick in the Ass: Basic Training for Entrepreneurs</u>	Adams, Rob	***	<u>Oct 02</u>	Swagger. Austin-based Adams presents drill sergeant attitude and practical advice, especially to those starting or expanding a business.	
<u>Win Bigly: Persuasion in a World Where Facts Don't Matter</u>	Adams, Scott	*****	<u>2/2/18</u>	Technique. <i>Dilbert</i> creator Scott Adams predicted early in the 2016 presidential campaign that Donald Trump would win. In his book titled, <u>Win Bigly: Persuasion in a World Where Facts Don't Matter</u> , Adams explains why. The basic premise of the book is that Donald Trump has mastered the techniques that are proven successful at persuasion. Adams explores many different techniques that Trump uses successfully and explains why those techniques work.	

The Heap	Adams, Sean	****	7/15/20	<p>Recovery. Sean Adams’ debut novel titled, The Heap, pulls readers into an examination of what we build, what collapses, and what it takes to restore what is important. Los Verticalés was a 500-story residential building in the desert that has collapsed. Protagonist Orville Anders works on a dig site where he is looking for his brother, Bernard, who survived the collapse and broadcasts a radio show from the rubble called the Heap. Adams explores what life in Los Verticalés was like before the collapse, and what was different for those on the outer units who had windows compared to those on the inner units who relied on digital screens. The workers at the dig site form a community of their own in CamperTown, and Adams uses all three communities as fodder for his satire. Many readers will find this to be a compelling story, and others will come away from it ready to reflect on the creation of community life.</p>	
<p>The Blue Way: How to Profit by Adamson, Daniel Investing in a Better World</p>					
Stay with Me	Adebayo, Ayobami	****	3/9/18	<p>Children. The emotional range of the characters presented in Ayobami Adebayo’s debut novel titled, Stay with Me, will penetrate the defenses of the hardest hearted reader. There are losses and joys that reach the depths and heights of human experience. The centrality of children to the narrative will make this novel an ideal choice for a book club comprised of parents. The power of cultural expectations can be overwhelming, and Adebayo draws us into Nigeria and the expectations of that culture on those who live there. Fans of</p>	

				literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this finely written novel.	
<u>Children of Blood and Bone</u>	Adeyemi, Tomi	*****	<u>9/5/18</u>	<p>Magic. Why did I wait months before I read the debut novel by Tomi Adeyemi titled, <u>Children of Blood and Bone</u>? I spent several delightful hours immersed in this story of a fight for the restoration of magic and a way of life. There are well-developed interesting characters, and a plot that maintained tension for over five hundred pages. I loved the characters and the story and look forward to the second book in this series.</p>	
<u>Children of Virtue and Vengeance</u>	Adeyemi, Tomi	*****	<u>12/20/19</u>	<p>Kingdom. The second novel in the Legacy of Orisha series by Tomi Adeyemi is titled, <u>Children of Virtue and Vengeance</u>. Magic has gone rampant in Orisha with dramatic consequences and changes in which faction dominates. New readers should read the first installment to avoid total confusion. Fans may feel that this novel moves back and forth in ways that may seem unsatisfying, but should keep loyal readers engaged and expecting the next installment. The attempt to unify Orisha has many obstacles, and much of the novel leaves us in a bloody morass as we await what comes next.</p>	
<u>We Should All Be Feminists</u>	Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi	*****	<u>3/13/15</u>	<p>Inclusion. The structure of a TED talk requires a presenter to convey messages with efficiency and clarity and in a manner that connects to the live audience. In listening to Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's TEDx talk, I found myself laughing with the audience at some of her lines, but losing the thread of her argument. Thanks to an adaption of that talk for print with the same title, <u>We Should All Be Feminists</u>, I got to read the talk twice and appreciate even more her careful word selection and the cogency of her point of view. This is a poignant message that would provide ideal material for a conversation starter about gender in schools and in the workplace.</p>	

<u>Amnesty</u>	Adiga, Aravind	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Between the Assassinations</u>	Adiga, Aravind	***	<u>7/9/09</u>	<p>Vibrant. Aravind Adiga's fourteen short stories in the collection titled <u>Between the Assassinations</u> are connected by time and place. All are set between the 1984 assassination of Indira Gandhi and the 1991 assassination of Rajiv Gandhi in the fictional town of Kittur, India. Adiga structures the stories from day one through day seven and begins each with a made-up travel guide description of some area or feature of Kittur. While the travel guide's blandness fails to attract much interest, Adiga's description of the locale and the people come to life with clarity and vivid writing. <u>Between the Assassinations</u> tackles politics, corruption, religion, caste, poverty and everyday life in India in a way that left me wanting to read more about interesting characters and their struggles as each story came to an end. If you're taking a staycation this Summer, consider reading <u>Between the Assassinations</u> as an alternative to traveling to India. You'll almost hear the sounds and sniff the smells, thanks to Adiga's fine writing.</p>	
<u>Last Man in Tower</u>	Adiga, Aravind	***	<u>1/5/12</u>	<p>Solitary. Readers who enjoy fine writing that stimulates deep thinking should consider Aravind Adiga's latest novel, <u>Last Man in Tower</u>. Sixty-one year old retired teacher, Masterji, is a widower who has lived in Vishram Society Tower A for decades, and the place holds memories for him, and his relationship with his neighbors seems positive and mutually supportive. When a developer proposes buying the building, all residents except Masterji agree. His stolid perseverance brings out animosity in his neighbors. How does one be true to oneself</p>	

and live in community? What are our obligations to our neighbors? Adiga's fine writing lays out the plot and develops multiple characters in ways that will captivate readers and present the range of complexity in human nature.

Cricket. I was a bit concerned that my lack of knowledge about the sport of cricket would diminish my ability to appreciate Aravind Adiga's novel titled, Selection Day. The plot involves two poor boys who have been set on a path by their father to get out of their slum and become successful cricket players. My ignorance of the game turned out to be no barrier at all, given Adiga's skill at focusing attention on the human dynamics, not the sporting fine points. As always, Adiga's prose is outstanding, the characters are complex and well developed, even the buffoons. Adiga's descriptive language brings the sights and sounds of India to vivid realization. This is a novel about dreams, our own and others, and the ways in which life presents us with opportunities to move toward or away from those dreams.

Success. I paid no attention to Aravind Adiga's debut novel, The White Tiger, until it won the Man Booker prize, and then I decided to read it. Adiga is imaginative and clever in the way he has structured the novel, and in how he explores the levels of darkness in a society polarized by wealth. The narrator and protagonist is Balram Halwai, who rose from poverty in a village in India to become the driver for a wealthy man in Delhi, and then the owner of a fleet of cars serving Bangalore. His path to wealth was through murder and theft. The novel is structured as letters from Balram to the premier of China who is about to visit India, and wants to learn how to apply the entrepreneurship of India for China. Adiga presents wealth in India as

Selection Day

Adiga, Aravind

1/24/17



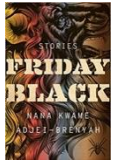

The White Tiger

Adiga, Aravind

**

12/27/08



				corrupt, and the wealthy as venal and abusive to those who work for them. While the darkness can be comic at times, the starkness of the contrast between wealth and poverty, and the triumph of evil makes The White Tiger a stark tale with characters who are more caricature than authentic.	
Friday Black	Adjei-Brenyah, Nana Kwame	****	6/10/20	<p>Creative. There are twelve funny and crazy short stories in the debut collection by Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah titled, Friday Black. These are sharp, finely written stories that show off the author's creativity and are likely to delight most readers. There's an emotional range on display in this collection that packs a punch. There's dark humor, human failings and issues galore. His writing surprised me often, always had my full attention, and gave me great reading pleasure.</p>	
Mollie's Job: A Story of Life and Work on the Global Assembly Line	Adler, William	***	09/00	<p>Fascinating story follows the same job as it moves from Paterson, New Jersey to Mendenhall, Mississippi to Matamoros, Mexico, and the impact of the changes on the people and communities involved.</p>	
The Bankers' New Clothes: What's Wrong with Banking and What to Do about It	Admati, Anat and Martin Hellwig	***	9/24/13	<p>Equity. Readers looking for a primer on the issues involving banking in recent years will find a very readable account in The Bankers' New Clothes: What's Wrong with Banking and What to Do about It by Anat Admati and Martin Hellwig. The authors provide extensive notes and references for those readers who want to dig more deeply into the topic. Admati and Hellwig distill their proposal for reform to beefing up requirements for banks to hold more capital. There's no doubt that a strong capital cushion would reduce the risk of another banking crisis, but the authors never seem to explore the reality that low returns on excess capital will dissuade investors from this sector. Readers who like a clear and definitive point of view will find one in this book.</p>	

Lords of Finance: The Bankers Who Broke the World	Ahamed, Liaquat	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>The Last Taxi Ride</u>	Ahmad, A.X.	*****	<u>12/4/15</u>	<p>Links. A.X. Ahmad's novel titled, <u>The Last Taxi Ride</u> entertained me on many levels. As crime fiction, the plot moved quickly and kept me engaged. As a description of the life of immigrants in Manhattan, I was enriched as I entered a world usually unnoticed. For pure creativity, Ahmad kept me interested as he linked the protagonist taxi driver with a Bollywood actress, an old Army buddy, and showed connections between criminals in South Asia with people in Manhattan.</p>	
<u>Dead Heading</u>	Aird, Catherine	*****	<u>8/26/14</u>	<p>Lime. During a recent hot afternoon when it was too uncomfortable to sit in the garden, I retreated to the cool indoors and spent a pleasant few hours reading Catherine Aird's latest Sloan and Crosby mystery novel titled, <u>Dead Heading</u>. Before I knew it, I was drawn into the overlapping cases of a greenhouse break-in that destroyed expensive orchids and the case of a missing person. Once Aird referred to lime, I suspected foul play, and was rewarded when the plot turned out exactly as I expected. For the last fifty pages or so, the gin and tonic by my side was the perfect accompaniment, especially with the visible slice of lime in the glass. Any reader who likes witty and entertaining crime fiction should consider reading this novel and this series.</p>	

Animal Spirits:
How Human
Psychology
Drives the
Economy, and
Why It Matters
for Global
Capitalism

Akerlof, George
A.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009

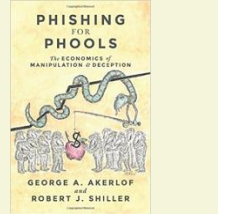


Phishing for
Phools: The
Economics of
Manipulation
and Deception

Akerlof, George
A. and Robert J.
Shiller

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

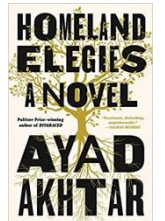


Homeland
Elegies

Akhtar, Ayad

12/9/20

Intense. If there was ever a year that demanded the lamentations we find in a finely written elegy, it is 2020. In his novel titled, Homeland Elegies, Ayad Akhtar offers an intense narrative about finding one's place in contemporary America, especially for those raised in a different culture. The novel draws us into the dynamics of a single family and their problems and issues, which provide a mirror in which we can see ourselves and others. This novel is an uncomfortable and cleareyed look at capitalism and the current reality of the American dream. There is raw disillusionment on these pages, and heartbreak. By the end of the novel, our feelings for a father, a son, and for the United States have commingled and we join our voices in an intense song of lament at our common predicament.

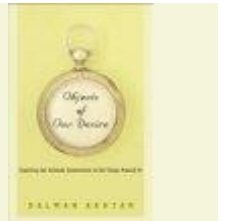


Objects of Our
Desire

Akhtar, Salman

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



[Panic in a Suitcase](#)

Akhtiorskaya, Yelena

[3/13/15](#)

Odessa. I was enthralled while reading Yelena Akhtiorskaya's debut novel titled, [Panic in a Suitcase](#). I opened the novel expecting to read another version of the immigrant story of adjusting to life in the United States. This novel is that and so much more. Set in Brighton Beach, Brooklyn and Odessa, Akhtiorskaya uses carefully selected descriptive prose to make each setting come to life. Her character development displays all the richness and complexity of human behavior. I laughed often at the situations and foibles that she presents. She finds a way to present the strange dimensions of how individuals and families behave in relationships, and draw us into familiarity and differences. I was entertained throughout and impressed by the fine writing. Any reader who enjoys good writing will find something to enjoy in this novel.

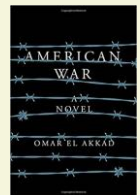


[American War](#)

Akkad, Omar El

[5/3/17](#)

Uncivil. Readers who love a thick and hearty dystopian soup are those most likely to enjoy Omar El Akkad's debut novel titled, [American War](#). Set in the last quarter of the 21st century, the novel presents a depressing picture: a second American civil war; the damage from climate change; life in an internment camp; foreign powers exploiting American weakness; and huge loss of life from a plague. Akkad uses protagonist Sarat Chestnut as the instrument through which we learn about life in this uncivil society, and Akkad portrays the ability of one individual to make a huge difference in the world.

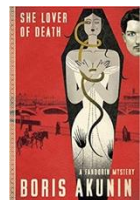


[She Lover of Death](#)

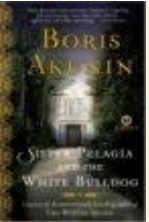
Akunin, Boris

[5/26/20](#)

Club. The eighth Fandorin mystery by Boris Akunin is a novel titled, [She Lover of Death](#). A young and naïve protagonist, Masha Mironova, arrives in Moscow at the beginning of the 20th century and joins a club of mainly poets who are enamored with death. She becomes Columbine,

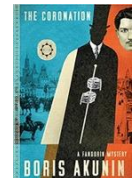


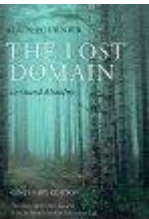
wears a pet snake, and before long finds herself next in queue to commit suicide, thanks to the signs she has received. Events are heading off the cliff when Fandorin joins the club. Of course, you'll have to read the novel if you want to find out what happens. Akunin plays with words and names in this novel in ways that will entertain many readers.

Sister Pelagia and the White Bulldog	Akunin, Boris	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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Abduction. I like to read entertaining mystery novels, especially those that keep me guessing long into the narrative. The first novel I've read by Boris Akunin is titled, The Coronation, and features a recurring protagonist and private investigator, Erast Petrovich Fandorin. The four-year-old son of a Grand Duke has been abducted shortly before the coronation of Tsar Nicholas II. Ransom requests for royal jewels, including ones that would be visible at the coronation add to the urgency of finding the boy. Fandorin uses great skills at disguise and assimilation with criminals to try to solve the crime. Akunin develops the characters with skill and keeps the plot momentum at a fast pace. Readers who enjoy mysteries, especially in a historical setting, are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

The Coronation Akunin, Boris * * * * 3/6/19



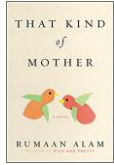
The Lost Domain	Alain-Fournier	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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[That Kind of Mother](#)

Alam, Rumaan

[9/24/18](#)

Understanding. The finely written prose of Rumaan Alam's novel titled, [That Kind of Mother](#), is one reason for fans of literary fiction to pick up this book. I recommend the novel for those readers who enjoy the discovery of psychological insight and gaining understanding of human behavior. For a male writer, Alam shows remarkable understanding of women, especially protagonist Rebecca. The novel delves into class, race, parenting and how we bridge differences and gaps in understanding.



An Unnecessary Woman

Alameddine, Rabih

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



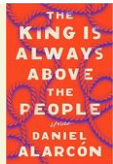
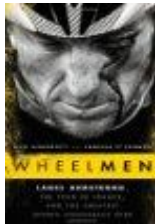


[The Angel of History](#)

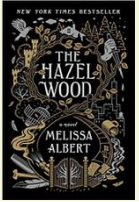
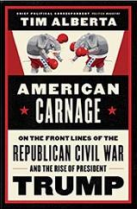
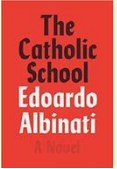
Alameddine, Rabih

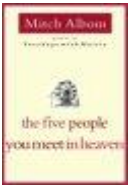
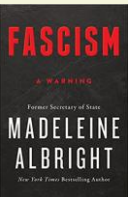
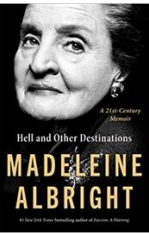
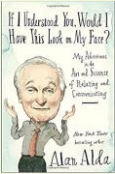
[1/3/17](#)

Remembering. It was a pleasure for me to begin the year with a very unusual novel by Rabih Alameddine titled, [The Angel of History](#). Protagonist Jacob has arrived at a mental health clinic and is awaiting admission. His mind is flooded by memories of his life, from his childhood growing up in a whorehouse in which his teenage mother was a prostitute, to life with a wealthy father, to memories of life with his deceased lover. He remembers his poetry which he can no longer write, and Alameddine presents two characters active in Jacob's mind: Satan and Death, and their narratives are often hilarious. Jacob also recalls the fourteen saints who have protected him throughout his life. All this remembering takes place on a single night, and thanks to Alameddine's fine writing, the night reveals great insight into human nature and the ways in which the past is always present. Readers who enjoy literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



<u>The King Is Always Above the People</u>	Alarcon, Daniel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>Wheelmen: Lance Armstrong, The Rout de France, and the Greatest Sports Conspiracy Ever</u>	Albergotti, Reed and Vanessa O'Connell	*****	<u>1/21/14</u>	<p>Fraud. <i>Wall Street Journal</i> reporters Reed Albergotti and Vanessa O'Connell present the story of Lance Armstrong and doping in a gripping book titled, <u>Wheelmen: Lance Armstrong, the Tour de France, and the Greatest Sports Conspiracy Ever</u>. As I expected, the authors do a great job in presenting what happened. They make it clear that Armstrong did not act alone. Albergotti and O'Connell describe the interests of many people who had a stake in wanting Armstrong to succeed, and were willing to either enable doping, look the other way, or prefer not to know. As fans, we wanted Armstrong to succeed, and we were willing to believe him when he said he wasn't taking banned substances. This is a sad story on so many levels that will appeal to those readers who love integrity in sports, and want to try to understand how this fraud could have happened, and perhaps how to prevent it from happening again.</p>	
After Birth	Albert, Elisa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
How This Night Is Different	Albert, Elisa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

<u>The Hazel Wood</u>	Albert, Melissa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>American Carnage : On the Front Lines of the Republican Civil War and the Rise of President Trump</u>	Alberta, Tim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>The Catholic School</u>	Albinati, Edoardo	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
The Underminer : Or the Best Friend Who Casually Destroys Your Life	Albo, Mike	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Have a Little Faith: A True Story</u>	Albom, Mitch	***	<u>4/8/10</u>	Search. Readers looking for a touching story about real people will enjoy Mitch Albom's latest book, <u>Have a Little Faith</u> . He presents the lives of two men from different backgrounds, different faiths, and different places. Albert Lewis was the rabbi from Albom's hometown synagogue, and Henry Covington is an African American minister of a church in Detroit. What they share is hope and faith, and a love of God and people. These are	

<u>The Five People You Meet in Heaven</u>	Albom, Mitch	***	<u>Nov 03</u>	<p>inspiring lives that will lift the spirits of every reader.</p> <p>Otherworldly. A harmless, sentimental effort to imagine life in heaven being introduced to the recently departed by five people whose lives you affected in some form or other while you were on earth.</p>	
<u>Fascism: A Warning</u>	Albright, Madeline	*****	<u>7/12/18</u>	<p>Virulent. Former United States Secretary of State Madeline Albright examines the spread of fascism in the 20th and 21st century and rings an alarm bell for readers in her book titled, <u>Fascism: A Warning</u>. While in many places, democracy beat fascism in the 20th century, a variety of factors have caused a reduction in democracy around the world, allowing elements of fascism to infect politics. Russia and North Korea are prime examples of what Albright describes. While she doesn't call Trump a fascist, she takes some shots and expresses concerns about some aspects of behavior that should alarm citizens. Readers interested in world affairs are those most likely to appreciate this cogent book.</p>	
<u>Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st-Century Memoir</u>	Albright, Madeline	****	<u>5/26/20</u>	<p>Momentum. Madeline Albright's memoir titled, <u>Hell and Other Destinations: A 21st-Century Memoir</u>, is packed with wit and wisdom. This former Secretary of State tells us of her life from 2001 to the present, a period for her that was packed with deciding what to do next and then after that, and then something else altogether. Her momentum is a force of nature as she accounts her life of ongoing service and engagement. Her prose is exciting, and her humor enchanting. Do something or get out of her way.</p>	
<u>If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on my Face?</u>	Alda, Alan	****	<u>9/25/17</u>	<p>Empathy. Readers looking for a few good ideas about improving communications are those most likely to enjoy reading Alan Alda's book titled, <u>If I Understood You, Would I Have This Look on My Face?: My Adventures in the Art and Science of</u></p>	

				<p><u>Relating and Communicating</u>. Alda tells great stories in this book, including personal anecdotes to reinforce the different ways in which we can improve the ways in which we relate to others. The core idea involves empathy, and the different ways in which we can improve our skills at listening to others and seeing things from their point of view. Since this is Alan Alda after all, there's ample humor in the book.</p>	
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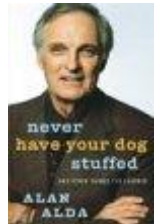
Never Have Your Dog Stuffed

Alda, Alan

**

Apr 06

Sentimental. Gentle and funny memoir tells many family stories well, and minimizes the egocentrism typical of Hollywood lives.

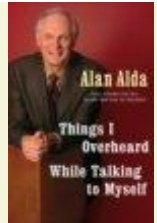


Things I Overheard While Talking to Myself

Alda, Alan

Dec 07

Questions. Using the structure of his speeches to various audiences, Alda leads readers to ask and answer for ourselves life's tough questions.



The Power

Alderman, Naomi

11/21/17

Turnaround. I loved reading Naomi Alderman's novel, The Power, for three reasons. First, she draws readers into a creative and engaging story. Second, her prose is finely written. Third, she explores a fundamental question about human nature and behavior: if women had a physical trait that provided them with the means to dominate men, what might be different in human relations? It was especially timely to read this novel when each day's news provides a report about another prominent male exercising power through some form of inappropriate behavior. Any book club that skips this title will lose an opportunity to discuss gender similarities and differences.



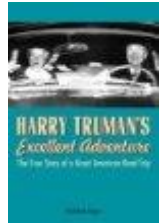
<p><u>The Light of the World: A Memoir</u></p>	<p>Alexander, Elizabeth</p>	<p>*****</p>	<p><u>3/24/16</u></p> <p>Beauty. I kept putting off my reading of Elizabeth Alexander's memoir titled, <u>The Light of the World</u>. I knew it expressed this poet's grief at the death of her artist husband, Fricre Ghebreyesus. This book is her wail, her lament and her tribute to Fricre. It is some of the finest writing I've read in decades, and I wish I hadn't put off reading it. Here's a sample (p. 178): "Oh beauty, you are the light of the world!" was the quotation we chose for the bench by the side of the grave, from a poem by Derek Walcott my teacher, whose words Fricre and I revered. The exaltation with which we met, and beauty itself, the things we both chased and tried to re-create in our work, that which lights the world and its darkness that he understood so well. The poem says it better than any scripture." This is a memoir of beauty, both beauty as it is found around us, and beauty as it is created by the artist. Read this book: embrace the beauty.</p>	
<p><u>The \$64 Tomato</u></p>	<p>Alexander, William</p>	<p>***</p>	<p><u>August 06</u></p> <p>Indulgence. The author's gardening hobby mushroomed to such an extent that after a poor crop one summer, he computed his cost that year and came up with the book's title.</p>	
<p><u>Would It Kill You to Stop Doing That: A Modern Guide to Manners</u></p>	<p>Alford, Henry</p>	<p>***</p>	<p><u>2/3/12</u></p> <p>Witty. Readers looking for a few laughs about our own foibles and those of others will find witty prose in Henry Alford's book titled, <u>Would It Kill You to Stop Doing That: A Modern Guide to Manners</u>. Alford presents aspects of contemporary life that made me laugh, and got me through the parts of the book that seemed to drag a bit. Readers looking for an Emily Post update won't find that kind of expertise here. If you like witty writing, this is a book should consider.</p>	

Harry Truman's
Excellent
Adventure: The
True Story of a
Great American
Road Trip

Algeo, Matthew

9/19/09

Nostalgia. If you've ever doubted that a decent book can be written about anything at all, give a chance to Matthew Algeo's book, Harry Truman's Excellent Adventure: The True Story of a Great American Road Trip. Algeo describes a 1953 road trip that Harry and Bess Truman took from Independence, Missouri to Washington, on to New York, and back to Independence after Eisenhower became president. Harry did all the driving in a vehicle that's almost a character in the book: a black 1953 Chrysler New Yorker. Algeo retraced the Truman's route, and added a quirky dimension to the book by inserting his own experiences at some of the stops along the way, and what happened to some places in the intervening decades. This book presents a great image of 1953, with a decent dose of nostalgia, and personalization by the insertion of Algeo's current experience of this route. The pictures helped, mostly because every time I saw a photo Harry Truman's wide smile, especially when behind the wheel of the New Yorker, I found myself leaning into a grin of my own.

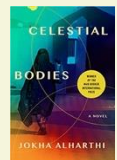


Celestial Bodies

Alharthi, Jokha

11/14/19

Oman. I picked up a copy of Kokha Alharthi's novel titled, Celestial Bodies, after it won the Man Booker International Prize. This finely written novel draws readers into the Omani culture and the changes to that society over recent decades, through the lens of three sisters. Oman's history of slavery can be disturbing, but Alharthi uses that history to explore the many ways in which people are bound and constrained. The women in this novel are complex and interesting characters and the society in which they live demands change and extracts love and loss as time passes.



Alentejo Blue

Ali, Monica

Sept 06

Village. Through tidy vignettes in her second novel, Ali presents the permanence of a village in Portugal alongside the transformations of its residents and visitors over six decades.

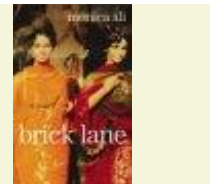


Brick Lane

Ali, Monica

Nov 03

Elsewhere. Readers take an enjoyable journey into the immigrant Bangladesh community in London through Ali's skilled mastery of description, dialogue and plot.



In the Kitchen

Ali, Monica


7/16/09

Breakdown. The protagonist of Monica Ali's new novel In the Kitchen is chef Gabriel Lightfoot, a character who becomes increasingly difficult to spend time with as he delves deeper into a nervous breakdown over the 436 pages of the book. Gabriel is the executive chef at the once-grand Imperial Hotel in London, and he leads a kitchen crew of hard workers from many countries. Gabriel's life is packed with changes: his father is dying; he proposes marriage to Charlie, a jazz singer; he's agreed to leave the Imperial and open a new restaurant with two partners that will be named "Lightfoot's." Following the death of a kitchen porter, Gabriel is haunted by a recurring dream and his life begins to spiral out of control. Gabriel wants to know who he is and what is meant to do in life. Ali's descriptions of kitchen life capture the humor, challenging work conditions, and dictatorial nature of this environment. Her writing throughout the novel is excellent, in dialogue, description and language. A side plot about the exploitation of immigrant workers allows for some structure to the novel, but seems somewhat out of place in what is basically a psychological novel about a midlife crisis with concurrent erratic behavior and a nervous breakdown. In the Kitchen is finely written, gloomy,



and may appeal most to readers who are willing to spend time admiring a writer's skill no matter what the plot or how hard it is to spend time with as unsympathetic a protagonist as Gabriel Lightfoot.

Imaginative. Many novels rely on the imagination of readers to take a fictional character and try to picture that person in real life. Monica Ali takes a different course in her new novel, [Untold Story](#). She takes a very well-known character, the late Princess Diana, and imagines her life had she not died, but instead staged a death, had plastic surgery and lived in obscurity. Some readers will find Ali's character to be out of synch with a reader's image, or find her premise preposterous. Such readers should take a pass on reading this novel. Those readers who like a well written novel, and are willing to suspend disbelief can enjoy Ali's take on a character whose life could have gone another way. I found this novel to be fun to read, and Ali's writing talent reveals itself on every page.

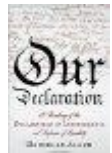
Untold Story	Ali, Monica	***	7/22/11	
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Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality

Allen, Danielle

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



[Ready For Anything: 52 Productivity Principles for Work and Life](#)

Allen, David

DNR

[Nov 03](#)

Oz. Wizard of productivity takes readers behind the curtain where they find: not much. 160 pages of recycled, repetitive, rambling drivel. Take a pass and do something productive instead.



Fixing the Housing Market: Financial Innovations for the Future

Allen, Franklin, James R. Barth and Glenn Yago

**

3/2/12

Data. A recent book from Wharton's Milken Institute Series on Financial Innovations is titled, Fixing the Housing Market. I expected the book would provide a brief review of what caused the crash, and then spend the bulk of the presentation on alternative solutions. Instead, the authors provide a lengthy historical framework and lots of global data. Their analysis of the data seemed shallow, and almost all of the book covers history and data. By the time the solutions were presented, they seemed vague and too generalized to be useful. Readers looking to understand housing over the past hundred years will find useful information here. Those looking for cogent recommendations for solving our problems should look elsewhere.

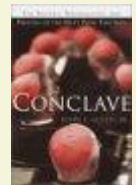


Conclave: The Politics, Personalities, and Process of the Next Papal Election

Allen, Jr., John L.

Aug 02

Learn through the eyes of a talented, balanced and authoritative writer what will happen behind closed doors when the next pope is chosen. Breezy, conversational writing style makes this book easy to read.

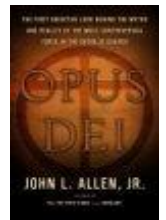


Opus Dei: The First Objective Look Behind the Myths and Reality of the Most Controversial Force in the Catholic Church

Allen, Jr., John L.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

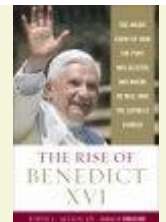


The Rise of Benedict XVI

Allen, Jr., John L.

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2005

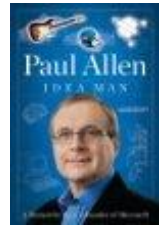


Idea Man: A
Memoir by the
Cofounder of
Microsoft

Allen, Paul

6/18/11

Interests. A memoir by the Microsoft founder who is not Bill Gates comes from Paul Allen, and is titled, Idea Man. Readers interested in technology will find the first third of the book to be required reading. After Allen became ill and left Microsoft, he expanded his horizons beyond technology and used the resources he acquired at Microsoft to spend the rest of his life doing whatever he wants. Most general readers will feel a bit like Walter Mitty when reading about how Allen invested and lost or spent billions on one thing after another. One gets the feeling that Allen really enjoys life, and especially the ways in which the money he gives away is making a difference for society. So often through the book, I reflected how he was so often right, but usually early. About halfway through the book he seems more fallible as he generously describes so many ways in which he was wrong. This is a readable and entertaining memoir about a person with a wide variety of interests and who lives to pursue them all.



The Princess of
Herself

Allen, Roberta

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



Garden Spells

Allen, Sarah
Addison

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



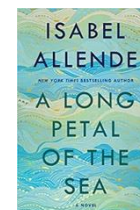
Mere Anarchy	Allen, Woody	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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[A Long Petal of the Sea](#)

Allende, Isabel

[4/9/20](#)

Refuge. My frame of mind as I started reading Isabel Allende's novel titled, [A Long Petal of the Sea](#), involved feeling a little sorry for myself. Disrupted by a stay at home order to slow the spread of Covid 19, I felt thrown off kilter by constraints on my regular activities. After I few pages into this finely written novel, I lost all sense of my situation as I felt the plight of the protagonists needing to leave Spain during the civil war and becoming refugees in Chile. While at my own home, I thought about the importance of a sense of home in all our lives. Allende explores a relationship from the 1930s through the 1990s, and along the way, we understand more about the nature of hope, what constitutes belonging, and how love grows over time and across obstacles. Fans of well written literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.



[In the Midst of Winter](#)

Allende, Isabel

[6/2/18](#)

Maturity. Any day is a good day to read about the redemptive power of love. In her novel titled, [In the Midst of Winter](#), Isabel Allende draws three dissimilar characters together to tell each other their personal stories. Experiences in Latin and South America about human trafficking and immigration bring them together, and the care they show each other becomes a driving force in the plot. Allende explores how maturity can deepen the love that can develop between people approaching the sunset of their lives.

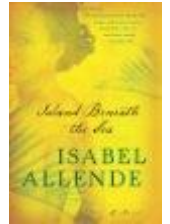


Island Beneath the Sea

Allende, Isabel

8/16/10

Slavery. Isabel Allende's storytelling in her latest novel, Island Beneath the Sea, kept me engaged from beginning to end. Set in Haiti and New Orleans, this is a story of slavery and enduring relationships. Allende takes readers into the lives of slaves and masters and delivers to readers the joys and tragedies of life in vivid detail. Any fan of historical fiction, these places, or this time period, will find this novel to be a rewarding reading experience.

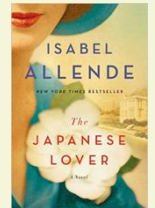


The Japanese Lover

Allende, Isabel

1/5/16

Passion. I'm guessing that tens of thousands of novels will be published this year that will explore the theme of love. Few of those novels will be as well written as Isabel Allende's novel titled, The Japanese Lover. With gracious lyrical prose, Allende offers deep insight into human nature and our propensity toward enduring love. Over the course of a brisk three hundred pages, Allende develops characters over decades of time, and captures the special dynamic of aging and love. Any reader who has loved and who has aged will delight in the recognition of love and the passing of time that Allende displays in this finely written novel.

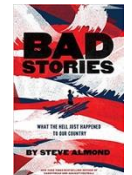


Bad Stories

Almond, Steve

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

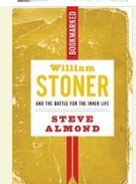


William Stoner and the Battle for the Inner Life

Almond, Steve

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

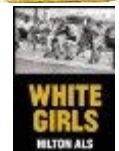


White Girls

Als, Hilton

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



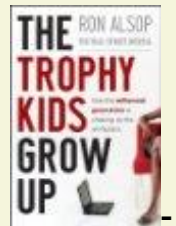
[The Trophy Kids
Grow Up: How
the Millennial
Generation is
Shaking Up the
Workplace](#)

Alsop, Ron

**

12/21/08

Expectations. Journalist Ron Alsop (*The Wall Street Journal*) has taken a group of columns and expanded them into a book titled, [The Trophy Kids Grow Up](#). Alsop's kids are the millennials, those born between 1980 and 2001, who have grown up with prosperity and have had lavish attention and praise wash over them throughout their lives. Now that they are arriving in the workplace, Alsop proposes ways that companies need to change to accommodate this generation of workers. I'm not as sure as Alsop is that this generation is shaking up the workplace. It may be that this group, to whatever extent they represent a real group, may be unrealistic in their expectations of the workplace, and are making their concerns heard. Some companies are listening and making changes; other companies are likely to tell them to grow up. Alsop provides lots of examples of what changes some companies are making. Each chapter ends with "chapter highlights" to recap his key points. I found this book to be tedious to read and sometimes repetitive. I was aghast to read about helicopter parents wanting (and sometimes getting) to sit in on performance assessment meetings with their children who are adults. My forecast is that this cohort called millennials may be starting out with expectations that some companies will be willing to meet. As the bulk of millennials come to the workforce, their expectations may become more realistic and more consistent with current corporate practices. If you read this book and decide to copy what some companies are doing, I encourage you to think twice, and make only those changes that you conclude are absolutely necessary to avoid alienating the talented millennials you want to become part of your organization.

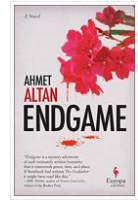


Endgame

Altan, Ahmet

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

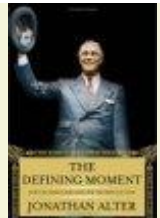


The Defining Moment

Alter, Jonathan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

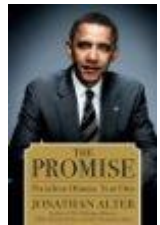


The Promise: President Obama, Year One

Alter, Jonathan

Unread

Read as far as page 142, then lost interest. Shelf of Ennui 2011.

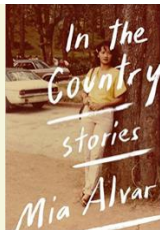


In the Country

Alvar, Mia

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

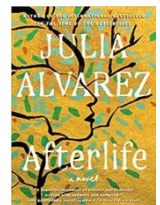


Afterlife

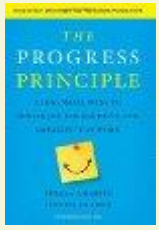
Alvarez, Julia

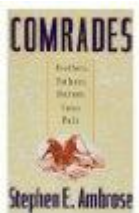
7/15/20

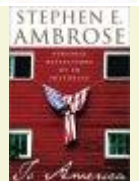
Sisterhood. Many novels help readers answer the question: how to we live, now? For Antonia Vega, the protagonist of Julia Alvarez' novel titled, Afterlife, this involves finding moorings again, following her retirement from teaching college and the sudden death of her husband, Sam, the beloved physician in their Vermont town. Life has a way of injecting our "now" with the next way to live. One of Antonia's three sisters has disappeared, so the siblings join together to find her. Antonia also provides refuge for a pregnant undocumented teenager. Alvarez leads readers into lives that are connected to one another as members of the same

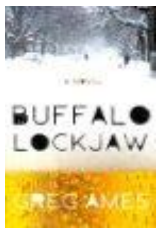


human family, and our sense of belonging relates to those closest to us and all the members of our human family. Whatever has brought us to this time in our lives gives us the courage and wisdom to do the next thing.

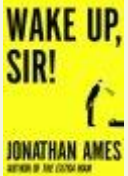
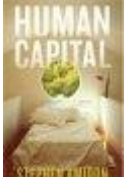
The Progress Principle: Using Small Wins to Ignite Joy, Engagement, and Creativity at Work	Amabile, Teresa and Steven Kramer	Unread		238 employees at seven companies provided 12,000 diary entries that became the database that the authors analyzed to draw conclusions about engaging people at work. I skimmed it, but never became interested enough to read throughout. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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Comrades	Ambrose, Stephen E.	***		Stories of friendship from a great historian.	
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<u>To America: Personal Reflections of an Historian</u>	Ambrose, Stephen E.	***	<u>Jan 03</u>	Spirit of Optimism. Read this farewell book from a fine chronicler of people and events and come away feeling better about America, Americans, and our many individual and collective achievements.	
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<u>Buffalo Lockjaw</u>	Ames, Greg	**	<u>6/14/09</u>	Tetanus. Greg Ames' debut novel, <u>Buffalo Lockjaw</u> , describes the holiday return of 24-year-old protagonist James to hometown Buffalo from his new life in Brooklyn writing copy for a greeting card company. Ames seems to have followed the advice of many creative writing teachers to write about what you know. He's probably given that advice to others, since Ames is a creative writing teacher at Brooklyn College. Ames knows Buffalo, and presents the struggles and quirks of that place with mastery in this novel. In many respects, Buffalo is the best developed character in the book. James is both naïve and immature, and in grief over	
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his mother's Alzheimer's disease he explores euthanasia as a way to give her what he thinks she wants. His stoic father, from whose expression Ames chose his book title, has sold the family home and struggles to pay for his wife's care. James' lesbian sister and her partner arrived for Thanksgiving from Oregon to announce her pregnancy. On top of this mix of main characters, James revisits Buffalo friends and finds them in various states of dissolution, not unlike the city. I had the sense in reading [Buffalo Lockjaw](#) that Ames had assembled vignettes about the city and some characters and then pasted this novel together with that old material. In a clever way, he interspersed among the novel's chapters the text of audio interviews that James did with quintessential Buffalo characters. Anyone with a particular connection to Buffalo will find a lot to enjoy in this novel. Readers willing to give a chance to a first-time author will also find some good writing on these pages. Critical readers are likely to find ample faults with characters, plot and dialogue to have preferred a tetanus shot rather than spend time reading [Buffalo Lockjaw](#).

Wake Up, Sir!	Ames, Jonathan	**	Nov 04	Stupor. With a bow to P.G. Wodehouse, this novel gives us a heavy drinking protagonist and his butler, Jeeves, and some funny episodes. Rambling narrative and directionless plot.	
Human Capital	Amidon, Stephen	***	Feb 05	Short. Striving suburban Connecticut life creates prosperity for all those around protagonist Drew Hagel, while he faces sequential failures.	

Security	Amidon, Stephen	***	6/9/09	<p>Insecure. Stephen Amidon's new novel, Security, explores many aspects of personal insecurity and the ways in which each of us remains fundamentally insecure, no matter how strong we've made our defenses. Protagonist Edward Inman owns a security company and leads a comfortable life in Massachusetts with his wife, Meg, an alderman running for mayor. Their relationship has become loveless, and after Ed reconnects with his old flame, Kathryn, recently divorced, he becomes involved in her life and issues, crumbling the already weak foundations of his own. A broader cast of characters, most of whom are unlikeable for one reason or another, exhibit behaviors that disclose the range of ways in which we try to overcome the insecurity that we want to hide from others. Amidon's writing is superb, and this satire of modern life and relationships can be read with detachment or with an identification with one or more of the behaviors these characters as we try to find happiness or acceptance with others. Security is a timely novel by a talented writer.</p>	
The New City	Amidon, Stephen	***	6/00	<p>Fast-moving vacation novel set in 1973 in the not-very disguised planned community of Columbia, Maryland. Amidon nails racial tension and human relationships. Enjoyable.</p>	
The Real Justine	Amidon, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	

The Sublime
Engine: A
Biography of the
Human Heart

Amidon, Stephen

Unread

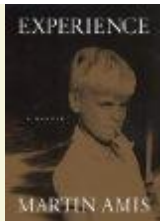
Shelf of Ennui 2011



Experience: A
Memoir

Amis, Martin

Amis picks up on the trendy memoir genre and applies his talent to a tale of his own life. Amis is a fine writer and this work helps readers gain insight into Amis' life experiences, especially his relationship with his father, writer Kingsley Amis.



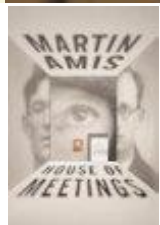
House of
Meetings

Amis, Martin

**

Oct 07

Grim. Finely written examination of evil set in a Soviet gulag presented by a troubled narrator who alternated between not knowing what was going on to participating with relish in the evil.



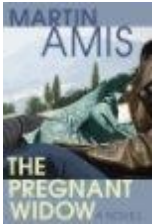

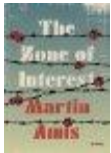
Lionel Asbo:
State of England

Amis, Martin

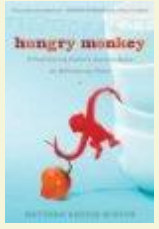

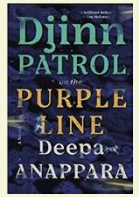
11/8/12

Prison. If you love social satire and superb writing, you're likely to enjoy Martin Amis' novel, Lionel Asbo: State of England. The lower class world of modern London provides the energy for Amis to display his great writing talent. Protagonist Lionel Asbo is a thug and a sociopath who changed his name from Pepperdine to Asbo, as a homage to his major accomplishment in life thus far: anti-social behavior orders from the time he was three years old. Another skill is his ability to train dogs to be vicious. The calmest periods in Lionel's life are when he is in prison. While there he learns that he has won 140 million pounds in the lottery. The result is that he has become a celebrity thug and his over the top behavior is exactly what a reader would expect. The remaining members of the cast of characters are presented with precision, especially nephew Desmond Pepperdine, and Lionel's mother,



				Grace. The language is pitch perfect in its garble, and the humor soars. There's love and hate on these pages, true evil and abiding goodness. Readers who appreciate fine writing and careful language selection are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<u>The Pregnant Widow</u>	Amis, Martin	****	<u>6/2/10</u>	<p>Stratagems. Maybe Martin Amis will finally win the Booker prize. His new novel, <u>The Pregnant Widow</u>, set mostly in the summer of 1970, provides the sweep, language, imagery and character development of the quintessential English novel. Protagonist Keith Nearing has joined his girlfriend Lily in Italy for the summer, in the castle of her friend Scheherazade's uncle Jorquil, the romantic target of another houseguest, Gloria Beautyman. A broader cast of engaging characters come and go, as the sexual revolution satisfies and teases Keith. He gets some of what he wants, more than he imagines, and then nothing at all. Throughout the summer, Keith is reading the English canon of great novels, as he plots stratagems to pursue his carnal interests. Through chapters set in the present and in-between, readers come to understand just how pivotal that summer was for Keith and others. Amis writes with great skill and fans of finely written literary novels are likely to appreciate the talent he displays here.</p>	
<u>The Second Plane: September 11: Terror and Boredom</u>	Amis, Martin	***	<u>Aug 08</u>	<p>Reflections. Fourteen pieces including essays, book reviews and short stories, arranged chronologically, show the evolution of this fine writer's thinking, and display his skills.</p>	
<u>The Zone of Interest</u>	Amis, Martin	****	<u>2/23/15</u>	<p>Character. Martin Amis hasn't finished with the Holocaust yet. In his novel titled, <u>The Zone of Interest</u>, Amis has a lot going on. He is exploring deep moral questions and concerns. He presents the ordinary presence of evil in everyday life. Into</p>	

that setting, he presents characters who love and laugh. Individual and group psychosis can be a challenge to examine, and Amis is up for the challenge. He presents readers with the questions that we have to keep asking about the Holocaust. He doesn't offer answers. His finely written prose will appeal to all thoughtful readers who enjoy literary fiction and who appreciate multiple levels of meaning.

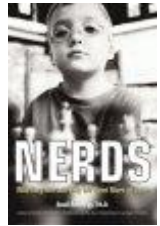
Hungry Monkey: A Food-Loving Father's Quest to Raise an Adventurous Eater	Amster, Matthew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
What the Family Needed	Amsterdam, Steven	Unread		Nothing clicked by the time I reached page 65, so I stopped reading. Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line</u>	Anaparra, Deepa	****	<u>7/23/20</u>	Missing. Disappearing children in Deepa Anaparra's debut novel titled, <u>Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line</u> , will make your blood run cold. Anaparra describes life in a city in India, and what parents, police and children do after children begin to go missing. The descriptive prose offers a setting in vivid detail, and the perspectives of different characters draw us into what for most of us will be an unfamiliar environment. The fine storytelling propels us to turn pages as we begin to care deeply about these characters, especially the children.	

Nerds: Who They Are and Why We Need Them

Anderegg, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

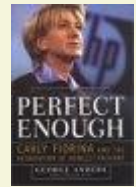


[Perfect Enough: Carly Fiorina and the Reinvention of Hewlett-Packard](#)

Anders, George

[May 03](#)

Sell. Anders tells ample stories about the past and present career of Carly Fiorina and her achievement of landing the top H-P job and merging with Compaq. Engaging stories make this book a pleasure to read.



[Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History](#)

Andersen, Kurt

[12/7/17](#)

Belief. The blurred line between reality and fantasy isn't a contemporary development in American life, according to Kurt Andersen in his book titled, [Fantasyland: How America Went Haywire: A 500-Year History](#). "America was the dreamworld creation of fantasists, some religious and some out to get rich quick, all with a freakish appetite for the amazing." (p.427). Readers with strong religious beliefs will feel somewhat dismissed in those beliefs when they read Andersen's categorization of them as fantasists. Readers who share Andersen's worldview will find almost five hundred pages of statistics, anecdotes, and selective stories of American life to show that over a long period of time, fertile ground in America provided the soil in which fantasy and reality blurred and became widespread. Truth has become a matter of feeling, not fact, and that didn't happen overnight. Whether offended or vindicated by Andersen's book, every reader can understand our contemporary society better by reading about our past and seeing in that past the foundations of modern life.



Heyday	Andersen, Kurt	***	4/25/10	<p>Details. Any reader picking up a work of historical fiction with over 600 pages of narrative should expect close attention to detail. Kurt Andersen delivers details by the yard in Heyday. Set in the mid-nineteenth century, readers who like that historical period will savor in what this book offers. Andersen sweeps across America from New York to California, while the events of the time come to boil and overflow. Science, adventure and love fill these pages with such detail that a reader feels present.</p> <p>Optimism. No matter how little time you have available for reading, you're likely to find the time to read the 70 or so pages of Kurt Andersen's new book, Reset: How This Crisis Can Restore Our Values and Renew America. Anderson proposes that we have a window of opportunity in the current financial crisis to carefully reset our values, both personally and communally, to make different choices going forward. He delivers his optimistic message stridently with clear opinions that can border on the preachy. He gets his message across quickly, and that left me with plenty of time to reflect on his message, and to think about my own values and the degree to which I may have drifted from the values I hold.</p>	
Reset: How This Crisis Can Restore Our Values and Renew America	Andersen, Kurt	***	9/21/09		
True Believers	Andersen, Kurt	***	9/20/12	<p>Bond. The latest novel by Kurt Andersen, True Believers, is set in the 1960s and the present. Protagonist Karen Hollander has been writing a memoir and trying to recall many of the details of her radical activities in high school and college. She and two close friends in high school were James Bond fans to the extreme. In college, their opposition to the Vietnam War led them to radical activity. Andersen dribbles out this plot in ways that kept me curious and entertained. He develops complex characters a layer at a time and captures the ways in which the past can feel present both in</p>	

			terms of personal bonds and in the impact of action in the past on life today. Trust and belief are explored in how things happened in the past and what that means for today. Readers who are patient with slowly paced stories, and who enjoy intelligent writing are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
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Turn of the Century

Andersen, Kurt

Compared favorably to Tom Wolfe, Andersen writes a funny book about the media set in February 2000.



<u>Free: The Future of a Radical Price</u>	Anderson, Chris	***	8/22/09	<p>Marginal. Most readers will find something interesting or useful in Chris Anderson's new book, <u>Free: The Future of a Radical Price</u>. Expanded from a February 2008 article in <i>Wired</i>, <u>Free</u> explores the various ways in which success can come from offering something at a price of zero. For a limited time, Anderson made this book available online for free (where I read most of it before reading the rest for free from a library copy). Anderson got into some trouble when this book was released and some parts of it were identified as being lifted intact from Wikipedia. Part of Anderson's explanation of this attribution error was the challenge of attribution to something that changes form regularly, and he and his publisher having different views on noting hyperlinks. This sloppiness may distract some readers, but I found the book to be a breezy exploration of trends, and had no expectation that this was a work of scholarship. Coined words like "freemium" may cause some readers to wince and others to smile. Anderson comes across as confident and arrogant at times with his views. Underneath these distractions, there's a message worth hearing, and reading <u>Free</u> will encourage readers to think about this issue.</p>	
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Makers: The
New Industrial
Revolution

Anderson, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



[The Long Tail](#)

Anderson, Chris

[Nov 06](#)

Niches. Simple concepts, summarized in our review and excerpt, with huge implications and consequences for producers and distributors. Our highest rating because of that potential impact.



Our Black Year:
One Family's
Quest to Buy
Black in
America's
Racially Divided
Economy

Anderson,
Maggie

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line.
Shelf of Ennui 2012.

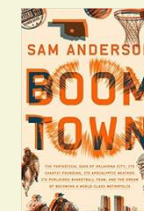


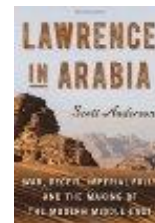
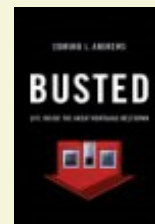
[Boom Town:
The Fantastical
Saga of
Oklahoma City,
its Chaotic
Founding... its
Purloined
Basketball
Team, and the
Dream of
Becoming a
World-class
Metropolis](#)

Anderson, Sam

[10/12/18](#)

Thunder. I had no particular reason to pick up a copy of Sam Anderson's book titled, [Boom Town: The Fantastical Saga of Oklahoma City, its Chaotic Founding... its Purloined Basketball Team, and the Dream of Becoming a World-class Metropolis](#). I have little interest in Oklahoma, and no interest in professional basketball. I followed the recommendation of a reader with that same incuriosity and I'm glad I did. Sam Anderson is a great storyteller and he alternates among a variety of story lines throughout this finely written book. Whether he is writing about the original land run that established Oklahoma City in 1889, or the travails of its pro basketball team, the havoc of tornadoes, or the bombing of the Murrah building, Anderson draws readers into the people and the place with great skill. I won't necessarily visit



				Oklahoma after reading this book, and I won't start following pro basketball, but I will look for Sam Anderson's byline and anticipate terrific writing from this talented author.	
Lawrence in Arabia: War, Deceit, Imperial Folly and the Making of the Modern Middle East	Anderson, Scott	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Busted: Life Inside the Great Mortgage Meltdown</u>	Andrews, Edmund L.	**	<u>7/2/09</u>	Neighbors. In so many ways Ed Andrews' personal story of mortgage disaster was both more and less than I expected. <u>Busted: Life Inside the Great Mortgage Meltdown</u> presents the embarrassing story of a <i>New York Times</i> economic reporter's personal financial and personal crises of the last few years. One would expect that an educated and informed person would have averted predatory loans and would not have spent so far beyond one's means, but we humans are complicated, and Andrews' story is like that of many others. He divorced, and faced increased expenses by adding his own housing expenses. He remarried, and his costs increased further. Both he and his new wife were reckless with spending and never quite found a productive way of talking about money and spending. For readers who love schadenfreude, <u>Busted</u> will be very satisfying. For fans of reality television, this print version of <i>Cribs</i> might be entertaining. For any reader who wonders about what kind of people get themselves into financial muddles, Andrews and his wife offer some answers but little sympathy because of their selfishness, immaturity and overall recklessness. If these people are our neighbors, the neighborhood is in trouble.	

The Truth
About the Drug
Companies:
How They
Deceive Us and
What To Do
About It

Angell, Marcia

Apr 05

Deceit. Abundant examples of the deceit from big pharma followed by specific suggestions for reform. Keep blood pressure medication close at hand when turning these pages.



Let Me Finish

Angell, Roger

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

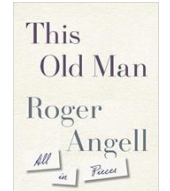


This Old Man:
All in Pieces

Angell, Roger

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

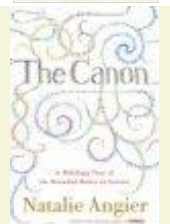


The Canon: A Whirligig tour of the Beautiful Basics of Science

Angier, Natalie

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2007

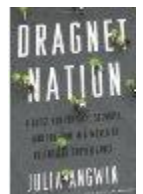


Dragnet Nation:
A Quest for
Privacy,
Security, and
Freedom in a
World of
Relentless
Surveillance

Angwin, Julia

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



Ticket to
Childhood

Anh, Nguyen
Nhat

2/18/15

Reflection. Like a birder adding a new sighting to one's list, I decided that since I've not read any Vietnamese novels, I should try out a popular one titled, Ticket to Childhood, by Nguyen Nhat Anh. I



				<p>read this novel in a single sitting, and enjoyed the nature of the reflection: finding a way to cross the chasm from adulthood back to childhood. I found the introspective narrator interesting and the reflections poignant. If any of that sounds intriguing to you, read a sample before leaping in.</p> <p>Credibility. Can you recall the time when many medical doctors smoked? If such a doctor warned a patient about the dangers of smoking, do you think the advice would be credible? After I finished reading the book titled, A Warning, by an anonymous author, I thought about the credibility of the writer and how I could possibly assess it. This book is an inside view of the Trump administration by a senior official. The story does not place Trump and his allies in a positive light. Concerned citizens may be aghast at parts of what is described on these pages. Supporters of President Trump may focus away from the content and toward the author. My assessment is that it will take time for historians to affirm or dismiss what this book describes about President Trump and those around him. In the meantime, those readers looking for an insider's assessment of the White House will find one view in this alarming book.</p>	
A Warning	Anonymous	*****	2/7/20		
Modern Romance	Ansari, Aziz	*****	9/2/16	<p>Anthropology. I've been absent from the dating scene for more decades than I can reasonably remember, so reading Aziz Ansari's book on the subject titled, Modern Romance, was like reading anthropological ethnography about an unfamiliar culture. One clear difference is that few ethnographies are this humorous. Were Ansari not so funny, I might have been totally confused and lost. If this book was entertaining to an old guy like me, it must be a real delight to anyone under age 40.</p>	

Blue Water	Ansary, A. Manette	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Good Things I Wish For You	Ansary, A. Manette	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Midnight Champagne	Ansary, A. Manette	***	<u>10/99</u>	Consider packing this book for a coast-to-coast flight, or enjoying it as a great weekend or evening break.	
The Art of Napping at Work	Anthony, Bill	Unread	<u>11/99</u>	Looking forward to reading this.	
<u>Tales from the Boom-Boom Room: Women vs. Wall Street</u>	Antilla, Susan	***	<u>May 03</u>	Explosive. Life for women trying to succeed on Wall Street in recent decades was worse than you ever imagined. Antilla tells what happened, how women sued, how Wall Street made changes, and how legal strategists kept things quiet and inexpensive.	
<u>The UnAmericans</u>	Antopol, Molly	****	<u>10/29/14</u>	Identity. There are eight superb short stories in the debut collection by Molly Antopol titled, <u>The UnAmericans</u> . It's usually a steep challenge for writers to develop characters fully within the confined space of the short story. Antopol's characters are so deeply developed that I re-read at	

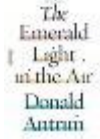
				<p>least two of these stories to see how she achieved so much complexity within just a few pages. Many of the stories explore the theme of identity, and Antopol drew me into some of the deep questions she explores, and made me feel deeply for the situations faced by her characters. Fans of short stories are those readers most likely to enjoy this finely written collection.</p>	
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[The Emerald Light in the Air](#)

Antrim, Donald

[11/7/14](#)

Compact. I thoroughly enjoyed re-reading the seven short stories by Donald Antrim assembled in a collection named after one of them, [The Emerald Light in the Air](#). I recalled each story from when I read it first in *The New Yorker*, and yet I never felt I wanted to skip or skim even one of them. Antrim's prose style is likely to be appreciated by those readers who enjoy literary fiction. Antrim has the ability to present characters very completely developed within the constraints of a short story. Fans of fine writing should take a look at this collection.



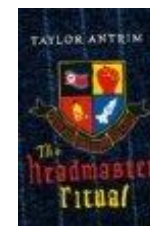
<u>Immunity</u>	Antrim, Taylor	****	<u>4/21/16</u>	<p>Inoculation. For some readers, one of the best forms of inoculation from the terrors of modern life is to read a dystopian novel in which that fictional world is even worse than the fearful one in which we live. <u>Immunity</u> by Taylor Antrim offers readers a world following a pandemic experiencing economic inequality, conspiracies, and a change in social order. In such a world, the search to fulfill desires takes some outlandish forms, and Antrim makes all of the behavior seem so expected, plausible and reasonable. That, my friends, should frighten any thoughtful reader.</p>	The image shows the front cover of the book 'Immunity' by Taylor Antrim. The cover features a white background with a prominent red diagonal stripe running from the bottom left to the top right. The word 'IMMUNITY' is printed vertically in a gold-colored, serif font along the stripe.
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The Headmaster Ritual

Antrim, Taylor

Oct 07

Force. Debut novel set in Massachusetts prep school riffs on the ways in which power and force build up and blow, on many levels. A quirky North Korea motif adds to the entertainment.

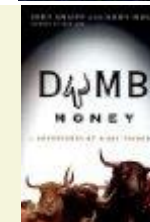


Dumb Money: Adventures of a Day Trader

Anuff, Joey and Gary Wolf

6/00

An amusing and well-written book that provides a glimpse into the world of day trading. Recommended.



Welfare

Anwyll, Steve

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

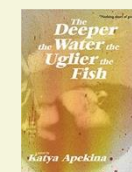


The Deeper the Water the Uglier the Fish

Apekina, Katya

12/9/19

Domestic. Many novels that present dysfunctional family life offer insight into the complexity of our human condition. In her debut novel titled, The Deeper the Water the Uglier the Fish, Katya Apekina elegantly presents us with a tragic family saga. Mother Marianne goes to a psychiatric hospital following a suicide attempt. Teenage daughters Edie and Mae leave life with their mother in Louisiana and end up in New York with their father, Dennis, a novelist. Through different narrators, we see tragic lives in different ways. As in many families, different children describe their shared experience in radically different ways, as if they were raised in different places. Greek myths come alive for modern readers on these pages, whether recognized or not.



Amazing Things
Are Happening
Here

Appel, Jacob M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



The Amazing
Mr. Morality

Appel, Jacob M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

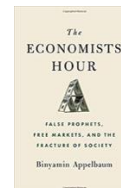


The Economists'
Hour: False
Prophets, Free
Markets, and
the Fracture of
Society

Appelbaum,
Binyamin

12/16/19

Markets. Readers interested in public policy are those most likely to enjoy Binyamin Appelbaum's finely written book titled, The Economists' Hour: False Prophets, Free Markets, and the Fracture of Society. Appelbaum chronicles the influence of select economists on American life over the past half-century and assesses the outcomes from that influence. Many of the economists and their positions will be familiar to most readers, and some stories may be new. Whether you agree or disagree with Appelbaum, his account is worth reading and his assessment is cogent.

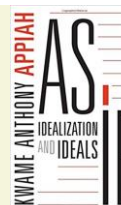


As If:
Idealization and
Ideals

Appiah, Kwame
Anthony

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



The Lies That
Bind

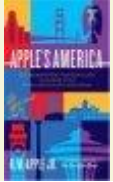
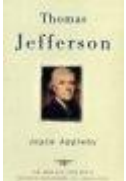
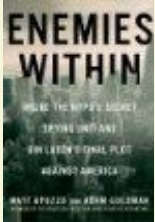
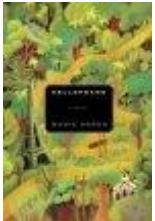
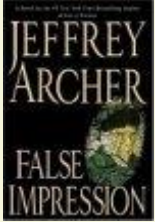
Appiah, Kwame
Anthony

4/19/19

Identity. Kwame Anthony Appiah offers a framework for thinking about identity in his book titled, The Lies That Bind. Many readers will find assumptions challenged about how identities work. Appiah reveals how our assumptions have been forged, whether as a consequence of conflict, or a result of poor science. Our differences are not as great as we may think they are, no matter how we



define “we.” There are great stories and clear thinking on these pages. Any reader who enjoys philosophy written for a general audience will likely appreciate this book.

Apple's America	Apple, R.W.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
Thomas Jefferson	Appleby, Joyce Oldham	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
Enemies Within: Inside the NYPD's Secret Spying Unit and bin Laden's Final Plot Against America	Apuzzo, Matt and Adam Goldman	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Cellophane</u>	Arana, Marie	***	<u>Oct 06</u>	Transparency. Set in the jungles of Peru, this debut novel presents fine prose, well-developed characters, multiple levels of meaning, and interesting ways of making hidden desires manifest.	
False Impression	Archer, Jeffrey	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

The El Paso Red
Flame Gas
Station

Archuleta, J.
Reeder

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



Flawed Advice
and the
Management
Trap: How
Managers Can
Know When
They're Getting
Good Advice
and When
They're Not

Argyris, Chris

05/00

Having trouble implementing the recommendations of consultants? Argyris explains why and takes on other consultants in the process. Highly recommended



Sea Monsters

Aridjis, Chloe

4/4/19

Quest. Why does a teen run away from home? That's the question Chloe Aridjis explores in her novel titled, Sea Monsters. Seventeen-year-old Luisa leaves home in Mexico City on a quest to fulfill her obsession. Her decisions and choices are exactly what one would expect to flow from the unformed teenage brain. While Luisa heads to the Pacific on her quest, her father tries to find his missing daughter by using every possible connection he can uncover about her whereabouts. We are all on a search for meaning, and in that way, Aridjis pulls us along on our own quest as she explores what Luisa has to teach us all.

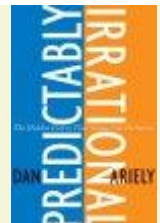


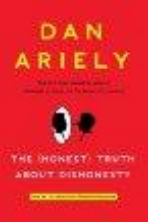
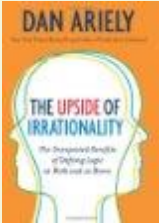
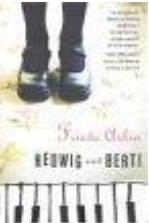

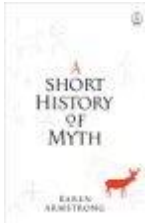

Predictably
Irrational: The
Hidden Forces
That Shape Our
Decisions

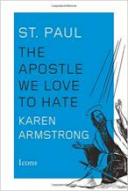
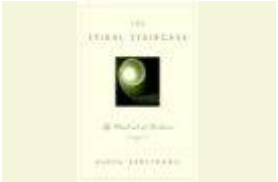

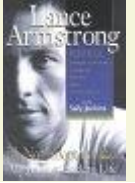

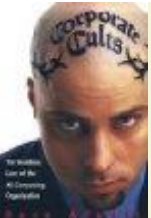
Ariely, Dan

June 08

Experiments. MIT behavioral economist presents lively and readable insights from array of experiments that seem to show that not only is human behavior irrational, but also it is predictable.



The (Honest) Truth About Dishonesty: How We Lie to Everyone---Especially Ourselves	Ariely, Dan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
The Upside of Irrationality: The Unexpected Benefits of Defying Logic at Work and at Home	Ariely, Dan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Hedwig and Berti	Arkin, Frieda	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
Salt Slow	Armfield, Julia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
A Short History of Myth	Armstrong, Karen	**	Feb 06	Context. Survey of the evolution of myth as culture and civilization changed. This first book in the Canongate myth series sets a context, and without reading the myths, leaves the reader with theory, but not examples.	
Fields of Blood: Religion and the History of Violence	Armstrong, Karen	Unread			

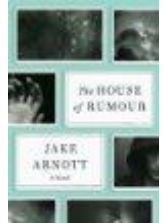
<u>St. Paul: The Apostle We Love to Hate</u>	Armstrong, Karen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
The Spiral Staircase: My Climb Out of Darkness	Armstrong, Karen	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
<u>Every Second Counts</u>	Armstrong, Lance	***	<u>Dec 03</u>	Discomfort. How do you spend your time? Tour de France champion and cancer survivor provides dozens of stories that reinforce the reality that every second brings us closer to or further away from our goals.	
<u>It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life</u>	Armstrong, Lance	***	<u>11/00</u>	Inspirational story of courage and spirit of cancer survivor and Tour de France winner Lance Armstrong.	
<u>Mostly Dead Things</u>	Arnett, Kristen	***	<u>4/23/20</u>	Taxidermy. Fans of literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Kristen Arnett's debut novel titled, <u>Mostly Dead Things</u> . Narrator Jessa pulls readers into the family grief following the death of her father. As the title indicates, there's a lot of death around, and the taxidermy business is just one part of it. The prose is finely written, the characters complex and on the weird side.	
<u>Corporate Cults: The Insidious Lure of the All-Consuming Organization</u>	Arnott, Dave	Unread	<u>2/00</u>	Quoted from <i>Fortune</i> article on 100 best companies.	

[The House of Rumour](#)

Arnott, Jake

[6/25/13](#)

Puzzled. Readers who like puzzles and have the patience to endure a convoluted prose structure are those who might enjoy Jake Arnott's [The House of Rumour](#). I was entertained by the ways in which Arnott drew in plot lines involving writers Ian Fleming, L. Ron Hubbard, Philip K. Dick and Robert Heinlein. Arnott crosses decades and adds a Rudolf Hess suicide to the mix for good measure. Arnott uses the character Larry Zagorski, a pulp fiction writer, as the glue to try to pull all this together. Secrets abound, narrators change frequently, and I found the best way to proceed was to give myself up to wherever Arnott was taking me. Read an excerpt to see if this book is one you might enjoy reading.



[The Long Firm](#)

Arnott, Jake

*

[Feb 02](#)

Multiple narrators describe gay English gangster Harry Starks' life of crime, violence and sex. No compelling reason to read this novel.



[The Last Thing I Told You](#)

Arsenault, Emily

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

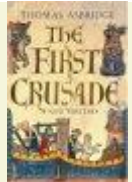


The First Crusade

Asbridge, Thomas

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

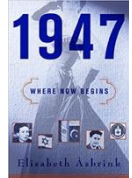


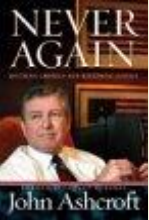
[1947: Where Now Begins](#)

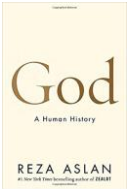
Åsbrink, Elisabeth


Unread

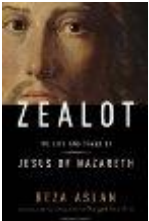
Shelf of Ennui 2018.



Never Again	Ashcroft, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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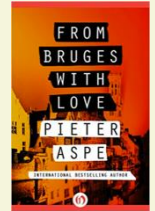
<u>God: A Human History</u>	Aslan, Reza	***	<u>1/23/18</u>	Sweeping. After I finished reading Reza Aslan's book titled, <u>God: A Human History</u> , my first thought was to wonder what God thought of the book. My conclusion was that God would be amused, as I expect God usually is when we try to think or write about God. Written for a general audience, this readable book provides a sweeping overview of the author's views of the history of religion and the ways in which humans have strived to understand the divine.	
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<u>No God But God</u>	Aslan, Reza	***	<u>Oct 05</u>	Primer. Well-written introduction to the history of Islam, its evolution, and its place in the modern world.	
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<u>Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth</u>	Aslan, Reza	****	<u>8/6/13</u>	Overshadowed. A brouhaha following Reza Aslan's interview with Lauren Green on <i>Fox News</i> boosted sales of his book, <u>Zealot: The Life and Times of Jesus of Nazareth</u> . That's good for Aslan and for those readers who might not have picked up this book had they not heard all the buzz. Aslan is a scholar and a Muslim who presents a very readable and accessible narrative about the historical Jesus. His scholarship draws on the work of many others in recent decades who have explored all sources of information about the historical Jesus. Aslan notes how the theology of Paul about Jesus the Christ overshadowed the historical Jesus. Both the historical Jesus and the Jesus of faith are worth reading about, and Aslan's book will provide a great basis for book discussion among both believers and	
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non-believers. If the minor kerfuffle over this book gets people from different religions talking about faith, that's a good thing for everybody.

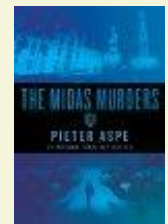
Corruption. The third Pieter Van In crime mystery by Pieter Aspe is titled, [From Bruges with Love](#). Squeamish readers may want to take a pass, or read quickly past some of the graphic and grisly descriptions. I marveled at the way Aspe would alternate between the gruesomeness of a crime scene and the charming domestic life of Van In and his wife, Deputy prosecutor Hannelore Martens. Hannelore is pregnant, and she wants Van In to cut back on his smoking, drinking and overeating. Van In's persistence in a case involving bones found while digging for a home renovation leads to the revelation of a crime and cover up by some very powerful individuals. Fans of crime fiction should find something to enjoy in this book.



Surprises. The fourth installment in the Pieter Van In detective mystery set in Bruges, Belgium, is titled, [The Fourth Figure](#). I've enjoyed each installment better than the one before, and the surprises in this novel were a real pleasure. Van In is that ideal flawed hero: competent and very imperfect. Van In's wife, District Attorney Hannelore Martens, is pregnant and Van In hasn't a clue as to how their lives will change. Fans of crime fiction with good writing are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.



Crafty. Be warned: if you read [The Midas Murders](#) by Peter Aspe, you may be setting yourself up for reading every book in this series as they are translated from Flemish. Set in the beautiful city of Bruges, Belgium, the protagonist is police inspector Van In, a crafty, moody and often whiskey-sodden character. The city and police inspector are a perfect pair. Van In has to set aside some personal



<u>From Bruges with Love</u>	Aspe, Pieter	*****	<u>4/21/16</u>	
<u>The Fourth Figure</u>	Aspe, Pieter	*****	<u>1/16/17</u>	
<u>The Midas Murders</u>	Aspe, Pieter	*****	<u>4/7/14</u>	

			problems, including the foreclosure of his house, to investigate the murder of a German visitor and the bombing of the statue of a Flemish poet. In's romantic relationship with prosecutor Hannelore Martens provides another respite from his troubled life, alongside his work. Aspe respects the intelligence of readers with a complicated case, and despite all the possible distractions, In gets to the bottom of things by the end. This was my first exposure to Aspe, and when I finished this second installment, I added the first in the series to my reading queue. I'm hooked.	
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[The Square of Revenge](#)

Aspe, Pieter

[6/27/14](#)

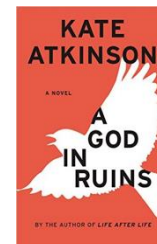
Betrayal. The first novel by Pieter Aspe to feature Belgian detective Pieter Van In is titled, [The Square of Revenge](#). I started reading this series with the second installment translated into English titled, *The Midas Murders*, and I was hooked. Readers who enjoy character-driven crime fiction should consider reading this novel and the series. The action starts with an unusual burglary of a family owned jewelry store. Van In arrives on the scene and meets an attractive deputy prosecutor, Hannelore Martens. Their interplay provides a lot of the pleasure to readers of this book. Something strange is happening, and the well-connected paterfamilias wants the burglary investigation to die a quiet death. Instead, Van In and Hannelore pursue it, and when a kidnapping in the family increases attention, they focus all their efforts on bringing the case to a satisfactory conclusion. This is a story of family betrayal and the revenge that serves as a type of justice for what happened in the past.



<u>Somewhere Towards the End: A Memoir</u>	Athill, Diana	***	<u>7/16/09</u>	<p>Spunky. Memoirs can lead readers to reflect on some of life's big questions through a peek into an individual's recollections of the paths taken. Diana Athill's memoir, <u>Somewhere Towards the End</u>, was written by her at age 91, following fifty years as a literary editor. Her writing is clear and crisp, and she tackles those aspects of life many of us would prefer to avoid, ignore, or just wish would not happen to us. She covers relationships, sex, religion, and health with a dispatch and a way of talking about herself that does not preach to readers. The losses that come with the passage of time need not remove the spunk from life or diminish optimism. The fewer than two hundred pages of <u>Somewhere Towards the End</u> made me feel just fine about whatever the passage of time will bring to my life.</p>	
<u>The English Teacher</u>	Atir, Yiftach Reicher	****	<u>11/21/17</u>	<p>Mossad. Fans of spy novels are those readers most likely to enjoy Yiftach Reicher Atir's novel titled, <u>The English Teacher</u>. Protagonist Rachel Goldschmitt has been a Mossad agent living in a Muslim country under a false identity and working as a teacher. Following the death of her father, she disappears and the Mossad sends her handler, Ehud, to track her down and help assess whether she presents a risk. Atir tells an interesting story about a complicated individual and explores the question of identity. I was entertained.</p>	
<u>Robert B. Parker's Lullaby</u>	Atkins, Ace	***	<u>9/25/12</u>	<p>Consistent. The estate of Robert B. Parker selected Ace Atkins to continue the franchise by writing Spenser novels. The first, <u>Robert B. Parker's Lullaby</u>, provides great continuity for this legendary detective fiction. Atkins keeps dialogue and structure consistent with Parker's model, and if anything he has fleshed out the novel more thoroughly than Parker did in his later novels. I decided to read this novel out of curiosity to see</p>	

how true Atkins would be to the Parker model. I enjoyed reading this novel, and expect that most Parker and Spenser fans will be pleased to see more of this character in coming years. For me, I'll probably move on to living authors developing their own characters.

Teddy. Two years ago, I loved reading Kate Atkinson's novel *Life After Life* in which protagonist Ursula Todd died in every chapter. Atkinson now presents a novel titled, [A God in Ruins](#), with Ursula's brother, Teddy, as protagonist. Teddy was an RAF bomber in World War II, and Atkinson's prose about war is among the best I've read. War confounds reason as we destroy much of what we are trying to save and defend. She takes apart Teddy and members of his family to examine him from many time periods and perspectives, in every setting drawing a complete picture of ordinary life. I highly recommend this finely written novel that is one of the best I've read this year.



[A God in Ruins](#)

Atkinson, Kate

[7/24/15](#)

Trafficking. Fans of the Jackson Brodie series by Kate Atkinson will be delighted with the fifth installment, a novel titled, [Big Sky](#). Patient readers will watch Atkinson meander in what seem like unconnected ways and then observe as she loosens some threads and connects others. At the center of the novel there's crime: a human trafficking ring at work. While the novel can stand alone, readers of the earlier Brodie novels will enjoy the reprised characters, the increased complexity of their development, and the changes in their life situations and behavior, especially protagonist Brodie. Atkinson respects the intelligence of her readers, and feeds us with her humor, insight and clever references. It's been almost a decade since the last installment, so enjoy the feast now that it's finally arrived.



[Big Sky](#)

Atkinson, Kate

[7/16/19](#)

Case Histories

Atkinson, Kate

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

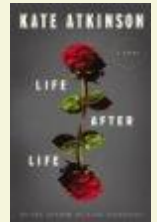


[Life After Life](#)

Atkinson, Kate

[4/12/13](#)

Again. Very few readers are likely to receive Kate Atkinson's novel, [Life After Life](#), in a lukewarm manner. Chances are you will love it or hate it. The conceit she develops is that the protagonist, Ursula Todd, dies again and again. In each new life, some things remain the same, and other things change. While I am often impatient, I yielded to Atkinson and let her lead me again and again to a similar and different life. I found the nuance and the repetition to be so carefully crafted that I marveled at her skill and enjoyed her prose thoroughly. This novel is like nothing else I've read and I loved the creativity and imagination displayed.



[One Good Turn](#)

Atkinson, Kate

[Dec 06](#)

Connections. Intelligent mystery set in Edinburgh with plethora of connections that come together at the end. Full of loyalty, betrayal and revenge.



[Started Early, Took My Dog](#)

Atkinson, Kate

[5/8/11](#)

Identity. Intelligent readers who like a complicated plot can count on Kate Atkinson to give us well-written pages to enjoy. Her latest Jackson Brodie novel is titled, [Started Early, Took My Dog](#). By the time Brodie appears in the novel, several interesting plot lines have been developed. Keeping track of who's who is part of the pleasure, and Atkinson's literary references provided added entertainment. The question of identity is at the center of concern for many of the characters, and Atkinson plays with that theme in multiple ways. The result is a very satisfying novel that requires a reader's attention and engagement throughout.

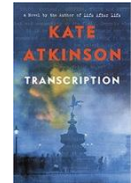


Transcription

Atkinson, Kate

11/6/18

Layers. I loved reading Kate Atkinson's novel titled, Transcription, for many reasons. Atkinson's finely written prose will please those readers who enjoy literary fiction and the art of writing. The protagonist of this novel, Juliet Armstrong, starts out as a strong and complex character and by the novel's ending, the layers of Juliet's complexity attain greater richness. Recruited first as a transcriber of spy tapes, then as a spy for MI5 during World War II, Juliet has something about her that makes her stand out and blend in at the same time. Atkinson captures the time period with great skill and offers a plot that will please readers who enjoy a twist and turn. Finally, I loved the wit sprinkled throughout the novel, especially the ineptitude by so many characters that it became funny.



When Will
There Be Good
News?

Atkinson, Kate

3/28/09

Clever. Kate Atkinson reprises retired police detective Jackson Brodie in her new novel, When Will There Be Good News? She adds a cast of interesting and quirky characters, and engages them in clever plots and subplots that keep a reader thinking and engaged throughout the 400 pages of the novel. The past looms like a shadow over characters like Dr. Jo Hunter, and how she behaves in the present has much to do with tragedy from her past. Dr. Hunter's teenage nanny, Reggie Chase, is an orphan and acts as an amateur detective to great success. She is wiser and more focused than her age would lead others to expect. Her brother looms over her life. Brodie and Detective Chief Inspector Louise Morris rediscover each other on these pages, and each has a marriage partner that may not bring the same quality of relationship that these two have with each other. The clever writing and depth of character



development combine to make this novel a very satisfying book to read.

My Life in the Middle Ages

Atlas, James

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



Taduno's Song

Atogun, Odafe

7/6/18

Choice. For those readers who look to fiction to transport us to unfamiliar places, consider reading Odafe Atogun's finely written debut novel titled, Taduno's Song. Reminiscent of the myth of Orpheus and Eurydice, the novel presents a love story set within a tyrannical regime. Protagonist Taduno returns to his homeland from exile and finds that while he left as a popular musical celebrity, upon his return no one remembers him. Atogun sets up Taduno to make a difficult choice, and by the time that choice is made, readers will recognize harmony in the decision made for love.

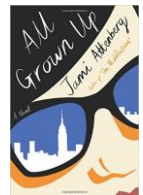


All Grown Up

Attenberg, Jami

4/25/17

Andrea. Every stone seems turned in the life of Andrea Bern as presented by Jami Attenberg in a finely written novel titled, All Grown Up. This novel is an intense character study that moves back and forth in time as we are presented a complete picture of the very interesting protagonist, Andrea Bern. Humor and heartbreak are often within a few sentences of each other. Andrea is single, needy and needed. The novel explores the question of what it means to be an adult, and the path toward that answer brought me great reading pleasure.

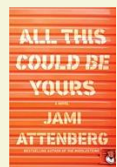


All This Could Be Yours

Attenberg, Jami

1/24/20

Legacy. Is Jami Attenberg's novel titled, All This Could Be Yours, just another tale of family dynamics? Yes and no. Paterfamilias Victor Tuchman lies dying, and daughter Alex goes to New Orleans to be with her mother, Barbra, and to



				<p>uncover the secrets of Victor's life. Alex's brother, Gary, decides to stay in Los Angeles and not come to the deathbed. Victor's legacy is complicated and takes different forms. Absent Attenberg's finely written prose, the outline of the story would produce a big yawn in most readers. As the secrets are revealed, we understand the source and form of this family's dysfunction. For some readers, me included, a depressing story about the Tuchman family can lift one's spirits. We're all messed up in some way or another, and we can survive most of what life's throws at us.</p>	
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The Middlesteins

Attenberg, Jami

2/26/13

Taut. Jami Attenberg's novel, The Middlesteins, will appeal to readers like me who can explore dysfunction in a family and find humor, compassion and empathy. Food takes center stage in this novel, as it has in the relationship between protagonists Edie and Richard Middlestein. Attenberg draws a taut line in the novel as she presents troubled and sad characters who create much of their own distress. Too extreme and the characters would be unbelievable. I thought Attenberg used a light touch to make these characters fully human and recognizable to all readers. This novel would provide engaging conversation for book groups, especially about obsessions, self-destructive behavior, and the struggles of married life.



Saint Mazie	Attenberg, Jamie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	The image shows the front cover of the book 'Saint Mazie' by Jami Attenberg. The cover features a colorful, abstract illustration of a building with a red roof and a blue sky. The title 'SAINT MAZIE' is written in a stylized, colorful font at the top, and the author's name 'Jami Attenberg' is at the bottom.
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Angel Catbird
Volume 2: To
Castle Catula

Atwood,
Margaret

4/5/17

Fun. Everything I liked in the first volume of the Angel Catbird series by Margaret Atwood, I liked in the second volume titled, To Castle Catula. Packed with puns, some footnotes, and great images, this graphic novel brings pleasure to both eye and ear. It's quick to read, and can provide interested readers with an easy entrée into the graphic novel genre.



Angel Catbird
Volume One

Atwood,
Margaret

12/20/16

Comic. Thanks to Margaret Atwood, I've finally selected a graphic novel to read. The text for Angel Catbird Volume One was written by Atwood, and the beautiful illustrations are by Johnnie Christmas. Funny and serious at the same time as Atwood can often be, I found the footnotes the perfect touch to address the serious side of this work. I expected a graphic novel to be longer, and found this volume to be closer to my recollection of some comic books from my youth. I loved the story, and am now likely to keep reading the series as additional volumes are produced.

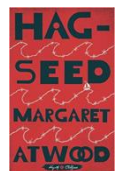


Hag-Seed

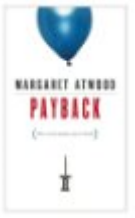
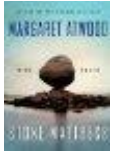

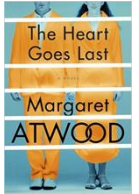

Atwood,
Margaret

11/18/16

Prison. I was delighted when reading Margaret Atwood's take on Shakespeare's *The Tempest* titled, Hag-Seed. Every few pages I kept thinking about how clever she was and how her structure and prose were perfect. Atwood's Prospero is a theater director who was forced out of his job. He rebounds by assuming a pseudonym and working in a literacy program at a local prison. Atwood gives just the right homage to the play and makes the story her own in ways that entertained me greatly. Readers who enjoy finely written fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination	Atwood, Margaret	Unread		I prefer Atwood's fiction. I stopped reading this collection of essays after about 50 pages. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
MaddAddam	Atwood, Margaret	*****	9/10/13	<p>Satire. It takes a great writer to weave together a story that engages readers while at the same delivering a disturbing message about our possible future. Margaret Atwood is such a great writer, and her new novel, MaddAddam, completes a trilogy that presents a vision of the world we may be creating. This satire projects what may happen if some trends continue. In Atwood's future, genetic engineering has gone amuck, a pandemic devastated humanity, while species have gone extinct. Amid this bleak landscape, there is the development of community and bonds of enduring love. Readers who have read the earlier novels will certainly want to read this one to be able to enjoy a satisfying conclusion. New readers to the series or Atwood can start here, and will likely want to read more.</p>	
Moral Disorder	Atwood, Margaret	***	Jan 07	<p>Tangles. Finely written interconnected short stories trace one Canadian family from the 1930s to the present, linking memories, loss and all the tangles that become families.</p>	
Oryx and Crake	Atwood, Margaret	****	June 03	<p>Tomorrow. Finely-crafted novel of what our world could become as we experience the missteps of genetic experiments, corporate imperialism, the values of games and media, and the ability of one person to make all the difference.</p>	

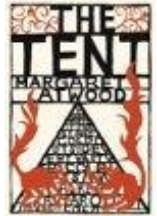
Payback: Debt and the Shadow Side of Wealth	Atwood, Margaret	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Stone Mattress	Atwood, Margaret	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>The Blind Assassin</u>	Atwood, Margaret	*****	<u>01/01</u>	Atwood's dialogue consistently remains in the style of the 1930s and 1940s, and she captures the flavor of elements of that period flawlessly.	
<u>The Heart Goes Last</u>	Atwood, Margaret	*****	<u>10/15/15</u>	Imaginative. Margaret Atwood is that rare writer who can be imaginative, funny, caustic, and reflective at the same time she fully entertains most readers with a compelling story. I thoroughly enjoyed her latest novel titled, <u>The Heart Goes Last</u> . She takes readers to a society like our own in a time quite similar to ours, injects evil and love, and offers a mirror to modern life that will lead many readers to squirm and smile. Any reader who enjoys fine writing and who likes to laugh and think will find much to enjoy in this novel.	
<u>The Penelopiad</u>	Atwood, Margaret	***	<u>June 06</u>	Perspective. Ever wonder about what Penelope was doing while Odysseus was on the road? Atwood offers Penelope's own point of view in this finely crafted book that includes a chorus of 12 handmaids.	

The Tent

Atwood,
Margaret

May 06

Images. Quirky and mostly harsh short fiction in a more focused and concentrated dose than is found in her longer works. Still enriching and enjoyable.



The Testaments

Atwood,
Margaret

10/15/19

Resolution. Fans of Margaret Atwood's novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*, have waited decades for the author to continue telling the story. To prepare myself for a return to Gilead, I re-read *The Handmaid's Tale*, and am glad I did. I was prepared to open the new novel, The Testaments, with fresh memories. I was delighted that one of the perspectives in the new novel comes from Aunt Lydia. Her insights help readers see Gilead from the inside. As always, Atwood leads readers to think for ourselves. Lydia is more complex than I expected, and she offers an understanding of the power of women in Gilead. We also receive the perspective of Agnes Jemima, born in Gilead as the daughter of a Commander and a Wife. Atwood uses Agnes to help readers understand the expectations placed upon young women in Gilead. The third narrator begins her story outside Gilead, in Toronto, where she gradually understands the truth about her past. Atwood lets readers make up our own minds as we hear these narratives and while there is resolution by the end of the novel, many questions remain. Readers are free to reflect on many levels of meaning structured in this novel and to ponder what it takes to topple a corrupt and immoral regime. Atwood continues to be a keen observer of life and plays the role of messenger to readers about living in our contemporary world and heeding the signs of our times.

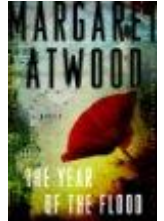


[The Year of the Flood](#)

Atwood,
Margaret

[11/25/09](#)

Survival. Margaret Atwood's new novel, [The Year of the Flood](#), does something that I can't recall her doing before: she reprises characters from a previous novel, and expands their story. Several of the characters from [Oryx & Crake](#), (which I also rated with four stars in 2003), appear in the new novel, and the two novels merge pleasantly to create a more complete view of a future possible world. [The Year of the Flood](#) is a story of survival in a world devastated by genetic experiments gone foul, and a plague that wiped out much of the population. One group in [The Year of the Flood](#) is called God's Gardeners, and the hymns that Atwood creates describe their beliefs and their world with humor and insight. A collaborator composed music for these fourteen hymns and they can be heard and purchased at www.yearoftheflood.com. Atwood's writing is superb, the characters believable, and the future world she creates is a scary place.

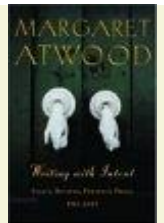


Writing With
Intent

Atwood,
Margaret

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

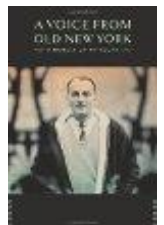


[A Voice from Old New York: A Memoir of My Youth](#)

Auchincloss,
Louis

[1/15/11](#)

Words. After writing sixty or so novels, Louis Auchincloss presented a memoir titled, [A Voice from Old New York](#), published after his death last year at age ninety two. Selecting his words with care and precision, Auchincloss reflects on the world in which he grew up, revealing a view on a world that most readers have not experienced. Any reader wanting a glimpse at a segment of society and a lifestyle long past will find a lot to enjoy from these pages. By the end of the memoir, Auchincloss concludes that society doesn't matter. For most



readers, a different conclusion could be drawn from Auchincloss' decades of fine writing.

<u>East Side Story</u>	Auchincloss, Louis	**	<u>May 05</u>	<p>Perpetuation. 60th novel of upper class New York life. In this version, the fictional Carnochans strive to meet family expectations and obligations across multiple generations.</p>	
<u>Last of the Old Guard</u>	Auchincloss, Louis	***	<u>6/14/09</u>	<p>Partnership. Prolific novelist Louis Auchincloss' new novel is titled <u>Last of the Old Guard</u>. On these pages, protagonist Adrian Suydam reflects wistfully on his life and that of his recently deceased law partner, Ernest Saunders. Set at the end of the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century, Auchincloss presents with a formal detachment the relationships and behavior of those times. While the primary relationship is that between two life-long friends and law partners, other relationships are also critical to the novel: husbands and wives; fathers and children; and employers and employees. This brief glimpse into another time provides a striking contrast to modern times. <u>Last of the Old Guard</u> conveys the sense of responsibility, formality, manners and expectations of a time that has passed, but dimensions of personal character and integrity that survive and can thrive in any era. Reading <u>Last of the Old Guard</u> is like visiting a museum and coming away with impressions about other times and places. Readers who want to visit an old New York will find pleasure on these pages.</p>	
<u>The Headmaster's Dilemma</u>	Auchincloss, Louis	**	<u>July 08</u>	<p>Boys. The master novelist of upper class life sets his latest book at an exclusive New England prep school and uses the behavior of new boys to play out a conflict between two old boys, one a trustee, and the other the headmaster.</p>	

[The Scarlet Letters](#)

Auchincloss,
Louis

[May 04](#)

Puritan. Hawthorne's tale updated to 1950s Manhattan. Well-written with complex characters, depth and thoughtfulness about loyalty, power, mores and temptation at work and in relationships.



[The Land of Painted Caves](#)

Auel, Jean M.

*

[4/9/11](#)

Concluded. Three decades ago, a co-worker told me that I had to read a hefty new novel, *The Clan of the Cave Bear*, telling me that the strong female protagonist was a very well-developed character. I plodded through that first novel, and agreed that the story was engaging and the character interesting, but I found the writing to be flat. Every few years, author Jean Auel has added another hefty novel to a series she called Earth's Children, and I think I've read them all. What we expect to be the last novel of the series has been published recently and is titled, [The Land of Painted Caves](#). Well-developed protagonist Ayla returns with husband Jondalar, the horses, wolf and child, as they are now living in what we assume to be the Lascaux region of France. It takes Auel over 750 pages to present this installment, and at times the repetition made me think that even the author never bothered re-reading or editing what she wrote. Somewhere inside, there might be a 250 page well-written novel. Instead, we're presented with a bloated manuscript. For those readers who like to finish what one starts, this novel might be required reading. For most readers, there are plenty of better novels to select.



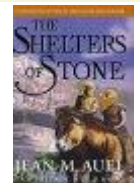
[The Shelters of Stone](#)

Auel, Jean M.

*

[Jul 02](#)

Ayla and Jondalar go to his home to meet the parents and get married in this 750-page fifth volume in Auel's Earth's Children series of novels about prehistoric life.

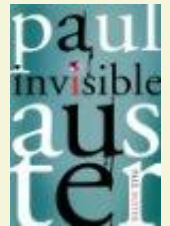


<u>Shakespeare in Charge: How to Lead and Succeed on the Stage of Business</u>	Augustine, Norman R.	Unread		We enjoyed <u>Augustine's Travels</u> and expect this new book by the former chairman of Lockheed Martin will be well done.	
<u>Frenemies: The Epic Disruption of the Ad Business (and Everything Else)</u>	Auletta, Ken	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Googled: The End of the World As We Know It</u>	Auletta, Ken	***	<u>2/25/10</u>	Efficiency. Ken Auletta's book, <u>Googled: The End of the World As We Know It</u> , presents the creation and explosive growth of the company that is also a verb: Google. This is a well-written account of the people and the culture, and shows off fine writing following significant access to key people. This is a story of the impact of efficiency: smart engineers who make things better. The success from their work is obvious; the fallout for others, especially traditional media companies (that Auletta knows well), would be less well done in the hands of a different author. Auletta excels at description, examples and insight. <u>Googled</u> melds personal stories with corporate culture and competitive behavior in ways that will interest many readers.	
<u>Media Man: Ted Turner's Improbable Empire</u>	Auletta, Ken	**	<u>Mar 05</u>	Restless. While repetitive at times and less lively than the subject, an instructive biography of a successful visionary.	

<u>World War 3.0: Microsoft and Its Enemies</u>	Auletta, Ken	****	<u>04/01</u>	Comprehensive story of the Microsoft antitrust trial based on insider interviews. Fascinating to read about Microsoft's arrogance.	
Beware of God	Auslander, Shalom	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing</u>	Austen Ben	*****	<u>5/11/18</u>	<p>Portraits. Most readers know something about Cabrini-Green and have formed views and impressions about that place and all public housing. In a finely written book titled, <u>High-Risers: Cabrini-Green and the Fate of American Public Housing</u>, Ben Austen tells the Cabrini-Green story in ways that will enlighten all readers. Austen excels in the ways he humanizes matters of public policy by telling us about people: by offering portraits of residents and others that enliven the narrative and lead to heightened understanding about people who are mostly just like us. Poverty, race, class, politics and real estate are all lively topics, and Austen explores each of them in this finely written book.</p>	
<u>4321</u>	Auster, Paul	*****	<u>2/23/17</u>	<p>Chance. My uncle broke his leg a few weeks before his ship was due to depart England for the United States. My father was then told by his brothers that he would now be the one chosen to emigrate to America. Had that chance accident not occurred, I might not have been born, let alone become the person who I am today. Paul Auster explores this notion of chance in his novel titled, <u>4321</u>. Given the brevity of his earlier novels, which I enjoyed, I was willing to commit the time to this book which is almost nine hundred pages long. I was richly rewarded by a clever structure and finely written</p>	

prose. Auster presents protagonist Archie Ferguson in four variations. Pivots, luck, accidents led Ferguson in one direction or another. Auster spends long enough with each Ferguson so readers can see the similarities and differences. I enjoyed each Ferguson variation and expect that this novel will be enjoyed most by patient readers who enjoy finely written prose.

Words. Paul Auster's prose in his new novel, Invisible, could be dissected by a college English course and analyzed as an extreme case of fictional architecture in which each element combines with others to produce an integrated whole, while adding no element not required to make the whole complete. Fans of literary fiction will enjoy these mechanics, while ordinary readers will find an odd tale from multiple narrators. If you're the former, you're likely to enjoy this book. If the latter, your time could be better spent with another author and another novel.



War. Darkness can take many forms, and in this short novel, Man in the Dark, Paul Auster explores many of those forms. Following a car accident, protagonist August Brill at age 72 is recovering in the Vermont home of his daughter. In pain and sleepless, Brill tries to write his memoir, but instead creates stories to battle his depression. During the day, he watches movies with his 24 year old granddaughter, Katya, whose boyfriend was tortured and murdered in Iraq. His divorced daughter, Miriam, struggles to write about Nathaniel Hawthorne's youngest daughter, Rose. Each of these characters grapples with the darkness of their lives. Brill uses the darkness of night to write about a parallel world, one in which the war in Iraq didn't happen. He creates the parallel protagonist, Owen Brick, who finds himself



Invisible

Auster, Paul

5/19/11

Man in the Dark

Auster, Paul

2/23/09

involved in the Second American Civil War, between the red states and the blue states, and on a mission to kill August Brill. Any war ravages relationships and leaves consequences for survivors that can feel like a permanent state of darkness. Man in the Dark might be our common condition as long as we engage in war. In the meantime, stay up in the dark for a few nights, and read Auster's way of trying to make sense of the nonsense of war.

<u>Oracle Night</u>	Auster, Paul	**	<u>Mar 04</u>	<p>Recovery. Two writers use each other to overcome writing blocks and move from illness to living life fully. An unusual visit to Brooklyn in the form of a literary novel.</p>	
<u>Report from the Interior</u>	Auster, Paul	****	<u>5/28/14</u>	<p>Distance. The most unusual memoir or autobiography I've read in a while is Paul Auster's <u>Report from the Interior</u>. Much of the book is written in the second person, highlighting the distance that time has created between the author at his current age and his reflections on his early life. These finely written reflections triggered comparable memories from my own early life. I also enjoyed reading the letters that Auster wrote in his late teens and early twenties. Readers who like fine writing will find the prose in this book very enjoyable.</p>	
<u>Sunset Park</u>	Auster, Paul	***	<u>12/18/10</u>	<p>Broken. Each character and every place in Paul Auster's new novel, <u>Sunset Park</u>, has been broken or wounded by tragedy or crisis or twists of fate. While hope is present, and a chance for redemption seems in sight, something always happens to make life more difficult. Through multiple narrators, readers enter the world of these characters and find both familiar and extraordinary people, places and events that allow Auster to explore aspects of human nature that reveal much about who we are.</p>	

Auster's writing is carefully crafted, and readers who appreciate fine writing will admire this work.

[The Brooklyn Follies](#)

Auster, Paul

[Apr 06](#)

Ordinary. The novel's narrator, Nathan Glass, says he returns to Brooklyn to die, but instead makes a fresh start as Everyman, and thrives. Fine writing, good characters and dialogue.



Travels in the Scriptorium

Auster, Paul

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

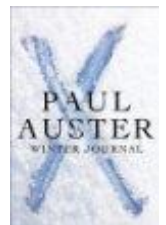


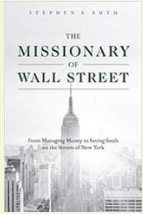

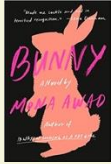
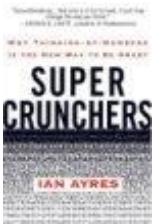
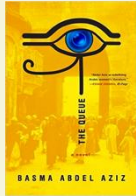
Unconventional. Once I started reading Paul Auster's memoir, [Winter Journal](#), I couldn't stop. Many memoirs are formulaic chronological reflections on either the wonder or terror of the subject's life. Auster follows an unconventional structure using a narrator speaking to the subject, Auster. While odd at first, it became the perfect device for a highly skilled writer to convey wisdom and perspective about his life. Perhaps this book resonated for me because I am just a few years younger than Auster. I found his treatment of his body throughout his life, and the importance of place through each of the twenty one places where he's lived, to be important ways of conveying how we engage in the world. Any reader who appreciates first-rate writing, especially one who enjoys memoirs, is likely to enjoy this finely written memoir.

[Winter Journal](#)



Auster, Paul

[8/21/12](#)



<u>The Missionary of Wall Street: From Managing Money to Saving Souls on the Streets of New York</u>	Auth, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>It's All One Case</u>	Avery, Kevin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>Bunny</u>	Awad, Mona	*****	<u>1/10/20</u>	Workshop. I've never been a fan of small group sharing. You know, everyone sits around in a circle and a variety of viewpoints are expressed. Samantha Heather Mackey is the protagonist of Mona Awad's novel, <u>Bunny</u> , and she's a scholarship student, an outsider in her MFA program at Warren University. A powerful clique in her fiction writing program call each other "Bunny" and workshop moves to a whole other level after Samantha is invited to join the clique. The prose is clever and sharp, and the novel will appeal to fans of finely written literary fiction. Just don't make us sit in a circle and share.	
<u>Super Crunchers: Why Thinking-by-Numbers Is the New Way to Be Smart</u>	Ayres, Ian	***	<u>Jan 08</u>	Statistics. Conversational presentation of the ways in which vast amounts of data are being gleaned by savvy analysts and used to make significant decisions.	
<u>The Queue</u>	Aziz, Abdel	*****	<u>8/24/16</u>	Authority. The pain of living under political repression builds on every page of Abdel Aziz' novel, <u>The Queue</u> . A populist uprising failed, and the authoritarian regime has installed a bureaucracy that presents citizens with the absurdity of their harsh reality. The pain Aziz describes is both physical and psychological. This	

				examination of power and control contains deep insight and understanding. Readers looking to understand better our complex human condition, especially when under the stress of authoritarian rule, will find insights from this finely written novel.	
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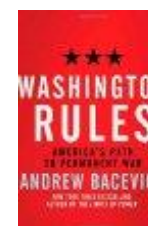
Remember Me	Azzopardi, Trezza	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
The Importance of a Piece of Paper	Baca, Jimmy Santiago	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	

[Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War](#)


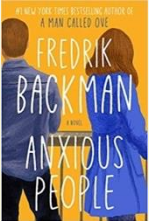
Bacevich, Andrew

[10/26/10](#)

Education. Any engaged citizen will find much to learn and reflect about by reading Andrew Bacevich's new book, [Washington Rules: America's Path to Permanent War](#). Those weary of our current foreign entanglements will find a context and perspective in this book, as retired Army colonel Bacevich describes how the cold war thinking of the mid-twentieth century continues to be the prime driver of our foreign policy, and especially the role of the military in world affairs. Those with a stake in the status quo don't necessarily want an engaged citizenry to question the wisdom of the cost and consequences of our massive military forces. Any independent thinker will find a lot to think about after reading this book, and may, like me, come away with second thoughts about whether or not we should continue to pursue our military strategy.



Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country	Bacevich, Andrew J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>The Age of Illusions: How America Squandered Its Cold War Victory</u>	Bacevich, Andrew J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Out of My Mind</u>	Bach, Richard	DNR		It took about a half hour to read this imaginative book. Skip it.	
<u>The Throwback Special</u>	Bachelder, Chris	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>A Man Called Ove</u>	Backman, Fredrik	*****	<u>1/16/17</u>	Purpose. A friend recommended that I read Fredrik Backman's debut novel titled, <u>A Man Called Ove</u> , and I am grateful for the introduction to this charming book. Protagonist Ove's world turned upside down four years earlier when his wife, Sonia, died. Ove's gruff demeanor and blunt social behavior led most to overlook how much sadness was underneath a rugged exterior. When purpose enters his life, Ove seems to turn around or awaken to a life after Sonia. This memorable and endearing character may cause readers to reflect often about grief and having a purpose in life, as well as that	

<u>And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer</u>	Backman, Fredrik	*****	<u>3/23/17</u>	<p>frequent reminder: things are not often as they appear.</p> <p>Memories. Most readers of Frederik Backman's novella titled, <u>And Every Morning the Way Home Gets Longer and Longer</u>, will be moved by an endearing story of the loss of memory. Many readers will be brought to tears. This is a story of a farewell between a grandfather who is losing his memory and his grandson, Noah. It's a wonderful story of love and finding ways to let go. Pack a hankie for when you read this book.</p>	
<u>Anxious People</u>	Backman, Fredrik	*****	<u>10/19/20</u>	<p>Bridge. No matter how well we think we know another person, there is always more to their story. In his novel titled, <u>Anxious People</u>, Fredrik Bachman introduces readers to a cast of characters who come together in both planned and unexpected ways and end up becoming a bridge for others to cross from one way of being to another. A physical bridge in the novel also provides a common thread to pull the story together. Most readers will laugh along with these interesting and compelling characters, and empathize with the anxiety that we share in common as we face what the world throws at us. If you're looking to read a novel that will help you feel good, consider reading this one.</p>	
<u>Beartown</u>	Backman, Fredrik	*****	<u>6/20/18</u>	<p>Hockey. I've never lived in a small town, and have no interest in hockey, but I recognized the range of familiar behavior in a large cast of characters in Fredrik Backman's novel titled, <u>Beartown</u>. Set in a rural town in Sweden, the lives of many inhabitants revolve around their hockey team, and their plans for a community renewal after their junior team wins a championship. Along the way, Backman injects class conflict and an accusation of rape on the eve of the big game. Every character in the novel is complex and well-drawn. After a few dozen</p>	

pages, most readers will feel as if we are living in Beartown and will root for our favorite characters.

Loyalty. First impressions can be so misleading. The early pages of Frederik Backman's novel titled, [Britt-Marie Was Here](#), present protagonist Britt-Marie as a very annoying person. Her social interactions lack the finesse and ease that mark most of our daily encounters. The annoying aspects of her personality and her ways of relating with others mask the reality of a loving person whose presence changes all those around her for the better. Readers looking for a novel to lift one's spirits should consider reading this joyful novel about an individual whose loyalty can be counted on, no matter what.



[Britt-Marie Was Here](#)

Backman,
Fredrik

[2/23/17](#)

[My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She's Sorry](#)

Backman,
Fredrik

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

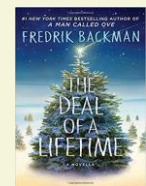


[The Deal of a Lifetime](#)

Backman,
Fredrik

[2/9/18](#)

Value. Many people spend time over the holidays reflecting on what is of lasting value and many use New Year's resolutions as a way to align one's behavior with one's values. One holiday afternoon I read a novella about values and what a life is worth by Fredrik Backman titled, [The Deal of a Lifetime](#). Most readers will spend more time reflecting on the story than is spent reading it. Any reader reflecting on the meaning of life should consider using this novella as one way to delve deeper into those reflections.

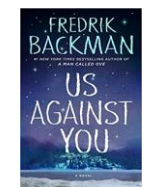


[Us Against You](#)

Backman,
Fredrik

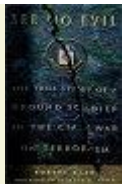
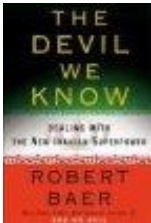
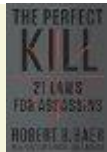


[8/17/18](#)

Survivors. Fredrik Backman returns to Beartown in his novel titled, [Us Against You](#), and the ensemble cast from the previous novel set in this rural Hockey town in Sweden face new challenges. Events from the first novel led players to leave the Beartown team to skate for the team in the



neighboring town of Hed. A new coach for Beartown changes the dynamics, and a politician knows just what it will take to feather his own nest. What Backman does so well in this novel and others is lead us to insights about people, from their good and bad behaviors. Packed with love, friendship and loyalty, this is a story of survival, for a town and for its people.

<u>Leading Quietly: An Unorthodox Guide to Doing the Right Thing</u>	Badaracco, Jr., Joseph L.	****	<u>Apr 02</u>	Lots of leadership books focus on heroes. Badaracco presents those everyday challenges that ordinary people face with all life's ambiguity. Useful and realistic.	
<u>Out of the Wreck I Rise</u>	Bader, Sara and Neil Steinberg	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>The Conflict: How Modern Motherhood Undermines the Status of Women</u>	Badinter, Elisabeth	***	<u>6/14/12</u>	Tethered. Readers looking for something controversial to read may consider Elizabeth Badinter's <u>The Conflict: How Modern Motherhood Undermines the Status of Women</u> . Think of this as the anti-La Leche League book on motherhood, sure to raise the hackles of many readers who have a different point of view. Badinter's key point is that contemporary expectations of mothers tethers them so closely to their children that the stimulating adult lives of these women becomes stifled. Readers wanting to toss a lit firecracker into some close familial relationship can consider presenting this book as a gift to a particular relative.	
<u>Blow the House Down</u>	Baer, Robert	***	<u>Nov 06</u>	Plausible. Former CIA field officer's debut novel presents plausible story of the events preceding 9/11. Disturbing in how much of this fiction may be rooted in facts.	

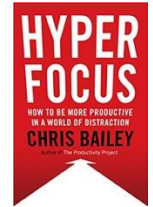
See No Evil: The True Story of a Ground Soldier in the CIA's War on Terrorism	Baer, Robert	***	Jun 02	Disgruntled CIA agent's story of his work life and how the CIA and White House devalues field and foreign agents and sources, weakening the ability of the U.S. to know what's going on around the world.	
The Devil We Know	Baer, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
The Perfect Kill: 21 Laws for Assassins	Baer, Robert B.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
All the Truth Is Out: The Week Politics Went Tabloid	Bai, Matt	****	2/18/15	<p>Character. Readers who enjoy books about politics and politicians are those most likely to enjoy reading a fine book by Matt Bai titled, All the Truth Is Out: The Week Politics Went Tabloid. Bai makes a strong case that American politics changed in a dramatic way the week in 1987 when then-Presidential candidate Gary Hart was whiplashed by the media over allegations of marital infidelity. This was the beginning of a period when images and impressions about character began to trump matters of policy and substance among the electorate. Bai's writing keeps readers engaged, and his insights into Gary Hart and the complexity of character were solid.</p>	
The Argument: Billionaires, Bloggers, and the Battle to Remake Democratic Politics	Bai, Matt	**	Nov 07	<p>Alliances. Interesting description of multiple alliances of those trying to achieve Democratic Party success, written by <i>New York Times</i> reporter. Not much unity has been created yet around what author calls "the argument," that which will bring out voters.</p>	

Hyperfocus: How to Be More Productive in a World of Distraction

Bailey, Chris

2/2/19

Discipline. For as long as I can remember, I've been productive, organized and disciplined. After reading Chris Bailey's book titled, Hyperfocus: How to Be More Productive in a World of Distraction, I understand how and why some of my routine practices have been successful. Readers who have trouble with productivity or with managing distractions will find a lot of practical ideas in this book about ways to get the right things done efficiently and effectively. I especially enjoyed the section of the book about scatterfocus, and the ways in which that approach can lead to creativity.

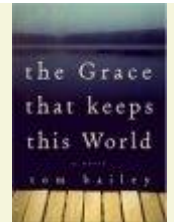


The Grace That Keeps This World

Bailey, Tom

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



To Begin the World Anew: The Genius and Ambiguities of the American Founders

Bailyn, Bernard

May 03

All-American Ambiguity. Bailyn analyzes several leading founders of the United States and succinctly describes both their key contributions and the inconsistencies and real humanity of their lives.



Bull by the Horns: Fighting to Save Main Street from Wall Street and Wall Street from Itself

Bair, Sheila

11/26/12

Selective. In a remarkable show of restraint in her account of her service as chair of the FDIC, Sheila Bair waited until page two before she slammed Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner. Bull by the Horns: Fighting to Save Main Street from Wall Street and Wall Street from Itself presents one piece of the puzzle surrounding the recent financial crisis. I was captivated by Bair's account from beginning to end, and when I finished I felt like I can't wait for Geithner's version of events. One jab from page 170: "Tim seemed to view his job as protecting Citigroup from me, when he should have been worried about protecting the taxpayers from



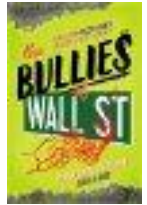
				Citi.” Ouch. This book isn’t all about Bair vs. Geithner. Bair explains her focused role: protecting the FDIC from losses. Combined with the books released and forthcoming from other key participants, readers interested in finance and public policy will be able to assemble a comprehensive view only if one reads every perspective.	
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The Bullies of Wall Street: This Is How Greed Messed Up Our Economy

Bair, Sheila

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



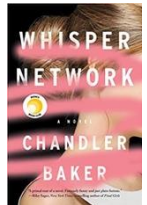
The Corporation	Bakan, Joel	**	Feb 05	Personification. Canadian law professor explains that society has given too much control to corporations and bad behavior should be expected unless new laws reign in corporate greed.	
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[Whisper Network](#)

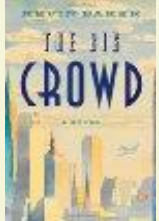
Baker, Chandler

[8/15/19](#)

Harassment. The novel by corporate attorney Chandler Baker titled, [Whisper Network](#), deserves a wide readership. Set inside the legal department of a corporation, the action in the novel revolves around past and present sexual harassment by the company’s General Counsel. Corporate attorneys and human resources managers will take a busman’s holiday with this novel, pleased that their workplace is a much better place for women than the company in this novel. Feminists are likely to feel that Baker speaks their truth with eloquence and explains the ways in which #MeToo gives voice to matters once kept secret. Book clubs are likely to embrace this novel and with wine during conversations, personal stories are likely to be revealed. Any man will benefit from reading this novel especially if it leads to improved listening to




women and an enhanced perspective about the lives of women in contemporary society.

The Big Crowd	Baker, Kevin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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Craft. I started to read to read Lori Baker's debut novel, The Glass Ocean, three different times over the course of several months. Her finely crafted prose, packed with descriptive language, wore me down the first two attempts I made to get into the novel. The third time was the charm. Packed with the atmosphere of the Victorian era in which it is set, I needed to let myself be drawn into that time and setting to allow Baker to work her magic. By the end I was delighted with this story of a woman's recollections of her life in the mid-1800s. The title refers to the glass objects of sea life crafted by her father. Baker applies a similar attention to detail and craftsmanship in her prose, and patient readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction will be rewarded.


The Glass Ocean Baker, Lori **** 9/15/14



<u>A Box of Matches</u>	Baker, Nicholson	**	<u>Mar 03</u>	One a Day. Each chapter opens with the lighting of the fireplace with a match. Readers are invited into the mind of the lighter which Baker exposes day by day in multiple ways. Quirky and interesting.	
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Checkpoint Baker, Nicholson * Nov 04 **Chilling.** Jay invites his friend, Ben, to a hotel room, sets up a videotape, and proceeds to explain that he plans to assassinate the President. Controversial, sparse and cold.



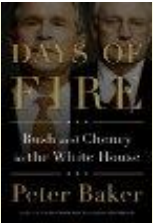
<u>House of Holes</u>	Baker, Nicholson	**	<u>8/19/11</u>	<p>Porny. Nicholson Baker's novel, <u>House of Holes</u>, is a dirty and funny novel that will entertain some readers and gross out others. Baker has more names for body parts and sexual acts than most readers have ever imagined. Those terms and the attempts at sexual pleasure are what brought me to laughter on many pages of this book. Certain sensitive readers will label this pornography and find no redeeming value whatever. In our visual age marked by the use of sex to sell so many products, it was something of a relief to be reminded that the mind and imagination can be the source of pleasure and satisfaction. Let's just hope that this novel is not made into a movie. Some of these scenes are best left to the imagination.</p>	
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<u>Substitute</u>	Baker, Nicholson	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
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The Anthologist	Baker, Nicholson	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
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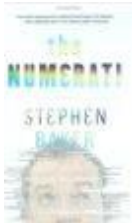
<u>Traveling Sprinkler</u>	Baker, Nicholson	**	<u>1/6/14</u>	<p>Words. Having started to read several books by Nicholson Baker, and having finished some, I've concluded that his love of words can become so obsessive that it requires more patience than I usually have to stay with him to the end. I finished reading his novel, <u>Traveling Sprinkler</u>, that reprises the character Paul Chowder, a poet from an earlier novel, <i>The Anthologist</i>, one that I gave up reading after a few dozen pages. Baker meanders with readers over the course of three hundred pages, finding every possible way to reinforce the sprinkler</p>	
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metaphor, or to digress on any number of subjects. I found some of this writing to be enjoyable, but after a while I couldn't take Paul Chowder's stream of consciousness any longer, and was reluctant to join him on another trip to Planet Fitness. I endured to the end, but found only mild satisfaction. Read a sample to test your own patience before you commit to reading this quirky novel.

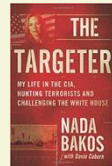
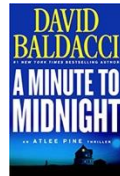
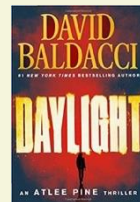
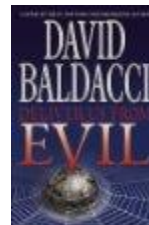
Days of Fire: Bush and Cheney in the White House	Baker, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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Algorithms. Each of us is more than a number: we're the product of complicated algorithms. That's what I concluded after reading Stephen Baker's book, [The Numerati](#). Many smart mathematicians are developing all sorts of ways to predict our behavior, and Baker presents some of the ways in which that is happening. Baker is a *Business Week* reporter, and confesses to being more liberal arts major than math wiz. Thanks to that perspective, [The Numerati](#) provides a sweeping exploration of data mining without plodding down in details that might be of interest only to algorithm writers. Baker structures [The Numerati](#) to describe how our personal information is gathered and used in seven dimensions of our lives: worker, shopper, voter, blogger, terrorist, patient and lover. In each of those chapters, I learned something new, and winced or laughed often. If you're looking for a general overview on the many ways in which personal information is being gathered, analyzed and used, this book provides such an overview.

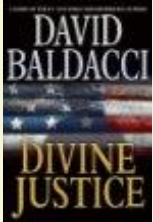
[The Numerati](#) Baker, Stephen *** [2/23/09](#)



<u>The Medical Malpractice Myth</u>	Baker, Tom	****	<u>Feb 06</u>	Evidence. A compelling, factual case for getting to the root of a real problem in medicine: there are more preventable mistakes being made by doctors and nurses. Big payments to undeserving claimants are rare, and few cases of malpractice are litigated.	
<u>Joy At Work: A Revolutionary Approach To Fun On The Job</u>	Bakke, Dennis W.	***	<u>July 05</u>	Righteous. Former AES CEO describes a rare workplace where values for their own sake supercede everything else, leading to a motivated workforce full of people having fun.	
<u>My American Unhappiness</u>	Bakopoulos, Dean	***	<u>9/9/11</u>	Offbeat. Protagonist Zeke Pappas in Dean Bakopoulos' new novel, <u>My American Unhappiness</u> , may be the poster boy for why some politicians want to stop government funding for arts and humanities projects. Zeke is director of the Great Midwestern Humanities Initiative, based in Madison, Wisconsin, and his special area of interest is "The Inventory of American Unhappiness," which assembles all the whiney ways in which people are bummed by the speed bumps of life and the many irritations that can be part of every day's experiences. This amusing and offbeat satire will appeal to those readers who like a spot-on critique of contemporary life, but one that doesn't take itself or ourselves too seriously.	
<u>Summerlong</u>	Bakopoulos, Dean	****	<u>11/6/15</u>	Untied. If you read Dean Bakopoulos' novel, <u>Summerlong</u> , you may never again think of the Midwest and Iowa as boring and conservative places. The summer heat leads to the loosening of marriage and relationship ties, and sadness and humor cross each other with every sunrise and sunset. The characters are real and flawed, just like us. Children and parents are both confused as the recklessness of behavior increases. Desire is a powerful thing, and Bakopoulos' fine writing draws it out with wit and sorrow.	

<u>The Targeter: My Life in the CIA, Hunting Terrorists and Challenging the White House</u>	Bakos, Nada	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>A Minute to Midnight</u>	Baldacci, David	*****	<u>12/16/19</u>	<p>Personal. The second installment in the Atlee Pine series by David Baldacci is titled, <u>A Minute to Midnight</u>. The unsolved murder of FBI agent Pine's twin sister continues to preoccupy her, so she and her assistant take some time off from work to return to Georgia and investigate the old case. Small towns and long held secrets go hand in hand, and Atlee finds herself reliving the trauma of the past as she uses her skills to solve the old case.</p>	
<u>Daylight</u>	Baldacci, David	*****	<u>12/21/20</u>	<p>Search. The third installment of David Baldacci's series featuring FBI agent Atlee Pine is a novel titled, <u>Daylight</u>. Pine and her sidekick, Carol Blum, have left Arizona to search for Atlee's missing sister, Mercy. As they follow leads, they stumble into the case of another recurring Baldacci protagonist, John Puller, and they combine forces to help each other. The action proceeds rapidly, as Pine and Puller utilize all their skills to defeat opponents and get the answers they are after. Fans of this series and crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>Deliver Us From Evil</u>	Baldacci, David	**	<u>6/14/10</u>	<p>Loss. I'm at a loss to understand why David Baldacci sells so many books. His latest, <u>Deliver Us From Evil</u>, reprises protagonist Shaw from an earlier novel, and introduces a new character, Reggie Campion. Katie James also appears in this novel. Reggie works as a killer for a vigilante organization that selects as targets criminals who have escaped justice, characters they call monsters. Think of the work as a battle of evil against evil. Shaw meets Reggie as his clandestine organization</p>	

and Reggie's have targeted the same monster. Set mostly in Provence, England and Labrador, the novel provides a fast-paced plot delivered with bite-sized chapters packed with poorly written dialogue. The descriptions of torture are too vivid and add nothing to but more unnecessary evil to the novel. Deliver us from Baldacci. Readers who like to stick to familiar authors will find action here, along with poor writing. Discriminating readers will find plenty of better choices from Daniel Silva or Alan Furst.

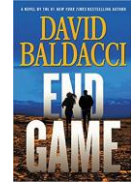
<u>Divine Justice</u>	Baldacci, David	**	3/30/09	<p>Tiresome. David Baldacci's fourth Camel Club novel, <u>Divine Justice</u>, picks up where he ended the third one, <i>Stone Cold</i>. Protagonist Oliver Stone (John Carr) has to get out of D.C. following his murder of both a United States Senator and the head of the CIA. He ends up hiding out in Justice, Virginia, a mining town with a supermax prison. Despite Stone's skills, he couldn't successfully hide from either his government pursuer or from the remaining members of the Camel Club who wanted to find him. Since trouble always follows Stone, life in Justice, Virginia isn't what it seems to be, and the cast of bad guys there leads to big trouble for Stone. There's violence, murder, secrets and more near-death experiences than one individual could ever expect. Baldacci stretches it all out, milking the chapters for all he possibly contrive, and may actually bring this series to an end with this book. Fans of Baldacci and the series will probably appreciate the effort in <u>Divine Justice</u>, but fans of thrillers and mysteries may find the writing too tiresome to enjoy reading this mediocre offering.</p> 
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End Game

Baldacci, David

12/7/17

Rescue. The fifth novel in the Will Robie series by David Baldacci is titled, End Game. Robie and Jessica Reel are sent on a search and rescue mission. Fans of the series will enjoy the ways in which Will and Jessica's skills are deployed in this story. New readers who enjoy action thrillers will find some pleasure here. This is a formulaic novel that had few surprises, but lots of implausible action.



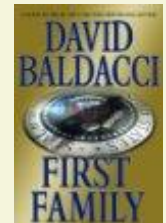
First Family

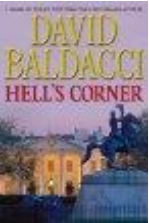
Baldacci, David

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5/25/09

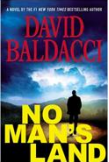
Disbelief. Novelists ask readers to suspend our disbelief while they present their imagined characters and situations in ways that lead us to recognize something about human nature or relationships. Some novelists, like David Baldacci, have created brands with their novels that reprise characters and place them in new situations. Protagonists Sean King and Michelle Maxwell return in Baldacci's latest novel, First Family. Sean and Michelle are competent private investigators, and former Secret Service agents. In First Family, they've been hired by the First Lady to find a missing child. What unfolds has all the qualities of a thriller: fast-paced action and plot twists and turns. For me, the novel fell apart in the middle when there were few characters that had any complexity or multiple dimensions. Past the middle, the plot became so implausible that any surrender of disbelief became impossible. I plodded through to the end, shaking my head at the drivel that can sell a lot of books. If you're looking for an escape from reality, and little need to engage your mind, consider reading First Family.




<u>Hell's Corner</u>	Baldacci, David	***	<u>12/18/10</u>	<p>Surprises. Many readers enjoy escapist action thrillers as relaxing entertainment that demands the use of a small number of brain cells. David Baldacci fills that niche with most of his novels, and the latest Camel Club novel, <u>Hell's Corner</u>, provides enough surprises and plot twists to entertain, but not enough insight to require thought. Protagonist John Carr finds himself in a new set of implausible situations, and with the support of others, performs the impossible more than once. Readers will find this to be quick and easy reading, and a book that provides entertainment without straining the mind.</p>	
<u>Hour Game</u>	Baldacci, David	**	<u>Apr 05</u>	<p>Copies. Reprised characters bumble along from one copycat murder to another in a plot that drags after a promising start.</p>	
<u>King and Maxwell</u>	Baldacci, David	***	<u>12/27/13</u>	<p>Preposterous. Readers who like character-based thrillers are those most likely to enjoy reading David Baldacci's novel, <u>King and Maxwell</u>, the latest in a series featuring former Secret Service agents Sean King and Michelle Maxwell who now work together as private investigators. While I've read the earlier novels in this series, and find the characters familiar and interesting, they remain for me underdeveloped and not very complex. In the latest novel, Baldacci has outdone himself with a preposterous plot from the first chapter until the end. The actions of major and minor characters required far more suspension of disbelief than I was willing to offer. I kept reading because I began to find the whole plot amusing, and looked forward to the heroic actions that would lead to resolution of a ludicrous case. For light entertainment, this novel works, especially for those who don't want to be thinking while they are reading. Relax, sit back, and</p>	

enjoy the fast-paced action while not reflecting on how implausible all this is.

<u>Last Man Standing</u>	Baldacci, David	**	<u>Jan 02</u>	The plot is creative, and contains enough twists to keep a reader somewhat interested, despite the weak dialogue and limited use of the language.	
<u>Long Road to Mercy</u>	Baldacci, David	**	<u>12/13/18</u>	<p>Misfire. David Baldacci introduces a new series in a novel titled, <u>Long Road to Mercy</u>. FBI agent Atlee Pine is the protagonist of the series, and she is by no means an ordinary or average character. Her strength is extraordinary, thanks to weightlifting. We expect FBI agents to comply with the chain of command, but Pine doesn't. In our usual world, agents work in teams, but Pine works solo, albeit with the able assistance of her competent secretary. With that backdrop of disbelief about the central character, Baldacci puts her into a heroic battle with global consequences in a situation while ripped from today's news headlines came across as totally implausible. The third misfire for me came from the weak dialogue. The way all characters spoke in this novel rang hollow. Baldacci fans may be the readers most likely to enjoy this book. I've found him with hits and misses in the past and place this novel in the misfire category.</p>	
<u>Memory Man</u>	Baldacci, David	****	<u>6/10/15</u>	<p>Decker. Prolific novelist David Baldacci begins a new crime fiction series as he introduces Amos Decker in a novel titled, <u>Memory Man</u>. Baldacci satisfies readers in this book with three elements critical to this genre: fast-paced action; interesting characters, and descriptive language that helps readers visualize the action. Amos Decker suffered a brain injury playing football and he has the blessing and curse of now being able to remember everything and forget nothing. Fans of Baldacci's writing and those who like crime fiction are the</p>	

				<p>readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p> <p>Weaponized. I have to admit that the dialogue in the fourth novel in the John Puller series by David Baldacci titled, <u>No Man's Land</u>, made my eyes roll often. While Baldacci uses dialogue to contribute to exposition, he doesn't seem to have an ear for the way people really talk. For readers and fans who can set that aside, this action-packed novel will provide a lot of escapist pleasure. There's a Puller family story at the core of the novel, and a character, Paul Rogers, who has been the subject of a government program gone awry. Rogers' body and mind were configured as weapons. Uncovering the who and why behind that as well as the Puller family connection, occupy over four hundred meandering pages. Readers who like this author and this series are those most likely to appreciate this novel.</p>	
<u>No Man's Land</u>	Baldacci, David	***	<u>12/9/16</u>		
<u>One Good Deed</u>	Baldacci, David	****	<u>9/3/19</u>	<p>Archer. Prolific author David Baldacci tries something new in his novel titled, <u>One Good Deed</u>. Baldacci sets this novel in a different time period from his earlier novels. This time out, Baldacci sets the novel in 1949, and features a new protagonist, Aloysius Archer, who served in World War II and, as this novel opens, has been paroled from Carderock Prison, where he served time for a crime he didn't commit. Directed to the small town of Poca City, Archer quickly gets the lay of the land, gets hired for a freelance job, and finds himself in the thick of events in this town that involve love and money and family. The plot is entertaining and the protagonist interesting.</p>	

<u>One Summer</u>	Baldacci, David	*	<u>8/23/11</u>	<p>Melodrama. David Baldacci has taken a break from thrillers to write a family melodrama titled, <u>One Summer</u>. This sappy tear-jerker read as if it were intended for a made for TV after school special. The family dynamics across generations are predictable and the life-changing events are out of a soap opera. Character development is flat. The story can be engaging at times, and after a while most readers will want to stick with it to find out how things get resolved.</p>	
<u>Redemption</u>	Baldacci, David	****	<u>5/9/19</u>	<p>Infiltration. The fifth novel by David Baldacci to feature memory man Amos Decker is titled, <u>Redemption</u>. While Amos is visiting the graves of his wife and daughter, he is approached by Meryl Hawkins, a very ill man recently released from prison. Hawkins claims that he was innocent of the crime, the first homicide case Decker worked on as a local police detective. After Hawkins is murdered Decker feels duty bound to revisit the old case to see if mistakes were made. Fans of crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy the many plot twists in this novel, and fans of the series will be rooting for Decker at every turn.</p>	
<u>Simple Genius</u>	Baldacci, David	**	<u>Oct 07</u>	<p>Puzzles. Reprised former Secret Service agents Sean King and Michelle Maxwell have to solve puzzles involving a secret think tank, and readers are dragged along as they slowly unravel the case.</p>	
<u>Split Second</u>	Baldacci, David	*	<u>Jan 04</u>	<p>Slow Motion. Another attempt at a suspense novel becomes entangled in poor writing and fading reader interest over more than 400 pages of occasional fast-paced action.</p>	

Stone Cold	Baldacci, David	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Camel Club	Baldacci, David	**	May 06	Revenge. Predictable junk reading escapist fare, with greater complexity and sensationalism than prior novels. Unlikely situations, thrilling plot, many characters.	
The Christmas Train	Baldacci, David	*	Jan 03	No Twain. Weak dialogue, unsympathetic characters, lame story, slow plot development. Happily, it's not too many pages. Modeled after a story Mark Twain didn't write. Our loss.	
The Collectors	Baldacci, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The Escape	Baldacci, David	****	1/23/15	Treason. The third novel by David Baldacci in his series featuring protagonist John Puller is titled, The Escape . I've enjoyed this series more than some of Baldacci's earlier novels, and I was thoroughly entertained by this exciting story of the brothers Puller, family ties and treason. Packed with details and tension, this novel will appeal to those readers who enjoy thrillers, especially those that seem to come straight from newspaper headlines.	
The Fallen	Baldacci, David	****	6/2/18	Compassion. Protagonist Amos Decker returns in the fourth installment of the Memory Man series by David Baldacci, a novel titled, The Fallen . Fans of the series are those readers most likely to enjoy this addition to the series. Baldacci continues to deepen	

the development of this interesting character, in this novel by the compassion and care that Amos provides to a young girl who is dealing with missing her deceased dad. Decker's own experience gives him the way to provide compassion and help. As always with Baldacci, the plot moves quickly, the story is engaging, and the characters are interesting.

The Fix

Baldacci, David

6/16/17

Dance. The third novel in a series by David Baldacci to feature protagonist Amos Decker is titled, The Fix. Fans of this series will enjoy the continuity from the last novel and the setup for the next one. I see this continuity and setup as the dance between the serial author and readers: for some dance partners the pace is too slow and for others the dance never lasts long enough. I was entertained by this novel, mostly because I think Amos Decker is a very interesting character, and he continues to develop in this novel in interesting ways. The dance for me was neither too fast nor too slow. The series moved on incrementally, and I look forward to another installment. Fans of Baldacci novels, whether this series or others, are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

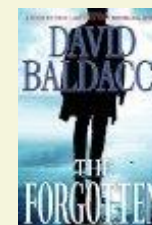


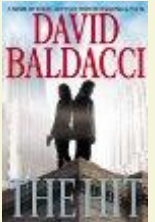
The Forgotten

Baldacci, David

2/4/13

Power. Readers who like thrillers featuring the heroic competence of a righteous protagonist are those most likely to enjoy David Baldacci's The Forgotten. John Puller is an Army special investigator and the son of a retired and ailing general. The thrill is what happens when Puller goes to Florida at his father's assignment on a personal mission: to see what is troubling the general's sister. Puller finds his aunt dead, and uses all his skills and talents to solve the crime. Baldacci keeps the action moving quickly, develops allies and villains with dispatch, and allows Puller to do



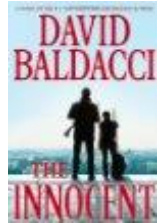
			that he does best. Baldacci kept me interested in this story from beginning to end.	
<u>The Guilty</u>	Baldacci, David	****	<p><u>2/25/16</u></p> <p>Unexpected. Serial fiction can develop characters in many different ways. Sometimes, the protagonist grows gradually in each episode. Other times, there seems to be such stability that the stories seem repetitious. David Baldacci takes a different approach in his fourth novel featuring assassin Will Robie titled, <u>The Guilty</u>. Baldacci takes Robie back home to provide insight into how he became the person he is, and focuses on the challenges in a father-son relationship that has been strained for decades. Readers find a more vulnerable Robie as he tries to grapple with the fact that his father has been arrested for murder. The unexpected twists in the plot strained credulity, but Baldacci does that often. This contribution to the series may polarize fans, but I found the unexpected diversion interesting and enjoyable, despite some ludicrous plot twists.</p>	
<u>The Hit</u>	Baldacci, David	****	<p><u>5/21/13</u></p> <p>Insiders. Clandestine assassin Will Robie returns as protagonist in David Baldacci's novel, <u>The Hit</u>. I can almost imagine Baldacci's thought process as he planned this novel. Who could best complement Robie? The solution seems obvious: a female assassin working for the same agency. Jessica Reel is as complicated and troubled a character as Robie, but usually Baldacci leaves character development to spread over several books, and that's the case here. Where Baldacci excels is at creating a fast-paced plot, and this plot kept me engaged from beginning to end. Powerful government insiders are implementing a plan that will change the world. Robie and Reel become caught up in deciding the right path for them to pursue, in compliance or defiance of orders. Fans who like action thrillers are those most likely to be pleased by this one.</p>	

The Innocent

Baldacci, David

7/16/12

Plot. The complicated plot kept me entertained throughout David Baldacci's novel, The Innocent. The protagonist is Will Robie who works as a professional assassin for the United States. Baldacci often pairs a male protagonist with a female collaborator, and in this novel, it's a fourteen year old runaway. These two characters are smart and competent, and the twisting plot keeps them moving from the beginning of the novel to the end. Fans of thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this one.

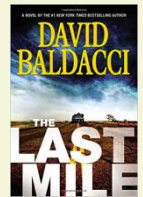


The Last Mile

Baldacci, David

8/24/16

Persistence. David Baldacci reprises his serial character with perfect memory, Amos Decker, for a second novel titled, The Last Mile. Decker has joined a special FBI team and uses that opportunity to pursue a case that has similarities to his own life. Once on the case, Decker doesn't give up, no matter what. Baldacci riffs on racism and power in this novel, while presenting a fast-paced plot to meet readers' expectations. Decker's character development goes deeper in this novel, and as a result what had been a freaky skill becomes a useful tool. With Decker on the case readers don't need to remember every detail, we just need to relax and enjoy the story.

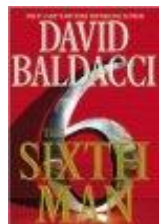


The Sixth Man

Baldacci, David

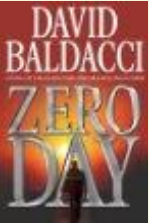
6/7/11


Brains. My low expectations for David Baldacci's novel, The Sixth Man, were exceeded. Dynamic duo Sean King and Michelle Maxwell return to face powerful adversaries at the top of the government as they stumble into secrets that many want to keep hidden from scrutiny. While Baldacci's character development remains shallow, and many plot elements are a bit farfetched, I found myself enjoying the novel, and was engaged after the first third until the end, even finding my brain engaged once in a while. Readers looking for simple escape fiction are those most likely to enjoy this book.


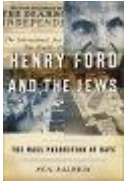



<u>The Target</u>	Baldacci, David	****	<u>5/16/14</u>	<p>Orders. Readers who like character-driven action novels will find a lot of satisfaction from reading David Baldacci's <u>The Target</u>. Protagonists Will Robie and Jessica Reel are reprised along with other characters from previous novels, so longtime fans will feel comfortable with familiar people. One theme in the novel involves whether to follow orders or not, a dicey matter to consider in the chain of command world of Robie and Reel. Baldacci takes some of the action to North Korea in this novel and the situation there will drive chills up the spines of most readers.</p>	
<u>The Whole Truth</u>	Baldacci, David	***	<u>Aug 08</u>	<p>Absolute. No room for nuance or subtlety in this action novel pitting competent hero against evil villain. Entertaining summer reading.</p>	
<u>True Blue</u>	Baldacci, David	**	<u>12/12/09</u>	<p>False. The plot of David Baldacci's new novel, <u>True Blue</u>, moved quickly and provided lots of suspense. While I kept wanting to savor the development of the interesting characters, I found that with every passing chapter, they became more cardboard-like rather than human. Set in Washington, DC, two sisters are featured: one the police chief, the other, a former cop who's being released from jail as the story opened. A hundred or more pages could have been edited out of this novel without much loss. Readers looking for a thrill will find some pleasure here, but those who want more depth to characters, should look beyond <u>True Blue</u> for something else.</p>	
<u>Walk the Wire</u>	Baldacci, David	****	<u>5/26/20</u>	<p>Murders. The sixth Memory Man novel by David Baldacci featuring Amos Decker is a novel titled, <u>Walk the Wire</u>. Amos and partner Alex Jamison are sent by the FBI to North Dakota to investigate a murder. It takes lots of pages of exposition for us to know why this murder has brought in the FBI, and</p>	

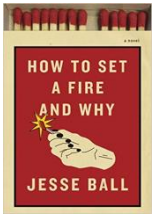

even Amos Decker's perfect memory has trouble keeping track of the mayhem at play in this novel. Layers of secrets are eventually uncovered, to the satisfaction of close readers who ache to see every murder solved and the story brought to a satisfying resolution. As a bonus to Baldacci fans, the author brings characters from another series, Will Robie and Jessica Reel, to North Dakota to help out Amos and Alex. Fans of crime fiction, this author, and this series are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

<u>Zero Day</u>	Baldacci, David	***	<u>1/5/12</u>	<p>Character. I read David Baldacci's novels because I find them amusing and entertaining. I'm often most amused by poorly written dialogue or characters that are stereotypes or poorly developed. In his latest novel, <u>Zero Day</u>, Baldacci seems to start from scratch. He introduces a new heroic protagonist, John Puller, and I found myself recognizing the individual and rooting for his success. The fast pace of the plot and the thrilling action kept me turning pages quickly, and I found the dialogue was not as distracting as it had been in earlier Baldacci novels. Readers who like character-driven action thrillers are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
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<u>You Can't Spell America Without Me</u>	Baldwin, Alec and Kurt Andersen	***	<u>1/4/18</u>	<p>Overdosed. Anyone who's entertained by Alec Baldwin's impersonation of Donald Trump should enjoy reading (or listening to) a new book by Baldwin and Kurt Anderson titled, <u>You Can't Spell America Without Me</u>. I found some humor in this book, but realized pretty quickly that I am entertained better by this impersonation in small doses. Taking it all in at once was less entertaining and more overwhelming. Readers who can pace themselves can avoid such overdosing.</p>	
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Paris, 1200	Baldwin, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Henry Ford and the Jews: The Mass Production of Hate	Baldwin, Neil	***	May 02	Baldwin traces how Henry Ford personally fed the flames of anti-Semitism around the world during the 20 th century.	
The American Revelation	Baldwin, Neil	***	Feb 06	Unity. The stories of ten idealists who helped form our common American character. Explores ten ideals, where they came from, and what they mean for modern Americans.	
Paris, I Love You But You're Bringing Me Down	Baldwin, Rosecrans	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
You Lost Me There	Baldwin, Rosecrans	***	8/2/11	Island. Some relationships remain strong because of the power of shared memories. What happens when one's memory of certain events varies from the recollection of a loved one who was present? Rosecrans Baldwin sets his debut novel, You Lost Me There , in Maine on Mount Desert Island, and he uses the grief of a spouse on the death of his wife as a way to explore the power of memory in our relationships. It's ironic that protagonist Victor Aaron is an expert on Alzheimer's disease especially after he learns from his late wife Sara's notes that her experience of their three-decade marriage varied a lot from his version of what their life was	

				like. Readers who like to sample the work of new authors will find much good writing in this book.	
The Inventor and the Tycoon: A Gilded Age Murder and the Birth of Moving Pictures	Ball, Edward	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
The Sweet Hell Inside: A Family History	Ball, Edward	**	Mar 02	Slave descendents become wealthy undertakers as family faces life's challenges from Civil War to today. One family's story can be everyone's story.	
A Cure for Suicide	Ball, Jesse	****	11/6/15	Consequence. I can't even begin to pin down exactly what Jesse Ball accomplished in his finely written and unusual novel titled, A Cure for Suicide . What I do know is that I found his prose lyrical and perfectly constructed. At different times, I saw philosophical framing, psychological insight, a search for meaning, and an examination of love and memory. I gave myself over to the discovery of insight from the most ordinary things or events. Here's an example, "I've always felt, said Emma, that people misunderstand consequence. Anything really can be the consequence of something else. That's our human gift. So, when someone loses a paring knife, well, who is to say what will happen?" Ball presents this human gift for patient readers, and I, for one, unwrapped the gift with great pleasure.	
Census	Ball, Jesse	****	4/23/18	Journey. From birth, we sentient beings are on a journey toward death, trying along the way to figure out what life is all about. In his novel titled, Census , Jesse Ball uses finely crafted prose and a creative imagination to offer a kind and loving model of our common journey. After an ill widower learns that	

			<p>he does not have long to live, his concern turns toward who will care for his son with Down syndrome. He decides to take a final trip with his son from towns A toward Z while serving as a census taker. Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
How to Set a Fire and Why	Ball, Jesse	****	<p><u>8/19/16</u></p> <p>Voice. I can't get the voice of Lucia Stanton out of my head. This teenage protagonist in Jesse Ball's novel, How to Set a Fire and Why, is smart, angry, trying hard to find her place in the world, and weighed down by personal loss. Ball's prose develops this intelligent and complex character with care and precision through journal entries. There's a place for each of us to fit into the world, and Lucia dreams of finding her place. Fans of literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
Silence Once Begun	Ball, Jesse	****	<p><u>6/18/14</u></p> <p>Questions. Readers who like novels that explore deep questions and who are open to a quirky and unusual structure are those most likely to enjoy reading Jesse Ball's novel, Silence Once Begun. Why would an innocent man not speak up for himself? What is justice? Thirty years after an innocent man kept silence while imprisoned, a journalist named Jesse Ball questions many people about what happened. Readers are left wondering which accounts are closer to the truth. Photographs appear at different points in the text, speaking in a way to the reader, like the silence that also speaks powerfully. I enjoyed the creativity of this novel and was able to appreciate the unusual way in which Ball wrote it.</p>	

[The Curfew](#)

Ball, Jesse

[8/19/11](#)

Puppets. Pick a sunny day to read Jesse Ball's latest novel, [The Curfew](#). There's despair and darkness in a city under authoritarian rule. In this dystopian setting, William and Molly, father and daughter, try to carve out a life rooted in their love for each other. Ball's lyrical writing contrasts with the bleak context, and the puppet show at the end of the novel allows a fantasy to pull the story together. Readers who like Cormac McCarthy's *The Road* are likely to enjoy this novel.



[The Divers' Game](#)

Ball, Jesse

[12/16/19](#)

Uncomfortable. Most readers will feel unsettled while and after reading Jesse Ball's novel titled, [The Divers' Game](#). Using fine prose, Ball pulls readers into examining a society in which violence against the other is not only commonplace, it is expected. Is this who we are becoming? Where is compassion? This short book packs a wallop and I can't say how long it takes for the unsettled feeling to pass, because for me, it remains.



[The Way Through Doors](#)

Ball, Jesse

**

[5/25/09](#)

Meandering. Don't even think about trying to read Jesse Ball's novel, [The Way Through Doors](#), while at the beach or on an airplane. After any distraction, I found I had to go back a few pages to see if I could catch the thread again of where I left off and what exactly was happening. This quirky and meandering quality is either the charm or the defect of Ball's prose. I lost patience and charged ahead to finish the book, mostly to make it stop. Protagonist Selah Morse witnesses a taxi hit a pedestrian, and he decides to go with her to the hospital, where he weaves a complicated and convoluted story to help her recover her memory. The stories within his narrative begin to seem to be going somewhere, and then peter out before any resolution is achieved. Ball creates an alternative reality that may appeal to some readers, but for me, I became more irritated than satisfied as I



continued to read. There's a fine quality to Ball's prose that merits my two-star recommendation to those readers who are game to give him your time and attention.

Collision 2012: Obama vs. Romney and the Future of Elections in America	Balz, Dan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
The Shadow Factory: The Ultra-Secret NSA from 9/11 to the Eavesdropping on America	Bamford, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Breaking Windows: How Bill Gates Fumbled the Future of Microsoft	Bank, David	***	11/01	Inside scoop from e-mail and interviews blaming Gates for maintaining the Windows Everywhere strategy instead of moving faster on the Internet.	
The Wonder Spot	Bank, Melissa	***	Aug 05	Progressive. Chick lit novel provides vignettes in the life of Sophie Applebaum and gradually reveals her struggles in relationship with family, work, and men.	
A Permanent Member of the Family	Banks, Russell	*****	2/7/14	Economy. I've waited more than a decade for another short story collection from Russell Banks. At last, twelve stories, including four previously unpublished ones, have been assembled into A Permanent Member of the Family . One could teach for a semester using each of these stories as an example of the best contemporary representations of this genre. Banks uses just a few sentences to	

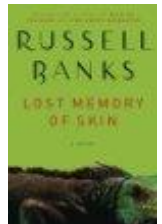
			<p>flesh out complex characters, and he sets them in situations that reflect the challenges of our contemporary lives. Many are struggling in relationships and facing financial difficulties. Always, there's a moral component that is key to the story. I'm hard pressed to name a favorite from this dozen. I found each story worthy of a second or third reading, bringing pleasure and new insight each time. Readers who appreciate fine literary writing, especially those who like short stories, will find a lot to enjoy in this collection.</p>	
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[Lost Memory of Skin](#)

Banks, Russell

[10/27/11](#)

Shadows. It's a rare novelist who can hold up a mirror to readers about modern life by using unsympathetic characters to provide insight into human nature from the behavior of outcasts. The shadows and dark corners of society and personality are explored by Russell Banks in his new novel, [Lost Memory of Skin](#). A protagonist whose only name is The Kid, finds himself in his early twenties as a convicted sex offender, a virgin, and living underneath a Florida causeway, the only place far enough away from children to meet the terms of his probation. Another nameless character, The Professor, is also an outcast. Banks uses both characters to lead readers to think about people around us, and ourselves, in new ways.



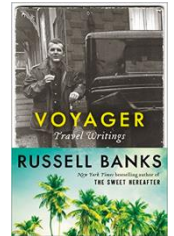
<u>The Reserve</u>	Banks, Russell	****	<p><u>Apr 08</u></p> <p>Truth. Finely written novel, set during the Depression on a private refuge for a few wealthy families in the Adirondacks, replete with contrasts, complex characters, and insights about behavior and relationships.</p>	
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Voyager: Travel Writings

Banks, Russell

7/22/16

Escape. Travel takes us away from where we are and toward becoming aware of who we are. Travel writing can be banal or can lead us to deep insight. Russell Banks is a terrific writer, and the essays in Voyager: Travel Writings were a delight to read. While I would never want to climb a mountain, his writing about climbing gave me some insights into human nature. While I would never want to drive a Hummer, his driving experience for a magazine article made me laugh. Having been married for decades, I don't identify with his experience of four marriages, but his writing about eloping with his fourth wife was enlightening. Readers who like fine writing, and have an appreciation for wanderlust of all sorts are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.



The Killing Tide

Bannalac, Jean-Luc

4/23/20

Discovery. The fifth Commissaire Dupin novel by Jean-Luc Bannalac is titled, The Killing Tide. I thought a good mystery would be ideal covid-19 reading, but instead I found myself bogged down with Dupin in a difficult case on an island where he did not want to be (either). Every now and then I could smell the sea air and salivate when the narrative turned to Brittany food. Murders are complicated in this installment, as is the possible discovery of an object of great value. Dupin and his team try to stay a step ahead and are thwarted at every turn. Fans of crime fiction and this series are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.

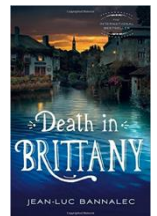


Death in Brittany

Bannalec, Jean-Luc

5/4/16

Inheritance. I always hesitate before opening the first novel in what is likely to be a series. Do I really want to add another author whose next installment I will look forward to while my reading queue grows beyond reason? In the case of Jean-Luc Bannelec's Commissaire Dupin series, I didn't hesitate long. The debut novel, titled, Death in Brittany, features police inspector Georges Dupin, who has moved



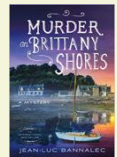
from Paris to the Breton coast of France. Bannalec describes Brittany with a loving eye, develops Dupin and other characters well, and offers a mystery plot that is satisfying. This is a story about inheritance, and the strange ways in which family relationships seem to go awry. Dupin has the advantages and disadvantages of being an outsider, and the pace with which he solves the case seemed just right to me. Fans of crime fiction should take a look at this novel.

Islands. The second novel in Jean-Luc Bannalec's Commissaire Dupin series is titled, [Murder on Brittany Shores](#). Dupin has been outsider enough in his transition from Paris to Breton, but the latest case takes him even further outside his comfort zone: the Glénan Islands, about ten miles off the Brittany coast. Bannalec describes this magical place with enough detail that a reader might smell and taste the sea and its bounty. In this area, time stands still, connecting past and present. When three bodies wash up on shore, Dupin arrives at what he thinks is the result of an accident. Readers ride the waves with Dupin as he unravels a complicated and satisfying case. I especially enjoyed this perspective from page 226: "Bretons had, Dupin found, a special relationship with time, with the past, even the far-distant past. Which above all meant: it didn't exist for Bretons, the past. It had not passed. Nothing was past. Everything that there had been was also present and would stay that way forever. This didn't reduce the significance of the present at all, on the contrary: it made it even greater." Fans of crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

[Murder on Brittany Shores](#)

Bannalec, Jean-Luc

[8/19/16](#)



[The Fleur de Sel Murders](#)

Bannalec, Jean-Luc

[8/17/18](#)

Scheme. The third installment in the Brittany Mystery Series by Jean-Luc Bannalec featuring Commissaire Dupin is titled, [The Fleur de Sel Murders](#). The famous salt from Brittany features prominently in this novel, as Dupin continues to shed his Parisian perspective as he learns to love Bretons and their beautiful area. Dupin's partner on a murder case is a Breton, Commissaire Rose, and she is a formidable and independent ally. This pair works fast and hard to get to the bottom of a scheme and to uncover the villains. Fans of crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel. Readers will learn lots about salt from this novel and fans will look forward to the next novel in the series.



[The Missing Corpse](#)

Bannalec, Jean-Luc

[6/10/19](#)

Belon. The fourth installment in the Brittany Mystery Series by Jean-Luc Bannalec is titled, [The Missing Corpse](#). There's no rushing Commissaire Georges Dupin as he connects the dots to solve a murder mystery. Much of the action in this installment takes place alongside the Belon River with its prized oyster beds. There's also a connection to Scotland and Celtic heritage in Brittany through shared cultivation of bagpipes and oysters. This novel is a mystery lover's treat, with an added bonus for gastronomes. I savored the engaging mystery and will now search for a dozen oysters to pair with a French white wine with just the right level of minerality.

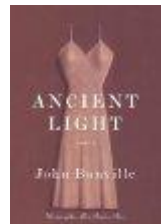


[Ancient Light](#)


Banville, John


[12/13/12](#)

Memory. I find that as I get older the sharpness of my memory comes into very clear focus, especially when I recall people or events decades ago. John Banville writes lyrically about memory in his novel [Ancient Light](#). I read this novel slowly and savored the fine language. I found myself pausing to reread Banville's choice of words and appreciate how perfectly constructed his prose can be. I've liked

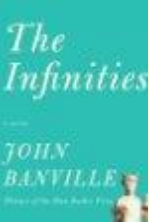




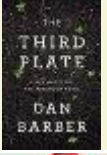
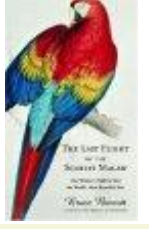

Banville's crime novels written as Benjamin Black, and that quick pace and unadorned language is a sharp contrast to this more literary style of fiction. Readers who like detailed images and finely crafted prose are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.

<u>Long Lankin</u>	Banville, John	***	<u>10/8/13</u>	<p>Early. I zipped through the short stories in a collection titled <u>Long Lankin</u>, representing early writing by John Banville. I found it hard to separate my perspective on the recent long fiction, which I loved, from these raw sketches. With the benefit of hindsight, it is easy for most readers to see the great skill that Banville displays in these early works. I finished each story somewhat satisfied, but wishing that the characters were more fully developed, as Banville has done in his novels. Some great writers specialize in genre, and I'm clearly biased that Banville's novels allow him the space to explore life more completely. These short pieces show great skill and insight, but left me longing for more.</p>	
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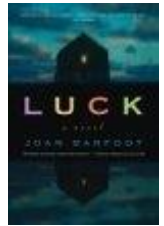
<u>Mrs. Osmond</u>	Banville, John	****	<u>5/11/18</u>	<p>Freedom. Every time I finish reading a novel by John Banville, I think about the delight he must feel in his freedom to have fun by writing the books he wants to write. In his latest novel titled, <u>Mrs. Osmond</u>, Banville takes Isabel Archer, the heroine of Henry James' novel, <i>The Portrait of a Lady</i>, and twists the story in ways that made me smile. While the prose can be tough slogging at times as Banville writes in the style of James for this homage, the shift in plot made up for any challenges. Isabel returns to Gilbert Osmond in Italy with a surprise and she is admired by the way in which she turns the tables on a bad situation. This novel is all about freedom and Banville's joy in writing it comes through, especially for those readers who enjoy literary fiction.</p>	
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<u>Snow</u>	Banville, John	****	<p><u>11/24/20</u></p> <p>Fury. Now that I've read the crime novel by John Banville titled, <u>Snow</u>, I remain unsure about exactly what the writer is up to. Banville had been writing crime fiction under a pseudonym, Benjamin Black, often imitating the style of Raymond Chandler. He presented a terrific protagonist, pathologist Garrett Quirke, and loyal readers enjoyed a series of novels featuring the increasingly complex Quirke. Banville has dropped the pseudonym and pulled a minor character, St. John Strafford, from one of the Quirke novels and gives him a book of his own. Detective Inspector Strafford has been sent from Dublin to County Wexford to investigate the murder of a priest. What follows is the fury that is a consequence of sexual abuse, both religious and class divisions, and the influence of the Catholic Church in 1957 when the novel is set. Instead of being a well-structured crime novel with a strong protagonist, or a finely written literary novel, we have something of a hybrid which may not satisfy fans of either genre. I was entertained enough but remain a bit bewildered by exactly what Banville was trying to do here.</p>	
<u>The Blue Guitar</u>	Banville, John	****	<p><u>6/24/16</u></p> <p>Theft. John Banville has filled his novel, <u>The Blue Guitar</u>, with beautifully written prose. I found myself reading several sentences multiple times to enjoy how perfectly crafted they were, and how word choices seemed perfect. Narrated by an unappealing and very introspective artist, the novel explores the creative process and the essence of art. The narrator is proud to have been a thief, and in many respects, most art involves minor theft of ideas and forms from others. Fans of finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	

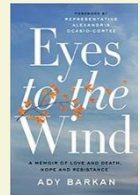
The Infinities	Banville, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The Sea	Banville, John	***	Feb 06	Metamore. More metaphors and similes per page than any other novel in memory. Winner of the Man Booker Prize. Captivating prose that will bring enjoyment to many, but cause others to beg for a life preserver to keep from drowning in words.	
Time Pieces	Banville, John	*****	3/20/18	Ode. Ramble around the city of Dublin in your mind while reading John Banville's personal reminiscences of his life there in a book titled, Time Pieces . The city was a special destination during his childhood when on his birthday, he and his mother would travel from their small town for a day in the city. The photos by Paul Joyce add to Banville's writing, and gave a clear visual effect to supplement the text. Fans of Banville's novels will enjoy the references to Quirke and what the places where Banville set him meant to the author. Readers who enjoy Dublin will be brought back to their own memories of that place through Banville's fine writing about his own recollections.	
On Top of the World	Barbash, Tom	***	July 03	Good Grief. College-friend gives insider perspective on Cantor Fitzgerald CEO Howard Lutnick and what happened before and after the events of 9/11. Whatever readers think of Lutnick now will be amended after reading this book.	
The Dakota Winters	Barbash, Tom	*****	2/21/19	Charmed. The protagonist of Tom Barbash's novel titled, The Dakota Winters , has returned from the peace corps in 1979 at age twenty-three to his childhood home in New York City at the famous Dakota. Anton Winter lives a charmed life as he	

				tries to help his father, Buddy, revive his career as a late-night television host. The neighbors at the Dakota include John Lennon, of course, and Lennon behaves like a regular guy, takes Anton to sea with him and on other adventures. This is a coming of age story, a family tale, and the erratic ways in which our lives play out.	
Consumed: How Markets Corrupt Children, Infantilize Adults, and Swallow Citizens Whole	Barber, Benjamin R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The Third Plate: Field Notes on the Future of Food	Barber, Dan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
The Last Flight of the Scarlet Macaw	Barcott, Bruce	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Ninth House	Bardugo, Leigh	*****	1/10/20	Yale. If you have a high school junior looking at colleges this year, read Leigh Bardugo's novel titled, Ninth House , before heading to the Yale campus. In her first novel for adults, prolific YA author Leigh Bardugo uses her personal memories of life at Yale to introduce readers to a strong female protagonist, Alex Stern. We get secret societies in spooky settings, both real to the New Haven campus, along with ghosts and magic. Some writers can't quite blend the real and the fantastic, but Bardugo does that to great effect in this novel.	

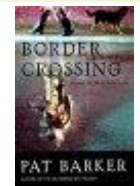
Luck Barfoot, Joan Unread Shelf of Ennui 2006



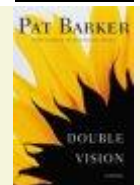
[Eyes to the Wind: A Memoir of Love and Death, Hope and Resistance](#) Barkan, Ady Unread Shelf of Ennui 2020.



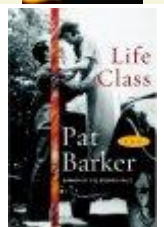
[Border Crossing](#) Barker, Pat *** [05/01](#) Booker prize-winning author presents complicated relationship of psychologist and client.



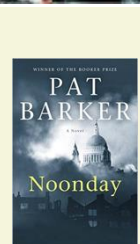
[Double Vision](#) Barker, Pat **** [Mar 04](#) Plain Sight. The novelist and the sculptor protagonist lead readers to seeing what's important in life. Introspection leads to questioning beliefs and recovery opens the possibility of seeing new relationships transform lives.



[Life Class](#) Barker, Pat *** [May 08](#) **Ambitions.** Suffering art students in London find the real lessons in life come outside school, especially with the onset of World War I. Fine descriptive language and realistic dialogue.



[Noonday](#) Barker, Pat ***** [4/13/16](#) **Resolution.** Pat Barker's Regeneration Trilogy comes to a very satisfying conclusion with the novel titled, [Noonday](#). Set in London in 1940 during the Blitz, Barker's descriptive language provides readers with vivid images of the sights, sounds and smells of that time and place. Elinor Brooke, Paul Tarrant and Kit Neville are back and their relationships achieve a level of complexity that will



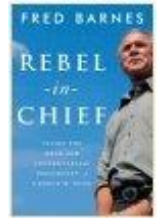
				<p>delight all readers who enjoy complex characters and finely written literary fiction.</p> <p>Viewpoint. Can a historical novel set during the Trojan War be an anthem for the #MeToo movement? Pat Barker's novel titled, The Silence of the Girls, offers a woman's perspective not contained in the Iliad. Protagonist Briseis was queen in a kingdom near Troy, but when Achilles arrived, he killed her family and received her as a prize for his victory in conquering that kingdom. Our ancient stories often lack a female perspective, and Barker's offering here is superb. We care about these women who are treated as objects, and we understand their plight. The army encampment around Troy was perfectly described, so readers can imagine the setting, hear the sounds, smell the rot, and shiver as the rats multiply. Readers who enjoy finely written historical fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
The Silence of the Girls	Barker, Pat	*****	10/12/18		
Toby's Room	Barker, Pat	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
Eating Mammals	Barlow, John	**	Feb 05	<p>Hunger. If you can stomach the macabre, and hunger to read something odd and unusual, these three novellas will whet your appetite.</p>	
Intoxicated	Barlow, John	***	Oct 06	<p>Fizz. Addictive historical novel describes the supply chain management, market research, and product development of the fictional carbonated beverage, Rhubarilla, made from rhubarb, coca, and other secret ingredients.</p>	

Rebel-in-Chief

Barnes, Fred

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

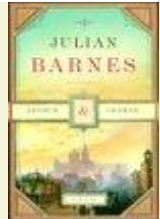


Arthur & George

Barnes, Julian

August 06

Unhurried. Barnes takes his time to develop the characters and plot of this novel, and patient readers will be rewarded with the pleasure of reading some of the finest prose being written today.

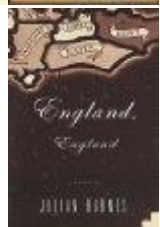


England, England

Barnes, Julian

9/99

Recommend for those who enjoy satire. Barnes develops great characters and carries off the depths of illusion and reality with aplomb.



Levels of Life

Barnes, Julian

1/6/14

Grief. Julian Barnes crafts great sentences. From his personal grief at the death of his wife, Barnes has written a powerful 140 page essay titled, Levels of Life. The power of love dominates this essay, and Barnes pulls readers into the beautiful writing as he packs a wallop through his spare prose infused with strong underlying emotion. Whatever form grief has taken in one's own life, there is an expression of that grief in this essay. Readers who have both loved and experienced loss will be overpowered by the beauty of this essay.

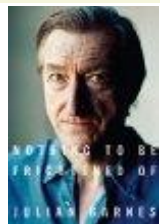


Nothing To Be Frightened Of

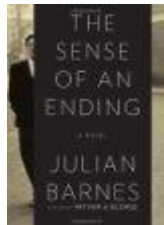
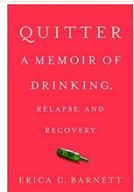
Barnes, Julian

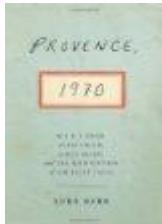
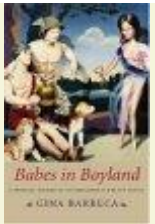

Dec 08

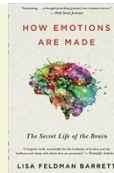
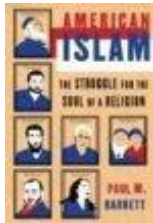

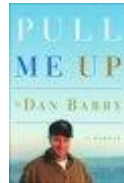
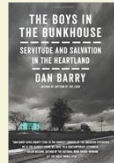
Mortality. Clever and finely written musings about death, the one reality we all face. Whether a reader thinks about death a lot or a little, this book brings pleasure and thoughtful reflection.



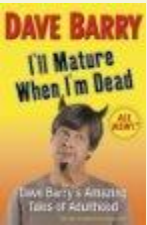
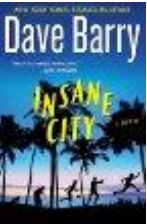
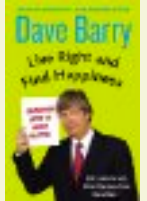
<u>Pulse</u>	Barnes, Julian	****	<u>7/16/12</u>	<p>Dialogue. Fans of short stories will find mastery of dialogue in the collection from Julian Barnes titled, <u>Pulse</u>. Some of the stories are presented entirely in dialogue. Some stories are connected, some set in the present, and others are set in the past. In each story, Barnes' writing skill proceeds with confidence, and he brings complete and complex people and places to life for readers. I paced myself by reading a story a day, and found myself satisfied and wanting more at the same time.</p>	
The Lemon Table	Barnes, Julian	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
<u>The Man in the Red Coat</u>	Barnes, Julian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>The Noise of Time</u>	Barnes, Julian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>The Only Story</u>	Barnes, Julian	****	<u>11/6/18</u>	<p>Affair. Having a love affair sounds elegant and secretive. When Paul at age 19 begins an affair with Susan, a forty-eight-year-old married woman, it started out as exciting and secretive. Julian Barnes structured his book titled, <u>The Only Story</u>, as a fictional memoir, and over the course of fewer than three hundred pages, we follow the relationship between Paul and Susan over decades. The excitement, secrecy and elegance turn into cold reality after not many pages, and we see the gritty reality of everyday life along with the ways in which</p>	

				love can overlook shortcomings. As expected, Barnes' prose is finely written and his insight into human behavior carries many insights.	
<u>The Sense of an Ending</u>	Barnes, Julian	*****	<u>1/5/12</u>	<p>Memories. In a clever novella, Julian Barnes delves into the notion of memory, and the difference in form between action and our constructed and amended memories. <u>The Sense of an Ending</u> is constrained and concise, and a reader is almost compelled to start re-reading once the last page is turned. There's that "aha" sense that can propel a reader to take newly found insight and read again to see the book in new light. Readers who enjoy literary fiction and clever writing are those most likely to enjoy this short novel.</p>	
A Country Called Home	Barnes, Kim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
<u>Quitter: A Memoir of Drinking, Relapse, and Recovery</u>	Barnett, Erica C.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Bailout: An Inside Account of How Washington Abandoned Main Street While Rescuing Wall Street</u>	Barofsky, Neil	*****	<u>8/6/12</u>	<p>Blunt. Neil Barofsky minces few words and seethes with anger about people and policies in his book, <u>Bailout: An Inside Account of How Washington Abandoned Main Street While Rescuing Wall Street</u>. Barofsky served as the special inspector general of the Troubled Asset Relief Program (SIGTARP) from December 2008 until March 2011. A former prosecutor, Barofsky irritated Washington insiders by the ways in which he pushed for holding Wall Street accountable. By his account, his mission was to protect the taxpayer, and his method was to</p>	

				do what he thought was right not to do things the easy way. One prominent target of Barofsky's wrath is Treasury Secretary Tim Geithner. Readers who are interested in financial policy, especially the TARP program, are those most likely to enjoy this blunt appraisal of how the banks were saved and help for homeowners never got traction.	
<u>Provence, 1970: M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, James Beard, and the Reinvention of American Taste</u>	Barr, Luke	****	<u>1/6/14</u>	<p>Legacy. A confluence of chefs, cookbook writers, and publishers were in Provence in 1970 cooking together, eating together, and arguing about food. Thanks to the discovery and reading of M.F.K. Fisher's journals and correspondence, her grand-nephew, Luke Barr, describes that place and time in the food movement, mostly from Fisher's perspective in a book titled, <u>Provence, 1970: M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, James Beard, and the Reinvention of American Taste</u>. Barr sees this time as a turning point away from snobby French cuisine and toward cooking more simply with fresh, local ingredients. This book is a homage to Fisher by her nephew as well as an interesting viewpoint on the transformation of culinary taste. While this book will appeal most to foodies, Barr's writing style will also appeal to general readers who like a good story.</p>	
<u>Babes In Boyland: A Personal History Of Co-education In The Ivy League</u>	Barreca, Gina	***	<u>Aug 05</u>	<p>Estrangement. Finely written memoir of journey from Brooklyn to Dartmouth in the 1970s when women weren't welcome on that campus. Witty and wise.</p>	
<u>Servants of the Map</u>	Barrett, Andrea	***	<u>Mar 02</u>	<p>Masterful short stories that transport readers to the time and place she captures and to the well-developed characters she presents.</p>	

<u>How Emotions Are Made: The Secret Life of the Brain</u>	Barrett, Lisa Feldman	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
American Islam	Barrett, Paul M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Law of the Jungle: The \$19 Billion Legal Battle Over Oil in the Rain Forest and the Lawyer Who'd Stop at Nothing to Win	Barrett, Paul M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>Pull Me Up: A Memoir</u>	Barry, Dan	***	<u>Sep 04</u>	Struggle. Lyrical, finely-written memoir tells a story well of a journey from a 1960's Long Island childhood to writing for <i>The New York Times</i> , while cancer surviving author and family struggle with life's challenges.	
<u>The Boys in the Bunkhouse: Servitude and Salvation in the Heartland</u>	Barry, Dan	****	<u>6/9/16</u>	Exploitation. Certain nonfiction writers, especially journalists, know how to tell a story. <i>New York Times</i> writer Dan Barry is one writer who excels at drawing readers into a story, and allowing the reader to draw one's own conclusions. In his finely written book titled, <u>The Boys in the Bunkhouse: Servitude and Salvation in the Heartland</u> , Barry relates the life stories of a group of intellectually challenged individuals who were exploited by an employer for decades. A lesser writer might have presented the exploitation as evil, but Barry presents the exploiters as complete	

				characters, with intentions and behaviors that were the usual mix of self-centeredness and helping others. This is a sad story that Barry tells with compassion and insight.	
<u>This Land: America Lost and Found</u>	Barry, Dan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Best. State. Ever</u>	Barry, Dave	***	<u>10/27/16</u>	Guide. I think Dave Barry had a lot of fun writing his latest book titled, <u>Best. State. Ever</u> . Fans of his humor are those readers most likely to love reading this book in which he takes us on a tour of some of Florida's attractions and oddities. With him as our tour guide, the experiences are usually funny. Personally, I take his humor better in smaller doses. I found the wit wearing a bit thin for my taste after a chapter or two. I still laughed.	
Big Trouble	Barry, Dave	***		His first novel doesn't carry the sustained chuckles of his columns, but this zany story is fun to read.	
Dave Barry's History of the Millennium (So Far)	Barry, Dave	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Dave Barry's Money Secrets</u>	Barry, Dave	**	<u>May 06</u>	Yuks. Many funny passages, but never to the extent of laughing out loud or deep belly chortles. Barry's old newspaper column packed a funny punch, but these longer works can become monotonous.	

<u>I'll Mature When I'm Dead: Dave Barry's Amazing Tales of Adulthood</u>	Barry, Dave	**	<u>6/14/10</u>	<p>Longer. I miss Dave Barry's humor columns, so when a collection of 18 new and longer pieces was published as <u>I'll Mature When I'm Dead: Dave Barry's Amazing Tales of Adulthood</u>, I scooped up a copy. All but one of the pieces was new, and are packed with Barry's trademark quirky humor. After the first half dozen or so, I found myself still laughing, but concluding that longer isn't necessarily better. Barry honed his craft on shorter work, and having more space doesn't necessarily lead to better writing. Most readers will laugh and enjoy each of these pieces. For my taste, shorter was better.</p>	
<u>Insane City</u>	Barry, Dave	****	<u>3/7/13</u>	<p>Slapstick. If Dave Barry's writing tickles your funny bone, you're likely to enjoy his zany book, <u>Insane City</u>, presenting Miami in all its weirdness. If you're not sure, read an excerpt. Chances are you can tell from the sample whether you will laugh throughout the book, or just shake your head at the slapstick absurdity of the behavior of a cast of unusual characters. I fell into the laughing category, and was thoroughly entertained by this novel.</p>	
<u>Live Right and Find Happiness (Although Beer is Much Faster): Life Lessons and Other Ravings from Dave Barry</u>	Barry, Dave	***	<u>2/23/15</u>	<p>Smiles. I cracked more than a few smiles while reading Dave Barry's latest book titled, <u>Live Right and Find Happiness (Although Beer is Much Faster): Life Lessons and Other Ravings from Dave Barry</u>. I never laughed out loud, nor did I chuckle, but I found most of the book amusing. The long piece on Russia became a bit tedious, while the letter to his grandson was among the best. For fans of Dave Barry, this book is probably required reading. For any reader looking for a few smiles, there are ample opportunities in this book.</p>	

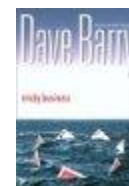
Tricky Business

Barry, Dave

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Dec 02

Treading Water. 12 funny pages out of 300, the best of which are sidebars to the plot. Barry does better when brief. Eclectic cast of South Florida weirdos.

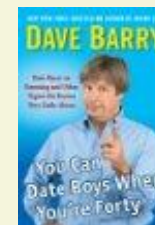


You Can Date Boys When You're Forty: Dave Barry on Parenting and Other Topics He Knows Very Little About

Barry, Dave

1/6/14

Aging. There are several comic gems in each of the nine essays in a collection from Dave Barry titled, You Can Date Boys When You're Forty: Dave Barry on Parenting and Other Topics He Knows Very Little About. While I chuckled at his humor in being at a Justin Bieber concert with his thirteen year old daughter, I laughed more when he reflected on what it's like being sixty five years old, and in the way he offers wisdom on what women want. Any reader looking for a few laughs will find them in this collection.

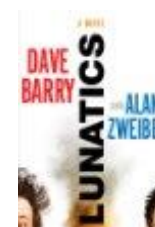


Lunatics

Barry, Dave and Alan Zweibel

2/17/12

Antics. Readers expect two things from Dave Barry novels: laughs and zany characters. Barry's latest book, Lunatics, written with Alan Zweibel, provides an abundance of zany characters in hilarious situations. The implausibility of the situations in which the protagonists find themselves adds to the mayhem, and Barry and Zweibel maintain the laughter and antic behavior throughout the book. Readers looking for something funny to read are those most likely to enjoy this book.

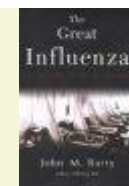


The Great Influenza: The Epic Story of the Deadliest Plague in History

Barry, John M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004

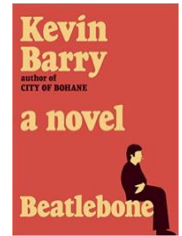


Beatlebone

Barry, Kevin

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

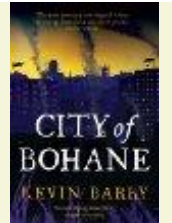


City of Bohane

Barry, Kevin

Unread

I picked up this debut novel with high expectations that were dashed by the time I reached page 20. I just couldn't stay focused on the characters' dialogue. Shelf of Ennui 2012.

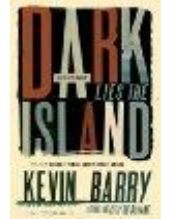


Dark Lies the Island

Barry, Kevin

1/21/14

Menace. Something is ready to go wrong every few pages in a finely written collection of short stories by Kevin Barry titled, Dark Lies the Island. For the Irish characters in these stories, there are no leprechauns with a pot of gold at the end of the rainbow: just another cloud to bring rain and turmoil. Barry's lyrical language soars in these stories. Some of the sentences I read aloud to savor the rhythms of his carefully selected words. While menace abounds in these stories, I laughed often. Barry creates fully formed complex and interesting characters. Spend a little time with each story before jumping on to the next one. This baker's dozen will bring satisfaction to those readers who enjoy finely written short fiction, especially when injected with dark humor. A sip of Irish whiskey with one of these stories is the perfect combination for a happy hour.

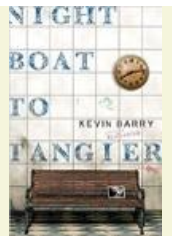


Night Boat to Tangier


Barry, Kevin


3/13/20

Criminals. There's some magic in the recipe Kevin Barry uses to assemble his novel titled, Night Boat to Tangier. We have two complex characters, Maurice Hearne and Charlie Redmond, lifelong criminals. Barry uses the setting of a waiting room at a ferry terminal to place them in a melancholy



				mood to reflect on their lives of crime. They are waiting a long time for the arrival of Maurice's daughter, Dilly, who may be coming or going from the terminal. Barry pulls us from the present to the past as we gradually revise our views of these two thugs. When Barry adds booze, drugs and romance to the recipe, and dialogue that sings, all the pieces blend together.	
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<u>Company</u>	Barry, Max	**	<u>June 06</u>	Agendas. Satire about a Seattle company, its visible and hidden agendas, and one employee whose rapid promotion leads him on a hilarious corporate adventure.	
<u>Jennifer Government</u>	Barry, Max	***	<u>Sep 03</u>	Affinities. Corporate marketing becomes malevolent in this creative satire. If you think marketing is already evil, you'll love this book.	


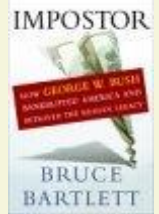
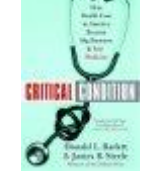
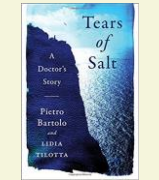
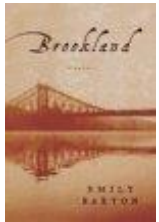
<u>Lexicon</u>	Barry, Max	****	<u>4/24/14</u>	Persuasion. I find myself lost for words in trying to describe a novel about the power of words. How strange is that? I can't even assign a specific genre to Max Barry's interesting novel, <u>Lexicon</u> , but if pressed, I would lean toward dystopian. What I can say is that I was entertained by this unusual novel. Protagonist Emily Ruff is a San Francisco street person eking out a living from three card monte. Her persuasive skills are noted by recruiters for an organization that learns how to use the power of words to control others. Her skills are formidable, and she falls in love with a man who seems immune from the power of her words. Emily is used to test the power of a word called a bareroot that carries remarkable power. There's violence, intrigue and clever twists throughout the novel, and like many dystopian novels, there is also the overpowering impact of love.	
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<u>Machine Man</u>	Barry, Max	***	<u>3/2/12</u>	<p>Evolution. Max Barry combines dystopia, satire and comedy in his latest novel, <u>Machine Man</u>. Protagonist Charles Neumann works as a scientist in the lab of an unscrupulous company named Better Future. After Charlie loses his leg, he considers making himself an improved model. Barry satirizes our culture of constant self-improvement, and describes corporate exploitation and avarice in an extreme way. Charlie's exploits become hilarious at times, and the pace of the novel is quick. Fans of Barry's prior novels will be pleased with this one, and new readers may find his quirky writing to be an acquired taste. Read an excerpt before diving in.</p>	
<u>Providence</u>	Barry, Max	*****	<u>5/15/20</u>	<p>Intelligence. Fans of science fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Max Barry's novel titled, <u>Providence</u>. Humans and the aliens they call salamanders are in a war for the survival of their respective species. Four humans are selected using artificial intelligence to take the war to the salamanders in a gigantic battleship controlled by artificial intelligence. Barry explores the roles of humans in this AI-directed environment and presents a thrilling and compact story. Barry also helps readers think about the behavior of the salamanders and the AI software and what that means for humans.</p>	
<u>A Thousand Moons</u>	Barry, Sebastian	****	<u>11/9/20</u>	<p>Continuation. In a novel titled, <u>A Thousand Moons</u>, Sebastian Barry continues exploring lives he introduced in his novel titled, <i>Days Without End</i>. The protagonist is Winona Cole, a Lakota Sioux orphan, raised by Thomas McNulty and Thomas Cole, former Union soldiers. The setting is Tennessee after the Civil War. With finely written spare prose, Barry leads readers to fall in love with Winona, who is at the receiving end of terror, cruelty and prejudice. Barry helps readers come to</p>	

				terms with aspects of our past and exposes the reality behind comfortable myths. Winona is a terrific character that this reader and many others will remember for a long time.	
<u>Days Without End</u>	Barry, Sebastian	****	<u>3/2/17</u>	<p>Adapt. I can't recall reading a novel with greater contrast between the beauty of the prose and the brutality described. Sebastian Barry's novel titled, <u>Days Without End</u>, contains some of the finest prose I've read. Protagonist Thomas McNulty has left the famine in Ireland as a teenager and has arrived in the United States on a fever ship as the sole survivor ready to adapt to whatever it will take to survive. After serving as "ladies" with fellow teenager and friend, John Cole, the two friends join the Army to fight first in the Indian Wars, and then with the Union in the Civil War. Barry's descriptive language led me to reread many sentences, and the atmosphere he builds in the narrative made me feel present with the action described. Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
On Canaan's Side	Barry, Sebastian	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>The Temporary Gentleman</u>	Barry, Sebastian	****	<u>7/28/14</u>	<p>Death. The title of Sebastian Barry's novel, <u>The Temporary Gentleman</u>, refers to the period of military service by the protagonist and narrator, Jack McNulty. Set in Accra, Sligo and Ghana, the novel presents Jack's recollections of his life. The atmosphere Barry provides with his descriptive language helps bring the novel to life, and offers a counterpoint to what for the most part is the destructive progression toward death of both Jack and his wife, Mai. Both of them choose alcohol as</p>	

their path to a slow death. Jack's recalled deep love for Mai contrasted with his proven failure to show that love through his lack of care for Mai, his frequent absence in their lives, and his failure to meet basic responsibilities within a marriage. I can't recall enjoying a novel about ruined lives as much as I did this one, thanks to Barry's fine prose.

<u>Coming Soon!!!</u>	Barth, John	*	<u>Feb 02</u>	Postmodern novel that's hard to follow but frequently clever and witty.	
The Book of Ten Nights and a Night: Eleven Stories	Barth, John	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
Where Three Roads Meet	Barth, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Flying to America: 45 More Stories	Barthelme, Donald	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
There Must Be Some Mistake	Barthelme, Frederick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

Waveland	Barthelme, Frederick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
<u>Imposter: How George W. Bush Bankrupted America and Betrayed the Reagan Legacy</u>	Bartlett, Bruce	***	<u>August 06</u>	Reformation. Readers of any political persuasion will find interesting facts and points of view in this conservative call for reform and for a return to fiscal responsibility.	
<u>Critical Condition</u>	Bartlett, Donald L. and James B. Steele	***	<u>Feb 05</u>	Sick. Investigative journalists tell scores of stories of how the health care system fails Americans, and present some ideas on changes to get us out of this mess.	
<u>Tears of Salt: A Doctor's Story</u>	Bartolo, Pietro	*****	<u>4/16/18</u>	Lampedusa. The life of Doctor Pietro Bartolo turned upside down and inside out when refugees from fighting in North Africa and the Middle East began to arrive on his native island of Lampedusa. In his book titled, <u>Tears of Salt: A Doctor's Story</u> , Bartolo tells us of his life and of this time when how a person feels about the dignity of every life requires the hardest work one has ever done. While much of what Bartolo describes in this book involves suffering, the inspiration comes from his steadiness while facing the unexpected, and how he did all he could to alleviate suffering.	
Brookland	Barton, Emily	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

<u>The Child</u>	Barton, Fiona	***	<u>7/6/17</u>	<p>Crimes. Fiona Barton reprises journalist Kate Waters from her debut novel, <i>The Widow</i>, for a new novel titled, <u>The Child</u>. The long-buried remains of a newborn child are found on a jobsite and Kate and her paper are trying to identify the child. Detective Bob Sparks from the earlier novel makes some brief appearances in this book. Barton again uses multiple narrators. Overall, I found myself less entertained by this novel than the earlier one. I thought the pacing of this novel was pretty slow, and the multiple crimes took a long time to present. By the end of the novel, I thought it was ok, but by then I was ready to move on to something else.</p>	
<u>The Suspect</u>	Barton, Fiona	****	<u>2/2/19</u>	<p>Personal. The latest crime novel by Fiona Barton to feature journalist Kate Waters is titled, <u>The Suspect</u>. A story about two young women missing in Thailand lets Kate jump into the lives of the parents worried about their daughters. The story turns personal when Kate learns that her son, Jake, is a suspect in foul play relating to the missing women. The plot twists rapidly with action in both England and Thailand, and family dynamics are dramatic for lots of characters. Children keep secrets from their parents for a variety of reasons, and parents can be in denial about the behavior of children. Barton mines all that with great skill in this entertaining novel.</p>	
<u>The Widow</u>	Barton, Fiona	****	<u>4/6/16</u>	<p>Obsession. The structure Fiona Barton chose for her debut novel titled, <u>The Widow</u>, made all the difference for me. By presenting the story using multiple narrators, a reader hears multiple points of view and I found my interest maintained momentum even after I expected to learn nothing new. Jean and Glen Taylor are a childless married couple with different obsessions. Thanks to Jean's narration, we watch her character evolve as truth is concurrently withheld and revealed. Thanks to the</p>	

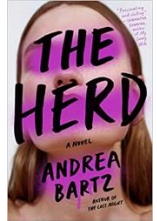
				narration of a journalist, Kate Waters, we see how the manipulative press becomes a way for Jean to frame her own story. Detective Bob Sparks has become obsessed with solving the case of a missing child, and his narration reveals more insight into behavior and action. Readers who like a creepy crime story with very interesting characters are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.	
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[The Herd](#)

Bartz, Andrea

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



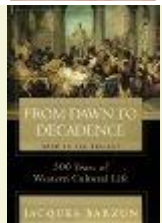
[From Dawn to Decadence: 500 Years of Western Cultural Life](#)

Barzun, Jacques

Unread

[6/00](#)

Sounds like a downer, but we are likely to give it a rainy day try.

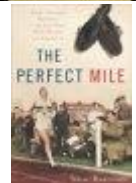


[The Perfect Mile](#)

Bascomb, Neal

[Nov 04](#)

Excitement. Roger Bannister, John Landy and Wes Santee vie to become the first to run the mile in under 4 minutes. Terrific presentation of competition and excitement.

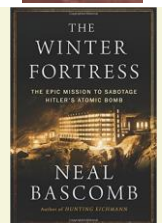


[The Winter Fortress: The Epic Mission to Sabotage Hitler's Atomic Bomb](#)

Bascomb, Neal

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

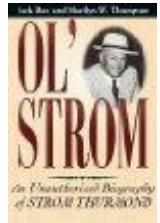


Ol' Strom: An Unauthorized Biography of Strom Thurmond

Bass, Jack and Thompson, Marilyn W.

10/99

Recommend, especially for those who may have pigeonholed Strom Thurmond.

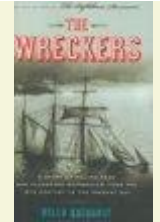


The Wreckers

Bathurst, Bella

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

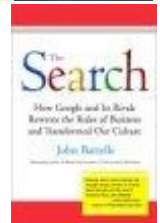


The Search: The Inside Story of How Google and Its Rivals Changed Everything

Battelle, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

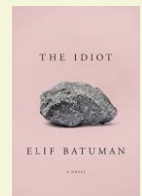


The Idiot

Batuman, Elif

4/25/17

Learning. Readers who love language, sharp wit and finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading Elif Batuman's novel titled, The Idiot. Protagonist Selin arrives at Harvard in 1995 ready to learn whatever is there to be learned. Batuman finds ways to draw readers into the experience of uncertainty as Selin's choices lead to other choices and to interesting consequences and experiences. All learning involves some amount of confusion, and the resolution of that comes with knowledge and insight. We join Selin on her journey at Harvard and during a summer in Europe and become caught up in her confusion, love and anxiety and with her tragic fate: becoming a writer. Worse things could have happened.

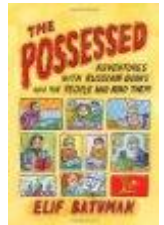


The Possessed:
Adventures with
Russian Books
and the People
Who Read
Them

Batuman, Elif

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2011



Blacklands

Bauer, Belinda

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



[Darkside](#)

Bauer, Belinda

[5/29/11](#)

Twists. Readers who like psychological thrillers will find a lot to enjoy in Belinda Bauer's new novel, [Darkside](#). Not all is as it seems in the quaint village of Shipcott, where the vulnerable are being murdered. Beneath the surface of each character, there is a depth, often bleak, that Bauer exposes with precision. The plot twists just when a reader gets comfortable, providing great satisfaction to those readers who like a good mix-up. Fans of crime fiction and those who like the dark side of human nature will enjoy reading this novel.

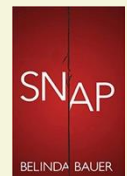


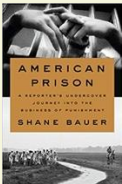
[Snap](#)

Bauer, Belinda

[10/5/18](#)

Jack. Belinda Bauer's crime novel titled, [Snap](#), grabbed me in the first few pages and kept me engaged to the end. The entire cast of characters is well-developed, but protagonist Jack is the best of all. After the murder of his mother, Jack's father fails to cope with caring for three children, so young Jack takes charge and finances their needs through burglary. After scores of break-ins, local police call this the Goldilocks case because Jack often sleeps in the owner's beds and eats their food. After DCI John Marvel is assigned to the area following a demotion, he's not interested in a burglary case, but becomes energized when there's a murder to solve.



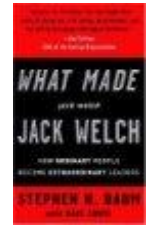
				<p>Bauer plots this novel with great skill and excels at developing great characters. Fans of crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p> <p>Letters. I opened Carlene Bauer's short novel, <u>Frances and Bernard</u>, not sure whether the form would work. Bauer structured the novel as an exchange of letters mostly between Frances Reardon and Bernard Eliot, writers who met at an artist's colony in the late 1950s. Their friendship intensifies through these finely written letters, and Bauer's writing shines for any reader who enjoys fine writing. Both protagonists are complex characters and the ways in which Bauer reveals their complexity made me love reading this novel. The novel is an engaging story of friendship, art, mental illness, faith and love. This is the finest debut novel that I've read in many years.</p>	
<u>Frances and Bernard</u>	Bauer, Carlene	*****	<u>2/22/13</u>	<p>Accountability. Your tax dollars and mine are being wasted on a private prison system that is largely unaccountable and at odds with our values and with most definitions of justice. Journalist Shane Bauer went undercover to work as a prison guard at a private prison in Louisiana. He first wrote about his experience in a feature for <i>Mother Jones</i>, and has expanded that work into a book titled, <u>American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment</u>. There are insights in this book about who is in prison and why, as well as insight about the people who work for and who run the private companies that run American prisons. I finished the book reflecting about a misalignment of interest between those interested in a fair system of justice and making money from running prisons.</p>	
<u>American Prison: A Reporter's Undercover Journey into the Business of Punishment</u>	Bauer, Shane	****	<u>12/17/18</u>		

What Made jack
welch JACK
WELCH

Baum, Stephen
H.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

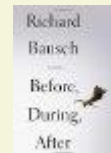


Before, During,
After

Bausch, Richard

9/15/14

Trauma. There's so much emotional tension in Richard Bausch's novel, Before, During, After, that I found myself taking breaks from reading it. Bausch explores trauma in this novel as he presents a love story. Personal trauma occurred on 9/11 as well as national trauma. Readers are presented with the lives of protagonists Natasha and Michael before 9/11, during that day, and after. The contrasts are significant, and Bausch uses finely written prose to draw readers into each section with great care and precision. I read the novel just as the 13th anniversary of that day drew near, and I appreciated how well Bausch captured the essence of trauma and its aftermath.

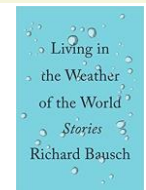


Living in the
Weather of the
World

Bausch, Richard

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

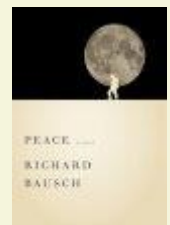


Peace

Bausch, Richard

1/3/09

Survival. Just when we think that there's nothing left to write about World War II, Richard Bausch comes along and writes a fine novel titled Peace. Set in the Italian hillside during the winter of 1944, soldiers are facing fear of death from snipers, uncertain support from the locals, and regret about some of their own actions to survive. There's tension on each of the 200 pages in this tightly written and emotionally taut novel. I felt that I was on the hillside with these soldiers, and could feel the cold and the fear along with them. Things are



not as they seem, and the struggle of war can lead to a brief and uneasy peace, no matter what.

Something Is Out There: Stories

Bausch, Richard

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

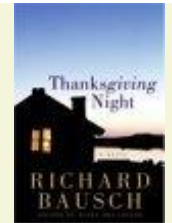


Thanksgiving Night

Bausch, Richard

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

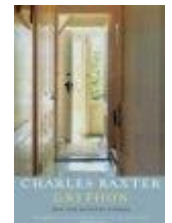


Variety. There are 23 stories in a new collection by Charles Baxter, one of which shares the title, Gryphon. The sheer variety and diversity in these stories is commendable, and they share one thing in common: very fine writing. The short story form trips up many writers and can disappoint readers, but Baxter delivers fine writing and engaging, complete narratives in each of these stories. I budgeted myself to reading a single story a day, so I could appreciate and savor each one individually. Ordinary lives and events come alive and present insight to readers, thanks to Baxter's skills.

Gryphon

Baxter, Charles

5/8/11



The Soul Thief

Baxter, Charles

June 08

Identity. Precisely written imaginative novel visits characters thirty years ago and today, exploring how one has assumed the identity and past history of the other, and what that has done for both of them.





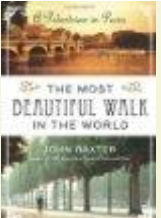
There's Something I Want You to Do

Baxter, Charles

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



<u>Munich Airport</u>	Baxter, Greg	*****	<u>4/11/15</u>	<p>Examination. The first person narrator of Greg Baxter's finely written novel titled, <u>Munich Airport</u>, grieves the death of his sister, laments the decline of his elderly father and ruminates about his own life. The psychological problems among the characters in this novel are more than enough for any family. What redeems the gloomy subject is Baxter's fine writing, and the ways in which he captures the process of introspection and self-examination. Fans of literary fiction will enjoy this prose, and those readers who like psychological fiction will spend much time reflecting about the lives of these characters. By setting the action in an airport, Baxter highlights the existential loneliness that can be felt while physically present with many other people.</p>	
<u>The Apartment</u>	Baxter, Greg	*****	<u>1/13/14</u>	<p>Recovery. We are searching for something. We don't always know where we are, but we have all been to places and done things that combined to make us who we are today. Greg Baxter's debut novel, <u>The Apartment</u>, lets readers spend one day with our unnamed protagonist in an unnamed European city on a search for an apartment. We meander with this character as he searches. Along the way, we learn of his recent experience as a contractor in Iraq, and his previous life in the Navy. I began to feel that he is dealing with the aftermath of something, and struggling toward recovery. Baxter's finely crafted prose impressed me a lot, and I was willing to meander with this interesting character anxious to see what would happen.</p>	
<u>The Most Beautiful Walk in the World: A Pedestrian in Paris</u>	Baxter, John	***	<u>9/14/11</u>	<p>Lively. One joy that can come from reading is the pleasure of listening to someone talk about something they really enjoy or love. Such an experience awaits readers of John Baxter's <u>The Most Beautiful Walk in the World: A Pedestrian in Paris</u>. A longtime resident of Paris, married to a</p>	

Frenchwoman, Baxter injects personal anecdotes with the settings he describes, and the spirited writing takes readers into Baxter's enthusiasm. Readers who have never been to Paris will be enchanted, and will want to be there. Those who have been in Paris will feel as if one has returned. Those most familiar with Paris may quibble with Baxter, but are likely to feel proud of how the city of light shines on these pages. Readers looking for a travel guide will find more useful books than this one, but few of those capture the city's spirit as well as this one.

[The Perfect Meal: In Search of the Lost Tastes of France](#)

Baxter, John

[9/10/13](#)

Tastes. I suspect that John Baxter's book, [The Perfect Meal: In Search of the Lost Tastes of France](#), will attract a fairly narrow band of readers. Francophiles and those who enjoy fine French cuisine are likely to be drawn to this book. Readers of a certain age (say those born in the first half of the twentieth century, not later) who mourn the loss of traditional foods, will love reading this book. Any reader who remembers with clarity meals eaten many years ago will find a kindred spirit in Baxter. I found his writing lively, and at times I noticed myself salivating at some of his descriptions. Taste can be a very personal thing, so read an excerpt first. If you enjoyed that bit, chances are you'll be satisfied by the whole book.

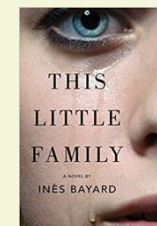



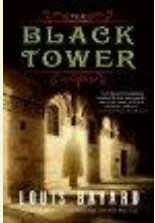
[This Little Family](#)

Bayard, Ines

[9/19/20](#)

Trauma. Steel yourself from being caught in an undertow as you read Ines Bayard's debut novel titled, [This Little Family](#). We learn the irreversible action protagonist Marie takes within the first few pages of the novel. The remainder of the novel pulls us into trying to understand Marie's response to the trauma of rape. As the light goes out of Marie's life, we find ourselves in the darkness with her as she responds in the ways that make sense to her troubled mind. This finely written novel is difficult



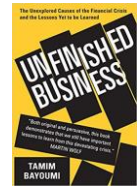
				to read because of the content. Those readers who persist will find insight into the effects of trauma and the choices that seem inevitable but unnecessary.	
<u>Courting Mr. Lincoln</u>	Bayard, Louis	****	<u>5/28/19</u>	<p>Springfield. Readers who enjoy historical fiction are those most likely to enjoy Louis Bayard's novel titled, <u>Courting Mr. Lincoln</u>. Set mostly in Springfield, Illinois, the novel imagines the courtship of Abraham Lincoln and Mary Todd. Bayard demolishes caricatures of Mary that have endured, and instead presents a lively, savvy, interesting and loving woman with deep political insights. Alongside the courtship story is the tale of Lincoln's friendship with Joshua Speed. Bayard places readers into the social milieu of Springfield, Illinois to observe the interactions of these three historical characters in context.</p>	
<u>The Black Tower</u>	Bayard, Louis	***	<u>1/27/09</u>	<p>Dauphin. Historical fiction usually leads me to want to learn more about the historical period in which a novel is set. Louis Bayard stimulated that interest for me again in his novel, <u>The Black Tower</u>. The tumultuous period is early 19th century France, after the Reign of Terror and Restoration. Bayard chooses a first-person narrator, Hector Carpentier, a doctor, whose father of the same name was a physician to Louis-Charles, the son of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. The title refers to the place where Louis-Charles was imprisoned. Bayard lays out a mystery and a question as to whether or not Louis-Charles died in prison, or was secreted away and hidden. The famous Francois Vidocq, master detective, is presented as a larger-than-life character whose skills unravel much of the mystery. Vidocq and Carpentier follow all leads and their journey will entertain readers and likely lead to interest in this historical period and to learning about what really happened.</p>	

Unfinished
Business: The
Unexplored
Causes of the
Financial Crisis
and the Lessons
Yet to be
Learned

Bayoumi, Tamim

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



Beat the Reaper

Bazell, Josh

2/19/09

Funny. If you're interested in a quirky and funny debut novel, consider Josh Bazell's Beat the Reaper. Bazell is a medical resident, and wrote this messy, hectic and fast-paced novel in his spare (!) time. Thanks to his undergraduate training, the writing is superb. The protagonist he creates is a medical intern, one who used to be a hit man for the mob. Given that over-the-top character, you expect and receive a plot that's totally entertaining. Bazell adds footnotes regularly that add to the humor. At page 148 he notes, "We still draw the Reaper with a scythe. We should draw him driving a John Deere for Archer Daniels Midland." From that point on, the logo-like image that divides sections within a chapter changes from the grim reaper with a scythe to the reaper driving a tractor. Again, a funny touch. I read Beat the Reaper quickly, and look forward to Bazell's next spare-time offering.



Wild Thing

Bazell, Josh

**

2/9/13

Quirky. I was entertained by Josh Bazell's debut novel, *Beat the Reaper*, so I expected to enjoy his second novel, Wild Thing. Instead, I found more to dislike than enjoy in this novel. Plot, characters and structure tended to be distracting rather than anything else. While I laughed at times, the humor was many notches below the debut novel. Read a sample before you consider reading the entire novel.



Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration

Bazelon, Emily

5/28/19

Prosecutors. Any reader interested in public policy, especially criminal justice reform, should read Emily Bazelon's finely written book titled, Charged: The New Movement to Transform American Prosecution and End Mass Incarceration. Bazelon focuses on the power of prosecutors to charge offenders and the incentives that lead to choices made. She selects two offenders, Noura and Kevin, and their prosecutors in Memphis and Brooklyn respectively. Bazelon makes a persuasive case in this book that criminal justice reform is needed, and that fixing the parts of the system that are broken will lead to a stronger society. Readers with no personal experience of the criminal justice system will come away from reading this book with eyes wide open, and those readers with hands on experience are likely to find many practical suggestions for ways to repair this broken system.

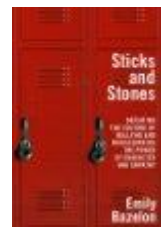



Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy

Bazelon, Emily

3/7/13

Bully. If one of Emily Bazelon's objectives in writing Sticks and Stones: Defeating the Culture of Bullying and Rediscovering the Power of Character and Empathy was to help readers think more broadly about the subject of bullying, she succeeded with me. As a journalist and attorney, Bazelon approached this subject open to understanding the complexity of the issues involved. What preconceptions she brought to the subject became questioned as she investigated a variety of situations. The stories she presents in this book reveal the many gray areas involved in individual incidents of bullying and in the culture in which we live. Parents are an obvious target audience, and this book gives a lot of information to be worried about as well as some suggestions on what to do when raising children.



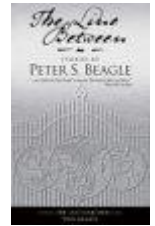
<u>The Slide</u>	Beachy, Kyle	***	5/27/09	<p>Reversals. Read Kyle Beachy's debut novel, <u>The Slide</u>, on sunny days. Reflect too long on the many slides and reversals experienced by all the characters in this book and you're likely to join in their depression and loneliness. Protagonist Potter Mays has graduated college and moves back home uncertain of what's next. His parents seem to welcome him, but their marriage has been in a downward slide, perhaps ever since Potter's brother died years earlier as a child. Potter's girlfriend went from college to Europe on a weird quest with a bisexual friend. After some malaise that Beachy presents with fine descriptive language and wit, Potter gets a job delivering bottled water. Potter has insomnia, his dead brother appears to him as a ghost, he develops relationships with a sixteen year old neighbor and a lonely younger boy whom he met while delivering water. The rocket slide in the park he visited as a child becomes the image for the direction of Potter's life. Thanks to manipulation by a rich friend, Potter gets in more trouble. He's a loveable sap, and epitomizes many of the anxieties lived out by people in their early-twenties. Beachy's humor and decent writing make this debut worth a try to those readers willing to look at work from a new and young writer.</p>	
<u>Pretend I'm Dead</u>	Beagin, Jen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Vacuum in the Dark</u>	Beagin, Jen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

The Line
Between

Beagle, Peter S.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



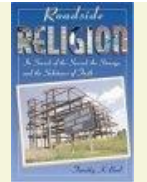
[Roadside
Religion](#)

Beal, Timothy K.

*

[Sep 05](#)

Attraction. Religion professor hauls family in motor home to visit religious attractions. Describes 11 places in detail from the absurd to the well-intentioned to places than can deepen one's spirituality.



American
Crucifixion: The
Murder of
Joseph Smith
and the Fate of
the Mormon
Church

Beam, Alex

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



[We Show What
We Have
Learned](#)

Beams, Clare

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

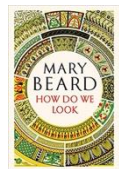


[How Do We
Look: The Body,
the Divine, and
the Question of
Civilization](#)

Beard, Mary

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



[SPQR: A
History of
Ancient Rome](#)

Beard, Mary

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



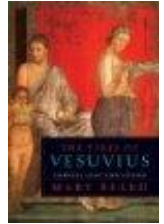
The Fires of Vesuvius: Pompeii Lost and Found

Beard, Mary

Ennui

7/16/09

I reached as far as page 40 of this book, and despite the interesting photos and subject matter, my attention kept wandering, so I put it aside for weeks, and then for good.

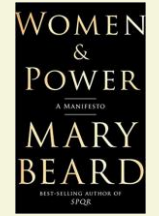


Women and Power: A Manifesto

Beard, Mary

1/23/18

Misogyny. Drawn from two lectures by Mary Beard, her book titled, Women and Power: A Manifesto, lays out a clear case for women in leadership taking on power by being women and not defining leadership as a male preserve. Beard lays out succinctly the long history in which women have been silenced and kept out of power and leadership through misogyny. Enough!

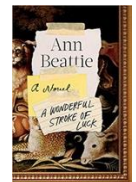


Unpredictable. At the core of Ann Beattie's novel titled, A Wonderful Stroke of Luck, there is this reality about life: it's unpredictable. Protagonist Ben was a star at his private school, but has drifted since, not quite living up to his perceived potential. That potential was influenced by a manipulative teacher, Pierre LaVerdere. I know I had teachers like LaVerdere. In college, we called one professor "Flies," because where there's shit, there's flies. It is difficult in youth to discern truth. Lots of characters come and go, each one revealing inner thoughts while being walloped by reality. The nature of life is that things never turn out the way we expect, and Beattie delivers that truth with keen insight in this novel. The title comes from the epigraph and when you read it, you might be quite surprised. It was a great note on which to begin this novel. The reversals in the lives of characters are so frequent that many readers will feel as out of control as Ben himself. And as to LaVerdere, he turns out to be more despicable than I imagined, and when he reenters Ben's life years after their teacher-student relationship ended, he attempts to reprise his

A Wonderful Stroke of Luck

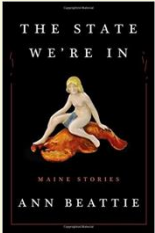
Beattie, Ann

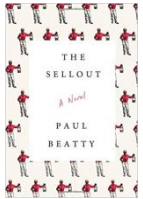
8/5/19





manipulation. Beattie reveals the lies we tell each other and writes with great precision about life as it is: messy, unpredictable and often deceitful. If after the first reading of this novel, you are frustrated or confused, read it again, and its likely you'll see the skill with which Beattie writes this novel.

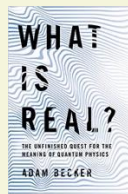
Follies	Beattie, Ann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
Mrs. Nixon: A Novelist Imagines a Life	Beattie, Ann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>The Accomplished Guest</u>	Beattie, Ann	*****	<u>8/12/17</u>	Variety. I love the variety in the thirteen short stories in a collection by Ann Beattie titled, <u>The Accomplished Guest</u> . The title is from an Emily Dickinson poem. The stories are set mostly in Maine and Key West, places Beattie knows well. In many of the stories there are visits and guests, celebrations that develop in ways that are unexpected. Beattie draws us into lives that seem disconnected and suffering from loss. Over the course of a few pages, Beattie makes us reflect about aging, friendship, connections, and the way life turns us this way and that as we muddle our way along.	
<u>The Doctor's House</u>	Beattie, Ann	***	<u>Apr 02</u>	Three characters, a daughter, her mother, and a son, narrate different perspectives of life in this well-written novel.	


<u>The State We're In</u>	Beattie, Ann	****	<u>9/15/15</u>	<p>Maine. One reason that I love to read short stories is that I can pick a time when I'm unlikely to be distracted and give my full attention to reading for a few minutes or maybe a half hour. I can stop after I finish a single story and feel a sense of satisfaction. In her collection title, <u>The State We're In</u>, Ann Beattie offers glimpses into life. She often takes a sideways glance into something quite ordinary, and builds a story that can relate the fullness of life. Set mostly in Maine, the stories in this collection brought me back to that place and to the people who live there. For those readers who like short stories, and appreciate finely written prose, this collection will bring satisfaction. One sentence (p.51) remains with me: "No day failed to contain the unexpected."</p>	
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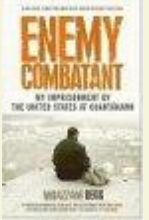
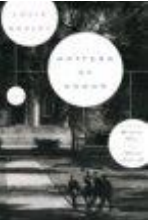


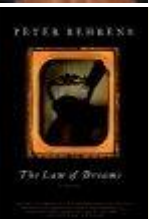
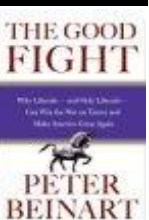
<u>The Sellout</u>	Beatty, Paul	****	<u>8/24/16</u>	<p>Re-segregation. After reading just a few pages of Paul Beatty's novel, <u>The Sellout</u>, I knew I was reading something special, and I slowed down my reading pace to enjoy his satire. Beatty's humor is well honed and his uses that along with superb writing skills to turn readers' minds inside out. It's tricky business to offer satire on race and identity in America, and Beatty navigates that landscape with dexterity. The narrator's scheme to reinstate slavery and re-segregate schools is presented with such aplomb that I found myself absorbed in the community and aligned with the people in the fictional town of Dickens on the southern edge of Los Angeles. Readers who like satire and sharp humor are those most likely to enjoy reading this finely written novel.</p>	
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Glow	Beauman, Ned	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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<u>Madness Is Better Than Defeat</u>	Beauman, Ned	***	<u>5/24/19</u>	<p>Temple. My patience was tested while reading Ned Bauman's novel titled, <u>Madness Is Better Than Defeat</u>. Set in remote Honduras, two expeditions have arrived at a temple site with divergent purposes: one to shoot a movie, the other to dismantle the temple and send it to New York City. Speckled with humor followed by seriousness, I found this odd novel a bit disturbing to read. Questions about intentions and reality can become confusing, and at about the halfway point, I was ambivalent about how events would play out. Read a sample before tackling all four hundred odd pages.</p>	
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<u>What is Real?: The Unfinished Quest for the Meaning of Quantum Physics</u>	Becker, Adam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
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<u>I Know I Am, But What Are You?</u>	Bee, Samantha	**	<u>7/23/10</u>	<p>Funny. Samantha Bee's new book, <u>I Know I Am, But What Are You?</u>, capitalizes on her Daily Show visibility, and offers a very concentrated dose of her humor, most of which she pokes at herself. I found enough of the book to tweak my funny bone that I plowed through to the end. On too many pages, though, I winced rather than laughed, and found little humor in her subject or treatment. Readers may want to sample a few pages before making a commitment. After all, humor is a matter of taste, or the tasteless.</p>	
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Enemy Combatant	Begg, Moazzam	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2007	
Matters of Honor	Begley, Louis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Memories of a Marriage	Begley, Louis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Great Companies Deserve Great Boards: A CEO's Guide to the Boardroom	Behan, Beverly A.	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Law of Dreams	Behrens, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The Good Fight	Beinart, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

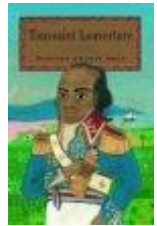
The Crisis of Zionism	Beinhart, Peter	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
Soaring With the Phoenix: Renewing the Vision, Reviving the Spirit and Re-Creating the Success of Your Company	Belasco, James A. and Steed, Jerre	***	<u>11/99</u>	Give this book a try.	
Rocketeers: How a Visionary Band of Business Leaders, Engineers, and Pilots Is Boldly Privatizing Space	Belfiore, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Plots</u>	Belknap, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Ethical Ambition: Living a Life of Meaning and Worth</u>	Bell, Derrick	***	<u>Jan 03</u>	A Path to Happiness. An opportunity to eavesdrop as this lawyer and professor reminisces about the decisions he's made to follow an ethical path to happiness.	

Toussaint
Louverture

Bell, Madison
Smartt

Unread

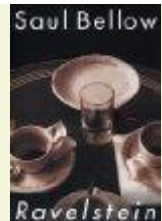
Shelf of Ennui 2007



Ravelstein

Bellow, Saul

Not our favorite Bellow book.

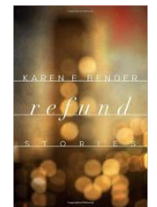


Refund

Bender, Karen

10/26/15

Money. Readers who enjoy finely written short stories will find a baker's dozen in a collection by Karen Bender titled, Refund. The structure of the short story requires efficiency by the writer. Bender excels at quick observation, brief description, and deep insight accomplished within a few sentences. These stories fit well together because of a common theme relating to money. Beneath this is the question of value and what something or someone is worth. Bender explores this theme with great skill, and most readers will find something to like in this collection.

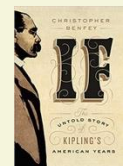


If: The Untold
Story of
Kipling's
American Years

Benfey,
Christopher

9/3/19

Range. I never paid much attention to Rudyard Kipling's writing, and I securely locked him into a box labeled irrelevant old white imperialists. Thanks to an interesting book titled, If: The Untold Story of Kipling's American Years, by literature scholar Christopher Benfey, I know more about Kipling and think of him more highly. I had been clueless about Kipling's time living in the United States, and the relationships he developed in the late 19th and early 20th century with a diverse group of people including Mark Twain, Henry and William James, Teddy Roosevelt and John Hay.



While Kipling's time living in Brattleboro, Vermont was brief, his influence on the United States was more than I expected, as was the influence of the US on him. Readers interested in this time period are those most likely to enjoy this book.

City of Thieves

Benioff, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



When the Nines Roll Over

Benioff, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

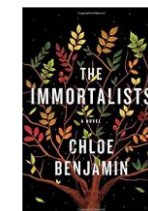



[The Immortalists](#)

Benjamin, Chloe

[5/22/18](#)

Siblings. Would you live differently if you knew the date of your death? Chloe Benjamin explores that question in her finely written novel titled, [The Immortalists](#). After the four Gold siblings visit a fortune teller and are told when they will die, each individual makes choices about life because of what was foretold. Because of her finely written prose and deep character development, skeptical readers can overlook the magical dimension of their shared formative experience. Each sibling chooses differently how to incorporate what they were told in their youth into their lives. Benjamin develops each sibling's life by drawing readers into specific times and places that maintain the novel's momentum.



Billy Boyle	Benn, James R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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[The Land of Flickering Lights: Restoring America in an Age of Broken Politics](#)

Bennet, Michael

[1/10/20](#)

Earnest. Readers who care about American politics are those who will be rewarded by reading Michael Bennet's book titled, [The Land of Flickering Lights: Restoring America in an Age of Broken Politics](#). The US Senator from Colorado (and presidential candidate) weaves his personal story into his insider view of the divisive state of politics. His critique is factual and cogent. His assessment is knowledgeable, and his suggestions for change are reasonable. Bennet exudes earnestness on every page of this book, and whatever your political allegiances, you may find something worthwhile to consider after reading this book.



[Keeping On Keeping On](#)

Bennett, Alan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

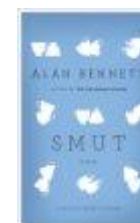


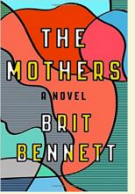

[Smut: Stories](#)

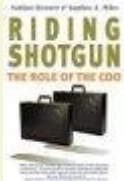
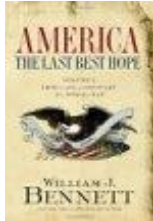
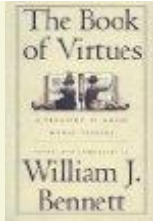
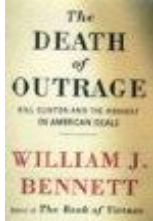

Bennett, Alan

[5/18/12](#)

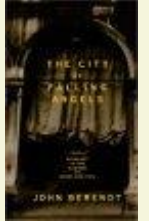
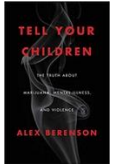
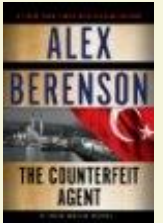
Foibles. Fans of Alan Bennett and readers who appreciate the quirks of British humor are those most likely to enjoy reading [Smut: Stories](#). The two novellas present characters whose behavior, like most of us, represents a blend of good and bad. Their foibles make for interesting reading that is light and entertaining. These stories are a tad risqué but never vulgar.

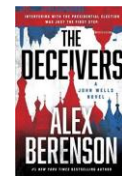
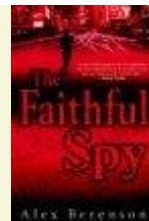




<u>The Mothers</u>	Bennett, Brit	****	<u>12/15/16</u>	<p>Regret. Brit Bennett draws readers into the connected lives of three main characters in her debut novel titled, <u>The Mothers</u>. We meet Nadia, Luke and Aubrey as teens and stay with them for about a decade. Bennett links them to a church community and the mothers of that church provide a motif for how the community reflects on what behaviors are observed. The abundance of mothers in the book and the different forms of mothering call attention to a variety of decisions that are made, some of which lead to deep and lasting regret. Having set the relationship trio as the plot structure for the book, Bennett uses her skills at writing fine prose to keep readers engaged and thinking about these interesting characters and the long-term consequences of youthful decisions.</p>	
<u>The Vanishing Half</u>	Bennett, Brit	*****	<u>8/19/20</u>	<p>Twins. Certain choices can define how our journey through life plays out. The twins in Brit Bennett's novel titled, <u>The Vanishing Half</u>, choose different paths, and readers get to enjoy each sister's life as the consequence of their difference choices. Sometimes we define ourselves, and other times we become identified by others as being a certain way. Sometimes a reinvention of identity can involve an erasure of the past to maintain the integrity of one's new identity. Bennet explores the lives of identical twin sisters from the 1950s through the 1990s as one sister chooses to be identified as White while her sister allows herself to be identified as Black. Bennet encourages readers to immerse ourselves into these disparate lives, as she demands that we think about racial and gender identity with an open mind.</p>	

Riding Shotgun: The Role of the COO	Bennett, Nathan and Stephen A. Miles	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
America	Bennett, William J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
The Book of Virtues	Bennett, William J.	***	3/00	Great selections for enjoyable reading. We compared the loyalty chapter to James Carville's Stickin' , and like Carville better.	
The Death of Outrage	Bennett, William J.	***		With the impeachment over, the sting of the arguments is lost, but the logic and passion remain.	
The Break-out Principle	Benson, Herbert	***	July 03	Hit the Switch. Departure from factless self-help books presents insights from decades of mind-body research and proposes practical ways to generate a trigger leading to some form of self-transformation.	
The Gone Dead	Benz, Chanelle	****	7/3/19	Inheritance. Chanelle Benz' debut novel titled, The Gone Dead , will appeal to any reader who enjoys fiction that presents family stories in the context of particular places over time. After protagonist Billie James inherits a shack in the Mississippi Delta thirty years after she left the place, she leaves Philadelphia to spend some time in the house that once belonged to her father, a	

black poet who died in the Delta when Billie was four years old. Once on site, Billie stumbles into issues of memory, race and justice and pokes at unhealed wounds until secrets are revealed.

<u>The City of Falling Angels</u>	Berendt, John	***	<u>Dec 05</u>	<p>Personality. Journalist presents the character of Venice through introducing readers to some of the people who live there and how they engage in the life of the place.</p>	
<u>Tell Your Children: The Truth About Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence</u>	Berenson, Alex	*****	<u>2/21/19</u>	<p>Evidence. Chances are your mind is made up on the topic of legalization of marijuana. Whether it is made up or not, consider reading Alex Berenson's finely written book titled, <u>Tell Your Children: The Truth About Marijuana, Mental Illness, and Violence</u>. Berenson makes the case that there is ample scientific evidence that marijuana can cause psychosis. There is also a link between psychosis and violence, and there is evidence that crime is increasing among marijuana users in the states that have legalized marijuana use. We are generally poor at estimating personal risks, and on a topic that seems as settled for individuals as marijuana use, how can we assess personal risks? Start by reading this book that offers proof of legitimate health concerns.</p>	
<u>The Counterfeit Agent</u>	Berenson, Alex	****	<u>4/7/14</u>	<p>Installment. Is there no end to the need for protagonist John Wells to save the world? Apparently not. In the eighth installment of this series by Alex Berenson titled, <u>The Counterfeit Agent</u>, Wells returns with a familiar cast and scoots around the world to figure out what's going on to ratchet up anxiety over Iran's nuclear program. Just when readers are led to think that John Wells will settle into a more normal life, he makes the choice to go back into harm's way. Not only do things remain somewhat unresolved by the end of this</p>	

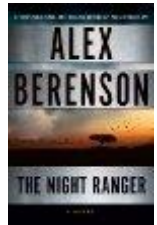
				novel, but also there's the reader's realization that there may be no choice remaining for us other than reading the upcoming ninth installment. I can't wait.	
The Deceivers	Berenson, Alex	****	3/3/18	<p>Russians. The twelfth thriller novel by Alex Berenson to feature protagonist John Wells is titled, The Deceivers. Pulled away from family for another special assignment, Wells expects one high profile assignment, but receives a different one as President Duto sends Wells into a complicated thicket of plots by Russian operatives to take over the United States government. Fans of the series will enjoy this novel, as will any reader who enjoys thrillers with plot lines grabbed from current headlines.</p>	
The Faithful Spy	Berenson, Alex	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Ghost War	Berenson, Alex	***	May 08	<p>Power. Second novel reprises John Wells, whose post-heroic job is at a CIA desk. He jumps at a chance to return to the field as the author riffs on power, and Wells' character develops, albeit with a return to his heroic exploits.</p>	
The Midnight House	Berenson, Alex	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	

The Night Ranger

Berenson, Alex

4/12/13

Consistency. Each principal character in Alex Berenson's latest John Wells novel titled, The Night Ranger, behaves with great consistency. Berenson places Wells in a new setting, East Africa, where he goes on a humanitarian mission in response to a request from his son. Wells acts with competence and integrity to complete his mission. Along the way, he finds himself working solo as well as asking for help from his former employer, the CIA. Readers who love action thrillers are likely to love reading this one. Berenson presents well-drawn characters and a fast-paced plot. I zipped through this novel quickly and was very well entertained.

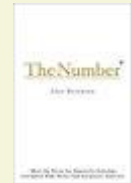


The Number

Berenson, Alex

July 03

Penny Wise. How did Wall Street and corporations become so focused on quarterly earnings? Read this well-paced reflection on events in recent decades that brought us to our current situation of corporate scandals and the low reputations of corporate executives.

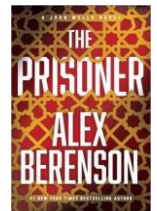


The Prisoner

Berenson, Alex

3/2/17

Mole. Alex Berenson continues to develop the complexity of protagonist John Wells in the eleventh novel in a series featuring this CIA agent. Just when his life seems to be settling down and his risk-taking diminishing, Wells offers himself as bait to ferret out a mole operating at the highest levels of the CIA. The novel is titled, The Prisoner, because that's what Wells becomes so he can befriend another prisoner and identify the mole. As with the earlier novels in this series, the action moves quickly, it takes Wells risking his life to get to the bottom of things, and by the end of the novel, the good guys win. Readers who enjoy action novels will find their fill in this novel and this series.



<u>The Secret Soldier</u>	Berenson, Alex	***	<u>5/8/11</u>	<p>Freelance. Alex Berenson reprises John Wells for a new adventure in his latest novel, <u>The Secret Soldier</u>. The melancholy hero of the earlier novels no longer works for the CIA, and the freelance assignment he accepts in this thriller comes from elderly King Abdullah of Saudi Arabia who can feel the tension of a family feud leading to disaster for his country. The plot lines are drawn from the current news, and the tension delivers the excitement that readers of thrillers crave. While the action is often predictable, Berenson still delivers enough pages of adrenaline-pumping action to make reading this thriller fun, while not requiring any thinking.</p>	
<u>The Shadow Patrol</u>	Berenson, Alex	***	<u>3/19/12</u>	<p>Stan. The timing of Alex Berenson's latest John Wells novel could not be better. Set in Afghanistan, <u>The Shadow Patrol</u> explores the duplicity and self-interest of a variety of players in the military, the CIA, and among Afghans. In some ways, this novel seems to come straight from the nightly news. The lively writing made me think that Berenson had fun writing it. Making the code name of a CIA operative, "Stan," was just outright funny. While Berenson continues to present Wells as a heroic figure whose skills are superior to all other humans, there are enough aspects of his life that come through in this installment that readers can see him as one of us. Fans of action novels are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
<u>The Silent Man</u>	Berenson, Alex	***	<u>3/28/09</u>	<p>Nuclear. Alex Berenson reprises superhero John Wells to save the world again in a new novel titled, <u>The Silent Man</u>. Isn't there someone else who can do what Wells does? Just before Wells and Jennifer Exley are about to take a well-deserved vacation, they are attacked while stuck in traffic in their minivan. Exley suffers a gunshot wound, and Wells has to get revenge for that at the same time he</p>	

				<p>needs to avert a nuclear terrorist attack. While reading the prior novels adds some richness to the experience, each novel stands alone, and in some ways, a fresh approach to The Silent Man may be more pleasurable than having the expectations of past performance influence the current book. For fans of fast-paced thrillers, there's a lot of reading pleasure to be found here. If you are reading this book on a plane, you will enjoy any delay that permits you to keep reading.</p>	
The Wolves	Berenson, Alex	****	3/7/16	<p>Hunting. The tenth John Wells novel by Alex Berenson is titled, The Wolves, and because of the political machinations throughout and the actions of a wealthy character that set up this plot from the previous novel, this may be the least appealing novel to read in a presidential election year. I read it just before Super Tuesday, and was thoroughly entertained. The manic John Wells from more recent novels seems more patient and measured in this installment. He may even be questioning whether he should continue the work he's been doing. Fans will snap up this novel quickly. Any reader who likes thrillers will be entertained by most of these 400 pages.</p>	
Twelve Days	Berenson, Alex	****	4/24/15	<p>Countdown. I felt that I had read Alex Berenson's novel, Twelve Days, before. Not only because of the reprised protagonist, John Wells, but because the plot seemed familiar. Maybe John Wells didn't save the world from this particular crisis before, but he's the hero again, in the nick of time. No spoiler in that statement: this is the genre of character-based thrillers. How could it go any other way? Ripped from the headlines, the crisis du jour for John Wells involves an imminent American attack on Iran. Could it be that America is being duped? Can John Wells get to the bottom of this in time to avert the crisis? Fans of action thrillers and larger than life</p>	

				<p>protagonists are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p> <p>Spunky. Four friends had the notion that there might be readers who would enjoy their take on how to live life well, and they found a publisher. Anne Berest, Audrey Diwan, Caroline de Maigret and Sophie Max offer their views in a book titled, <u>How to Be Parisian Wherever You Are: Love, Style, and Bad Habits</u>. I thought reading this book would be a pleasure before my next trip to Paris, so I read it to the end and didn't like it one bit. While I found it spunky, and sometimes witty, I found it to be so self-absorbed that I didn't like it. Read an excerpt to see if this style is something you'll enjoy.</p>	
<u>How to Be Parisian Wherever You Are: Love, Style, and Bad Habits</u>	Berest, Anne, Audrey Diwan, Caroline de Maigret and Sophie Max	**	<u>2/18/15</u>		
Wilson	Berg, A. Scott	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Dream When You're Feeling Blue</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	***	<u>Jan 08</u>	<p>Nostalgia. Novel set in Chicago during World War II packed with historical detail and the ways in which three sisters lived, loved, worked and sacrificed.</p>	
<u>Home Safe</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	***	<u>5/23/09</u>	<p>Confidence. Protagonist Helen Ames has lost her bearings and her confidence following the death of her husband, Dan. The Oak Park, Illinois novelist isn't writing, and after she learns that her husband withdrew \$850,000 in cash from an account for a purpose unknown to her, she feels financially insecure. She reluctantly takes on teaching a class. Helen leans heavily on her adult daughter, Tessa, and her strong relationship with Midge allows her to hear things about herself that can be hard to face.</p>	

				<p>With extraordinary ease and grace, Elizabeth Berg makes her latest novel, Home Safe, be a gentle way for readers to reflect on the losses we all face in life, and pursue ways to move ahead. I live a block north of Elizabeth Berg and see her walk her dog regularly through our neighborhood. While there may be parallels between the author and her character, the resonance for every reader comes from appreciating a sense of place and a purpose that makes life fulfilling and rewarding. I've come away from each of Berg's books with a warm feeling about life, and if that's the kind of reading experience you enjoy, along with a story well told, you're likely to be pleased when you read Home Safe.</p>	
I'll Be Seeing You	Berg, Elizabeth	*****	12/17/20	<p>Aging. Novelist Elizabeth Berg has written a memoir titled, I'll Be Seeing You, which focuses on the family dynamics as her elderly parents faced the need to leave their home and move into an assisted living facility. While this is the story of one family, Berg helps us see ourselves and own families in this story, thanks to fine writing and candor about the range of positive and negative emotions, especially while trying to care for another from a long distance. The introspection in this memoir leads to insight, and guilt leads to peace. Whatever your stage in personal aging or in caring for those who need assistance at the late stages of life, this memoir will lead to your personal reflections about love and caring and the different forms that takes over time.</p>	
Never Change	Berg, Elizabeth	*****	07/01	Caregiver finds love and caring.	

Night of Miracles

Berg, Elizabeth

12/6/18

Sweet. Any reader looking for a pick-me-up will feel terrific after reading Elizabeth Berg's novel titled, Night of Miracles. Set in a small Missouri town, the novel reprises many characters from *The Story of Arthur Truluv*, although reading that novel is by no means a prerequisite for the latest novel. Friendship, kindness and love flow on the pages of this novel, and if selected by a book group, the conversation about this book will be upbeat, positive and sweet.

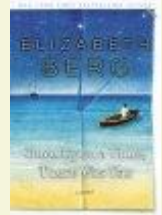


Once Upon a Time, There Was You

Berg, Elizabeth

5/29/11

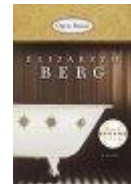
Marriage. The suspense and tension in Elizabeth Berg's novel, Once Upon a Time, There Was You, departs from how she has written previous novels. Fans will continue to enjoy the ways in which she explores the complexity of our relationships and presents characters that are fully formed and recognizable to readers. In this novel she focuses on a divorced couple drawn together again when their daughter has gone missing. Berg examines marriage, and the ways in which we enter and exit from this commitment. As with earlier novels, readers close the last page with both satisfaction and a wish that there was just a bit more.



Open House

Berg, Elizabeth

Highly enjoyable and well-written story about growth and change in relationships. Highly recommended.



Say When

Berg, Elizabeth

July 03

Yes, Virginia. Griffen becomes a Santa and finds out what's important in life. Berg's dialog is always spot on, and her insights into human nature are rich, let alone her settings in our very own neighborhood.



<u>Tapestry of Fortunes</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	****	<u>5/10/13</u>	<p>Reunion. A friend my wife and I first met four decades ago lives by the advice from C.S. Lewis: “Don’t postpone joy.” Elizabeth Berg’s novel, <u>Tapestry of Fortunes</u>, offers comparable advice to readers. The death of a close friend leads protagonist Cecilia Ross to wonder what she has been waiting for. Berg uses the journey of Cecilia’s reunion with a friend from decades earlier as the motif to explore close relationships and the choices we make about how and where we live. Strong female relationships are unveiled in this short novel, which is sweetly and gently presented to those readers who love wholesome stories.</p>	
<u>The Art of Mending</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	***	<u>June 04</u>	<p>Forgiveness. Beneath a bucolic domestic life can reside painful memories and scars. In this novel, Berg explores sibling differences, abuse and repressed memories, along with the journey toward forgiveness.</p>	
<u>The Confession Club</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	****	<u>3/6/20</u>	<p>Support. The third novel by Elizabeth Berg set in the town of Mason, Missouri is titled, <u>The Confession Club</u>. Once again, Berg pulls readers into the lives of loveable characters and exposes the richness of friendship, love, and the support of others. Fans of the series will enjoy the return of beloved characters, supplemented by new and fascinating new ones. Berg is one of those authors whose writing leads us to feel good about ourselves and our neighbors, with all our shortcomings and imperfections.</p>	
<u>The Dream Lover</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	***	<u>5/16/15</u>	<p>Choices. Elizabeth Berg tackles historical fiction with her latest novel titled, <u>The Dream Lover</u>, structured as a memoir by George Sand, Amantine-Lucile-Aurore Dupin. Much of the novel chronicles romantic liaisons, which will please those Berg readers who expect pages filled with relationship issues. Berg adopts a writing style that mimics the writing of George Sand, and that choice led to a</p>	

narrative that was often tedious to read. The choices of memoir and the style of Sand had other consequences. Readers are left with Sand's own view of her life, and there may have been richer material from Sand's critics and admirers. Berg's choices also lead toward a comparison of her prose with Sand's, and for those readers familiar with both, Sand is likely to be viewed more favorably. All that said, I was entertained by reading this novel. Readers who love Berg's writing are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

[The Last Time I Saw You](#)

Berg, Elizabeth

[2/4/11](#)

Reunion. Sometimes a novelist can speak to his or her contemporaries in ways that resonate perfectly with one's personal experience. Readers born a few years on either side of 1950 can find such a novelist in Elizabeth Berg. Her novel, [The Last Time I Saw You](#), is required reading for anyone of that age cohort who is heading to a school reunion. Berg writes with a gentleness and tenderness that reveals a range of human behavior, and she always leaves a reader uplifted by the end of the novel. This is light reading that provides amusing entertainment.



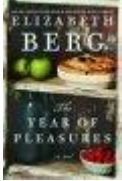
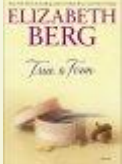
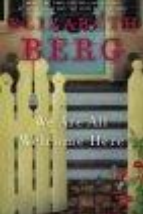

[The Story of Arthur Truluv](#)

Berg, Elizabeth

[12/18/17](#)

Grief. Any reader looking for an uplift in spirits should consider reading Elizabeth Berg's latest finely written novel titled, [The Story of Arthur Truluv](#). Three characters. Arthur, Lucille and Maddy, are united in grief and loneliness. Despite a wide age difference, the friendship is real, and the behavior of each character provides a positive example for every reader. True love takes many forms, and the name that Maddy bestows on Arthur perfectly matches the love he has for his late wife, and the love he extends to both Lucille and Maddy. I think Berg's novels are often popular with book groups, and the discussions about this novel will make for interesting, possible tearful, conversations.



<u>The Year of Pleasures</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	***	<u>June 05</u>	Grief. Lyrical novel in which newly widowed protagonist leaves Boston for small Illinois town and searches for new life and old friends. Reading dialogue is like eavesdropping on conversations among friends.	
<u>True to Form</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	***	<u>Jul 02</u>	Katie Nash returns and presents the anxieties of adolescence and friendship with a delicacy and poignancy that will ring true for most readers.	
<u>We Are All Welcome Here</u>	Berg, Elizabeth	***	<u>August 06</u>	Normal. Novel set in 1960s Mississippi in which a polio stricken woman who can move only her head, delivers a baby in an iron lung and proceeds to raise her in as normal a way as possible.	
<u>I Hold a Wolf by the Ears</u>	Berg, Laura van den	****	<u>9/22/20</u>	Unhinged. I restricted myself to one story per day while I read the collection of eleven short stories by Laura van den Berg titled, <u>I Hold a Wolf by the Ears</u> . I often took a walk after finishing the story of the day, and found myself often agitated, or somewhat unhinged like many of the characters in this collection. Walking off the story cleared my brain. Van den Berg strips away everything from these characters except close examination of their fears. After we see these fears, and feel some part of the pain of suffering, something changes and we observe what's beautiful and see life transformed. There's no easy way out of tough stuff for any of us. With van den Berg as a guide, we somehow get through the tough part and come out with strength ready for another day.	

Unsettled. From the beginning to the end of Laura van den Berg's novel titled, [The Third Hotel](#), I was unsettled. There's a fluid movement from reality to the supernatural or surreal. Imagination blends with the physical world. A setting in Havana adds some mystery and an inability to become comfortable. I was propelled and pummeled by van den Berg's fine writing, leading me to reread some sentences. Marriage, sorrow, love, loss, and grief are all offered on the pages of this novel for readers to sort out. Has protagonist Claire really seen her dead husband, Richard, in Havana at the film festival he had planned to attend? Is our life a horror movie? Readers who enjoy literary fiction and who can become comfortable with being unsettled and ending the book with uncertainty are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.



[The Third Hotel](#)

Berg, Laura van den

[11/24/18](#)

Grand Avenues

Berg, Scott W.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



[Trump and His Generals: The Cost of Chaos](#)

Bergen, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



[Best Friends](#)

Berger, Thomas

[Aug 03](#)

Ambiguous. Psychological novel of two long-time friends reaching middle age, feeling different about themselves and each other. Finely written.

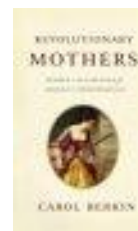


Revolutionary Mothers: Women in the Struggle for America's Independence

Berkin, Carol

Aug 05

Partners. A popularly written history of what famous and ordinary women of all races and classes did during the extraordinary time of the American Revolution that will increase the awareness of all readers.

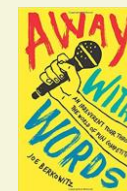


Away with Words: An Irreverent Tour Through the World of Pun Competitions

Berkowitz, Joe

9/12/18

Punderdome. I expected more puns in the book by Joe Berkowitz titled, Away with Words: An Irreverent Tour Through the World of Pun Competitions. The subtitle should have warned me that the content had more than just puns. I enjoyed spending time with Berkowitz on his journey to events like Punderdome. While I appreciate a good pun, I had no idea that pun competitions were even a thing. Berkowitz makes his own excursion into this world fun to read, and his descriptions of the major punners were a delight to read. Did I really reach the end of my brief review without making a pun?



A Manual for Cleaning Women

Berlin, Lucia

9/2/16

Alcohol. Every one of the forty three short stories in the collection titled for one of them, A Manual for Cleaning Women, by the late Lucia Berlin, packs a punch. Written over three decades, the 1960s through 1980s, these stories were often fueled by a life lived streetwise and often fueled by too much alcohol. The gritty life of the working class spits at readers from every page, and the efficiency of the story genre makes every one crisp, sharp and complete. There's plenty of humor and insight into human behavior. Any reader who enjoys finely written stories will find plenty in this collection.



Evening in Paradise: More Stories


Berlin, Lucia

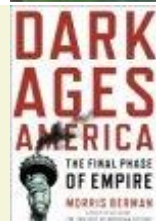
12/13/18

Alive. There are twenty-two short stories in a collection by Lucia Berlin titled, Evening in Paradise: More Stories. In each story, Berlin brings rich characters to life, and places them in settings that most readers will experience as captured with




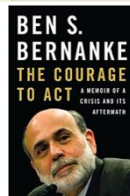
				just the right amount of description to be recognized and understood. The range of settings is wide, and in each one, the places and people come alive for readers. When love is in the air, these stories soar. Berlin places women in some gritty situations and somehow or other, they remain cool, even glamorous. Fans of short stories are those readers most likely to enjoy this collection.	
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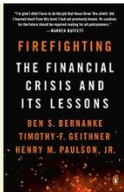

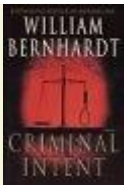
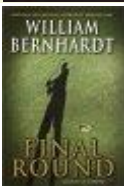
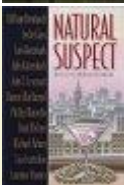

Fieldwork	Berlinwki, Mischa	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
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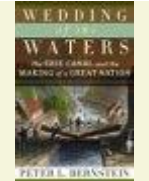
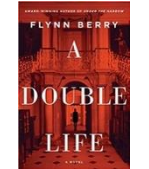

Dark Ages America	Berman, Morris	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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<u>The Twilight of American Culture</u>	Berman, Morris	*	<u>03/01</u>	Annoying and irritating little book. Gloomy outlook by cranky author. "A book for oddballs" according to Berman.	
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<u>Terror and Liberalism</u>	Berman, Paul	***	<u>Nov 04</u>	Freedom. Bashes Chomsky and others while presenting the history of liberalism and a view of the current conflict between Islamism and the West as another totalitarian battle against freedom.	
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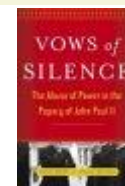
<u>The Courage to Act: A Memoir of a Crisis and Its Aftermath</u>	Bernanke, Ben S.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
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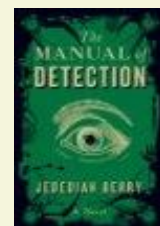
<u>Firefighting: The Financial Crisis and Its Lessons</u>	Bernanke, Ben S., Timothy F. Geithner and Henry Paulson Jr.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Hate Crime	Bernhardt, William	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Criminal Intent</u>	Bernhardt, William	**	<u>Nov 02</u>	Renegade Priest. Mystery fans will appreciate that William Bernhardt has reprised attorney Ben Kincaid to defend another client accused of murder. Father Dan helped Ben years ago, and now it's Ben's turn. Good plot, weak writing.	
<u>Final Round</u>	Bernhardt, William	*	<u>May 02</u>	Author leaves familiar setting of Oklahoma and criminal justice system for Georgia and the Masters. Weak dialogue and little character development.	
<u>Natural Suspect: A Collaborative Novel of Suspense</u>	Bernhardt, William	**	<u>Jan 02</u>	Cute and funny mystery by eleven authors who collaborated to twist and turn plot and characters with whimsy.	
<u>Silent Justice</u>	Bernhardt, William	***	<u>6/00</u>	In the genre of Turow and Grisham, this escapist novel delivers an enjoyable afternoon's reading.	

Beat the Millennium Crash	Bernstein, Jake	DNR	10/99	Skip it.	
Oppenheimer: Portrait of an Enigma	Bernstein, Jeremy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Wedding of the Waters: The Erie Canal and The Making of a Great Nation	Bernstein, Peter L.	***	Oct 05	Wealth. In-depth description of the politicians, financiers, and engineers who created significant wealth for 19 th century Americans through the building of the Erie Canal, the waterway to the West that increased trade.	
A Double Life	Berry, Flynn	****	5/24/19	Search. What would you do if your father was suspected of murder and disappeared? The protagonist of Flynn Berry's novel titled, A Double Life , does what most of us would do: look for him. Claire was a child when her father disappeared, and three decades later, while working in London as a doctor, she becomes focused on tracking him down. Berry's prose meanders through an irregular plot but uses every scene to help readers understand Claire. Toward the end of the novel, most readers will anticipate what Claire will do next. Fans of finely written literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.	
Under the Harrow	Berry, Flynn	***	9/9/16	Sisters. Readers who enjoy crime fiction can start and finish Flynn Berry's debut novel, Under the Harrow , in a single day. Protagonist and narrator, Nora, leaves London to visit her sister, Rachel, in Oxfordshire. Rachel has been stabbed multiple times in her home and is dead. Berry offers some backstory about the sisters as she builds suspense	

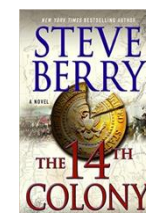
				and suspicion while examining grief and what we don't know about people close to us. After drawing readers into an understanding of the lives of Nora and Rachel, Berry brings the action to an abrupt ending. For some readers, this novel will provide just the right entertainment while at the beach or on an airplane.	
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Vows of Silence	Berry, Jason and Gerald Renner	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2004
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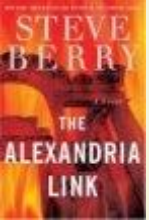
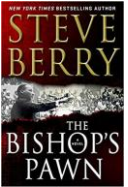
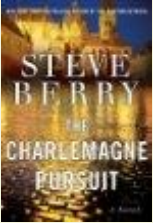


<u>The Manual of Detection</u>	Berry, Jedediah	***	<u>9/26/09</u>	<p>Dreamy. Jedediah Berry's debut novel, <u>The Manual of Detection</u>, provides willing readers with a quirky and odd story of a clerk, Charles Unwin, who becomes a detective. The balance between order and disorder, and between dreams and reality remains off kilter for Unwin and for readers. <u>The Manual of Detection</u> presents a puzzle in a form that isn't what most mystery readers are accustomed to, but for me, became absorbing as the story unfolds. Berry allows us to engage our brains with him as we enter Unwin's world and try our best to make sense of what is happening. Adventurous readers are likely to find much to enjoy: a new author, and a genre that may defy the limitations of an orderly niche.</p>	
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<u>The 14th Colony</u>	Berry, Steve	***	<u>8/12/16</u>	<p>Solo. Certain formulaic novels provide sufficient entertainment to overlook any flaws. Steve Berry continues his formulaic Cotton Malone series with a novel titled, <u>The 14th Colony</u>, and it maintains all the familiar tropes and flaws. I was mildly entertained by the blend of fact and fiction that Berry delights in writing, and strained again in my suspension of disbelief at the plot. The dominance of the big man theory of history seems to require Berry to have both President Daniels and Cotton</p>
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Malone be so great at what they do, they are often the only ones who can do what needs to be done. My credulity was strained at many plot points in this novel when it made more sense for more participants to be involved in the action, instead of the heroic sole practitioner. Fans of heroic action novels are those most likely to enjoy this one.

<u>The Alexandria Link</u>	Berry, Steve	**	<u>June 07</u>	Sham. Mind-disengaging summer reading with fast moving plot, if readers can overlook inaccurate history, preposterous premises and poor character development.	
<u>The Bishop's Pawn</u>	Berry, Steve	****	<u>4/16/18</u>	King. The thirteenth novel in the Cotton Malone series by Steve Berry takes an approach different from the first dozen books in the series. In the novel titled, <u>The Bishop's Pawn</u> , Berry presents Cotton Malone's link to Martin Luther King in the past and in the present. The past involves backstory: the first work that Malone did for Stephanie Nelle. Fans of action novels will find plenty to enjoy in this book, and those readers who have enjoyed the series are those most likely to appreciate the latest installment.	
<u>The Charlemagne Pursuit</u>	Berry, Steve	**	<u>4/25/09</u>	Whiplash. Steve Berry changes scenes so rapidly in his latest novel, <u>The Charlemagne Pursuit</u> , that I began to feel whiplashed. Berry reprises Cotton Malone for this tale, and follows a plot structure that he's used before: bad guys go after Malone, he eludes them, and uses his powers of recollection and analysis to solve complicated historical puzzles. The brief chapters leave lots of cliffhangers. That also means that you can put this book down frequently and do something else, since no matter how thrilling the situation may be, you know it will change again quickly, and you can easily pick up where you left off. Berry excels at the depths to	

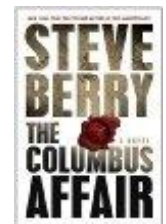
which he can exploit the behavior of schemers and the dysfunction of families. Whether the history bears any resemblance to facts matters little to most readers, so Berry grabs pieces of fact and lets his imagination soar, but always in short spurts. If you like rapid-fire scenes and history as it might have been, give [The Charlemagne Pursuit](#) a try.

[The Columbus Affair](#)

Berry, Steve

[6/7/12](#)

Chosen. The formula that Steve Berry has used in his prior novels has been to take a few historical facts and weave them into a modern adventure story, led by a strong protagonist. Berry left behind his familiar protagonist, Cotton Malone, in writing his latest novel, [The Columbus Affair](#), and gave us a weaker lead, Tom Sagan who has been chosen to carry out a particular mission. The historical tidbits involve threads of speculation that Christopher Columbus was Jewish, and that he buried precious objects in the New World to protect them from harm. Berry inundates readers with lots of characters and he flits the action between present and past to relieve developing boredom. Readers looking for light entertainment and who like a busy plot and a large cast of characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



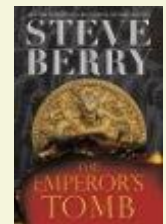
[The Emperor's Tomb](#)

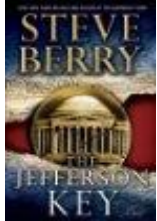

Berry, Steve

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[1/15/11](#)

Didactic. Steve Berry continues to stretch his readers' willingness to suspend disbelief with this year's installment in his Cotton Malone series titled, [The Emperor's Tomb](#). Malone works as an antiquarian bookseller, but he suspends that work regularly when the government deploys him across the globe to risk his life and others in mostly implausible situations. Set mostly in China this time out, Berry breaks up the action often with lengthy explanations of centuries of Chinese politics and other results of his research. This didactic style becomes something of a palate cleanser between action courses. Fans of action thrillers will find



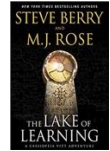
				<p>ample action here, and those readers patient enough to tolerate mediocre writing and occasional boring exposition and explanation are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>The Jefferson Key</u>	Berry, Steve	***	<u>7/9/11</u>	<p>Pirates. Steve Berry's latest Cotton Malone adventure, <u>The Jefferson Key</u>, departs from the prior overseas settings and places the protagonist and four hundred pages of exciting action in the United States. While Berry's dialogue remains weak, the fast-paced plot and imaginative premise will entertain most readers who like thrillers. Government-sanctioned piracy conducted by the same elite North Carolina families for generations will be considered perfectly plausible by some readers and laughable by others. This novel provides quick and entertaining summer reading for those readers who can tolerate mediocre writing.</p>	
<u>The King's Deception</u>	Berry, Steve	****	<u>7/16/13</u>	<p>Patrimony. Steve Berry continues his successful formula with a new novel titled, <u>The King's Deception</u>. Protagonist Cotton Malone and his son, Gary, are caught in a scheme that involves both a modern and a historical controversy. At the end of each novel, Berry separates fact from fiction, as a way to inform readers. His alternative history is always imaginative, in this case a Tudor period deception. The theme of patrimony runs through the novel, both in Tudor times and in Malone's relationship with Gary. Readers who like fast-paced action novels, and who can tolerate leaps of imagination that deviate from scholarly historical accounts, are those most likely to enjoy this novel. I was entertained by the action and amused by Berry's alternative history.</p>	

[The Lake of Learning](#)

Berry, Steve

[4/16/20](#)

Cathars. I know very little about the Cathars, so when I picked up Steve Berry's novella titled, [The Lake of Learning](#), I knew he'd teach me something, especially by his inclusion of author's notes separating fact from fiction. Recurring protagonist Cassiopeia Vitt is back, and while Cotton Malone makes just a brief cameo, fans of the series can see Vitt at her best as she finds herself in possession of a valuable key to a Cathar treasure. Readers who like action novels and are open to learning a thing or two about events in 13th century France are those most likely to enjoy this novella.

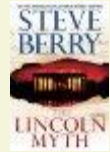


[The Lincoln Myth](#)

Berry, Steve

[6/11/14](#)

Secession. The latest novel by Steve Berry to feature Cotton Malone is titled, [The Lincoln Myth](#). The popular and successful formula from the earlier Malone novels returns: the retired Justice Department agent and current antiquarian bookseller is called back to government work. Berry blends fact and fiction throughout the novel, and adds an appendix to the novel with an explication of the difference. There's a contemporary plotline and a historical plotline that merge to deliver hours of satisfying reading to those who like this formula.

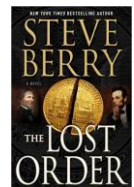


[The Lost Order](#)

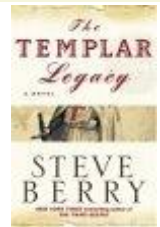
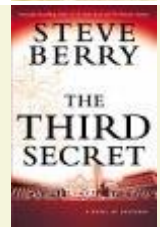

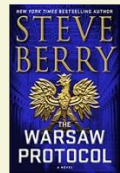
Berry, Steve

[12/18/17](#)

Smithsonian. The twelfth Cotton Malone novel by Steve Berry is titled, [The Lost Order](#). As the formula demands, something secret from the past requires the skills of Cotton Malone to uncover and resolve. This time out, the setting involves the Smithsonian Institution, and the secret involves a lost treasure from the Confederacy and a group called The Knights of the Golden Circle. Readers looking for some escapist action reading are those most likely to enjoy this novel, especially those who like a blend of actual and made-up history.



<u>The Malta Exchange</u>	Berry, Steve	****	<u>4/25/19</u>	<p>Conclave. The fourteenth Cotton Malone novel by Steve Berry is titled, <u>The Malta Exchange</u>. Fans of this series are those readers most likely to be patient enough to stick with the complexity in this novel. A pope has died, and there's a scheme to get a particular person chosen as pope at the conclave. The complexity comes in the form of a secret document kept by the Knights of Malta, purported to go back to Emperor Constantine and containing material threatening to the Catholic church. There's also evidence about indiscretions by various cardinals that have been documented and are planned to be used to secure votes for the person who wants to be pope. Various secret agents are at work, and Cotton Malone is in the middle of another mess. If you have any questions about how Cotton fares, you've never read anything in this series.</p>	
<u>The Paris Vendetta</u>	Berry, Steve	***	<u>4/25/10</u>	<p>Familiar. It could be that Steve Berry's recurring protagonist, Cotton Malone, has started to grow on me. The sixth and latest thriller to feature the former Department of Justice hero is titled <u>The Paris Vendetta</u>, and reprises the Danish billionaire Henrik Thorvaldsen who wants to find out who killed his son. So, Cotton is hauled out of his Copenhagen bookstore on another adventure. Along the way there's a search for Napoleon's secret treasure. Berry isn't a terrific writer, but readers who like a quick-to-read thriller might find a few entertaining hours reading this one.</p>	
<u>The Patriot Threat</u>	Berry, Steve	****	<u>8/25/15</u>	<p>Taxing. The tenth novel by Steve Berry to feature protagonist Cotton Malone is titled, <u>The Patriot Threat</u>. This time out, Malone is drawn into a case that might prove that the 16th amendment might be invalid. If evidence that the federal income tax is invalid falls into the wrong hands, the United States economy could go into freefall. Berry entertains</p>	

				readers who like this sort of thing by providing a series of historical facts, and then speculating with abandon. I've gotten so used to Malone from this series that I have become willing to overlook the shortcomings of the prose, and found myself well-entertained by an exciting story.	
The Templar Legacy	Berry, Steve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
The Third Secret	Berry, Steve	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Venetian Betrayal	Berry, Steve	**	Apr 08	Bullies. Bookseller Cotton Malone returns for the third time with a familiar cast of characters to save the world from a bully. Fast moving and implausible plot includes weak dialogue and lack of character development. Ideal for brain-disengaged vacation or airplane reading.	
The Warsaw Protocol	Berry, Steve	****	7/6/20	Blackmail. Leave it to protagonist Cotton Malone to be in the right place at the right time. Or is it the wrong place at the right time? In the fifteenth installment of the Malone series by Steve Berry, a novel titled, The Warsaw Protocol , Cotton happens to be present for the theft of a sacred object, so he leaps into the fray to catch the thieves and recover the object. Almost immediately, Stephanie Nelle invites him back for a short-term job. What follows is an adventurous plot that involves securing items that are planned to be used to blackmail the president of Poland. Politics, villains, castles and a	

				salt mine are all in the mix for readers of this entertaining action novel.	
A Place in Time: Twenty Stories of the Port William Membership	Berry, Wendell	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
Hannah Coulter	Berry, Wendell	****	Feb 05	Living. Poetic writing and inspirational testament to living narrated by a woman who has welcomed the love and losses of life fully. Could be Berry's best novel.	
That Distant Land: The Collected Stories	Berry, Wendell	***	Sep 04	Community. 23 short stories arranged chronologically in the history of Berry's fictional community of Port William. Superb writing that captures human nature and community life in all its complexity.	
The Way of Ignorance	Berry, Wendell	***	Nov 06	Responsibility. In these 19 essays Berry pierces through the rhetoric of the arrogant and humbly and clearly proposes ways for us live together toward the common good.	
Mission-Driven Leadership: My Journey as a Radical Capitalist	Bertolini, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Presidents of War	Beschloss, Michael	****	5/9/19	Sweeping. General readers who appreciate readable and compelling presentations of history are those most likely to enjoy Michael Beschloss' book titled, Presidents of War . I paced myself while reading this doorstop of a book, reading lots of other things between sections. Beschloss focuses on these United States Presidents: Madison, Polk,	

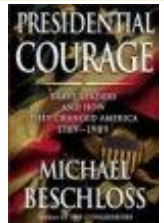
				Lincoln, McKinley, Wilson, FDR, Truman and LBJ. I found just the right balance between detail and summary. As with other fine writers of American history, Beschloss knows how to draw readers into the setting and the issues through events that are carefully chosen to support the narrative. The war powers of United States Presidents are interesting to explore, and Beschloss is an author who can lead us toward greater understanding of multiple dimensions of the many issues relating to war.	
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Presidential
Courage

Beschloss,
Michael R.

July 07

Selections. Historian selects nine U.S. Presidents and specific challenges each faced that displayed courage. Light summer reading lacks insight.

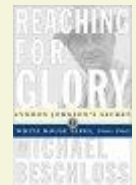


Reaching for
Glory: Lyndon
Johnson's
Secret White
House Tapes,
1964-1965

Beschloss,
Michael R.

Jan 02

Eavesdrop on selected conversations between Lyndon Johnson and a wide cast of characters to gain insight into how a manipulative President operated.

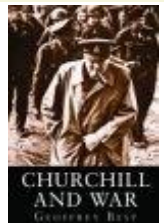


Churchill and
War

Best, Geoffrey

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2006

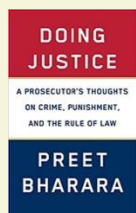


Doing Justice: A
Prosecutor's
Thoughts on
Crime,
Punishment,
and the Rule of
Law

Bharara, Preet

6/10/20

Overview. Criminal justice fans will enjoy the readable primer by former U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Preet Bharara, a book titled, Doing Justice: A Prosecutor's Thoughts on Crime, Punishment, and the Rule of Law. As a reader would expect from a well-organized attorney, the book is structured coherently in four sections: inquiry, accusation, judgment and



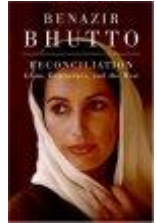
				punishment. Through clear writing and interesting case stories, issues in criminal justice come to life on these pages as does love and respect for the rule of law.	
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Reconciliation:
Islam,
Democracy, and
the West

Bhutto, Benazir

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



The Shadow of
the Crescent
Moon

Bhutto, Fatima

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

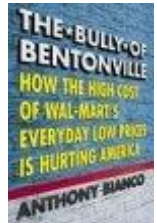


The Bully of
Bentonville

Bianco, Anthony

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



[Empire of Light](#)

Bible, Michael

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



[Sophia](#)

Bible, Michael

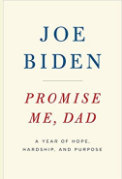
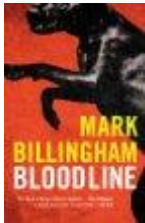
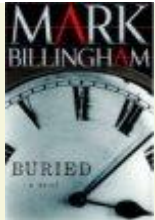
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[10/10/16](#)

Chess. My guess is that few readers will be ambivalent about Michael Bible's novel, [Sophia](#). I found the prose strange, the characters unappealing and the plot not very interesting. Eli is a chess wiz, and he and the Reverend journey around the country as Eli wins tournaments and the Reverend keeps the winnings. While there is a struggle with spirituality that might be happening over the course of the novel, I found that I didn't care. I laughed on



occasion, but returned often to reflecting on what an odd novel this is. Some readers are likely to love its quirkiness. Read a sample to see if you might be one of those readers.

<u>Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose</u>	Biden, Joe	****	<u>1/12/18</u>	<p>Authenticity. Most readers will pick up a copy of the book titled, <u>Promise Me, Dad: A Year of Hope, Hardship, and Purpose</u>, because the author, former Vice President Joe Biden, is a familiar figure. Those readers who finish the book are likely to feel that they spent this reading time in a fruitful way, coming away with a deeper understanding of character, courage, family and the optimism that leads us to hope. Joe Biden is one of the most genuine and authentic individuals in public life, and his emotions appear unvarnished on every page of this book about the last year in the life of his son, Beau, who died of brain cancer.</p>	
<u>Bloodline</u>	Billingham, Mark	***	<u>8/19/11</u>	<p>Suspense. Mark Billingham delivers another well-written crime novel featuring detective Tom Thorne and titled, <u>Bloodline</u>. A serial killer challenges Thorne's ability to get a step ahead of evil plans. Billingham maintains an emotional tautness throughout this novel as he skillfully moves the plot forward and allows the character development to ease readers into understanding of the mystery. The suspense kept me turning the pages with interest and speed. Readers who enjoy crime thrillers are those most likely to enjoy this one.</p>	
Buried	Billingham, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	

Death Message:
A Novel of
Suspense

Billingham,
Mark

1/16/10

Learning. No matter how much he already knows, Detective Inspector Tom Thorne continues to learn, and continues to make mistakes as he learns again. The latest thriller featuring Thorne is titled, Death Message, in which Thorne is receiving photos and messages from a killer. The ensemble cast of characters help and prod Thorne who acts both within and outside the constraints of proper procedure. Death Message is entertaining especially for those readers who like British detective fiction.



Die of Shame

Billingham,
Mark

8/12/17

Group. What happens in group therapy stays in group therapy. In his novel titled, Die of Shame, Mark Billingham presents readers with six characters who meet for a weekly group session focused on shame. The members of the group have a history of addiction of one sort or another, and few readers will find any of them appealing or attractive. One member of the group is murdered, and it seems likely that the culprit is a member of the group. But who? Detective Inspector Nicola Tanner has to answer that question and get what she needs to know from people who are ashamed, have secrets, and would prefer lies to the truth. Tanner is the most interesting character of all, and fans of crime fiction will find her approach entertaining.



From the Dead

Billingham,
Mark

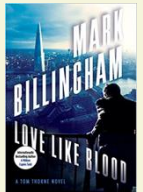
10/29/14

Relations. The crime novel titled, From the Dead, by Mark Billingham, is another in his series featuring Detective Inspector Tom Thorne. Two cases preoccupy Thorne: a new case in which Thorne and the prosecutors were unable to convict a suspected child abductor; and an old case in which someone who was thought to have been murdered seems to be alive. That's enough to generate an engaging plot. What Billingham does so well is develop the tension in the relationships between so many complex characters. Parents and




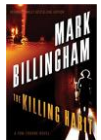
children, lovers, husbands and wives. The range of behavior for all the characters is a mix of good and bad, just as it is with each of us. Thorne himself behaves in ways that display a wide range of his strengths and weaknesses. The revelations of feelings among closely linked people made this crime novel deliver an extra bonus to those readers who like to read fiction that resembles the complexity of our own lives.

Honorable. The 14th installment in the series by Mark Billingham featuring Detective Inspector Tom Thorne is titled, Love Like Blood. Billingham took a Thorne break last year to publish *Die of Shame* featuring D.I. Nicola Tanner. Tanner appears in the new Thorne novel with a request that Tom investigate the murder of Tanner's partner. The current novel explores the dishonorable practice of "honor" killing. As fans will expect, Thorne is troubled and talented. The plot has interesting twists and surprises, the action moves briskly, and I was well-entertained.


<u>Love Like Blood</u>	Billingham, Mark	*****	<u>10/26/17</u>		
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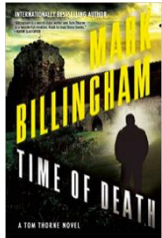
The Bones Beneath	Billingham, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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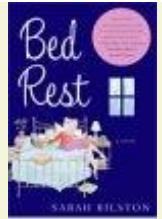
The Demands	Billingham, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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<u>The Killing Habit</u>	Billingham, Mark	*****	<u>5/24/19</u>	Cats. The fifteenth installment in the Tom Thorne crime fiction series by Mark Billingham is titled, <u>The Killing Habit</u> . Detective Thorne gets some ribbing when he's assigned a case that involves the killing of lots and lots of cats in London. Thorne	
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brings Nicola Tanner into his new case, but she remains involved in a different case involving a new lethal drug. Billingham loves to develop these characters and uses pauses in the action to flesh out more about their personal stories. Readers who like crime fiction with well-developed characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

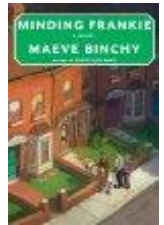
<u>Their Little Secret</u>	Billingham, Mark	****	<u>9/13/19</u>	<p>Connections. The fifteenth Tom Thorne mystery by Mark Billingham is titled, <u>Their Little Secret</u>. Fans of the series will delight in Thorne's flaws and mistakes in this novel and will appreciate his partnership with DI Nicola Tanner. The mystery plot will engage all fans of this genre, and few readers will see all the twists and turns before they arrive on the page. The characters are complex and interesting, and Billingham leads readers into just the right of empathy to make the situations understandable, yet still chilling.</p>	
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<u>Time of Death</u>	Billingham, Mark	****	<u>8/25/15</u>	<p>Holiday. During your next vacation, consider reading the thirteenth Tom Thorne novel by Mark Billingham titled, <u>Time of Death</u>. Detective Inspector Thorne is on holiday in the Cotswolds with his lover, Detective Sergeant Helen Weeks. There's been a kidnapping in Helen's hometown, and she returns home after many years to comfort an old friend whose husband has been arrested. While outside their jurisdiction, Tom can't stay on the sidelines and he finds himself taking a busman's holiday. Billingham's plot, characters and dialogue will satisfy all fans of crime fiction.</p>	
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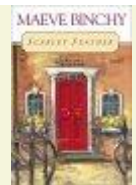
Bed Rest	Bilston, Sarah	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
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Minding Frankie Binchy, Maeve *** 3/27/11

Glue. Maeve Binchy's latest novel, Minding Frankie, invites readers to spend time with a large cast of characters bound together in a closely knit community in Dublin. She reprised some characters from earlier novels and introduced and developed new ones to satisfy both new readers and longtime fans. The ties that bind us together are often those of family, and sometimes they come from the kindness and caring of neighbors and strangers. The many imperfect lives Binchy presents in this novel find love where it happens to be, and build on these ties in ways that will satisfy most readers who enjoy character-based fiction.



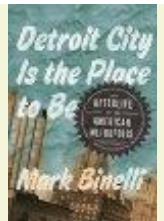
Scarlet Feather Binchy, Maeve *** 05/01 Good writing, character and plot.



The Return Journey Binchy, Maeve Unread Shelf of Ennui 2004



Detroit City Is the Place to Be: The Afterlife of an American Metropolis Binelli, Mark Unread Shelf of Ennui 2013.

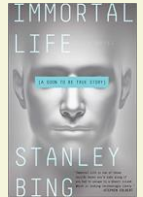




HHhH Binet, Laurent **** 3/25/13

Originality. Readers who like discovering something new will delight in the structure and style of Laurent Binet's debut novel, HHhH. The protagonist of the novel is the Nazi war criminal Reinhard Heydrich who was known as the "Butcher of Prague." One structure in the novel represents historical fiction and relates the horror of what



Heydrich did. Another structure is the author or narrator's introspection about how to present the story in the novel. That second structure allows a reader to pause from the brutality. Binet's originality delighted me as I read this novel, even though the violence and cruelty were often hard to read. This is historical fiction like nothing else I've read.

<u>Immortal Life</u>	Bing, Stanley	****	<u>2/9/18</u>	<p>Titan. Stanley Bing is the penname of Gil Schwartz, Senior EVP at CBS, and his latest novel is titled, <u>Immortal Life</u>. Bing takes the news stories of corporate titans funding projects to extend human lifespan, especially their own, combines that with major corporate consolidations and adds progress made in artificial intelligence. The result is a satire about corporate arrogance and greed, and an inquiry into what it means to be a person. Bing is being playful in this novel, as he does regularly in his writing. The characters are larger and smaller than life. He pokes around the edges of what might be a future and leads us to laugh at the permanence of human folly.</p>	
<u>Rome, Inc.</u>	Bing, Stanley	*	<u>May 06</u>	<p>Minimal. Reads as if Bing was forced to complete an assignment in which he has minimal interest. Some funny passages, but not enough. Continue to read his <i>Fortune</i> column and wait for his next book.</p>	
<u>The Big Bing</u>	Bing, Stanley	**	<u>Jan 04</u>	<p>Too Big. Collection of years of Fortune and Esquire columns by CBS executive. Delivers laughs and underlying truths about executive life. Savor one at a time with single malt and Cuban cigar.</p>	

What Would Machiavelli Do? The Ends Justify the Meanness

Bing, Stanley

**

Apr 02

A funny reflection on bad bosses by Fortune columnist and CBS executive. Dilbert without the cartoons.



You Look Nice Today

Bing, Stanley

Nov 03

Worklife. Few novels capture what real office work is like. Here's the exception, with the occasional exaggeration for pleasure. Interesting times when a comment like that in the title can lead to a sexual harassment suit.

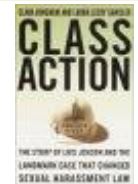


Class Action

Bingham, Clara and Laura Leedy Gansler

Sep 02

Mesmerizing story about a hostile work environment at Eveleth Mines in Minnesota, a landmark lawsuit, and the behavior of all participants.

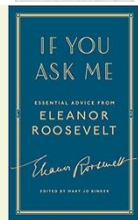


If You Ask Me: Essential Advice from Eleanor Roosevelt

Binker, Mary Jo

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



The New One: Painfully True Stories from a Reluctant Dad

Birbiglia, Mike

9/8/20

Vulnerability. Every expectant parent has been told that having children will change their lives forever. The naïve among us may minimize this fact or warning. My bride still reminds me that over four decades ago when she was pregnant with our firstborn, I assured her that we would still be spontaneous after we become parents. Stop laughing. Comedian Mike Birbiglia will bring some laughter to readers of his book titled, The New One: Painfully True Stories from a Reluctant Dad. Other parents will admire his vulnerability about the darker sides of his experience and feel some relief that their own experience isn't singular. So often there are expectations of what we "should" feel about our newborn children, and when we may not experience those feelings, we may feel alienated.



Birbiglia's candor and willingness to talk about the dark side may help other parents appreciate that not everyone feels the same things in the same way at the same time.

<u>The Good Spy: The Life and Death of Robert Ames</u>	Bird, Kai	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>J.R.R. Tolkien's Sanctifying Myth: Understanding Middle Earth</u>	Birzer, Bradley J.	***	<u>Feb 03</u>	Holy Hobbits. What the value of myth is to all of us, and what myth, Middle Earth, and Catholicism meant to Tolkien who wanted to return England to its pre-World War I bucolic life.	
<u>The Big Sort: Why the Clustering of Like-Minded America Is Tearing Us Apart</u>	Bishop, Bill	***	<u>Nov 08</u>	Isolation. Thoughtful and well-researched exploration of the consequences of polarization throughout American life.	
<u>Making Change Happen One Person at a Time</u>	Bishop, Jr., Charles R.	DNR	<u>02/01</u>	Had this been intended as a parody, it would be enjoyable to read. Unfortunately, the author is serious. Recommendation: take a pass.	
<u>The Road from Ruin: How to Revive Capitalism and Put America Back on Top</u>	Bishop, Matthew and Michael Green	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	

God Lives in St.
Petersburg and
Other Stories

Bissell, Tom

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

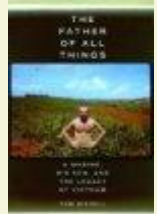


The Father of
All Things

Bissell, Tom

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Three Nights in
August

Bissinger, Buzz

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

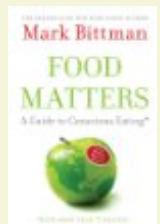


Food Matters: A
Guide to
Conscious
Eating

Bittman, Mark

4/25/09

Dietless. Leave it to “The Minimalist” writer of *New York Times* and PBS fame, Mark Bittman, to use shortcuts even in his book title to convey multiple messages. Food Matters means both that the food we select makes a difference, and this book concerns food. Following a personal medical wake up call, Bittman chose to make some improvements to his diet along the lines that all of us know when it comes to clarity on what’s good for us: eat more plants, fewer animals, and skip junk food. In a non-doctrinaire manner, Bittman surveys the state of food in America, habits of eating, and offers practical suggestions for making choices that improve health without leading to feelings of deprivation. For those readers who hate being on a regimented diet, Food Matters offers simple ways to buy and prepare good food, including dozens of recipes. It’s simpler than most of us imagine.

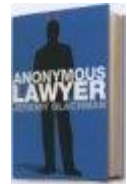


The Anonymous
Lawyer

Blachman,
Jeffrey

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

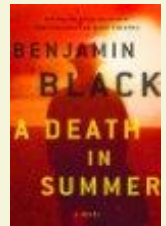


[A Death in
Summer](#)

Black, Benjamin

[7/9/11](#)

Perversions. The pleasure that John Banville must feel as he writes mysteries under the penname Benjamin Black comes across on the pages of each novel. The latest, [A Death in Summer](#), reprises the brooding Dr. Quirke, and explores more seedy aspects of life in Dublin in the 1950s. There's a murder that sets the action in motion, and then all the connections and motives and tension is laid out for readers. Figuring things out becomes incidental to the pleasure of enjoying fine writing.



[Christine Falls](#)

Black, Benjamin

[May 07](#)

Quirke. Under a pseudonym, John Banville debuts in the mystery genre with a novel replete with complex characters, well-paced plot, lyrical prose, and realistic dialogue. Perhaps a series featuring protagonist Quirke, a pathologist.

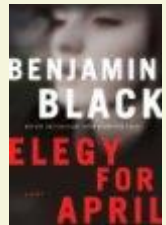


[Elegy for April](#)

Black, Benjamin

[6/22/10](#)

Family. Benjamin Black's latest novel is titled [Elegy for April](#). Quirke is back. Out of rehab for his alcoholism, Garret Quirke agrees to help his daughter find a missing friend. The writing is taut, with a great plot and well-developed characters. All the family relationships presented in the novel contain insights into these closest of relationships. Black is the pseudonym of award winning writer John Banville. The quality of writing here exceeds that of most mystery novels. The more Banville develops Quirke the more engaging a character he becomes. In this enjoyable installment, he's almost endearing.



[Even the Dead](#)

Black, Benjamin

[8/19/16](#)

Recovery. The seventh novel by John Banville writing as Benjamin Black to feature Irish pathologic Quirke is titled, [Even the Dead](#). The novel opens as Quirke continues his recuperation and recovery from brain injuries that he suffered in a brutal beating in the last novel. Quirke isn't working, and he isn't drinking. Within a few pages, he is drawn back to the morgue to examine a body. A large cast of characters, most familiar to fans from the earlier novels, provide Quirke with all the support and antagonism he needs for reengaging with the world, taking on the powers that be, and achieving justice. Quirke is a great character, and the writing in this series continues to be superb. Join the action here, or start from the beginning.



[Holy Orders](#)

Black, Benjamin

[9/24/13](#)

Characters. The seventh novel in John Banville's series of Dublin novels written under the pseudonym Benjamin Black is titled [Holy Orders](#). Pathologist Garret Quirke continues to dabble into detection as he battles his own demons, including alcohol abuse. Banville captures the 1950s culture and norms with precision while he explores deep psychological themes. Priests and the role of the Catholic Church in Ireland are presented with insight and without mercy. All the complex characters in the novel are presented in the richness of their humanity, and I enjoyed reading this novel as much as I have each one in this finely written series. Readers who like this time period and crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

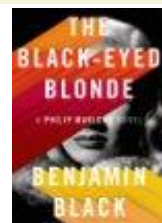


[The Black-Eyed Blonde](#)



Black, Benjamin

[3/7/14](#)

Melancholy. Let's be sure we understand what we face in the novel, [The Black-Eyed Blonde](#). John Banville is writing this under his pseudonym for non-literary fiction, Benjamin Black. He's writing in the style of Raymond Chandler, including the reprisal of Chandler's famous protagonist, Philip


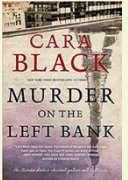
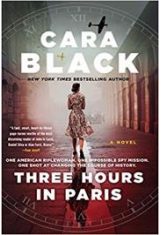


Marlowe. Is this rip off or homage? In my view, it's a well-written homage that captures all the melancholy of Philip Marlowe. It took great skill by Banville to tackle a presentation of this beloved noir detective, and make him come alive for contemporary readers while not alienating fans of Chandler's work. On all levels, Banville pulls this off. The character, dialogue, plot and atmosphere are all presented with consistency and at the same time with freshness. Fans of crime fiction, especially of Marlowe and Chandler, will find a lot to enjoy when reading Benjamin Black's latest novel.

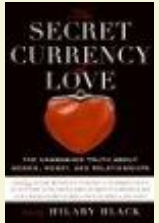
<u>The Lemur</u>	Black, Benjamin	***	<u>Sep 08</u>	<p>Family. After a journalist agrees to write his father-in-law's biography, the freelancer he uses for research, whom he calls the lemur, attempts blackmail and is killed. Fine writing under pseudonym by John Banville.</p>	
<u>The Secret Guests</u>	Black, Benjamin	****	<u>10/19/20</u>	<p>Princesses. John Banville, writing as Benjamin Black, imagines young Princess Elizabeth and her sister, Princess Margaret, being sent from London to rural Ireland in 1940 to escape the bombing. In his novel titled, <u>The Secret Guests</u>, Black helps readers see aspects of the personalities of Elizabeth and Margaret as children that resonate with their later lives. The action is set in Clonmillis Hall, the estate of the Duke of Edenmore, who could use funds to keep up the estate which has seen better days. The girls are in the care of a secret agent, Miss Celia Nashe, and an Irish detective. There's an interesting cast of characters, some drama and tension, and the kind of hijinks and peril that should have prevented such a scheme as hiding the princesses from ever taking place. They may have been safer under the bombing than in Ireland. I think Banville enjoyed writing about something he</p>	

thinks is plausible, and readers who enjoy imaginative historical fiction may delight in spending time with his imagination.

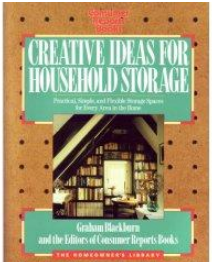
<u>The Silver Swan</u>	Black, Benjamin	***	<u>May 08</u>	<p>Justice. Second mystery novel from John Banville using a pseudonym reprises Garret Quirke, Irish pathologist, who broods along trying to solve a murder and see that justice is done. Read on a sunny day to offset the gloom.</p>	
<u>Vengeance</u>	Black, Benjamin	****	<u>8/27/12</u>	<p>Boats. John Banville continues his mystery series written under the pseudonym Benjamin Black with a new novel titled, <u>Vengeance</u>. Protagonist Garrett Quirke seemed less gloomy in this novel than in the prior ones, although the atmospherics of 1950s Dublin add plenty of darkness to this novel. Key plot action takes place on boats in this novel, and Banville's writing skill carries readers through a moderately-paced novel, packed with great dialogue. He develops characters with skill exposing many layers of complexity, both for new characters, and those reprised from previous novels. Fans of great writing who also like a good mystery are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>Wolf on a String</u>	Black, Benjamin	****	<u>7/14/17</u>	<p>Discord. I kept wondering about the meaning of the title of the new novel titled, <u>Wolf on a String</u>, by John Banville writing as Benjamin Black. When I reached page 189, my curiosity was satisfied: "... it is called <i>a wolf on a string</i>. ... it occurs ... when a particular note played on a particular string matches some resonating frequency in the wood of the instrument, producing a cacophonous howl, not unlike that of the wolf." The discord for protagonist Christian Stern involves the intrigue he finds in the court of Holy Roman Emperor Rudolf II in Prague when he arrives there in 1599 to make his fortune. Instead, Stern finds himself in the middle of power struggles and placed in charge of solving a murder.</p>	

				<p>Fans of Banville and Black will expect and receive finely written prose in this novel, providing complex characters and an interesting plot.</p> <p>Mother. The nineteenth mystery novel by Cara Black featuring Aimée Leduc is titled, Murder in Bel-Air. Fans of the series will be satisfied with the return to Paris, and to the spunky Aimée who is caught between not being the mother she'd like to be and dealing with the hijinks set in motion by her own mother. Aimée seems to never slow down: running her business, raising her child, and being used by others to achieve their own ends. Readers who enjoy character-driven crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
Murder in Bel-Air	Black, Cara	*****	9/13/19		
Murder on the Left Bank	Black, Cara	*****	10/5/18	<p>Hand. The eighteenth installment in the Aimée Leduc series by Cara Black is titled, Murder on the Left Bank. Set in 1999, Aimée and her partner, Rene, are helping clients prepare for Y2K when an attorney hires Aimée to find a missing notebook. Very quickly, Aimée finds herself and her daughter in peril from the actions of a group called The Hand, crooked police who ordered the death of Aimée's father. The plot moves quickly and maintains a reader's interest throughout the novel. Fans of the series are those readers most likely to appreciate the return of familiar characters and Black's ability to maintain interesting stories about fascinating people.</p>	
Three Hours in Paris	Black, Cara	*****	5/5/20	<p>Yank. Why did Adolph Hitler spend only three hours in Paris in June 1940? Cara Black offers one reason in her finely written spy thriller titled, Three Hours in Paris. An American woman named Kate Rees with great shooting skill has been recruited by the British to parachute into France to assassinate Hitler. As with most spy novels, nothing is ever quite as straightforward as that, so when Kate's mission fails on one level, her Yank ingenuity leads</p>	

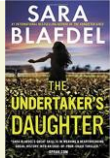
her toward success of another kind. A talented Nazi detective named Gunter hunts Kate with his great skills. Black develops these characters and others with depth, while never easing the tension or relaxing the plot momentum. Fans of well written crime or spy fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.

The Secret Currency of Love: The Unabashed Truth About Women, Money, and Relationships	Black, Hilary	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
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<u>Yes You Can!</u>	Black, Jonathan	**	<u>Jan 07</u>	Mumbling. Part expose on motivational speakers, and part how-to. Questions, but not answers, on why so many are paid so much for so little.	
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Creative Ideas for Household Storage	Blackburn, Graham	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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Lust	Blackburn, Simon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
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<u>The Undertaker's Daughter</u>	Blaedel, Sara	****	<u>5/3/18</u>	Inheritance. The protagonist of Sara Blaedel's novel titled, <u>The Undertaker's Daughter</u> , has been living what seems to a contented life in Copenhagen, Denmark. A widow in her forties, Ilka	
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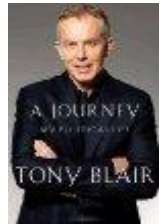
				Nichols Jensen works as a school photographer. When she gets the news that her estranged father, whom she hasn't seen in three decades, has died, she also learns that she has an inheritance: a funeral home in Racine, Wisconsin. With that set up, Blaedel puts Ilka into situations that strain credulity and provide the elements of a good murder mystery. While the novel brings one mystery to a satisfying conclusion, Blaedel leaves a cliffhanger that will please some readers and frustrate others. I assume there will be another novel featuring Ilka as she continues to struggle with what to do with the funeral home she inherited.	
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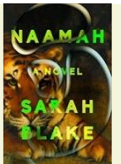
A Journey: My Political Life

Blair, Tony

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2011



Naamah	Blake, Sarah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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[The Guest Book](#)

Blake, Sarah

[7/26/19](#)

Island. I won't be getting to Maine this summer, but thanks to Sarah Blake's novel titled, [The Guest Book](#), I visited an island there and a big old house. Have you ever been in a resort community and noticed a special house and found yourself wondering about the people who live there? If so, this novel is for you. Blake tells the story of a family and what we know and don't know about our parents and their formative experiences. This is a novel about white privilege and family secrets. The names in the guest book for this big old family house on an island in Maine don't include all the



guests who have stayed there. Blake explores what changes over time and what doesn't. The prose is terrific, the plot engaging and the characters complex and interesting. I was delighted to be in Maine again through this finely written novel.

The Postmistress	Blake, Sarah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Full Steam Ahead</u>	Blanchard, Ken	**	<u>Sep 03</u>	Steady As She Goes. Expecting seasickness, nausea and a DNR rating for the latest from the perennially sappy Blanchard, we came away nodding in agreement with some of the practical and useful thoughts from this new offering.	
<u>High Five: The Magic of Working Together</u>	Blanchard, Ken, and Sheldon Bowles, Don Carew and Eunice Parisi-Carew	DNR	<u>05/01</u>	Junk food fable. Simplistic. Not worth reading.	
<u>The 108 Skills of Natural Born Leaders</u>	Blank, Warren	*	<u>09/01</u>	Conflicting and confusing recommendations. This book is for the self-improvement addict, but no one else.	
<u>Dimiter</u>	Blatty, William Peter	***	<u>7/22/11</u>	Mysteries. I've had William Peter Blatty's novel, <u>Dimiter</u> , sitting around for more than a year, and I had put off reading it because I read that the plot was convoluted, and wanted to save it for a time when I could concentrate. A recent multi-day power outage removed all distractions, so I was able to give this novel my undivided attention over two days. The plot is complicated, more than convoluted, and the reward for engaged readers is	

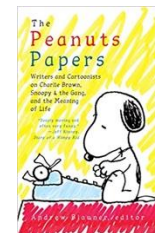
an exploration into the world of mysteries, past and present, and cogent reflection on the mysteries of goodness and sacrifice. This is an unusual novel, finely written, and will be appreciated most by those readers with the patience and diligence to pay close attention.

The Peanuts Papers: Writers and Cartoonists on Charlie Brown, Snoopy & the Gang, and the Meaning of Life

Blauner, Andrew

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom

Blight, David W.

6/18/19

Moses. Readers who enjoy finely written history and biography are those most likely to enjoy the terrific book by David W. Blight titled, Frederick Douglass: Prophet of Freedom. Blight brings all of Douglass to these pages: the man and the myth. The prophet Moses and the prophet Jeremiah. The slave and the freeman. The patriot and the critic. Whether you know a little or a lot about the life of the great Frederick Douglass, you're likely to learn new things from this book, thanks to private sources that Blight used to inform his writing.

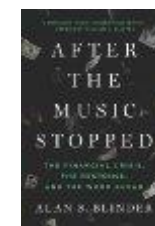


Comprehensive. The bookshelf about the financial crisis continues to grow, and the latest valuable contribution I've read comes from Alan S. Blinder titled, After the Music Stopped: The Financial Crisis, the Response, and the Work Ahead. There are so many misunderstandings about what happened during the financial crisis that I was pleased to finally read a book that takes on those perceptions and offers the data that might make things clearer for those readers with an open mind. We are entitled to our different viewpoints, but we should share a common fact base. Blinder

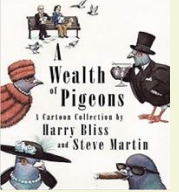
After the Music Stopped: The Financial Crisis, the Response, and the Work Ahead

Blinder, Alan S.

9/10/13



does a terrific job in presenting data that provides a clear fact base. He analyzes the responses to the crisis, offering a candid critique of what worked and what didn't. He lists the things that still need to be done. Whether you agree with Blinder or not, any reader interested in public policy and economics should read this book.

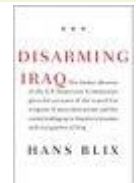
A Wealth of Pigeons	Bliss, Harry and Steve Martin	****	12/21/20	<p>Collaboration. Now more than ever, most of us can use a good laugh. One place to find humor is in the cartoon collection by Harry Bliss and Steve Martin titled, A Wealth of Pigeons. This book is a collaboration between a talented <i>New Yorker</i> cartoonist and a renowned humorist. The result of this effort led me to laugh a lot. There's nothing more exposed than a single cartoon panel: it either delivers the goods or it flops. These panels hit far more than they miss, and I found the tonic on these pages to be a perfect elixir to close out a distinctly unfunny year.</p>	
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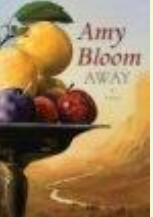
Disarming Iraq

Blix, Hans

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



Away	Bloom, Amy	***	Nov 07	<p>Longing. Novel transports readers to the 1920s and to a Russian immigrant who does whatever it takes to survive and thrive in New York, and then leaves her life again to head across the continent in search of the daughter she thought had died.</p>	
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[Lucky Us](#)

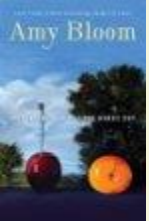
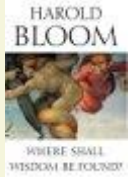
Bloom, Amy

[8/26/14](#)

Sisters. My first thought upon finishing Amy Bloom's novel, [Lucky Us](#), was how did she pack so much into 250 pages? Bloom draws us into the lives of two sisters, Iris and Eve, during the 1940s. Every life has ups and downs, but what happened to these two in a decade packs a wallop. Considering the



severity of their setbacks, the title might seem ironic, but oddly enough it isn't. Bloom accomplishes something most writers aspire to, but rarely achieve: a deep empathy among readers for what has happened to fictional characters, and from that empathy a deeper understanding of human nature, and the overpowering impact of love.

Where the God of Love Hangs Out	Bloom, Amy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>White Houses</u>	Bloom, Amy	*****	<u>3/20/18</u>	<p>Lovesong. One white house is a tiny building on Long Island. The other is at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C. One protagonist is Eleanor Roosevelt. The other is Lorena Hickok. By choosing to tell the story of this relationship in novel form in her book titled, <u>White Houses</u>, Amy Bloom is able to avoid footnotes and connect the dots is a well-documented friendship between Eleanor and Hick. Bloom's prose makes the whole book a love song. The places where Eleanor and Hick spend time together are described with finely written lyrical prose, and the intimate relationship is presented with great affection for both protagonists.</p>	
Where Shall Wisdom Be Found	Bloom, Harold	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	

Just Babies: The Origins of Good and Evil

Bloom, Paul

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



[Postville: A Clash of Cultures in Heartland America](#)

Bloom, Stephen G.

When a group of Lubavitchers opened a kosher slaughterhouse in rural Iowa, the town of Postville changed dramatically.



[Alphabet Juice](#)

Blount, Jr., Roy

Ennui

[1/17/09](#)

Blount's mastery of language combined with his finely honed wit provide many occasions for laughter on the pages of this unusual book. I attempted to read it from the beginning forward, and while I found some pleasure and laughter in this approach, found that I became bored quickly. I then skimmed back and forth, stopping at pages that had some interest. I found more pleasure in that approach, and decided not to try again to read it from beginning to end.

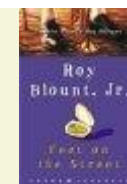


Feet on the Street

Blount, Jr., Roy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



Long Time Leaving: Dispatches from Up South

Blount, Jr., Roy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



[Fire Shut Up in My Bones](#)

Blow, Charles M.

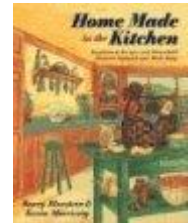
[12/27/14](#)

Reckoning. A writer chooses what to include or exclude in a memoir and that choice can communicate a lot to readers. *New York Times* columnist Charles M. Blow chose candor for his

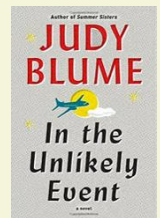


				memoir titled, Fire Shut Up in My Bones . He chose to bring up both child abuse and college fraternity hazing and wrote about those experiences with clarity. His comfort with this reckoning made me as a reader pay attention to this memoir. His writing is often lyrical, and it's so clear how many different paths he could have taken. Any reader who enjoys fine writing will likely find satisfaction from this memoir.	
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Home Made in the Kitchen	Bluestein, Barry and Kevin Morrissey	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2008
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In the Unlikely Event	Blume, Judy	*****	8/4/15	<p>Crashes. Summer reading often demands a great story with lots of characters that requires some attention to detail, but never taxes a mind that might be dulled by a gin and tonic or two. I remained sober while reading Judy Blume's novel titled, In the Unlikely Event. Over the course of two months in 1952, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, where Judy Blume grew up, three planes crashed in the community. From this true story, Blume delves into the lives of a huge cast of characters on the ground and in the planes. The result is an exploration of fear and possibility, a reflection on all the unlikely events that make up everyone's life. I was entertained, and time flew while I read this engaging story.</p>	
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The Clinton Wars	Blumenthal, Sidney	***	Aug 03	<p>Soldier. Recent history written by Clinton top aide who weaves his personal story into the context of events. Well written by talented journalist, the 800 pages may be more than some readers want to absorb.</p>	
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Black Fly Season	Blunt, Giles	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Spin Sisters: How the Women of the Media Sell Unhappiness- and liberalism- to the Women of America	Blyth, Myrna	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Someone Will Love You in All Your Damaged Glory</u>	Bob-Waksberg, Raphael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	


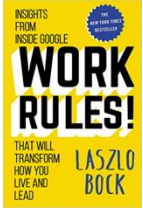
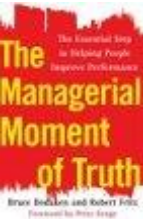
[Alice & Oliver](#)

Bock, Charles

[5/26/16](#)

Cancer. Writers are often advised to write about what they know. The struggle with that advice involves deciding how to write about what one knows. The novel, [Alice and Oliver](#), writes about a couple's experience with cancer, something author Charles Bock knows a lot about from his own experience. Bock's decision about how to write about this made all the difference for readers of this novel. Instead of mining all the roller coaster emotional components of this experience, Bock chooses the daily slog of doing one thing after another. He focuses on the psychological dimensions with great skill. His presentation of the health care system with all the associated frustration and financial jeopardy comes across with great clarity and insight. Bock's characters are well-developed, and readers who enjoy finely written fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



<u>Going Home Again</u>	Bock, Dennis	*****	<u>1/6/14</u>	<p>Choices. I finished reading Dennis Bock's novel, <u>Going Home Again</u>, and was so satisfied and impressed that I couldn't think of anything Bock could have done better in writing this book. The protagonist, Charlie Bellerose, finds himself in his early forties having achieved success at work, but separated from his wife. After twenty years in Madrid, he decides to return home to Toronto. Bock explores the choices Charlie and others have made, and the consequences of those choices. I often read literary fiction to reflect on the complexity of life, and to consider the many ways in which we can choose to live. In fewer than three hundred pages, Bock provides fine writing through presenting compelling characters whose behavior, both good and bad, offers insight into our human condition. I highly recommend this novel to any reader who enjoys the examination of choices in life, and who appreciates the skill of fine literary writing.</p>	
<u>Work Rules!: Insights from Inside Google That Will Transform How You Live and Lead</u>	Bock, Laszlo	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
The Managerial Moment of Truth	Bodaken, Bruce	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

The Gulf

Boggs, Belle

8/27/19

School. If you think there's a specialty school for everything, you will not even blink when you head to Florida's Gulf coast to the school at the center of Belle Boggs' debut novel titled, The Gulf. Protagonist Marianne is a teacher and poet on the verge of losing her Brooklyn apartment to condo conversion. After her ex-fiancé and his brother offer her the chance to live in Florida as the director of a small school for Christian writers, she agrees. Since we're in Florida, the characters are larger than life and there is a hurricane. Some funding for the school comes from a group that develops a variety of private for-profit schools aimed at the Christian market. There's lots of wit on these pages, interesting characters, genuine empathy and understanding of our human foibles.

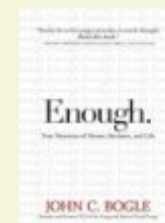


Enough: True Measures of Money, Business, and Life

Bogle, John C.

7/25/09

Character. Index fund pioneer Jack Bogle has always marched with confidence to the beat of a drummer different from that followed by his competitors. His approach of charging the lowest possible fees for mutual funds led him toward building Vanguard as a market leader, and put less money in his own pocket than that received by his peers whose fees enriched their personal fortunes. In his latest book, Enough: True Measures of Money, Business and Life, Bogle describes the good fortune of his own life, and presents a manifesto of sorts for financial executives to lead through a return to fundamental personal values, a return to trust, and the foundation of strong moral character. The title refers to a reported conversation between Kurt Vonnegut and Joseph Heller while they were attending a party hosted by a billionaire. After Vonnegut tells Heller that their host earns more in a day than Heller ever earned from his successful novel *Catch-22*, Heller replied that he has something that the billionaire will never have:



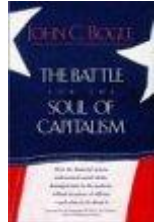
				<p>enough. <u>Enough</u> is a preachy treatise that may alienate some readers, while for others it may be inspirational. Because of Bogle's straightforward writing style, I highly recommend <u>Enough</u> to any reader willing to consider alternative ways of measuring success and achievement.</p>	
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The Battle for the Soul of Capitalism

Bogle, John C.

Feb 06

Lucidity. Straight talking on what's gone wrong in corporate America and how to fix it. Forceful and optimistic, including well placed blame and practical and achievable solutions.



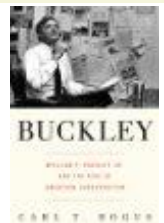
<p><u>The Clash of the Cultures: Investment vs. Speculation</u></p>	<p>Bogle, John C.</p>	<p>*****</p>	<p><u>1/24/13</u></p>	<p>Contrarian. Mutual fund veteran and Vanguard founder John C. Bogle's latest book is titled, <u>The Clash of the Cultures: Investment vs. Speculation</u>. Here's his premise in a nutshell: "when a value-destroying culture of salesmanship overwhelms a value-enhancing culture of stewardship, of course there's a clash." (p. 217) Bogle encourages individuals to be long term investors and not speculators. He calls for regulated fiduciary duty by financial intermediaries because those entities routinely place their own interests above those of the individuals they serve. Bogle's views are cogent and consistent with his position held over decades. For better or for worse, he remains a contrarian. Bogle packs the book with data and examples to illustrate his viewpoint. Readers interested in finance are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
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Buckley:
William F.
Buckley Jr. and
the Rise of
American
Conservatism

Bogus, Carl T.

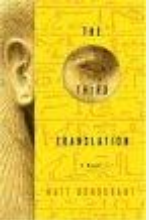
Unread


Shelf of Ennui 2012.





<u>The Buffalo Soldier</u>	Bohjalian, Chris	***	<u>May 02</u>	Powerful novel of loss and recovery with real tension and deep feelings. The physical surroundings have a life of their own.	
<u>The Light in the Ruins</u>	Bohjalian, Chris	***	<u>8/25/13</u>	<p>Fire. Readers who enjoy the variety of a smorgasbord are those most likely to enjoy reading <u>The Light in the Ruins</u>, a historical novel by Chris Bohjalian. I found that the novel contained a morsel of this, that, and the other, which never unified enough to satisfy me. The setting is Tuscany from the mid-1940s to the mid-1950s. There's a story of the Nazi occupation of a villa with an Etruscan tomb on the property where partisans have hidden. Two female protagonists are scarred by war: one by the fire that burned her; another by her love for a Nazi occupier. At the end of the time frame there is a serial killing spree that Bohjalian lays out in pieces using changes in time sequence to explain the backstory. As expected, everything makes sense by the end.</p>	
<u>Eventide</u>	Bohman, Therese	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
The Politics of Happiness: What Government Can Learn from the New Research on Well-Being	Bok, Derek	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	

2666: A Novel	Bolano, Roberto	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Monsieur Pain	Bolano, Roberto	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Presidential Diversions</u>	Boller, Jr., Paul F.	***	<u>Nov 07</u>	Tidbits. Author selects for each U.S. President a hobby or an interest that in many cases illuminates the character of the individual.	
<u>The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir</u>	Bolton, John	****	<u>12/9/20</u>	Paintball. John Bolton settles scores and brashly positions himself as the smartest of all in his book titled, <u>The Room Where It Happened: A White House Memoir</u> . The image I had while reading this book was Bolton holding a paintball gun and shooting at targets including Jim Mattis, Stephen Mnuchin, Donald Trump, Mike Pompeo and many others. I also had an image of the multiple yellow legal pads on which he recorded snippets in real time while working at the White House in preparation for this book. While some memoirs offer humble perspective, this book has Bolton's raw ego on display on every page. Readers interested in public affairs are those most likely to appreciate this contribution to recent political history.	

The Third Translation	Bondurant, Matt	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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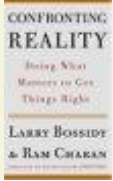
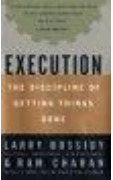

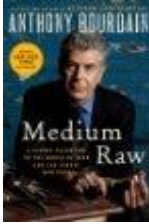
<u>The Wrong Heaven</u>	Bonnafons, Amy	****	<u>4/19/19</u>	<p>Offbeat. There are ten offbeat and finely written stories in a collection by Amy Bonnefons titled, <u>The Wrong Heaven</u>. The stories are clever, funny, entertaining and packed with insight about what lies beneath the apparent ordinariness of life. If you can't imagine a world in which plastic statues of Jesus and Mary can talk, you may want to look elsewhere for something to read. If you are at all curious about what those statues have to say, this collection of stories should be right up your alley.</p>	
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<u>Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity</u>	Boo, Katherine	***	<u>6/7/12</u>	<p>Poverty. Almost all readers of Katherine Boo's fine nonfiction book, <u>Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity</u>, will never have experienced the poverty she describes. I became immersed in the lives and struggles of some of the people living in a slum called Annawadi near the Mumbai airport. Life in this community involves constant struggle and setback. Dreams of a better life are thwarted by the smallest obstacles. All readers share much in common with the people Boo presents in this book, and those empathetic readers who pick up this book will see the humanity we share.</p>	
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<u>A Demon of Our Own Design: Markets, Hedge Funds, and the Perils of Financial Innovation</u>	Bookstaber, Richard	****	<u>Aug 08</u>	<p>Complexity. A well-informed exploration of the consequences of the financial instruments created in recent decades by one of the students, creators and risk managers of these products.</p>	
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<u>The Almost Nearly Perfect People: Behind the Myth of the Scandinavian Utopia</u>	Booth, Michael	****	<u>8/25/15</u>	Skol. Even if your connection to Scandinavia is limited to Ikea, Volvo or a certain vodka, chances are you'll enjoy reading Michael Booth's book titled, <u>The Almost Nearly Perfect People: Behind the Myth of the Scandinavian Utopia</u> . Booth is an English journalist who has been living in Denmark with his Danish wife. He brings that outsider-insider perspective to his tour of the five Scandinavian countries, and injects just the right amount of humor. I was thoroughly entertained, and even learned a thing or two.	
<u>Washington: Making the American Capital</u>	Bordewich, Fergus	***	<u>Aug 08</u>	Complications. Tales of money, power, politics and scheming among other challenges faced by the Founders in selecting the location of the capital for the new country and then getting it built.	
<u>Who Moved My Soap? The CEO's Guide to Surviving in Prison</u>	Borowitz, Andy	**	<u>July 03</u>	Snickers. When you pick up this book to read and not buy while snacking at the bookstore, you may chuckle, smile or snicker, but don't expect to laugh out loud or spit out your latte.	
<u>Cork Dork: A Wine-Fueled Adventure Among the Obsessive Sommeliers, Big Bottle Hunters, and Rogue Scientists Who Taught Me to Live for Taste</u>	Bosker, Bianca	****	<u>5/3/17</u>	Taste. Thanks to Bianca Bosker's lively writing, I was thoroughly entertained while reading her book titled, <u>Cork Dork: A Wine-Fueled Adventure Among the Obsessive Sommeliers, Big Bottle Hunters, and Rogue Scientists Who Taught Me to Live for Taste</u> . This book could have gone wrong at any turn. It might have been so geeked up with wine terminology that it would appeal only to wine snobs. Bosker avoids that trap but still takes wine outsiders behind the curtain. She could have made the book so much about herself that hers would be the only lens through which we would understand the life of a sommelier. Instead, she uses her experience as the bait to lead us into the passion and obsession of a large cast of interesting	

characters. Whether you know a lot about wine, a little, or nothing at all, you will learn something about taste from reading this interesting book. And as you already know, there's no accounting for taste.

<u>Confronting Reality</u>	Bossidy, Larry and Ram Charan	****	<u>Mar 05</u>	Models. Blunt direction to executives to use a disciplined business model with three related elements: external realities, internal processes and financial targets.	
<u>Execution: The Discipline of Getting Things Done</u>	Bossidy, Larry and Ram Charan	***	<u>Jan 03</u>	What It's All About. If you're an executive, you should know the discipline of execution, which is what executives do. The authors present a primer on what this means for today's organizations.	
<u>The CEO Next Door: The 4 Behaviors That Transform Ordinary People into World-Class Leaders</u>	Botelho, Elena L. and Kim R. Powell	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>Medium Raw: A Bloody Valentine to the World of Food and the People Who Cook</u>	Bourdain, Anthony	**	<u>3/5/11</u>	Taste. There must be a large enough audience for all food topics to prompt publishers to feed readers with books like Anthony Bourdain's <u>Medium Raw: A Bloody Valentine to the World of Food and the People Who Cook</u> . I found Bourdain's writing to be blunt, unwavering in judgment and often witty and lively. After I finished this collection of essays I realized that for my taste, I would have preferred eating to reading.	

<u>Guardians of Prosperity: Why America Needs Big Banks</u>	Bove, Richard X.	****	<u>2/20/14</u>	Probank. Everyone who works for a bank (or who owns shares) should buy and read Richard X. Bove's book, <u>Guardians of Prosperity: Why America Needs Big Banks</u> . This book challenges the populist vitriol against large banks, and explains why current regulation in response to the financial crisis will harm America. Bove writes in plain language for a general audience, explaining what banks do, and why large banks are needed. His viewpoint is different from that most readers find on the topic of large banks. For that reason alone, whether one agrees or disagrees with his views, this book contributes to broader understanding of this issue.	
<u>Finders Keepers: The Story of a Man Who Found \$1 Million</u>	Bowden, Mark	**	<u>Mar 03</u>	Stupid Addict. An account of a week in the life of Joey Coyle who tried to get away with keeping the \$1 million that fell off an armored truck, and that he found on the street. Depressing.	
<u>The Moral Economy</u>	Bowles, Samuel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
A Time to Run	Boxer, Barbara	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>Original Prin</u>	Boyagoda, Randy	****	<u>4/23/20</u>	Antics. The pace begins with a sharp hook of a first sentence in Randy Boyagoda's novel titled, <u>Original Prin</u> . "Eight months before he became a suicide bomber, Prin went to the zoo with his family." With that opener, the antics begin and continue nonstop for another 225 pages, the first installment in what is intended to be a trilogy. Protagonist Prin is a middle aged academic at a failing university and he has been diagnosed with cancer. One minute he is a	

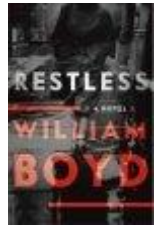
				practicing Catholic, and the next he prepares to become a terrorist. I don't have a clue where the next installment will lead Prin and the rest of us, but this opener was fun to read and will appeal to those readers who enjoy satire.	
Born Bad: Original Sin and the Making of the Western World	Boyce, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Fatal Risk: A Cautionary Tale of AIG's Corporate Suicide	Boyd, Roddy	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>Love Is Blind</u>	Boyd, William	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Ordinary Thunderstorms</u>	Boyd, William	****	<u>2/19/10</u>	Stormy. There's nothing ordinary about the thunder than rains on protagonist Adam Kindred's life in William Boyd's new thriller, <u>Ordinary Thunderstorms</u> . It takes a powerful suspension of disbelief to go along with Boyd as he transforms Adam from an academic climatologist to a homeless fugitive. Boyd's writing is so fine that a reader's disbelief remains suspended as Adam finds ways to survive and somewhat thrive under trying conditions. The descriptive language brings every scene to life, and the development of each character kept me engaged and interested throughout the novel. <u>Ordinary Thunderstorms</u> provides hours of entertaining reading, and enough unresolved by the end to expect and savor a rewarding sequel.	

Restless

Boyd, William

Jan 07

Secrets. In 1976, a teacher receives a manuscript from her mother that tells of life as a spy during World War II. The past and present merge, along with the shifts in the mother-daughter relationship.



Solo

Boyd, William

7/9/14

Geopolitics. Every time William Boyd described what James Bond is eating or drinking in his novel titled, Solo, I thought: I'll have what he's having. The level of description was so complete that there's even Bond's salad dressing recipe included in a footnote. I think Boyd's objective was to write in the style of Ian Fleming, and hope that readers will connect to the Bond in books, and not our image of 007 from the movies. Set in 1969, Bond is sent by M to Africa to stop a war in an oil rich country. He finds himself shot by the person he thought was head of station. After a brief recuperation, and avoiding the expectation that he take time off, Bond goes after the bad guys on his own, hence the title. With cleverness and competence, Bond prevails. The surprise was how he found himself in the middle of a geopolitical game taking place way above his pay grade. If you're a fan of the Fleming novels, you're likely to enjoy this homage. If you can't get the movie action out of your head, chances are this novel will be less exciting than you'd like.

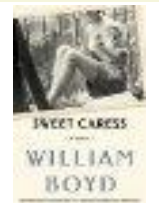


Sweet Caress

Boyd, William

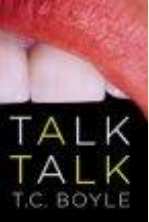

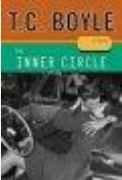

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



<u>Waiting for Sunrise</u>	Boyd, William	****	<u>10/10/12</u>	<p>Shadows. Fans of literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy the latest novel from William Boyd titled, <u>Waiting for Sunrise</u>. Boyd develops a fascinating protagonist, actor Lysander Reif taking him from England to Vienna in 1913 for psychoanalysis, and then to become a spy for England. The prose develops the action in light and shadows with great skill, keeping the plot moving along, while developing the complexity of Lysander's life. Intelligent and thoughtful readers won't be disappointed by this finely written novel.</p>	
<u>Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship</u>	Boyle, Gregory	*****	<u>3/3/18</u>	<p>Us. On any given page of Gregory Boyle's book titled, <u>Barking to the Choir: The Power of Radical Kinship</u>, readers are likely to laugh, smile or tear up, as he tells the stories of the people he has gotten to know in Los Angeles in his work at Homeboy Industries. The title refers to one of many malaprops that Boyle has heard from in the three decades of work he has done at Homeboy. This book is all about inclusion: we live in mutuality, and there should be no "other." Kinship means that everyone matters, and there is no exclusion from "us." The stories in this book are our stories, and the people are all part of our extended family.</p>	
Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion	Boyle, Gregory	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Drop City</u>	Boyle, T.C.	***	<u>Aug 03</u>	<p>Acidic. If you can dig a return to the 1960s and can dig a communal, rural back-to basics-life, you'll find this book totally cool. Boyle writes masterfully and captures dialogue, drugs, and places with precision.</p>	

<u>Outside Looking In</u>	Boyle, T.C.	*****	<u>4/25/19</u>	<p>Sacrament. I like most of what T.C. Boyle writes. I've especially enjoyed his skill in skewering hucksters in his novels. While I was reading his novel titled, <u>Outside Looking In</u>, about Timothy O'Leary, I was remembering his much earlier novel about the Kellogg's titled, <i>The Road to Wellville</i>. O'Leary convinces disciples to follow him into lives centered around the sacrament: LSD. The tripping is described with great skill, and the commune is filled with a cast of well-drawn characters who behave exactly as most readers would expect. Con men are great characters, and Boyle offers readers O'Leary at his conniving best. Fans of fine writing, especially those with a good sense of humor are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>San Miguel</u>	Boyle, T.C.	****	<u>10/5/12</u>	<p>Atmospheric. Readers who enjoy historical fiction that vividly brings to life a place and time are those most likely to enjoy T.C. Boyle's latest novel, <u>San Miguel</u>. The title refers to the island off Santa Barbara, California, where most of the action takes place in the 1880s and 1930s. Three female protagonists provide the grist for the novel as they struggle to make a good life in a harsh environment during challenging times. It took me a while to get settled into this novel, because in some ways Boyle was using a historical structure and style to fit the subject and setting. The dark humor and snappiness of his earlier novels is missing here, replaced by the intensity of island life. Unlike in earlier novels when I had to keep a dictionary handy while reading Boyle, this time I looked up only three words. Boyle is a great writer, and readers who enjoy literary and historical fiction are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	

<u>Talk Talk</u>	Boyle, T.C.	***	<u>Oct 06</u>	<p>Identity. Not all is as it seems in this novel of identity theft and the longing for revenge. Language, imagery, plot and dialogue masterful. Deaf protagonist memorable.</p>	
<u>The Harder They Come</u>	Boyle, T.C.	*****	<u>1/15/16</u>	<p>Violence. Some of us read novels to travel from our world to some other place. Others read novels for insight into human nature. Still others read novels because some writers find a way to capture some aspect of contemporary life and draw insight for us to consider. T.C. Boyle may please all those different readers in his novel titled, <u>The Harder They Come</u>. Boyle explores violence and alienation in this novel. A marine and Vietnam veteran kills a would-be thief while on vacation in Central America and is considered a hero for his actions. Upon his return home to Northern California, he finds that his son, Adam, has become delusional, and is in a relationship with an anarchist fifteen years his senior. What Boyle does so well in this novel is tap into the threads of anger, paranoia and violence in American society. Boyle's skill at description and his fine prose will bring pleasure to many readers. His poking at self-reliance, gun violence, and anti-government paranoia will cause distress to some readers.</p>	
<u>The Inner Circle</u>	Boyle, T.C.	***	<u>Dec 04</u>	<p>Loveless. Novel presents obsessed professor Kinsey and the workers and spouses who formed the inner circle of the pioneering sex studies of the 1950's. Loyalty, idealism, intertwined relationships and fine writing.</p>	
<u>The Relive Box</u>	Boyle, T.C.	*****	<u>11/21/17</u>	<p>Humor. There are twelve short stories in the latest collection by T.C. Boyle titled, <u>The Relive Box</u>. Any reader who enjoys short fiction will see a master of the genre at his finest in these well-crafted stories. Many of the stories contain humor that gave me a</p>	

long-lasting grin. I had already read a few of the stories when published in periodicals and found a multiplier effect of reading pleasure in recalling those stories in the midst of ones fresh to me.

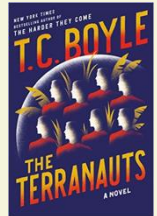
Ecosphere. Frequent readers of the fine literary fiction by T.C. Boyle are those most likely to enjoy his novel titled, The Terranauts. As Boyle has done in earlier novels, in this book he places fully developed complex characters in closely confined situations and lets them reveal the full range of human behavior. The confinement plot for this novel involves Ecosphere 2, a three-acre sealed biosphere assembled in the Arizona desert in which four men and four women are living for two years under the watchful eyes of mission control. Boyle studied the reports of Biosphere 2, the closed system experiment in the early 1990s, and incorporated many elements of the actual experiment in his novel. The prose is exquisite, both in its descriptive language, perfect word choice, and lively dialogue. The depth of insight here into human nature will delight many readers.

Taker. T.C. Boyle's novel about the wives and mistresses of Frank Lloyd Wright titled, The Women, leaves readers with one clear impression: Mr. Wright got what he wanted. Boyle writes the novel from the later to the earlier periods of Wright's life. He begins with the wife who survived Wright, Olgivanna. He goes on to Miriam, whose drug addiction and narcissism gave Wright heaps of trouble. Mamah is next, Wright's soulmate, who is murdered at Taliesin. Then there is Kitty, Wright's devoted first wife and the mother of his children. Boyle uses as the narrator a student and apprentice at Taliesin, and it is that place that becomes the central core of the novel. As with other Boyle novels, his insights into characters is strong, the use

The Terranauts

Boyle, T.C.

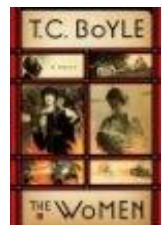
11/27/16



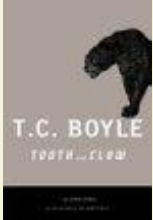
The Women


Boyle, T.C.

3/30/09




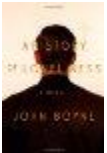
of language precise and finely written (although I only learned two or three new words from this offering,) and the setting described with a precision and clarity that places come alive. The fact that Boyle lives in a house in California that Wright designed gave him an extra level of involvement that helped him explore the personality of this larger-than-life character who packed a lot of complicated living into his twentieth century life.

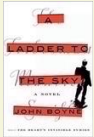
<u>Tooth and Claw</u>	Boyle, T.C.	***	<u>Feb 06</u>	<p>Fortnight. Read one story a day and enjoy the best two weeks of reading you may find this year. Creative, finely written, and packed with interesting characters and settings.</p> 
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<u>When the Killing's Done</u>	Boyle, T.C.	****	<u>3/12/11</u>	<p>Intervention. In all our communities, we and our neighbors usually share views that are polar opposites. In T.C. Boyle's new novel, <u>When the Killing's Done</u>, he presents the extremes of environmentalism: scientists working to restore ecosystems by killing invasive species versus the animal rights activists who want no animals killed. Boyle builds complexity and empathy into each character, and the conflict in the novel matches the high-decibel rhetoric that dominates our community life. Both sides of this conflict intervene in the ecology of California's Channel Islands. This may be the first Boyle novel that did not have me stop to run to my dictionary every few dozen pages. He maintains his fine style of writing without the distraction of using a vocabulary that strains a reader's patience. As with other fine novels, this is also a story about family and relationships, and each relationship contains complexity and nuance that will keep readers engaged and entertained. Boyle is one of our finest writers, and this novel</p> 
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respects the intelligence of readers and leaves it to us to consider the issues he raises.

Wild Child and Other Stories	Boyle, T.C.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
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A History of Loneliness	Boyne, John	*****	5/16/15	<p>Complicit. Sadness and melancholy are the highpoints in John Boyne's finely written novel titled, A History of Loneliness, that takes on the topic of child abuse by Irish priests. Protagonist Odran Yates is an Irish priest who was not an abuser, but he was close by and oblivious as it was done under his nose, by a priest friend and classmate. Boyne moves back and forth in time as he constructs Yates' growing awareness of his own complicity in what happened over decades. Boyne's prose will please those readers who enjoy literary fiction. His sensitivity to the victims of abuse constrains the novel in all the right ways. The essential loneliness in the lives of celibate priests pervades the narrative and creates the gloomy atmosphere in which the plot develops.</p>	
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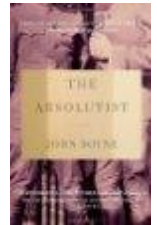
A Ladder to the Sky	Boyne, John	*****	1/4/19	<p>Maurice. Some of the finest protagonists in literature are the despicable ones. John Boyne gives readers the embodiment of our me-first culture in a finely written novel titled, A Ladder to the Sky. Maurice Swift knows how to use others to his advantage, and Boyne knows how to draw readers into Maurice's world, and lead us into an entertaining adventure of manipulation, deceit and immorality. When all societal norms and golden rules are set to the side, we are left with Maurice who stops at nothing to get what he wants. The writing is terrific, and the critique of ladder climbing is spot on.</p>	
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[The Absolutist](#)

Boyne, John

[9/4/12](#)

Principles. John Boyne uses the setting of the trenches of World War I to explore forbidden liaisons, moral principles, and the nature of cowardice in his finely written novel, [The Absolutist](#). Protagonist Tristan Sadler is a gay teenager thrown out of his home when the scandal of his kissing a male schoolmate becomes known. Tristan lies about his age to join the army, and develops a troubled relationship with Will Bancroft, a vicar's son. While repressed sexuality provides the context for the story, it is the impact of repression, the effect of keeping secrets, and the ways in which cowardice finds expression that Boyne explores so well in this novel. Readers who like fiction that delves into the essence of human nature and the power of principles to frame behavior, are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

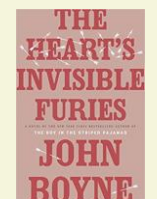


[The Heart's Invisible Furies](#)

Boyne, John

[9/25/17](#)

Adopted. The protagonist of John Boyne's novel titled, [The Heart's Invisible Furies](#), is Cecil Avery, but as his adopted father always says, he's not a real Avery. He is an Irish everyman for the sweeping period of the last sixty or seventy years. While there are some gimmicks and schmaltz over the almost six hundred pages of the novel, mostly in the form of chance encounters, the issues that Boyne presents about identity, friendship and family are dealt with through finely written prose. Boyne tells an absorbing story with great skill, using repartee in dialogue and humor that sits alongside tragedy as it does in every life. Every character is drawn with the depth of complexity that is true to life, although the women tend to be far more candid and honest than the men. Whether any part of your identity aligns with Cecil and the other characters, there is depth in this book about human nature and the power of love and redemption.



[The House of Special Purpose](#)

Boyne, John

[5/3/13](#)

Romanovs. Readers who enjoy character-driven historical fiction are those most likely to enjoy John Boyne's [The House of Special Purpose](#). Boyne structures the novel in a clever way, allowing readers to savor protagonist Georgy Danilovich as he looks back on his life from 1981 at age 80. The timing shifts often both forward and backward as we learn the story of Georgy's life during the Russian Revolution when he was close to the Romanov family. The core of the novel is a love story between Georgy and his wife, Zoya. Boyne successfully takes periods in history that are well known and enlivens them with the energy of fully developed fictional characters that engage readers to care about what happens to them. Boyne's writing soars often, and the story he tells is creative and entertaining.




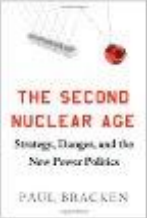
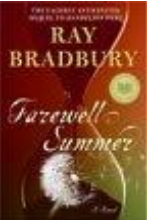

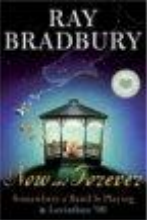

[This House is Haunted](#)

Boyne, John

[4/7/14](#)

Resolute. Readers who have read all of Dickens more than once and still crave a Victorian ghost story should rush out at once to read John Boyne's novel, [This House is Haunted](#). Boyne's writing should please both fans of this genre as well as general readers who appreciate good writing. The life of protagonist Eliza Caine becomes upended following the death of her father. She has to leave her London home which had been leased since her income is inadequate to pay the rent. She accepts an advertised job as governess to two children at Gaudlin Hall. Upon her arrival, the glorious gothic action commences. Boyne's fine writing keeps the story from becoming cliché. Eliza is a resolute character whom Boyne develops with care. I was thoroughly entertained by this excursion to a genre that I read very rarely. Thanks to Boyne's skill, I was totally entertained.



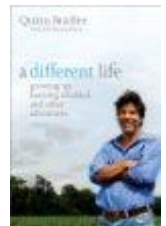
To Err is Divine	Bozai, Agata	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
The Second Nuclear Age: Strategy, Danger, and the New Power Politics	Bracken, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>Farewell Summer</u>	Bradbury, Ray	***	<u>Aug 07</u>	Aged. Over 50 years ago, an editor yanked this second part of the book that became Dandelion Wine. Bradbury has now finished it, with wisdom, and ready for readers to savor.	
<u>From the Dust Returned</u>	Bradbury, Ray	***	<u>Jan 02</u>	Creative and well-written novel that could be read aloud to frighten pre-adolescents, while creating enjoyment for the adult reader.	
Now and Forever	Bradbury, Ray	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Lucrezia Borgia : life, love, and death in Renaissance Italy	Bradford, Sarah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	

[A Different Life:
Growing Up
Learning
Disabled and
Other
Adventures](#)

Bradlee, Quinn

[7/9/09](#)

Candor. Memoirs from authors in their twenties attract readers less from the disclosure of wisdom acquired over decades than from telling a story about something extraordinary and worth reading about in a life at its beginning. Quinn Bradlee's memoir, [A Different Life](#), tells the story of the first twenty six or so years of his life. The child of *Washington Post* luminaries Ben Bradlee and Sally Quinn, the extraordinary story he tells here is a sweet tale of being supported by loving parents as he struggled with learning disabilities and medical problems. After years of illnesses, Quinn was diagnosed at age fourteen with something that's estimated to impact one in 2,000 people: Velo-Cardio-Facial Syndrome. This genetic syndrome is manifested through multiple physical ailments and learning disabilities. Quinn's candor in [A Different Life](#) led me to wince at times and laugh at others as he tells his story in his own unique way, and without a trace of embarrassment. Any parent of a child with learning disabilities or physical ailments will resonate with what Quinn describes on many of these pages. Through his parents, Quinn has had doors open to him that would be closed to others, and he has used that advantage well in this case as a chance for a young man with learning disabilities to talk about his life and call attention to genetic syndromes that we might not have heard about before reading this book.

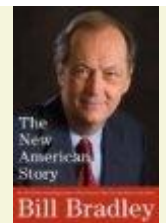


The New
American Story

Bradley, Bill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

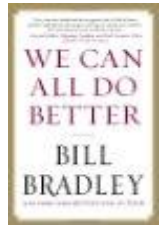


We Can All Do Better

Bradley, Bill

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



Flyboys: A True Story of Courage

Bradley, James

May 04

Disturbing. A fine Memorial Day book that will leave readers perplexed about wartime atrocities by all sides during World War II in the Pacific. Heroism and barbarism described along with courage and the effects of propaganda.

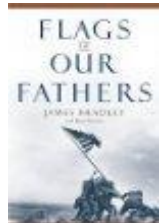


Flags of Our Fathers

Bradley, James and Ron Powers

7/00

Bradley's father was in the Iwo Jima battle in 1945 and this book chronicles the battle and the men who raised the flag.

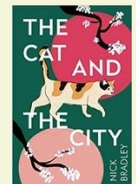


The Cat and the City

Bradley, Nick

11/17/20

Tokyo. Nick Bradley's versatility shines in his book titled, The Cat and the City. Set in Tokyo, we follow a cat in a changing landscape through tattoos, manga, footnotes and other unusual locations. We find ourselves connected at one section and estranged in another. We long to belong and then we desire an escape. There's always more to city life than a casual observer can ever see, and Bradley takes us to places in Tokyo that we might have never imagined, let alone visited. Along this journey, the vignettes explore many aspects of living at its best and worst.

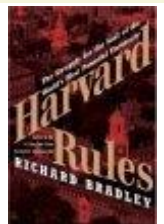




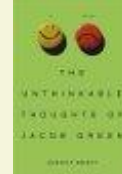

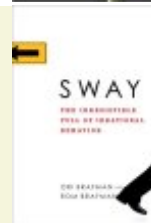

Harvard Rules: The Struggle for the Soul of the World's Most Powerful University

Bradley, Richard

Unread


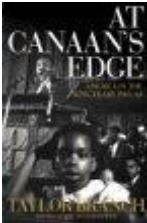
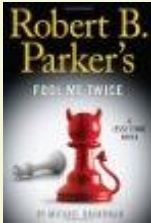
Shelf of Ennui 2005



<u>High and Mighty: SUVs: The World's Most Dangerous Vehicles and How They Got There</u>	Bradsher, Keith	***	<u>May 03</u>	Pigs on Stilts. SUV lovers will feel their blood pressure elevate on every page of this SUV-bashing book by <i>NY Times</i> writer. Those who loathe SUVs will find plenty of facts to support their position. SUV myths are debunked.	
Here If You Need Me	Braestrup, Kate	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
The unthinkable thoughts of Jacob Green : a novel	Braff, Joshua	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Josie and Jack	Braffet, Kelly	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Sway: The Irresistible Pull of Irrational Behavior</u>	Brafman, Ori and Rom Brafman	***	<u>Oct 08</u>	Undercurrents. Two brothers, one a business expert, the other a psychologist, provide a spate of examples of how our biases and the way the mind works combine to lead us into making irrational decisions.	
<u>Where's My Fifteen Minutes?: Get Your Company, Your Cause, or Yourself the</u>	Bragman, Howard	**	<u>9/26/09</u>	Preparedness. Readers looking for plain speaking advice on getting attention and recognition might find some nuggets of interest on the pages of Howard Bragman's book, <u>Where's My Fifteen Minutes?: Get Your Company, Your Cause, or Yourself the Recognition You Deserve</u> . You have	

Recognition You
Deserve

to love a publicist with a name like Bragman. He draws from his three decade career in this field to offer readers ways to influence perceptions. For me, I kept turning the pages with a degree of amazement that anyone could spend one's working life in the public relations field if this is what it is all about.

<u>My Sister, The Serial Killer</u>	Braithwaite, Oyinkan	****	<u>10/10/19</u>	<p>Witty. Readers who enjoy dark humor are those most likely to enjoy the witty debut novel titled, <u>My Sister, The Serial Killer</u>, by Oyinkan Braithwaite. Her prose grabbed me with an opening scene that involved bleach, and before long I was a co-conspirator with these fascinating siblings as they face desire and pain and the twists and turns of life. The pace of this novel is brisk, and the characters are engaging and interesting. I was thoroughly entertained as Braithwaite tickled the funny bone of my dark side.</p>	
<u>At Canaan's Edge</u>	Branch, Taylor	***	<u>Apr 06</u>	<p>Conclusive. Final installment of the trilogy of the story of America during the life and times of Martin Luther King, Jr. The best and worst of characters are revealed by Branch by showing their actions.</p>	
<u>Robert B. Parker's Fool Me Twice</u>	Brandman, Michael	***	<u>11/8/12</u>	<p>Again. One of these days I will stop reading the novels that continue the brand of the late Robert B. Parker. In the meantime, I'm having trouble breaking the habit, so I read the latest Jesse Stone novel from Michael Brandman titled, <u>Robert B. Parker's Fool Me Twice</u>. The busy summer in Paradise, Massachusetts becomes even more hectic when a Hollywood movie crew arrives to shoot a film. Of course, since this is a crime novel, that's not all that's shot. Jesse is on the job, and by the end of the novel, everything is resolved. Readers who like character-based crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this one.</p>	

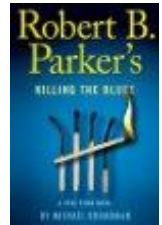
[Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues](#)

Brandman, Michael

**

[10/8/11](#)

Brutality. Fans of the Jesse Stone series created by Robert B. Parker will find some familiar elements in Michael Brandman's debut effort, [Robert B. Parker's Killing the Blues](#). The short chapters with simple sentences are there, just weaker. The protagonist, Jesse Stone, remains a complex character, but somehow less appealing. The plot progresses with confidence, and by the end, the issues are resolved and justice is done. But Parker would never have had the dogs killed. This novel is worth a quick read to see the difference between Parker and Brandman. I'm not likely to read another Brandman novel.



Fan-Tan

Brando, Marlon

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



Greenback Planet: How the Dollar Conquered the World and Threatened Civilization as We Know It

Brands, H.W.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2012.

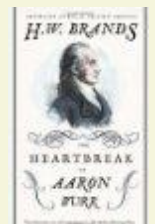


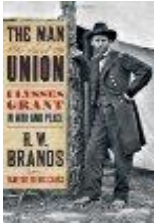
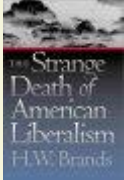
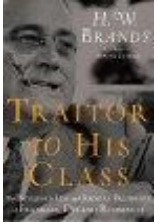
[The Heartbreak of Aaron Burr](#)

Brands, H.W.

[6/14/12](#)

Condensed. If all that you know about Aaron Burr is his duel with Alexander Hamilton, consider dipping into a short book by historian H.W. Brands titled, [The Heartbreak of Aaron Burr](#). During a time when most histories and biographies run hundreds of pages in length, and provide sweeping depth and breath, this short book, 176 pages of text, is a refreshing change. Brands writes with simplicity and directness, providing all readers with the highlights of Burr's life. He pays special attention to



				Burr's relationship with his daughter and grandson. I enjoyed this condensed presentation of Burr's life, and I was reminded of aspects of his life that I had not thought about in a long time.	
The Man Who Saved the Union: Ulysses Grant in War and Peace	Brands, H.W.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
The Strange Death of American Liberalism	Brands, H.W.	***	Mar 02	Lively and interesting short book that posits that the end of the Cold War caused the end of American Liberalism. Read about Nixon as a liberal.	
Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt	Brands, H.W.	*****	2/14/09	<p>Confident. The latest book by historian H.W. Brands of the University of Texas is a flattering and readable biography of FDR titled, Traitor to His Class: The Privileged Life and Radical Presidency of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. I don't know if there's much new on these pages, but I can attest that I enjoyed thoroughly all that I read. FDR's irrepressible confidence exudes from most pages, and his wily craftiness when dealing with just about everyone adds to the joy of reading about this American president. Given the title, I expected a special focus in this book on the animosity of America's wealthy toward FDR. In many respects, that was a background item: he knew where he came from, and proceeded with confidence to do what he thought needed to be done, no matter how much opposition it created among the most privileged citizens. Brands does an excellent job in deconstructing the complicated relationship between Franklin and Eleanor, in expanding on how FDR's battle with polio strengthened him, and on the ways in which he drew out the skills of</p>	

others to get done what could be done. I kept waiting for one of my favorite lines from an FDR speech to appear, but alas it did not. That line was when the patrician Roosevelt began his address to the Daughters of the American Revolution with the line, “Fellow immigrants...” I highly recommend [Traitor to His Class](#) to any reader interested in FDR, history, or the challenges of the mid-twentieth century.

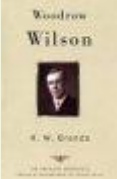
Eloquence. Skilled historian presents brief bio of former President, whom we now call Tommy. Tightly packed with personal formation, academic success, wartime leadership, and postwar missteps in peacemaking.

Burdens. A New York City police detective doesn’t have the kind of 9-5 work that allows the job to be left behind at the office every day. Most civilians will never understand or appreciate the daily burdens that these public servants carry with them. Richard Price, writing as Harry Brandt, presents a view of the burdens of this life in a finely written novel titled, [The Whites](#). The title refers to Moby Dick and the way in which a detective may become obsessed by a criminal who evaded justice. These Ahab’s of the police force are the central characters of the novel, especially protagonist Billy Graves, whose burdens are complicated and heavy. Price masters so many elements of good writing in this novel: deep characters, great dialogue, an engaging plot, and within all of this, a wise understanding of human nature. I enjoyed every minute I spent reading this book.

[Woodrow Wilson](#)

Brands, H.W.

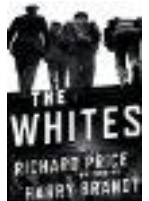
[Oct 03](#)



[The Whites](#)

Brandt, Harry
(Richard Price)

[5/26/15](#)



Screw Business As Usual	Branson, Richard	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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[The Virgin Way:
Everything I
Know About
Leadership](#)

Branson,
Richard

10/6/14

Success. Richard Branson has never read a book about leadership, so why should anyone bother reading his book titled, [The Virgin Way: Everything I Know About Leadership](#)? The simple answer is that because of Branson's wild success in so many different enterprises over four decades, he has a lot that he knows about leadership and any leader would benefit from paying attention to what he has to say. This serial entrepreneur and billionaire uses a very conversational style, packed with anecdotes, to share with readers some of the things he's done that worked as a leader, as well as some of his mistakes. All of this is interesting reading for any leader who listens to others.

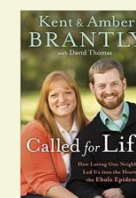


[Called for Life:
How Loving Our
Neighbor Led
Us into the
Heart of the
Ebola Epidemic](#)

Brantly, Kent
and Amber
Brantly

10/15/15

Inspiring. Most readers on seeing the cover of the book titled, [Called for Life: How Loving Our Neighbor Led Us into the Heart of the Ebola Epidemic](#), will recall the doctor who caught ebola in Liberia in 2013 and returned to the United States for treatment. This short book presents the story of husband and wife Kent and Amber Brantly and their life of service. Any reader will be inspired by their story. Believers will understand the depth of their prayer life and the nature of their vocation. Less devout readers may be distracted and a bit bewildered by the amount of praying referenced in this book, but that alone may explain why individuals like the Brantlys do what they do for others. Anyone looking for an inspiring story should consider reading this one.



[A False Sense of Well Being](#)

Braselton, Jeanne

[Feb 02](#)

Finely written first novel of the adventures of a woman of the New South in her middle years struggle.

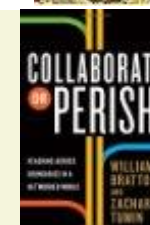


Collaborate or Perish!: Reaching Across Boundaries in a Networked World

Bratton, William and Zachary Tumin

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



Healthy Homes in a Toxic World

Breecher, Maury M. and Shirley Linde

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

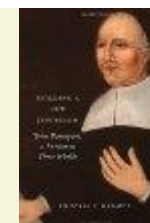
[Buy @ amazon.com](#)

Building a New Jerusalem: John Davenport, a Puritan in Three Worlds

Bremer, Francis J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



[The Spy of Venice](#)

Brendreth, Benet

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



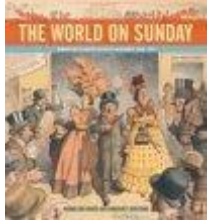
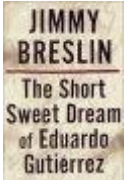
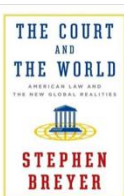

[Small Fry](#)

Brennan-Jobs, Lisa

[1/9/19](#)

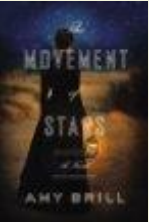
Complex. Choose your own reason for reading Lisa Brennan-Jobs finely written memoir titled, [Small Fry](#). She writes beautifully. She has the skill to be in her life story and to be outside it at the same time. You already know that her late father, Steve Jobs, could be a jerk. He's not the center of this story, although the father-daughter relationship comes across with love, pain and intimacy. All families are complex. Individuals are packed with strengths and weaknesses. We grow up because of or in spite of the child rearing we received. This memoir reveals the skills of a fine

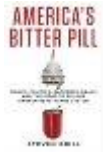


				writer and an interesting person. Choose your reason but read this finely written memoir.	
The World on Sunday	Brentano, Margaret and Nicholson Baker	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
The Church That Forgot Christ	Breslin, Jimmy	**	Oct 04	Stories. Dozens of angry stories about clerical behavior in the priest abuse scandals. Memorable moniker about Rockville Center bishop: “Mansion” Murphy.	
The Short Sweet Dream of Eduardo Guitierrez	Breslin, Jimmy	***	Jul 02	Illegal Mexican immigrant arrives in New York looking for a better life and finds work with an unscrupulous builder. In the end, neither get what they deserve.	
The Court and the World: American Law and the New Global Realities	Breyer, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
Active Liberty: Interpreting Our Democratic Constitution	Breyer, Stephen G.	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2006	
Making Our Democracy Work: A Judge's View	Breyer, Stephen G.	***	12/11/10	Trust. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer’s new book, Making Our Democracy Work , presents a civics primer about how the court fits into our society and government. This practical book is accessible to all readers and can provide insight into the context in which the court operates, and the historical and current importance of securing	

				and maintaining public trust. An ongoing question is whether or not the public will follow the court's decisions, and Breyer sees an important role of the court in helping laws work well in practice. He provides a perspective on past and current cases that is both readable and interesting for any citizen.	
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Brutal Youth	Breznican, Anthony	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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<u>The Movement of Stars</u>	Brill, Amy	*****	<u>8/6/13</u>	<p>Astronomer. Readers who like historical fiction, especially when it features strong and interesting female protagonists, are those most likely to enjoy Amy Brill's finely written debut novel, <u>The Movement of Stars</u>. Brill was inspired by the life of a 19th century astronomer and the novel she's written places readers in a very well-drawn setting: a Quaker community on Nantucket Island in the mid-19th century. Protagonist Hannah Price comes of age in a closely knit faith community, learning to perform scholarly work, attracted to a black man limited by racism, constrained by family expectations, and striving to fulfill her potential. Brill presents Price as a very complete character, packed with all the conflicting emotions and challenges that each of us faces in our lives.</p>	
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<u>America's Bitter Pill: Money, Politics, Back-Room Deals, and the Fight to Fix Our Broken Healthcare System</u>	Brill, Steven	*****	<u>6/26/15</u>	<p>Reform. My blood pressure soared to some very unhealthy levels as I read Steven Brill's book titled, <u>America's Bitter Pill: Money, Politics, Back-Room Deals, and the Fight to Fix Our Broken Healthcare System</u>. This book is a passionate plea to reform the healthcare system. Brill leaves no target untouched by his passion. Costs are out of control. Special interests have blocked all efforts to enact real reform and cost containment. Readers who can contain both anger and high blood pressure will gain perspective and insight from reading this</p>	
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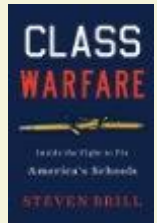
book. If Brill convinces enough people to press for reform, there might actually be change that will make a difference. Whether you think that can happen or not, if you want to be an informed citizen, read this book.

Racing. No matter what opinions and perspectives a reader holds relating to public education, there are facts and viewpoints that will please and infuriate after reading Steven Brill's new book, [Class Warfare: Inside the Fight to Fix America's Schools](#). Journalist Brill has contacted scores of sources for the material in this book, and he assembles the narrative with such great skill that the almost 500 pages flew by for me. Whatever you've heard or know about No Child Left Behind, the Race to the Top, school funding and charter schools, there's something new to learn and understand thanks to Brill's excellent writing. One of the kernels of new information that I picked up was just how large a financial hole Mayor Bloomberg of New York City will leave behind for taxpayers thanks to the generous labor contracts with teachers that he negotiated to get re-elected. Every reader is likely to learn something new and close the book felling positive about the passion with which many individuals are working to fix our schools, and with frustration about how hard this job will be.

[Class Warfare: Inside the Fight to Fix America's Schools](#)

Brill, Steven

[8/19/11](#)

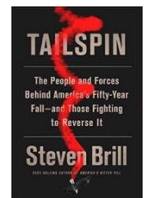


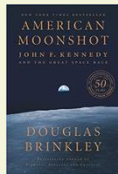
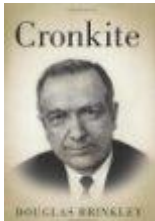
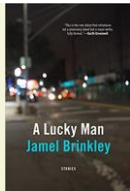

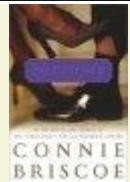
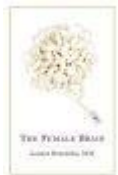
[Tailspin: The People and Forces Behind America's Fifty-Year Fall-and Those Fighting to Reverse It](#)

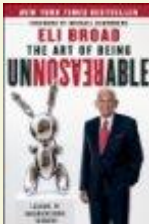
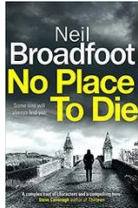
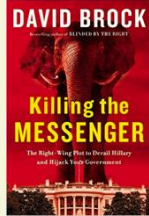
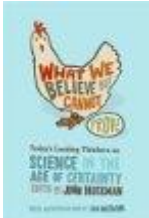
Brill, Steven


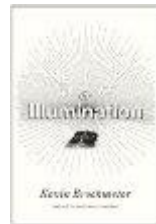


Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



<u>American Moonshot: John F. Kennedy and the Great Space Race</u>	Brinkley, Douglas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Cronkite	Brinkley, Douglas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>A Lucky Man</u>	Brinkley, Jamel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Up High in the Trees	Brinkman, Kiara	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>P.G. County</u>	Briscoe, Connie	**	<u>Dec 02</u>	Appearances. Briscoe uses all the demographics of the real D.C. suburb, Princes Georges County, Maryland, to portray characters who fit the locale and for whom appearances make all the difference.	
The Female Brain	Brizendine, Louann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

<u>The Art of Being Unreasonable: Lessons in Unconventional Thinking</u>	Broad, Eli	***	<u>9/17/12</u>	<p>Ahead. I had the feeling while reading Eli Broad's <u>The Art of Being Unreasonable: Lessons in Unconventional Thinking</u> that he would rather not be spending much time on this book, and would prefer to be moving ahead to doing something he views as more productive. It may be unexpected for most readers to find a billionaire not to be full of himself. While he presents his success at business and philanthropy through this book, Broad reinforces that he'd rather not dwell on the past, but do something now to making his best years those that are ahead. Any reader interested in business and leadership will finding something to like in this short and engaging book.</p>	
<u>No Place to Die</u>	Broadfoot, Neil	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Killing the Messenger: The Right-Wing Plot to Derail Hillary and Hijack Your Government	Brock, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
What We Believe but Cannot Prove	Brockman, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

<u>The Brief History of the Dead</u>	Brockmeier, Kevin	***	<u>July 06</u>	<p>Kingly. Imaginative novel of the end of the world thanks to a virus unleashed by Coca-Cola, and the link between the last people on earth and those they remember who remain in an unusual afterlife.</p>	
<u>The Illumination</u>	Brockmeier, Kevin	***	<u>2/11/11</u>	<p>Pain. What would happen in the world if instead of the trite expression, “I feel your pain,” anyone can respond to the suffering of others with the acknowledgement, “I see your pain?” In the world Kevin Brockmeier creates in his novel, <u>The Illumination</u>, a worldwide event has occurred and suddenly light emanates from the part of the body that feels pain or suffering. A cut to one’s skin produces a beam of light. Brockmeier deftly explores how individuals respond to experiencing life in a new way, and uses a journal of love notes as a way to tie together the various characters he presents in the novel. Readers who appreciate creativity in looking at the world in new ways are likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>The Pisces</u>	Broder, Melissa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Fleishman Is in Trouble</u>	Brodesser-Akner, Taffy	*****	<u>10/10/19</u>	<p>Me. <i>New York Times</i> journalist Taffy Brodesser-Akner’s debut novel is titled, <u>Fleishman Is in Trouble</u>. The fifteen-year-old marriage of protagonist Toby Fleishman and his wife, Rachel, has ended, and Toby seems ready to start a new chapter in his life. I loved the well-developed characters in this novel, the finely written prose, and the exploration of the challenges to all marriages when our selfishness takes command and we focus on “me” and not “us.” Brodesser-Akner deftly touches on what men want and what</p>	

women want in contemporary upper middle-class urban society. Readers are drawn into the lives of Toby and Rachel and we are set up for an ending that will please most readers. Readers who like clever and complex novels with fine writing are those most likely to enjoy this book.

<u>Man Camp</u>	Brodeur, Adrienne	*	<u>Dec 05</u>	Rehab. Novel presents friends Martha and Lucy who strain to fix the sensitive Manhattan men they want in long-term relationships by sending them for masculinity improvements at Man Camp.	
<u>A Whispered Name</u>	Brodrick, William	****	<u>9/12/18</u>	Substitute. I'm a sucker for novels that delve into moral complexity. One book in the Father Anselm series by William Broderick, a novel titled, <u>A Whispered Name</u> , explores the decisions made during wartime and the secrets and consequences that followed. One soldier substitutes himself for someone else, and decades later, Father Anselm unravels the reasons why, and the role of his mentor in what happened. I expected to be reading a quick mystery, and instead I slowed down as the discernment of right from wrong got muddled, and I paid close attention, to great satisfaction.	
<u>The Silent Ones</u>	Brodrick, William	****	<u>3/26/19</u>	Justice. The sixth installment in the Father Anselm mystery series by William Brodrick is a novel titled, <u>The Silent Ones</u> . Brodrick tackles the issue of clerical sexual abuse of minors in this novel and offers readers a sensitive and complex plot in which we accompany Father Anselm in figuring out what happened. The title refers to the victims of abuse, and this quote (pp. 100-101) captures part of the treatment of this topic: "If you fail,' said Littlemore, 'then it's not only Harry who'll suffer. There are many others. They are the Silent Ones. They live and die in their own private hell. You can take the first step that might help them find their	

				voice. They've been lied to and cheated. Their goodwill has been exploited. They've said yes to a cover-up when they should have said no. You can do something to change all that." Readers who enjoy complicated mysteries with well-drawn characters and good writing should consider this novel and this series.	
Boom! Aftershocks of the Sixties and Beyond	Brokaw, Tom	***		Read and not reviewed.	
The Time of Our Lives	Brokaw, Tom	***	12/16/11	Community. Veteran journalist Tom Brokaw has written a conversational book titled, The Time of Our Lives . This is a call for Americans to return to a community life, shared values and civic engagement. Brokaw uses examples from his own life and that of his children and grandchildren to reflect on where we've been and where we need to go to restore the American dream. Readers who like plain speaking common sense are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
Musings on Mortality: From Tolstoy to Primo Levi	Brombert, Victor	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
What Should I Do With My Life?	Bronson, Po	***	June 03	Glimmers. Bronson's wandering the country to find out how others have answered this question provide glimmers of self-knowledge for readers, glimmers of newly discovered talents. Savor this slowly and listen for the glimmers that may change your life.	

Why Do I Love
These People?

Bronson, Po

Mar 06

Family. The stories of the twenty families described here will resonate for many readers, from the power of enduring love to the pain of close relationships that fail.



NurtureShock:
New Thinking
About Children

Bronson, Po and
Ashley
Merryman

9/21/09

Contradictions. Are common assumptions about good parenting backed by good science? Not really, according to Po Bronson and Ashley Merryman in their book, NurtureShock: New Thinking About Children. While it will come as no surprise to parents that kids of all ages (as well as adults) are bundles of contradictions, it was surprising to me to read in this book about all the ways in which scientific studies have turned commonly held notions about children and child rearing upside down. Lying can be a sign of intelligence, and deception seems like a necessary part of developing identity. Those Baby Einstein DVDs: throw them out since they seem to do more harm than good. Whether you're a parent or not, there's loads of fascinating information in NurtureShock, especially about the ways in which strategies for nurturing children are backfiring because we've overlooked key elements of what science is telling us.

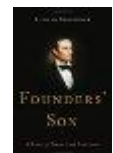


Founders' Son:
A Life of
Abraham
Lincoln

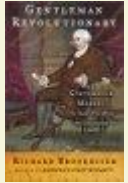
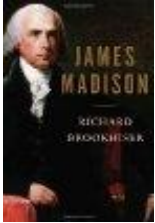

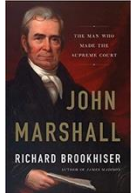
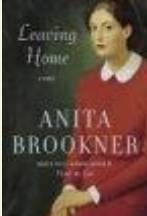
Brookhiser,
Richard

2/24/15

Fathers. It was on Lincoln's birthday that I finished reading Richard Brookhiser's book titled, Founders' Son: A Life of Abraham Lincoln. I find that every book I read about Lincoln can be both interesting and illuminating, and this book provides a lot of both interest and insight. Brookhiser focuses on Lincoln's perspective that he was a true son of the founding fathers of the United States. Some of his political opponents disagreed and saw themselves as the inheritors of that legacy. Readers who enjoy history and especially that of the



nineteenth century in the United States are those most likely to enjoy reading this finely written book.

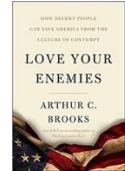
<u>Gentleman Revolutionary: Gouverneur Morris, the Rake Who Wrote the Constitution</u>	Brookhiser, Richard	**	<u>Jan 04</u>	Cheerful. Short biography of a Founding Father few learn about in school, but one who made a huge contribution to the creation of the United States.	
James Madison	Brookhiser, Richard	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>What Would the Founders Do?</u>	Brookhiser, Richard	***	<u>Sept 06</u>	Breezy. Brookhiser poses modern question and tries to find evidence of behavior in the lives of the founders that would reveal how they would act if faced with our contemporary questions.	
<u>John Marshall: The Man Who Made the Supreme Court</u>	Brookhiser, Richard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Leaving Home	Brookner, Anita	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt

Brooks, Arthur

5/28/19

Countercultural. In his book titled, Love Your Enemies: How Decent People Can Save America from the Culture of Contempt, Arthur C. Brooks offers a prescription to bring Americans together. Polarization has led most of us to associate exclusively with those with whom we agree and to demonize those who have different views. He encourages readers to join him in a countercultural call to action (p.213): “Go find someone with whom you disagree; listen thoughtfully, and treat him or her with respect and love. The rest will flow naturally from there.” Imagine that and then consider following Brooks’ advice.

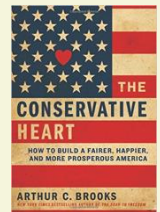


The Conservative Heart: How to Build a Fairer, Happier, and More Prosperous America

Brooks, Arthur C.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



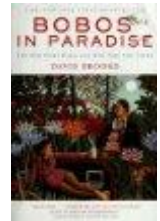
Bobos in Paradise

Brooks, David

*

8/00

Three or four funny parts; the rest was tedious. Take a pass.



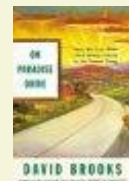
On Paradise Drive: How We Live Now (and always have) in the Future Tense

Brooks, David

**

Aug 04

Paradocs. We advised readers to take a pass on Bobos in Paradise four years ago. The new Paradise is neither serious enough thoughtful sociology nor funny enough social commentary to warrant anything above a mild recommendation.



[The Road to Character](#)

Brooks, David

6/10/15

Virtues. There's a simple, old-fashioned message at the heart of David Brooks' book titled, [The Road to Character](#): there's more to life and who you are than the success you've achieved. Brooks talks about the resume virtues and the eulogy virtues, that aspect of ourselves, Adam 1 that is ambitious part of ourselves that wants to conquer the world, while Adam 2 is that part of ourselves that wants to serve others. In our age of self-centeredness, Brooks proposes both a move toward balance, and a greater focus on humility and service to others. Throughout the book he offers the personal stories of individuals who developed strong character and he presents their lives as exemplary. I found this to be a reflective and thoughtful book, well-suited for our time. The pendulum has swung so severely toward what Brooks called the "big me," that a life of service to others seems like a better road to character.

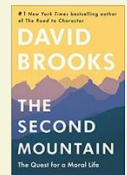


[The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life](#)

Brooks, David

5/28/19

Meaning. In his book titled, [The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life](#), David Brooks describes two stages in life: one that is self-centered that leads us to climb a mountain of achievement; and a second stage in which we focus on others and make commitments to individuals and community. While we may achieve some satisfaction in meeting our self-centered goals as we climb the first mountain, fulfillment comes when we give ourselves to others on that second mountain. Our search for meaning and purpose in life involves dependence on others in the context of community. Brooks tells stories in this book about many individuals, including himself, and the narrative will lead all readers to be introspective about one's own life and the meaning we have found.

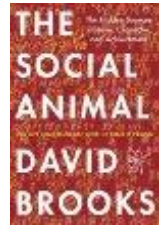


The Social Animal

Brooks, David

3/5/11

Mind. David Brooks' latest book is titled The Social Animal. As with his earlier works, he explores what researchers have learned in a field and what that may mean for how we live with one another in society. The area of attention in this book is the mind, and the extent to which emotions, perceptions, intuitions and our unconscious direct our actions. Brooks concludes that we are social animals, and why we do what we do is the result of what's happening in our brains on a level underneath the rational. He supports his premise with a potpourri of illustrations. The device he uses to explore the topic is the creation of two characters, Harold and Erica, and through their lives, he riffs on how reason takes second place in how they follow life's pathways. Brooks' writing is always entertaining and often witty. Whether one agrees with his premise or not does not distract from the pleasure of reading even this book whose structure seems less logical and rational than his others, perhaps another illustration of his premise.

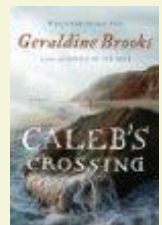


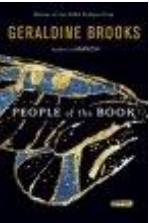
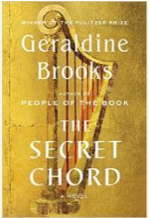
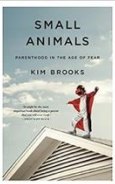
Caleb's Crossing

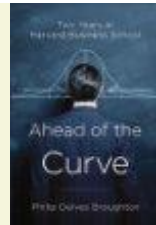
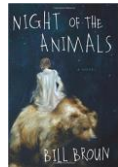


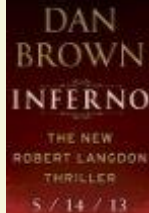
Brooks,
Geraldine

6/7/11

Lament. Historical fiction can provide great reading along with insight: what was life like in the past, and in what ways does the past resonate with our common human experience. In her novel, Caleb's Crossing, Geraldine Brooks takes a historical event and period, the matriculation of the first Native American at Harvard in the late 17th century, and imagines the tension and conflict in the characters who deal with the crossing from one culture to another. Brooks brings out the time period with vivid detail, and uses a first person narrator, Bethia Mayfield, to provide the link between the readers and the protagonist, Caleb. The narration is Bethia's lament, and provides an engaging and entertaining reading experience, especially for those who like that period of



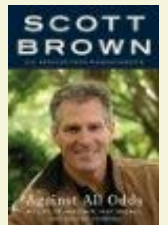
				American history, or who empathize with the challenges of cultural assimilation.	
<u>People of the Book</u>	Brooks, Geraldine	****	<u>Apr 08</u>	<p>Transported. Fictionalized account of a real illustrated manuscript, the Sarajevo Haggadah. Through the Australian conservator restoring the manuscript, Brooks transports readers in a suspenseful narrative across hundreds of years in multiple locations to the people who made the book, those who used it, and those who protected it.</p>	
<u>The Secret Chord</u>	Brooks, Geraldine	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>Small Animals: Parenthood in the Age of Fear</u>	Brooks, Kim	****	<u>2/2/19</u>	<p>Independence. From the earliest time I can remember, I would leave our family's apartment in the Flatbush area of Brooklyn, and my parents had only a vague sense of where I might be. Were there days when I got in trouble that could have been avoided? Yes. Did I grow up with self-confidence and independence? Yes. Today's children and parents assess risks differently, and the "see something, say something" culture has led concerned individuals to contact the police rather than a parent when they are concerned that a child might be in jeopardy. Kim Brooks has written a book titled, <u>Small Animals: Parenthood in the Age of Fear</u>, that uses her own experience with leaving a child in a car for a few minutes, to describe current social expectations and the angst of parents. If selected for your book group conversation, count on hearing lots of stories about child rearing in the past and present.</p>	

<u>Ahead of the Curve: Two Years at Harvard Business School</u>	Broughton, Philip Delves	***	<u>Nov 08</u>	Lessons. Debut memoir describes how a 31-year-old journalist went to Harvard Business School for an MBA in 2004, and what he and we might learn from the experience.	
<u>Night of the Animals</u>	Broun, Bill	*****	<u>1/10/17</u>	Restoration. I'm a sucker for reading a debut novel that's imaginative and unusual. I was continuously entertained by Bill Broun's novel titled, <u>Night of the Animals</u> . Set in the London Zoo in 2052, the novel features an elderly protagonist, Cuthbert Handley, who can communicate with animals. The night in the title is when Cuthbert decides to release all the zoo animals. Broun places this act in the context of global crisis and societal collapse. Sound like fun to you? Broun makes it a story of restoration and redemption rather than disaster, which he pulls off with great skill. Readers who enjoy odd tales and are willing to explore a debut novel are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
The Last First Day	Brown, Carrie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Ninety-Nine Glimpses of Princess Margaret</u>	Brown, Craig	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Inferno</u>	Brown, Dan	***	<u>6/25/13</u>	Population. Dan Brown's novel <u>Inferno</u> will be less controversial than his earlier ones, and I felt that the fun he had in writing it came across in his prose. He opens the novel with a great device: the loss of memory by protagonist Robert Langdon, whose eidetic memory has been a useful talent in	

				<p>previous novels. Having Langdon deal with this made for pleasurable reading. The issue in this novel involves population control, and the tidbits and factoids that Brown peppers throughout the novel can be both annoying and interesting at the same time. Dante's work and Florence provide a context for Brown's exploration of the issue, and the formidable adversaries Langdon encounters make for entertaining tension. I try to read Brown's novels quickly because the weak prose can wear me down. His creativity and plot are satisfying enough.</p>	
<u>Origin</u>	Brown, Dan	***	<u>11/3/17</u>	<p>Blake. Readers who don't find Dan Brown's writing tedious and plodding are those most likely to enjoy reading his latest novel to feature Robert Langdon. Titled, <u>Origin</u>, this novel explores answers that a student of Langdon provides to two perennial questions: where did we come from and where are we going? Brown teases out the student's answers over the course of 480 pages using quotes from Winston Churchill along the way and aspects of the life and writing of William Blake. The Catholic church is back with a role to play in this novel. Brown has been successful with this formula in earlier novels, and the latest novel will seem very familiar to readers of his earlier books.</p>	
<u>The DaVinci Code</u>	Brown, Dan	***	<u>July 03</u>	<p>Templars. Fast-paced thriller along the lines of Cussler or Ludlum. Imaginative, yet connected enough to real groups like Opus Dei and the Templars to make readers wonder. Fine vacation reading.</p>	
<u>The Lost Symbol</u>	Brown, Dan	***	<u>11/7/09</u>	<p>Revelation. There's an exciting and entertaining two hundred page book buried inside the 528 pages of Dan Brown's latest Robert Langdon thriller titled, <u>The Lost Symbol</u>. For readers who find value in pages per dollar, there's some benefit here in having more pages to turn, which might prolong a reader's pleasure. For me, the surplus pages riff</p>	

with exposition that adds little to the novel. Unlike his earlier best sellers which drew heavy criticism from the Catholic Church and increased sales, [The Lost Symbol](#) is unlikely to irritate the institutions that Brown describes. In this case, Masonic ceremonies, symbols and buildings are likely to increase the range of Washington, D.C. tourism rather than lead to ire. The entire novel is the revelation to Langdon of a buried symbol long kept secret in Washington. Along the way, the adventure, suspense and plot twists can be entertaining, provided a reader has the patience to put up with superfluous exposition while awaiting the return of action.

Model. I didn't expect to read all of Massachusetts Senator Scott Brown's memoir, [Against All Odds](#). I thought it would be another shallow ghost-written campaign piece for a future run at political office by the guy with the truck who surprised a nation when he won an election. Instead, politics were absent for the first two-thirds of the book, in which Brown lays out a troubled childhood and difficult start to life. He became a competitor through practice and perseverance at basketball, and then at everything else he decided to do. This is some guy, and he has taken advantage of every break he's gotten in life, including modeling, to make the most of it. He hustled for work (in a good way), and remained focused and dedicated to every task and objective he set for himself. Readers who like bootstrap stories will find this book enjoyable, and the subject affable and engaging.



[Against All Odds: My Life of Hardship, Fast Breaks, and Second Chances](#)

Brown, Scott

[3/27/11](#)

Desk 88: Eight
Progressive
Senators Who
Changed
America

Brown, Sherrod

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



The Diana
Chronicles

Brown, Tina

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



The Vanity Fair
Diaries

Brown, Tina

12/7/17

Energetic. The punchy wit that Tina Brown writes in her book titled, The Vanity Fair Diaries, will delight even those readers with little interest in the New York media world of the 1980s and 1990s. Her trenchant observations about people are peppered throughout the book, while she pulls readers into her workaholic life. In this account, Tina never stops pushing, pressing, trying new things, working constantly. For readers who know the New York world she describes, this book will be required reading, at least about people one knows, and whose entries are easy to find, thanks to the index.



Amped

Browne, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004






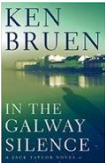
Paths of Desire:
The Passions of
a Suburban
Gardener

Browning,
Dominique

Apr 04

Blossoms. Take a walk with the author through her life and her suburban garden, and come away rested and refreshed, ready for the challenges of your own suburban life, and maybe even garden.




The Second Civil War: How Extreme Partisanship Has Paralyzed Washington and Polarized America	Brownstein, Ronald	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Galway Girl	Bruen, Ken	*****	1/24/20	<p>Falcon. Protagonist Jack Taylor is back in the fourteenth novel by Ken Bruen to feature him. Titled Galway Girl, Jack finds himself the target of a team of young killers, led by a woman named Jericho. Bruen takes the bleak and darkens it, but don't let that discourage you from visiting Galway. Each of the killers has a separate beef with Taylor. Just when I felt I had settled in with the old Jack Taylor, he up and leaves Galway briefly and learns to be a falconer. Bruen uses the falcon to great effect, and Jack soars like the bird in this novel.</p>	
Green Hell	Bruen, Ken	*****	5/13/16	<p>Avenger. Ken Bruen reprises protagonist Jack Taylor for a pleasurable crime novel titled, Green Hell. If your view of Ireland is that it is a little bit of heaven, expand your horizons with this novel that presents Galway as a living hell. Taylor has found a new low point, with a dead best friend and a search for refuge in drugs and drink. He stirs out of lethargy by taking on a cause: vengeance against a professor whose violence upsets the ex-Garda in Jack. The plot moves quickly, the dialogue is lively, and the chaos is an outright delight.</p>	
In the Galway Silence	Bruen, Ken	*****	12/17/18	<p>Noir. Ken Bruen reprises protagonist Jack Taylor for a fourteenth time in a novel titled, In the Galway Silence. Fans of the series will find the troubled hard-drinking Jack more settled and contented than ever before, a situation which cannot possibly continue. I enjoy Bruen's sharp and dark wit, and the ways in which he can continue to develop a</p>	

complex and fascinating character. Readers who enjoy noir crime fiction that's well-written are those most likely to appreciate this novel and this series.

<u>Priest</u>	Bruen, Ken	***	<u>Aug 07</u>	<p>Melancholy. Crime fiction of the highest caliber in this fifth novel featuring moody and complicated Galway ex-cop, a recovering alcoholic, fine dialogue and dark moodiness.</p>	
<u>Purgatory</u>	Bruen, Ken	****	<u>12/12/13</u>	<p>Predators. Fans of noir crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Ken Bruen's novel, <u>Purgatory</u>, the tenth of his books to feature protagonist Jack Taylor. Galway has two predators with whom Taylor needs to engage. There's a serial killer taunting Jack as that person delivers vigilante justice to individuals the system failed to punish for misdeeds. Then there's Reardon, an expat American billionaire buying up all the Galway depressed property he can acquire. Bruen's great selection of language provides a lot of reading pleasure. The Oscar Wilde motif was a special gift to readers. Taylor is a complex character, developed well over the course of many novels, but first-time readers can savor his complexity when reading this novel on its own.</p>	
<u>The Devil</u>	Bruen, Ken	***	<u>10/26/10</u>	<p>Darkness. Ken Bruen's eighth novel to feature former Garda and private eye, Jack Taylor, titled, <u>The Devil</u>, pits Jack against a worthy opponent: the devil himself. Jack meets Mr. K. or Karl or Kurt, as he's stopped from leaving Ireland for America. Back in Galway, Jack and Mr. K. engage in a battle of trying to do good versus evil. Bruen's writing is spare and effective. Readers of previous novels have an advantage of knowing enough about the character Jack Taylor to best appreciate his current situation. That said, this novel stands well on its own, and is likely to be appreciated by those</p>	

				<p>readers who enjoy character-based novels and clever writing.</p> <p>Grammar. Fans of Ken Bruen's series featuring Galway private investigator Jack Taylor are those readers most likely to enjoy the 12th installment titled, The Emerald Lie. Bruen continues to develop the depth of character of troubled Jack Taylor, and reprises both DS Ridge from earlier novels and Emily from the last installment. While Jack spends his time brooding, reading books, listening to music and drinking, a serial killer has been slaying people for incorrect grammatical usage. Hypocrisy is in Bruen's crosshairs in this novel, and he targets both the Irish government and the Church. Along the way, there's fine writing, great characters, puzzles and an undertone of weariness as Jack is beaten down both physically and emotionally.</p>	
The Emerald Lie	Bruen, Ken	*****	9/11/17		
The Ghosts of Galway	Bruen, Ken	*****	1/4/18	<p>Revenge. The darkest novel yet to feature protagonist Jack Taylor is titled, The Ghosts of Galway, by Ken Bruen. Having failed suicide and needing cash, Jack takes on a job as a security guard. His boss tempts him into tracking down a heretical book, and Jack yields to the temptation. What stirs Jack in this outing is the pleasure of revenge against all forms of ghosts, and the violence that follows seems to stimulate Jack back to life.</p>	
A Stranger Like You	Brundage, Elizabeth	***	9/22/10	<p>Terror. Elizabeth Brundage's novel, A Stranger Like You, presents a set of characters whose connections provide the basis on which the author develops each character in ways that enlighten any reader about what we don't know and what we know about those close to us and those who are strangers. The plot involves stalking and abduction which engenders suspense, even terror. The real grist of the novel involves the things we do for and to each other, and how we are vulnerable to others. Set in Hollywood, there's plenty of color here for</p>	

those readers who enjoy the movie business and its quirks. Readers who enjoy fine writing that focuses on intense character development will enjoy this novel.

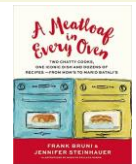
<u>All Things Cease to Appear</u>	Brundage, Elizabeth	****	<u>3/24/16</u>	<p>Psychopath. Readers like me, who enjoy finely written literary fiction, may re-read many of the finely structured sentences in Elizabeth Brundage's novel titled, <u>All Things Cease to Appear</u>. Based on the characters and plot, I encourage reading this novel on sunny days. One character is a psychopath, and Brundage develops him in ways that are both clever and creepy. Death stays present in the novel throughout all four hundred pages, always lurking in the foreground or background. Again, that was both clever and creepy. The relationships in the novel are complex, to say the least, and readers who like psychological novels will find a lot to enjoy in this one.</p>	
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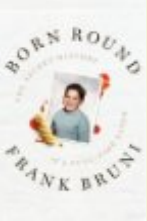
[A Meatloaf in Every Oven](#)

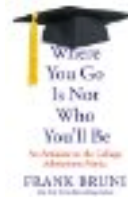
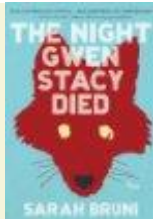
Bruni, Frank

Unread

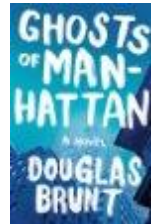
Shelf of Ennui 2017.



<u>Born Round: The Secret History of a Full-time Eater</u>	Bruni, Frank	***	<u>12/12/09</u>	<p>Candid. Frank Bruni's memoir is titled, <u>Born Round: The Secret History of a Full-Time Eater</u>. His direct and punchy writing style reveals aspects of his life that most individuals would be too embarrassed to discuss, let alone publish. He presents his insecurities, a serious eating disorder, and lots of quirky behavior that draws readers in, made me laugh often, and by the end of the book, made me feel like this Frank Bruni is an ok guy. An accomplished journalist, he was recently the food critic for <i>The New York Times</i>. <u>Born Round</u> covers that part of his life, which involved lots of eating, as well as his early life, which also involved lots of eating. For much of his life, he's struggled to keep</p>	
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				<p>his weight down. The stories of meals and family members and relationships are hilarious and sometimes sad. The end result is a finely written memoir that reveals with candor a fascinating smorgasbord of the ups and downs of life. Those readers who enjoy eating will especially appreciate <u>Born Round</u>.</p> <p>Calming. The college admissions process can lead to frustration, anxiety, and crushed hopes. Frank Bruni advises parents and students to relax about all this in a book titled with a summary that describes his message succinctly: <u>Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania</u>. In a little more than 200 pages, Bruni tells his own story along with others to support his perspective. One's value doesn't come from the school one attends. Achievement and success may not correlate with the ratings of a school. So Bruni advises everybody to calm down, reduce the pressure and use the experience at any college to learn, grow and mature. I was delighted by his examples of U.S. Presidents, CEOs and award-winning scientists who did not attend prominent universities. If that's how we measure success, the top rated universities may not lead one to those positions. Relax. Any reader with trepidation about the college admissions process will love reading this book.</p>	
<u>Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania</u>	Bruni, Frank	*****	<u>5/21/15</u>		
The Night Gwen Stacy Died	Bruni, Sarah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	

Jerks. I wanted to like Douglas Brunt's debut novel, Ghosts of Manhattan, but I remained distracted by the stereotyped characters and Brunt's inability to flesh them out with more insight and depth. Protagonist Nick Farmer is a bond trader at Bear Stearns, and the lifestyle he pursues is wearing him down and hurting his marriage. Set between 2005 and 2007, the knowledge about the collapse of Bear sits with the reader, but remains a future event, outside the scope of the novel. So many of the adult characters are presented as adolescent jerks that the distraction of drinking, drugs, strippers and hookers became too central a focus for this novel to succeed. There are a dozen or so terrific pages in the almost three hundred pages of this book. Readers patient enough to wade through it all are likely to be rewarded. Those readers with a clear notion of Wall Street employment being a hedonistic lifestyle will be confirmed in their views when they read this novel.



Ghosts of Manhattan

Brunt, Douglas

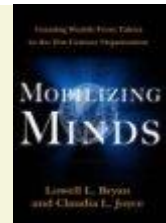
11/8/12

Mobilizing Minds: Creating Wealth from Talent in the 21st Century

Bryan, Lowell

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

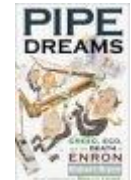


Pipe Dreams: Greed, Ego and the Death of Enron

Bryce, Robert

Jan 03

Me First. The rot at Enron started at the head. The lack of integrity and character, the self-serving, the arrogance of the bright, are revealed in all their venality in this fascinating book.

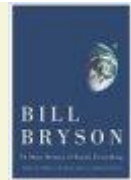


A Short History of Nearly Everything

Bryson, Bill

Aug 03

Connections. Bryson's wit and basic questions grabs our attention and holds it as the answers lead to more questions about astronomy, geology, chemistry, biology, and physics.

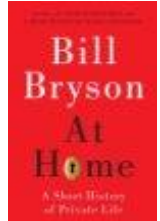


At Home: A Short History of Private Life

Bryson, Bill

9/22/10

Meandering. Bill Bryson provides an entertaining and eclectic look at his house and ours in his new book, At Home: A Short History of Private Life. I take some exception to this being “short,” since at 500 pages, it seemed long, but for a history, or for all that Bryson could have included, I guess for him, short it is. Since his own house was built in the mid-nineteenth century, there’s an extra focus on Victorian times, and since the first owner was a rector, his life and time are well-covered. I came away from this book with reams of useless information that I’m certain to inject with confidence in some future conversation. Any reader who likes a meandering story filled with wit will find lots of interesting anecdotes and factoids on these pages.

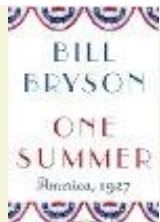


One Summer

Bryson, Bill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

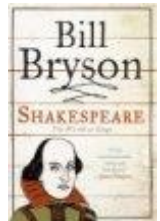


Shakespeare:
The World as
Stage

Bryson, Bill

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

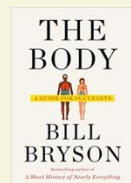


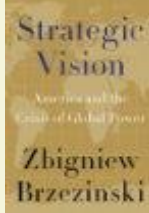
The Body: A Guide for Occupants

Bryson, Bill

12/16/19

Comfortable. Find yourself a comfortable chair, and settle in for Bill Bryson’s engaging and entertaining book titled, The Body: A Guide for Occupants. Packed with facts, supported with anecdotes and maintained by good writing, the book examines the human body in all its wonder. Bryson has the ability to take something familiar and bring a fresh look and introduce something



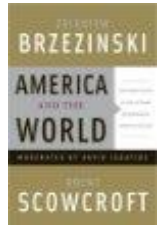
				mysterious and make it understandable. Get comfortable with and in your body as you read this entertaining book.	
<u>The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid</u>	Bryson, Bill	***	<u>Jan 07</u>	Recollections. Memoir of growing up in the 1950s in Des Moines, packed with humor and recollections of morons, television, toys and superheroes.	
<u>The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain</u>	Bryson, Bill	****	<u>3/7/16</u>	Aging. It's been two decades since Bill Bryson's hilarious book titled, <i>Notes From a Small Island</i> , about his life as an American living in England. Bryson is back two decades later with his current take on this experience in a book titled, <u>The Road to Little Dribbling: Adventures of an American in Britain</u> . Bryson's humor remains sharp, and part of the sojourn he describes has him return to places he hasn't been to in a long time. His aging voice is a bit snarkier than the earlier book, but any reader who likes England and has a sense of humor will find something to like in this book.	
<u>Second Chance: Three Presidents and the Crisis of American Superpower</u>	Brzezinski, Zbigniew	***	<u>Dec 07</u>	Incisive. Former National Security Advisor describes how Clinton and both Bushes squandered foreign policy opportunities following the end of the Cold War and offers a prescription for getting the right policy, warning that we won't get a third chance.	
Strategic Vision: America and the Crisis of Global Power	Brzezinski, Zbigniew	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	

America and the World:
Conversations on the Future of American Foreign Policy

Brzezinski, Zbigniew, Brent Scowcroft and David Ignatius

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009



The Universe in a Single Atom

Bstan-dzin-rgya-mtsho, Dalai Lama XIV

**

Jan 06

Collaboration. From a lifetime interest in science, the Dalai Lama provides a calm voice about the similarities in thinking and practice between science and religion (especially Buddhism) and proposes many ways in which science and religion can collaborate.



Budapest

Buarque, Chico

**

June 05

Offbeat. Creative romance novel by Brazilian musician, describing how a ghostwriter becomes sidetracked to Budapest and falls in love with all things Hungarian, including a woman.



Revenge of the Middle-Aged Woman

Buchan, Elizabeth

Apr 03

Sweet. Rose's assistant takes her husband and her job in the same week. Through Buchan's wit, grace, charm, poignancy, and very fine writing, readers enjoy Rose's gradual transformation through the stages of grief and into a new life.

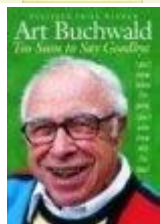


Too Soon to Say Goodbye

Buchwald, Art

Feb 07

Graceful. The late syndicated columnist uses his fine wit to tell the story of his decision to forego kidney dialysis, enter a hospice, have his friends say goodbye, and then not die as soon as expected.

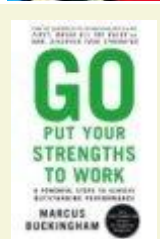


Go Put Your Strengths to Work: 6 Powerful Steps to Achieve Outstanding Performance

Buckingham, Marcus

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2008

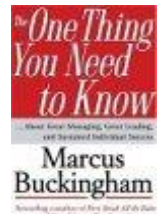


The One Thing
You Need to
Know

Buckingham,
Marcus

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2005



First, Break All
the Rules

Buckingham,
Marcus and
Coffman, Curt

9/99

Buy this book and pick and choose some approaches used by great managers that fit your individual style.



Now, Discover
Your Strengths

Buckingham,
Marcus and
Donald O.
Clifton, Ph.D.

02/01

Gallup research says we should be developing our strengths and talents instead of focusing on our weaknesses. StrengthFinder profile selects five top themes out of 34 to help focus.



Boomsday

Buckley,
Christopher

May 07

Swift. Funny and biting satire of generational conflict with a modest proposal to solve the social security problem by offering baby boomers tax breaks and perks for voluntary suicide at a certain age.

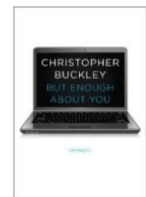


But Enough
About You

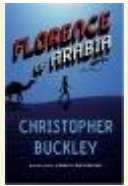


Buckley,
Christopher

8/8/14

Entertaining. I tried to restrain myself and parcel out only one essay per day from the new collection from Christopher Buckley titled, But Enough About You. I failed. I could not read just one. After being entertained by one, I found myself reading one more, and then perhaps another. Buckley tickles my funny bone in a way that seems effortless, but belies the great skill he deploys in choosing just the right words. The range of these 100 essays is broad and deep: from travel to book reviews to social commentary to eulogy to child rearing to eating well to friendship to speechwriting to politics. For



each topic, Buckley applies a wit and style that entertained me thoroughly.

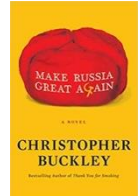
<u>Florence of Arabia</u>	Buckley, Christopher	***	<u>Dec 04</u>	Amat. Plenty of laughs as few targets remain unscathed in this politically incorrect novel of the clash of American and Middle Eastern politics, culture, and values.	
Little Green Men	Buckley, Christopher	***		Not as funny as <u>Thank You for Smoking</u> or <u>God Is My Broker</u> , but still a pleasure to read.	
<u>Losing Mum and Pup: A Memoir</u>	Buckley, Christopher	****	<u>6/25/09</u>	Devotion. Christopher Buckley's new memoir, <u>Losing Mum and Pup</u> , focuses on the deaths of his larger-than-life parents, William F. Buckley and Patricia Taylor Buckley, within the same year. Fans of Christopher's witty fiction will find the same quality of writing in this memoir. As an only child, Christopher discloses the end of life caregiving that can be overwhelming, especially when it comes to caring for strong willed parents. Beneath some of the shots Christopher takes his late parents, his devotion to them, and their devotion to each other come through on these pages. Through his writing skill, Buckley allows readers to share his mourning, and come close to experiencing his grief. I was teary after reading some of these pages. The anecdotes from their lives and their dying are packed with vivid description and with all the issues that any family faces. After reading this memoir, I found myself recounting some of the Buckley family stories to friends. <u>Losing Mum and Pup</u> captures the laughter and tears of living and dying in ways that will make readers reflect on our own relationships and losses of loved ones as well as the elements that constitute a life well-lived.	

[Make Russia Great Again](#)

Buckley,
Christopher

[10/19/20](#)

Audience. I've been a fan of Christopher Buckley's satire for many years, so I was a key part of the target audience for his book titled, [Make Russia Great Again](#). For many people in 2020, laughter has become a rare commodity. Political partisans are fighting hard this presidential election year, and some readers will perceive this book as another form of anti-Trump propaganda. For those readers who appreciate political satire and are open to laughter even about figures they support, this book is packed with wit and perfectly aimed plausible takes on contemporary American politics. I was entertained once again by this display of Buckley's humor.

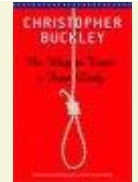


[No Way to Treat a First Lady](#)

Buckley,
Christopher

[Dec 02](#)

Chuckles. Laugh out loud as Buckley returns to DC and the trial of Lady Bethmac, who's on trial for the murder of her husband, a philandering U.S. President. Sex, lawyers, media, and the Lincoln bedroom.



[Supreme Courtship](#)

Buckley,
Christopher

[Oct 08](#)

Honorable. Satire in which an unpopular president nominates a television judge to the Supreme Court. Packed with laughs, providing relief from weighty issues in the presidential campaign.

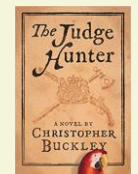


[The Judge Hunter](#)

Buckley,
Christopher

[5/22/18](#)

Pepys. Readers looking for an escape from the present for laughs about the past with a nod toward contemporary life are those most likely to love reading Christopher Buckley's novel titled, [The Judge Hunter](#). Set in the 17th century, the novel mixes historical figures like Samuel Pepys and Peter Stuyvesant with an interesting cast of fictional characters. The plot and schemes are funny, the prose fast-paced, and the wit smile provoking. Buckley pokes Puritans and Quakers with equal fervor. I was thoroughly entertained by this novel.

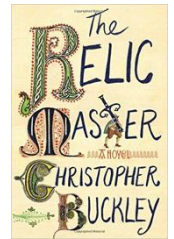


The Relic Master

Buckley,
Christopher

1/5/16

Penance. Contemporary social and political satire takes a holiday for Christopher Buckley as he turns his sights to the sixteenth century. Money and power are still great targets for Buckley's wit in his novel titled, The Relic Master. The Catholic Church is selling indulgences, and relics are big draws for the peasant penny and the collections of wealthy patrons. The protagonist of the novel, Dismas, buys and sells relics, and one of his clients wants to procure a very special relic. Caught in deceit, Dismas incurs a penance that sets him on a mission to steal a shroud. Buckley blends historical characters including Albrecht Dürer and Martin Luther with fictional ones, and offers a witty and slowly paced plot that spreads the action and humor thinly over four hundred pages. Readers who are educated enough to know the circumstances of sixteenth century Europe and who enjoy satire are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



They Eat Puppies, Don't They?

Buckley,
Christopher

5/25/12

Dogged. Readers who enjoy topical political satire are those most likely to chuckle through Christopher Buckley's latest novel, They Eat Puppies, Don't They? Buckley plucks from the headlines our antipathy about the relationship between the United States and China, the crass behavior of politicians and lobbyists, and imagines each player manipulating others and public opinion. There are key set-ups and funny scenes, but I had the sense that Buckley had to doggedly fill in connecting pieces to make the narrative move along. As a reader, I found myself chuckling now and again, but became a bit bored as I plowed ahead waiting for the action to reach a culmination. In this year's toxic political environment, this novel provides a relaxing respite and an occasional laugh.



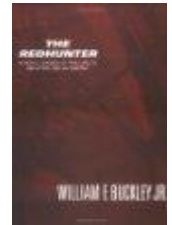
<u>Washington Schlepped Here: Walking in the Nation's Capital</u>	Buckley, Christopher	***	<u>June 03</u>	The Two Schlep. Informative, historically accurate, walking tours of Washington, DC, peppered with a humorist's élan and a fan's enthusiasm. Read our disclosures in the full review before you accept our rating.	
<u>Getting It Right</u>	Buckley, Jr., William F.	**	<u>June 03</u>	Origins. The roots of the modern conservative movement can be found in the John Birch Society and among the followers of Ayn Rand. Buckley uses the genre of historical fiction to tell readers what he thinks happened at the creation. The portrayal of Alan Greenspan, who was a Randian, is a gem.	
<u>Last Call for Blackford Oakes</u>	Buckley, Jr., William F.	***	<u>July 05</u>	Finale. American spy Blackford Oakes is sent to Russia in 1987 by President Reagan, and while there he finds both love and Kim Philby. Entertaining summer reading.	
<u>Nuremberg: The Reckoning</u>	Buckley, Jr., William F.	**	<u>Jul 02</u>	Neither good history nor good fiction. As always, Buckley writes well, but in this novel too quickly and without much depth.	
<u>The Fall of the Berlin Wall</u>	Buckley, Jr., William F.	***	<u>July 04</u>	Yield. Readable story of how the Wall came and went. Part of the Turning Points series. Energetic writing style, cogent observations, and thoughtful insights.	
<u>The Rake</u>	Buckley, Jr., William F.	**	<u>Feb 08</u>	Uncaring. Could be a relaxing respite from the 2008 presidential campaign to read this novel of a candidate's secret, if you can tolerate weak character development and feeble plot.	

The Redhunter:
A Novel Based
on the Life of
Senator Joe
McCarthy

Buckley, Jr.,
William F.

8/99

Nobody except Buckley could succeed in putting such a human face on a character portrayed in a single dimension for the 40+ years since his death.

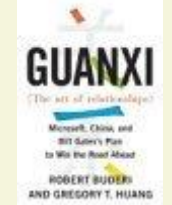


Guaxni

Buderi, Robert

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



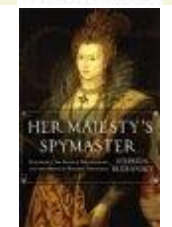
Her Majesty's
Spymaster

Budiansky,
Stephen

**

Mar 06

Partisan. Entertaining history. Thanks to the spy networks of Sir Francis Walsingham, Elizabeth I had documents showing treason by Mary Queen of Scots, and received valuable intelligence about the Spanish Armada.

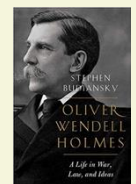


Oliver Wendell
Holmes: A Life
in War, Law,
and Ideas

Budiansky,
Stephen

8/5/19

Zeal. I love reading a book that closes a gap in my learning that I didn't know was there. Stephen Budiansky's biography titled, Oliver Wendell Holmes: A Life in War, Law, and Ideas, taught me loads of things I never knew about the renowned jurist. Before reading this book, I knew about some of Holmes' Supreme Court opinions. Now, I know about his full life: his zeal for living, how formative his Civil War service was, his many engaging relationships, his lively conversational style and his hunger for knowledge. I feel a bond with Holmes the fellow reader, and when I read about him enjoying P.G. Wodehouse, I felt like I made a new friend. Budiansky writes for general readers in a style that will keep all readers interested throughout this finely written biography.



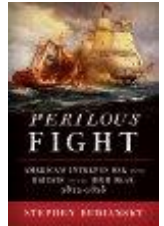
Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1815

Budiansky, Stephen

3/19/12

Navy. Readers who gravitate toward naval history are those most likely to enjoy Stephen Budiansky's fine book, Perilous Fight: America's Intrepid War with Britain on the High Seas, 1812-1815.

Budiansky provides a solid foundation of the politics and issues of the time, and the weaknesses of the fledgling USA in comparison to England's Royal Navy. He describes the key players in sufficient detail, and highlights with ample description the pitched battles that marked that war. Readers unfamiliar with this war will learn much from this book, and those who know this period well are likely to appreciate Budiansky's contribution to our understanding of that time.

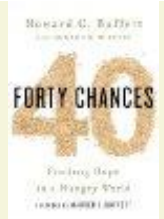


40 Chances: Finding Hope in a Hungry World

Buffett, Howard G.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

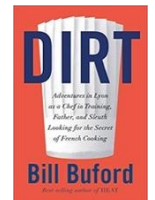


Dirt: Adventures in Lyon as a Chef in Training, Father, and Sleuth Looking for the Secret of French Cooking

Buford, Bill

5/26/20

Essence. Readers with any interest in food, France, people, stories and relationships will find many things to enjoy while reading Bill Buford's book titled, Dirt: Adventures in Lyon as a Chef in Training, Father, and Sleuth Looking for the Secret of French Cooking. My taste for this book started when I read Buford's excerpt in *The New Yorker* about a baker named Bob in Lyon, France. When this book was released this month, I was prepared to devour it, and I did. Buford makes it all look easy. What he does is cook down people and stories until he uncovers the essence. It takes a while to realize that what we get in this book is the distillation of many years of his engagement with chefs, cooking, and writing. I encountered chef Michel Richard from his Citronelle restaurant in Washington and thought of him as a creative and



whimsical restaurateur. I learned, as Buford did, that the late Richard was a traditional French chef, who avoided cooking those things that he had not yet found a way to make better than the traditional method. His dishes were rooted in tradition and made better thanks to his skill and creativity. That's just one example from this book. Buford uses self-deprecating humor to move the story along, and his family's experience to balance work and home life as he tried to learn all he could about French cooking. Pick your favorite menu item: the view as husband, father, apprentice chef, mentee, writer, friend; and savor this book's richness.

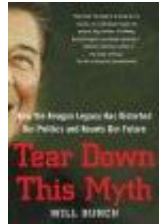
<u>Heat: An Amateur's Adventures as Kitchen Slave, Line Cook, Pasta-Maker, and Apprentice to a Dante-Quoting Butcher in Tuscany</u>	Buford, Bill	***	<u>Feb 07</u>	Delicious. Entertaining story of the author's experiences at Babbo with celebrity chef Mario Batali, followed by sojourns to Italy where he explores the centuries of experience in preparing great food, and in finding the best ingredients.	
China Star	Bull, Bartle	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Moneyland: Why Thieves And Crooks Now Rule The World And How To Take It Back</u>	Bullough, Oliver	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

Tear Down This Myth: How the Reagan Legacy Has Distorted Our Politics and Haunts Our Future

Bunch, Will

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009

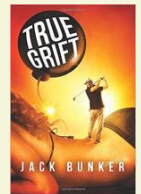


[True Grift](#)

Bunker, Jack

[11/5/16](#)

Schemes. While I read Jack Bunker's debut novel titled, [True Grift](#), I kept thinking that the characters were like those in Carl Hiaasen's Florida novels only relocated to California. A bankrupt shady lawyer meets an insurance company employee at a golf club, and they concoct a scheme to defraud the insurance company. What could possibly go wrong, especially when they use the hapless workers at the golf club to enact the scheme, and then borrow some money from a mob loan shark at the club? I found the implausible story hilarious, the characters zany, and the novel wildly entertaining.



Making Haste from Babylon: The Mayflower Pilgrims and Their World: A New History

Bunker, Nick

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

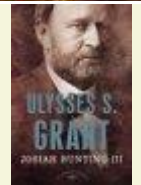


[Ulysses S. Grant](#)

Bunting, III, Josiah

[May 05](#)

Imperturbability. 18th U.S. President's reputation as the drunken leader of a scandal-ridden administration offset in this biography by his competence, character and composure in the face of all obstacles.

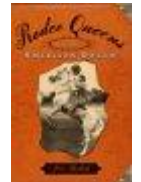


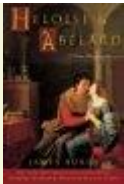
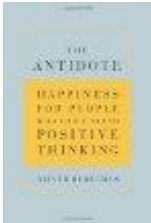


[Rodeo Queens and the American Dream](#)



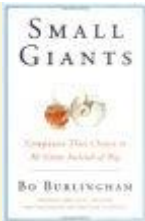

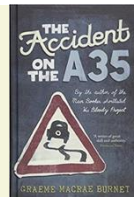
Burbick, Joan

[Feb 03](#)

Pantomime. Thoughtful and well-written perspective on the women who represented the rodeo and reinforced a way of life in the American West that never really happened.



Heloise and Abelard	Burge, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>The Antidote: Happiness for People Who Can't Stand Positive Thinking</u>	Burkeman, Oliver	****	<u>1/16/13</u>	<p>Balance. I can think of several reasons for readers to purchase and read Oliver Burkeman's <u>The Antidote: Happiness for People Who Can't Stand Positive Thinking</u>. If you hate self-help books and the Pollyanna approach found in many of them, this book takes a different path that you're likely to enjoy. Burkeman writes in a way that will engage and entertain most readers. After you've read it, you'll think of at least one unbalanced optimist to whom you will present a copy of this book with special glee. Finally, if you love self-help books, you need to read this one to round out or balance what you've been getting from other authors. I thoroughly enjoyed this book, and found that Burkeman's way of connecting his perspective with threads of classic philosophical thinking made me reflect on happiness in a broader way.</p>	
<u>Another Planet: A Year in the Life of a Suburban High School</u>	Burkett, Elinor	****	<u>Feb 02</u>	Well-written chronology of Burkett's participant-observation at Prior Lake H.S. outside Minneapolis from 9/99 through 6/00. Breaks stereotypes and helps readers think.	
<u>So Many Enemies, So Little Time: An American Woman in All the Wrong Places</u>	Burkett, Elinor	***	<u>July 04</u>	Polo. A modern Marco Polo describes experience teaching journalism in Kyrgyzstan, and visiting surrounding countries. Colorful storytelling and descriptive language help readers better understand that part of the world.	

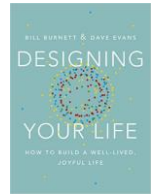
<u>The Baby Boon: How Family-Friendly America Cheats the Childless</u>	Burkett, Elinor	***	<u>Jan 02</u>	Burkett calls attention to all the ways that government and companies favor in their policies those with children over the childfree.	
The Stranger and the Statesman: James Smithson, John Quincy Adams, and the Making of America's Greatest Museum	Burleigh, Nina	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Small Giants	Burlingham, Bo	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>His Bloody Project: Documents Relating to the Case of Roderick Macrae</u>	Burnet, Graeme Macrae	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>The Accident on the A35</u>	Burnet, Graeme Macrae	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

Designing Your Life

Burnett, Bill and
Dave Evans

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

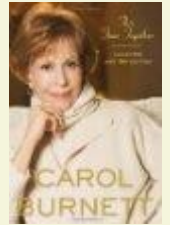


This Time Together: Laughter and Reflection

Burnett, Carol

8/16/10

Kindness. Carol Burnett's second memoir, This Time Together, is packed with stories that reflect the humor and kindness of the author. Reading each chapter is like listening to a dinner guest relate a story to a group gathered around the table. I can't recall her saying anything nasty about any person, and that's certainly rare among celebrity memoirs. Carol relates the joys and sorrows in her life with directness and in ways that lead the reader to laughter or tears.



Milkman

Burns, Anna

1/9/19

Challenging. Reading is usually more fun than roaming in the stream of consciousness of Anna Burns in her novel titled, Milkman. This book won the Man Booker prize, and that's why I added it to my reading queue. I recommend this book to patient readers who are comfortable with unusual structure, unnamed characters, and few signposts to help one figure things out. Fans of literary fiction who enjoy finely written prose are those most likely to enjoy this novel. I expect Burns won the prize because of her finely crafted language in this novel. For many readers, it takes more than language to bring reading pleasure. Those readers are warned about this challenging novel.

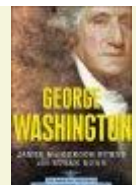


George Washington

Burns, James
MacGregor

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2004

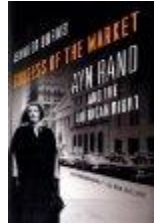


Goddess of the Market: Ayn Rand and the American Right

Burns, Jennifer

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

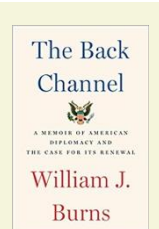


[The Back Channel: A Memoir of American Diplomacy and the Case for Its Renewal](#)

Burns, William J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

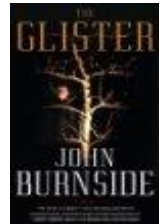


The Glister

Burnside, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009

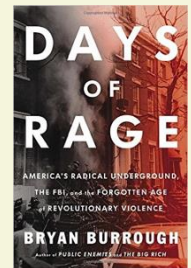



[Days of Rage: America's Radical Underground, the FBI, and the Forgotten Age of Revolutionary Violence](#)


Burrough, Brian


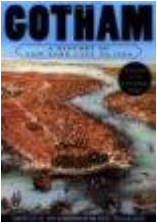
[5/21/15](#)

Comprehensive. Readers can count on Brian Burrough to be thorough when he tackles a topic, and in his book titled, [Days of Rage: America's Radical Underground, the FBI, and the Forgotten Age of Revolutionary Violence](#), he uses over six hundred pages to present the results of many years of immersion in the homegrown terrorism that spread across America during the 1970s. In addition to reams of archival material, his interviews with individuals who have not spoken to others about the actions of that period came as a result of the years Burrough spent building trust. Whether groups like the Student Nonviolence Coordinating Commmittee, Students for a Democratic Society, Weatherman, FALN and the Symbionese Liberation Army are familiar to you or not, by reading this book you will learn about



Public enemies : America's greatest crime wave and the birth of the FBI, 1933-34	Burrough, Bryan	Unread	something that happened in the United States a few decades ago that is rarely mentioned today.	
The Big Rich: The Rise and Fall of the Greatest Texas Oil Fortunes	Burrough, Bryan	*****	<u>6/9/09</u> Characters. Texans and Texas always seem to be larger than life. In his book, The Big Rich: The Rise and Fall of the Greatest Texas Oil Fortunes , Bryan Burrough presents a cast of larger than life characters and their personal stories that combine to tell memorable stories about rags to riches to not-quite-rags. The big four oil fortunes are covered in detail, those created by Roy Cullen, H.L. Hunt, Clint Murchison and Sid Richardson. There are side stories about lesser luminaries that add to a reader's understanding of the times and the impact of these individuals on life today. Burrough's framework is that of a journalist more than a historian, but his research seems thorough, and there's a liveliness to his writing that makes these stories a pleasure to read. The pratfalls of these characters wouldn't be believable in fiction, but these individuals provided ample material for a book twice the size of this one, say Texas-sized. For sheer entertainment value, read The Big Rich , and enjoy the bonus of learning a lot about Texas big oil money.	
A Wolf at the Table: A Memoir of My Father	Burroughs, Augusten	*****	<u>July 08</u> Brutal. Superb writing presents the author's memories of his alcoholic disturbed, and brutal father, and the ways in which a little boy longs for affection that he never receives.	

<u>Lust & Wonder</u>	Burroughs, Augusten	****	<u>6/17/16</u>	<p>Revelations. Self-deprecation can be rare in memoirs, and it is that humorous laughing at oneself that Augusten Burroughs masters so well. His latest memoir is titled, <u>Lust & Wonder</u>, and his great writing presents gobs of details about a dysfunctional life. Burroughs offers such broad emotional and psychological revelation that any neurotic reader will appreciate that there is someone else in the world who is even more disturbed. From that wounded state comes fine writing that seems brutally honest and so self-reflective that one could assume that Burroughs has never had a thought that he has not written about. Readers who can laugh at themselves are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.</p>	
<u>Possible Side Effects</u>	Burroughs, Augusten	**	<u>Oct 06</u>	<p>Dark. Essays present self-deprecating dysfunctional family humor in a way that presents dark stories with vivid images, and with clumsy prose that often distracts from the story.</p>	
<u>This Is How: Proven Aid in Overcoming Shyness, Molestation, Fatness, Spinsterhood, Grief, Disease, Lushery, Decrepitude & More. For Young and Old Alike</u>	Burroughs, Augusten	***	<u>9/17/12</u>	<p>Authenticity. Chances are most readers will find something to love and something to hate on the pages of Augusten Burroughs' book titled, <u>This Is How: Proven Aid in Overcoming Shyness, Molestation, Fatness, Spinsterhood, Grief, Disease, Lushery, Decrepitude & More. For Young and Old Alike</u>. I opened the book expecting a funny spoof on self-help books. Instead, I found a witty and clever way of Burroughs providing practical and logical advice. The core of his message is to be yourself and get over it. Burroughs uses his life experience as a backdrop to presenting his advice to readers. I was entertained by his sharp writing, but I was not looking to him to help me with anything. Readers with an interest in his writing should read an excerpt before plunging in.</p>	

Toil and Trouble	Burroughs, Augusten	****	1/10/20	<p>Witch. The latest memoir by Augusten Burroughs is titled, Toil and Trouble. His being a witch is one of the less strange aspects of this finely written and witty book. As with earlier books, he scrapes pieces of his life to reveal the power of love in our lives and the many ways in which we are all powerless. This memoir focuses on domestic life and his move to the country to an old house. He finds grist to mill with his terrific descriptive language in telling readers about hired workers, neighbors, dogs, storms, memories, storms, jewelry, diet and more.</p>	
You Better Not Cry	Burroughs, Augusten	***	4/25/10	<p>Presents. Like much of life, the collection of stories from Augusten Burroughs titled, You Better Not Cry, represent a mix of the naughty and the nice. Readers are more likely to laugh than cry, although there are sad stories here that will at least lead to a wince. Burroughs knows how to write well, and each story is well constructed and accomplishes what the author set out to do. Some readers may prefer to read this away from the holiday season, so the lessons of disaster and redemption can be more distant from one's own reality.</p>	
Gotham: A History of New York to 1898	Burrows, Edwin G. and Wallace, Mike	Unread		<p>Left off on page 690, a little over half-way through. Liked the Dutch days; dragging now in the early 1800s.</p>	
Backfire: Carly Fiorina's High-Stakes Battle for the Soul of Hewlett-Packard	Burrows, Peter	**	May 03	<p>Unfriendly fire. Fiorina is the villain out to destroy all the good that Bill and Dave built at H-P. Too negative for our taste, but interesting to read alongside Anders' more flattering Perfect Enough. Besides, if we expect to find souls in companies, we have more problems than Fiorina's style.</p>	

Jefferson's Secret: Death and Desire at Monticello	Burstein, Andrew	Unread	Shelf of Reproach 2005		
Madison and Jefferson	Burstein, Andrew and Nancy Isenberg	Unread	I ended up sampling this book rather than reading it, and found it just didn't engage my close attention. Having just finished books about Washington and Adams, I may have had an overdose of the Revolutionary era. Shelf of Ennui 2011.		
<u>The Miniaturist</u>	Burton, Jessie	*****	<u>9/6/14</u>	<p>Tapestry. I didn't fully appreciate how much Jessie Burton accomplished in her debut novel, <u>The Miniaturist</u>, until I finished it. Set in 17th century Amsterdam, the novel's protagonist matures within a short period of time from an eighteen-year-old naïve bride to a decisive and responsible woman. Burton's prose is exquisite: descriptive enough to bring the places to life, but never overdone. Most of the characters are outcasts of one form or another, and struggle to establish their place within an intolerant society. As with all good novels, things are not as they appear, especially when it comes to wealth or success. Burton plays that out with great skill and to the satisfaction of those readers who enjoy finely written prose and can tolerate suspending enough disbelief to go where the author leads us.</p>	
<u>Social Creature</u>	Burton, Tara Isabella	****	<u>10/12/18</u>	<p>Dark. Fans of dark psychological fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Tara Isabella Burton's debut novel titled, <u>Social Creature</u>. From the earliest pages of exposition of the unequal and manic relationship between Louise and Lavinia, I knew something bad would happen (Burton makes part of that clear very early on), and like watching an auto accident, I couldn't peel my eyes away. The</p>	

			<p>prose is well-written, the plot engaging, and the story deliciously dark and evil.</p> <p>Heart. It's no ordinary thing to read a biography of a former president by the son of that person who is also a former president. This loving presentation of the life of George H. W. Bush titled, 41: A Portrait of My Father, is written by our 43rd president, George W. Bush. While I have a bundle of disagreements with the policies of both these presidents, I was moved by the deep affection and love of a son for his father whose life has been packed with significant accomplishments. The value and importance of family resonates throughout this book. A bonus in the book comes in the form of the reflections of George W. Bush about his own presidency when those comments fit what he had to say about his dad. Any reader interested in politics and public life will find a lot to enjoy from reading this book. I finished the book feeling better about both the subject and the author.</p>	
41: A Portrait of My Father	Bush, George W.	*****	12/27/14	
Decision Points	Bush, George W.	***	11/27/10	<p>Painless. The five hundred pages of George W. Bush's autobiography, Decision Points, met my expectations, and I expect will be well-received both by readers who think favorably and unfavorably of the person and his presidency. Readers looking for insight and understanding aren't likely to find either; as Bush himself says, historians will need many decades to be able to place his time in office in perspective. Supporters will read with pleasure about Bush's values and principles, and how he applied them to every critical issue. Readers with unfavorable opinions about Bush will read about the ways in which he forged ahead without much curiosity about important issues, and how he could be manipulated by those who played to his personality. As I</p> 

				expected, he put the best possible spin on the topics he covers, and while I wanted to find an answer to the question, “What was he thinking?,” that insight was absent from this book. Any reader interested in politics will find that this book is required and painless reading.	
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[Where Does It Hurt?: An Entrepreneur's Guide to Fixing Health Care](#)

Bush, Jonathan and Stephen Baker

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

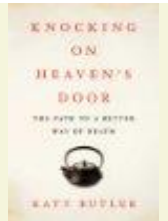


[Knocking on Heaven's Door: The Path to a Better Way of Death](#)

Butler, Katy

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Shelf of Ennui 2014.

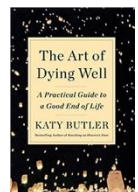


[The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End of Life](#)

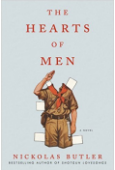
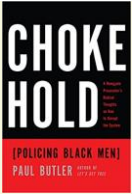
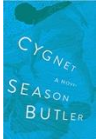
Butler, Katy

[7/16/19](#)

Quality. If after a certain number of decades of living, your thoughts haven’t migrated toward death, you’re avoiding the inevitable. Quality of life means different things to different people, and when it comes to the notion of “dying well,” there may be different meanings there as well. In her book titled, [The Art of Dying Well: A Practical Guide to a Good End of Life](#), Katy Butler encourages thinking about what a good end to life means to an individual reader. She offers a variety of anecdotes and practical and thoughtful ways to engage on this topic. Not everyone dies quietly at home in one’s sleep. This book helps readers think about the choices that are ours to make when it comes to our care at the end of life. If you think you’ve made your wishes clear to your loved ones, read this book and think again and provide them with greater clarity about your choices.



<u>Beneath the Bonfire</u>	Butler, Nickolas	****	<u>3/7/16</u>	<p>Twists. Readers who like short stories will find ten superb examples of the genre in a collection by Nickolas Butler titled, <u>Beneath the Bonfire</u>. Butler uses great efficiency to bring a setting to life, and then presents compelling and complex characters to populate the setting. Through the twists that come into every life, Butler draws readers into the lives of these people in ways that are wholly entertaining and interesting, no matter how similar or different the characters may appear to be.</p>	
<u>Little Faith</u>	Butler, Nickolas	****	<u>7/3/19</u>	<p>Children. After I finished reading Nickolas Butler's novel titled, <u>Little Faith</u>, I thought a lot about faith and family, and the range of behaviors that take place when there is harmony and when there is discord. Children are at the core of this novel. The death of a son led protagonist Kyle Hovde away from his Lutheran faith in rural Wisconsin. After his adopted daughter, Shiloh, moves in with Kyle and his wife, Peg, Kyle gets a chance to love another child, Shiloh's son, Isaac. Shiloh is drawn into a religious community and under the influence of a powerful minister. This pastor believes that Isaac has healing powers, and the family enters a period of discord. Butler builds each character with recognizable and relatable complexity and draws readers into this great story of faith and family, centered on the love of children.</p>	
<u>Shotgun Lovesongs</u>	Butler, Nickolas	*****	<u>7/9/14</u>	<p>Friendship. So many things could have spoiled Nickolas Butler's debut novel, <u>Shotgun Lovesongs</u>, and I think he avoided all of them. Four friends who grew up together in the small Wisconsin town of Little Wing are now in their thirties and have returned. Butler draws each character fully enough so readers can see their individual personalities and complexity. There's a sense of place that Butler creates with descriptive prose that avoids nostalgia and comes across as reality. The dialogue and plot</p>	

				<p>worked well to present an engaging story that kept me interested and entertained throughout.</p> <p>Scout. Nelson Doughty is the protagonist of Nickolas Butler's finely written novel titled, <u>The Hearts of Men</u>. Butler presents Nelson's life and relationships in the context of being the quintessential boy scout: he is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean and reverent. What that means as a teenager varies greatly from what it means when he is in Vietnam, from what it means when he serves for decades as Scoutmaster at a summer boy scout camp in Northern Wisconsin. Butler draws readers into Nelson's life through his lifelong friendship with Jonathan and especially through Jonathan's son, daughter-in-law and grandson. This is by no means a novel about scouting. It offers the deepest insight into human behavior, the rudder of conscience about good and evil, and the meaning of bravery. Butler writes fine prose backed by insight into our human condition. Nelson is one of those characters who help us understand what it is like to lead a good life.</p>	
<u>The Hearts of Men</u>	Butler, Nickolas	*****	<u>4/25/17</u>		
<u>Chokehold</u>	Butler, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>Cygnets</u>	Butler, Season	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

<u>Before You Go</u>	Butler, Tommy	****	<u>11/9/20</u>	<p>Imperfect. I enjoyed the charming celebration of life in all its messiness as I read Tommy Butler's debut novel titled, <u>Before You Go</u>. Protagonist Eliot Chance becomes everyman as we see him on his journey through a life which could easily be ours. What seemed to be a design flaw in the creation of the human species turns out to be the secret of our survival and the path to a good life. Butler captures our existential longing and the ways in which we try to fill in the holes in our lives. The prose is finely written, and the insight into human behavior is wise.</p>	
<u>I Have Something to Tell You</u>	Buttigieg, Chasten	****	<u>10/19/20</u>	<p>Candid. It won't take readers very long to read the memoir by Chasten Buttigieg titled, <u>I Have Something to Tell You</u>. He writes about his life with candor, humor, and an absence of embarrassment about his naivete and his struggles. There's kindness and warmth in every chapter, and a cheerful and endearing embrace of the adventures so far in his unexpected life.</p>	
<u>Shortest Way Home: One Mayor's Challenge and a Model for America's Future</u>	Buttigieg, Pete	****	<u>3/18/19</u>	<p>Refreshing. I'm continuing my reading journey through books by the various aspirants for becoming the next President of the United States. South Bend mayor Pete Buttigieg offers a refreshing life story in his book titled, <u>Shortest Way Home: One Mayor's Challenge and a Model for America's Future</u>. Born in South Bend in 1982, this Harvard graduate and Rhodes scholar worked at McKinsey, is a veteran of the war in Afghanistan, has served as mayor of his hometown since 2012 and married a guy in 2018. He makes a case for leadership by individuals like him from an age cohort with a lot at stake about the next few decades.</p>	

[Trust: America's Best Chance](#)

Buttigieg, Pete

[12/21/20](#)

Process. Former South Bend Mayor and nominated Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg taps into the zeitgeist in a book titled, [Trust: America's Best Chance](#). He describes that the most important work of our time ahead is the restoration (or creation) of trust among all citizens. He explores the steps and the process that we could use to make trust work again in American life. We need to place trust in our institutions, in each other and in our fragile experiment in democracy. New networks of trust need to be established to pull us together to address the most important issues of our time, including climate change, racial justice and economic justice. I found myself thinking of the many times in my life when others placed their trust in me, and when I extended my trust to others. I reflected on those times when my trust in someone was abused, and the challenge of trying to rebuild trust once it was lost. Readers interested in our democratic society and in public policy are those most likely to enjoy reading this timely book.

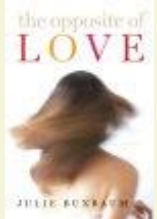


The Opposite of Love

Buxbaum, Julie

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

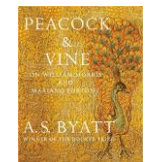




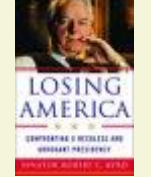
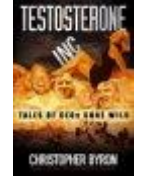
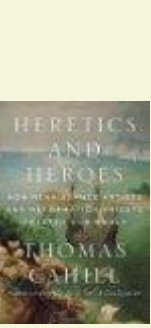
[Peacock & Vine: On William Morris and Mariano Fortuny](#)

Byatt, A.S.

Unread

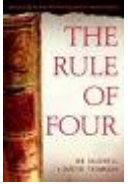
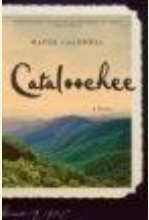
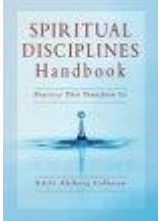


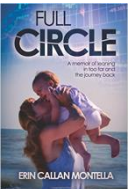
Shelf of Ennui 2017.



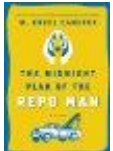
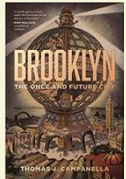

Ragnarok	Byatt, A.S.	Unread		After my third try to get into this retelling of a Norse myth, I gave up at about page 15. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Best Care Possible: A Physician's Quest to Transform Care Through the End of Life	Byock, Ira	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>Losing America: Confronting a Reckless and Arrogant Presidency</u>	Byrd, Robert C.	***	<u>Dec 04</u>	Power. Senator Byrd preaches eloquently about the importance of the balance of power and how the Executive branch is becoming dominant with the cooperation of a compliant Congress.	
<u>Testosterone, Inc.: Tales of CEOs Gone Wild</u>	Byron, Christopher	**	<u>Sep 04</u>	Stampede. Sensational revelations about the character and integrity of Jack Welch, Ron Perelman, Al Dunlap and Dennis Kozlowski, all of whom author posits are driven by overdoses of testosterone. Some chuckles, nothing deep or insightful.	
<u>Heretics and Heroes: How Renaissance Artists and Reformation Priests Created Our World</u>	Cahill, Thomas	****	<u>12/12/13</u>	Foundation. Thomas Cahill's <i>Hinges of History</i> series offers general readers a quick way to explore a pivotal era in the past and see the ways in which what happened then helped form our present society. The latest installment, <u>Heretics and Heroes</u> , picks up where the prior book, <i>Mysteries of the Middle Ages</i> , left off. Cahill draws readers into the Renaissance and the Reformation. The Borgias, Martin Luther, Michelangelo and Botticelli are all part of what Cahill presents. Readers who don't usually like history will find Cahill's prose delightful. Serious readers of history will be	

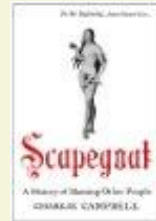

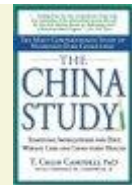

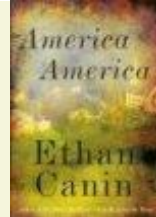
				distracted by how simple Cahill makes the past seem, and will not always agree with Cahill's point of view.	
<u>Mysteries of the Middle Ages : The Rise of Feminism, Science, and Art from the Cults of Catholic Europe</u>	Cahill, Thomas	***	<u>June 07</u>	Guide. Like a wise history teacher, Cahill presents in this primer patterns and trends to show the foundation in medieval Europe of treating women with dignity, the scientific method and realism in art.	
<u>Sailing the Wine-Dark Sea: Why the Greeks Matter</u>	Cahill, Thomas	***		Shelf of Reproach 2004. Subsequently read (2007) and not reviewed.	
<u>One Kick</u>	Cain, Chelsea	****	<u>9/15/14</u>	Abuse. Kick Lannigan is the protagonist of a new series by Chelsea Cain, and is introduced to readers in a novel titled, <u>One Kick</u> . Kick was abducted by a child pornographer at age six, rescued five years later, and is now twenty one. Cain explores various aspects of child abuse in the novel, injects Kick with lock picking and self-defense skills, and requires her to come to terms with her past. The action in this thriller moves quickly, the images are vivid, and the characters are presented with care and precision. Squeamish readers may find the violence hard to read. By the end of the novel, I came to understand Kick more fully, and wonder what Cain will do in the next installment.	
<u>Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking</u>	Cain, Susan	***	<u>4/10/12</u>	Understanding. To the extent such a thing could happen, it seems that Susan Cain may have written an introvert's manifesto with her book titled, <u>Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking</u> . Cain presents the importance and value of the perspective and contributions that introverts can make in relationships and work settings, if	

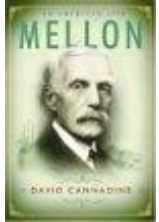
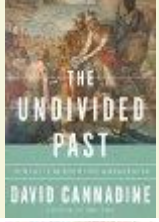


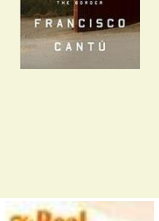
				<p>given the chance. Her call is for understanding and the achievement of balance. This book is quick and easy to read, and extroverts are likely to feel they got the point, while introverts will ponder and reflect on Cain's viewpoints and discover ways in which their contributions can be acknowledged and recognized.</p> <p>Primer. General readers looking for a primer on how to interpret visual information should consider reading Alberto Cairo's book titled, <u>How Charts Lie: Getting Smarter about Visual Information</u>. Cairo explains and illustrates a variety of ways in which visual images can distort data to sway those who see the images. Armed with the information from this book, readers can become skilled at spotting distortions as well as using good visuals to convey complex stories effectively and honestly. Since I've created and read thousands of charts over decades, I didn't learn anything new from Cairo. Many readers will have their eyes opened in more ways than one after reading this book.</p>	
<u>How Charts Lie: Getting Smarter about Visual Information</u>	Cairo, Alberto	***	<u>3/26/20</u>		
<u>The Fifth Gospel</u>	Caldwell, Ian	****	<u>6/10/15</u>	<p>Pairings. Ian Caldwell tries to juggle many elements in his novel titled, <u>The Fifth Gospel</u>. Set in Vatican City, he pairs the view from inside the small country with the outside world. He pairs the passion and scholarship of two brothers who are priests, one Greek Catholic and one Roman Catholic. One is married, the other not. There's murder, intrigue, politics, the Shroud of Turin, and a church full of issues and thousand-year relationships. There's a thread of forgiveness and redemption that seems to fit the setting perfectly. Somehow Caldwell's juggling of all these elements worked, and I was entertained from beginning to end.</p>	




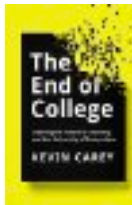
<u>The Rule of Four</u>	Caldwell, Ian and Dustin Thomason	***	<u>July 04</u>	Riddles. Readers looking for more ancient code books, a la Da Vinci Code, will find many memorable moments in this debut novel by lifelong friends.	
<u>Cataloochee</u>	Caldwell, Wayne	***	<u>Apr 08</u>	Valley. Debut novel presents stories of the lives of three families living from the 1860s through the 1920s in western North Carolina in a valley that became part of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.	
Spiritual Disciplines Handbook	Calhoun, Adele Ahlberg	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>The Cheating Culture: Why More Americans Are Doing Wrong to Get Ahead</u>	Callahan, David	***	<u>Mar 04</u>	Outrage. While cheating isn't new, Callahan presents a compelling story of how and why it is increasing in America as more people choose to sacrifice integrity before economic security. Depressing at times to read, plenty of examples make it hard to disagree with premises.	
<u>The Moral Center</u>	Callahan, David	***	<u>Jan 07</u>	Selfish. Author claims self-interest is the root of the deterioration in moral values in these aspects of life: family, sex, media, crime, work, poverty, and patriotism. Proposes ways to restore shared moral values.	
<u>Full Circle</u>	Callan, Erin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	


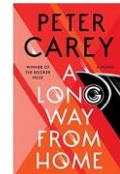
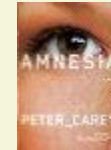
<u>Paris by the Book</u>	Callanan, Liam	*****	<u>10/5/18</u>	<p>Adrift. Surrender yourself to what Liam Callanan creates in his novel titled, <u>Paris by the Book</u>. Protagonist Leah falls in love with Robert, beginning when he pays for a children's book that she steals from a bookstore in Wisconsin. Robert, a writer, goes missing, and Leah takes their two daughters to Paris, where she expects she will find Robert. While in grief and adrift, some force or other leads Leah to buy a Paris bookstore. All of life is a search of some sort or another, and what is it that we are all looking for? Let Callanan take you to Paris and see if what you are looking for can be found there.</p>	
<u>Fragile by Design: The Political Origins of Banking Crises and Scarce Credit</u>	Calomiris, Charles W. and Stephen H. Haber	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>For the Record</u>	Cameron, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Only Truth</u>	Cameron, Julie	****	<u>11/24/20</u>	<p>Trauma. Threat looms over protagonist Isabel Dryland in the novel by Julie Cameron titled, <u>Only Truth</u>. Scarred by an event earlier in her life that she cannot remember, Isabel and her husband, Tom, are making a fresh start in the country. Something about their new home doesn't seem quite right. Cameron structures the novel in two time periods, allowing readers to understand the past trauma to Isabel and the current real threat. Isabel's nemesis could be any number of men, and Cameron lets each reader consider who in the cast of characters represents the lurking threat. Fans of</p>	

				crime thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this entertaining and creepy novel.	
The Midnight Plan of the Repo Man	Cameron, W. Bruce	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>Brooklyn, The Once and Future City</u>	Campanella, Thomas J.	*****	<u>5/5/20</u>	<p>Hardscape. If you've ever lived in Brooklyn, as I have, you know that your heart can and will break. In his book titled, <u>Brooklyn, The Once and Future City</u>, Thomas J. Campanella offers a large and loving picture of this special place. He focuses a lot on the physical space: buildings, parks, roads, while keeping the interest of readers through the heroes and villains of each time period he explores. If you love Brooklyn, you're likely to enjoy reading this book, and will wish Campanella told more about the life and love you know has penetrated this place for centuries.</p>	
<u>On the Floor</u>	Campbell, Aifric	*****	<u>7/26/13</u>	<p>Independence. Aifric Campbell presents readers with a very interesting and complex female protagonist, Geri Molloy, in a novel titled, <u>On the Floor</u>. Malloy works in London for an investment bank, and the action of the novel is set in 1991 before the invasion of Kuwait. She's a moneymaker for the firm because a reclusive Hong Kong hedge fund manager chose her as the person with whom he demanded to do business with at that investment bank. Molloy is drinking too much, sleeping too little, and grieving the loss of a relationship. She excels at math and in preserving her independence. At age twenty eight, she needs to come to grips with what is important in life. Readers who enjoy coming of age stories, strong female protagonists, and financial services are those most likely to enjoy reading this fine novel.</p>	

<u>Scapegoat: A History of Blaming Other People</u>	Campbell, Charlie	***	<u>5/5/12</u>	Faultless. Readers who like to be entertained by non-fiction should consider reading Charlie Campbell's book, <u>Scapegoat: A History of Blaming Other People</u> . Over the course of 200 briskly moving pages, Campbell catalogues the ways in which we have placed blame other people over the centuries. I found that reading this during a presidential campaign brought an extra level of entertainment value. I was impressed that Campbell was able to avoid jargon while presenting his narrative. Sample a few pages to see what you think. If you don't like it, you can blame me.	
<u>Found Audio</u>	Campbell, N.J.	***	<u>10/2/17</u>	Dreams. Readers on the lookout for an odd or unusual work of fiction should consider N.J. Campbell's short debut novel titled, <u>Found Audio</u> . Structured as the transcription of audiotapes, the novel allows readers to eavesdrop. The total experience, including the largest section, involves dreams and trying to separate reality from illusion. The mood is dreamy, packed with intrigue and mystery.	
<u>The China Study</u>	Campbell, T. Colin	*****	<u>Jan 06</u>	Choices. Comprehensive research on diet and health presents incontrovertible conclusion: avoiding animal-based foods and consuming a plant-based diet leads to improved health, whether we like that or not.	
<u>The Weight of a Piano</u>	Cander, Chris	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>America America</u>	Canin, Ethan	*****	<u>Dec 08</u>	Contradictions. Deeply developed characters presented over three decades by an everyman narrator reveal the complexity of behavior and the tension between continuity and change. Finely written and intricately structured.	

Mellon	Cannadine, David	***	May 07	Pictures. Comprehensive and well written biography of this successful banker and business executive, Treasury Secretary, art collector and philanthropist.	
The Undivided Past: Humanity Beyond Our Differences	Cannadine, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Juiced: Wild Times, Rampant 'roids, and How Baseball Got Big	Canseco, Jose	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
The Line Becomes a River	Cantu, Francisco	****	12/6/18	Compassion. In a finely written book titled, The Line Becomes a River , Francisco Cantu presents his experience and the stories of others about the border between the United States and Mexico. Some of Cantu's stories come from his time as a Border Patrol agent and others are from before and after that time. What this book does so well is humanize the complexity of the border and the politics associated with immigration. Readers enter briefly into the lives of individuals and their experiences, and the result for most readers will be an increase in compassion for people.	
The Real Pepsi Challenge	Capparell, Stephanie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

<u>Hunter's Moon</u>	Caputo, Philip	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>How We Learn: The Surprising Truth About When, Where, and Why It Happens</u>	Carey, Benedict	***	<u>12/15/14</u>	<p>Quick. Science journalist Benedict Carey offers interested readers an engaging way of coming up to speed quickly with the latest research in brain science in his book titled, <u>How We Learn: The Surprising Truth About When, Where, and Why It Happens</u>. While “surprising” is in the subtitle, I found that my learning style was reinforced by what I read in this book, and much of the research he noted I’ve run across from other sources. General readers are those most likely to learn something new and useful from this interesting book.</p>	
<u>Little</u>	Carey, Edward	****	<u>3/18/19</u>	<p>Wax. Readers who love historical fiction are those most likely to be delighted by Edward Carey’s novel titled, <u>Little</u>, the story of the orphan who became Madame Tussaud. After the death of tiny Marie’s parents, she is apprenticed to a man who makes sculptures out of wax. Marie learns this art from him, and they find themselves living in Revolutionary Paris and exhibiting wax heads. We all know what happened to heads during the French Revolution, and Carey places Marie in the middle of the action. If you’ve ever wondered how Madame Tussaud got started, you’re likely to love this novel.</p>	
The End of College: Creating the Future of Learning and the University of Everywhere	Carey, Kevin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

<u>Someone Like Me</u>	Carey, M.R.	****	<u>12/20/19</u>	<p>Place. Most great stories include an element that informs readers that there's more here than meets the eye. In his novel titled, <u>Someone Like Me</u>, M.R. Carey sets up his story by introducing a cast of interesting and complex characters. Several of the characters are considered weird, and before long an otherworldly component enters and takes control. Several characters are linked by common experiences, and all are rooted in a place that ties them together and may be the locus for the events that drive the thrilling plot. Patient readers who can suspend disbelief will be rewarded with a well-told exciting and interesting story that reminded me of some of Stephen King's novels. You may not see what others see, but that doesn't mean it isn't there.</p>	
<u>A Long Way from Home</u>	Carey, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Amnesia</u>	Carey, Peter	****	<u>8/25/15</u>	<p>Protagonist. I don't think Peter Carey wrote his novel titled, <u>Amnesia</u>, for a vast audience. Most general readers are likely to lose patience at being confused, and only Australian readers will get his many local references. I liked the novel because I was enthralled by protagonist Felix Moore, and by his determination. I liked Carey's riff on our intentional forgetfulness so that our lives can move on. The political shenanigans come across as universal to any location. The topic of malware brings an immediacy to contemporary experience. The prose illustrates Carey's great writing skill, and fans of literary fiction will appreciate his talent as it is displayed in this novel.</p>	

His Illegal Self

Carey, Peter

June 08

Outlaw. Finely written novel in which the seven-year-old boy referred to in the title finds himself on the run from his grandmother's posh digs in NYC, toward his fugitive parents in hiding places, and eventually in a hippie commune in Australia.



Parrot and Olivier in America

Carey, Peter

10/15/10

Voices. I almost want to read Peter Carey's novel, Parrot and Olivier in America, a second time to see if I can understand how he did it. Carey presents a fictional character, French aristocrat Olivier-Jean-Baptist de Clarel de Barfleur, based on Alexis de Tocqueville, and sends him off to America to flee the troubles in late 18th century and early 19th century France, paired with a servant John Larrit, known as Parrot. What Carey does so expertly is present their contrasting voices and places in society with great care, and the selection of the perfect words and descriptions at every turn. The supporting characters and their relationships are presented both in the context of their time, and with a immediacy that readers will recognize as modern human behavior. So how does Carey do it? How does he use a historical setting to write a modern novel? Beats me, but this is fine writing that most readers are likely to enjoy.

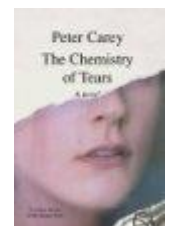


The Chemistry of Tears


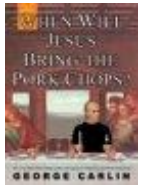


Carey, Peter

12/18/12

Broken. The protagonist of Peter Carey's novel, The Chemistry of Tears, finds herself brokenhearted at the sudden death of her lover. Catherine Gehrig hides her grief because her lover was a married man, and few knew about their relationship. Her boss offers a chance toward healing by offering a new work assignment: the restoration of a nineteenth century mechanical device. Catherine becomes obsessed with the device and its commissioner, Henry Brandling, who saw the device as a way to heal his ill son. Carey weaves together the stories of Catherine and Henry



through the use of lyrical prose and deep insight into human behavior. I was captivated by Carey's fine writing and enjoyed the display of his talent and cleverness. Intelligent readers with patience to accept indirect plot and satisfaction with the unresolved messiness of life are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

<u>Theft</u>	Carey, Peter	**	<u>July 06</u>	Deceit. Two misfit brothers, one a talented artist, narrate this novel of the influence of art in relationships, and the overwhelming power of desire and deceit.	
<u>When Will Jesus Bring the Pork Chops?</u>	Carlin, George	**	<u>May 05</u>	Riffs. Reading Carlin not the same as listening, but the intensity remains throughout adolescent humor and middle aged grumpiness on a wide range of topics, including a long and funny section on euphemisms.	
<u>Five Skies</u>	Carlson, Ron	****	<u>Oct 07</u>	Grief. Finely written novel about the ways in which three men drawn together to work on a project are processing some form of grief, developing trust, and dealing with the consequences of loyalty.	
<u>Return to Oakpine</u>	Carlson, Ron	*****	<u>8/6/13</u>	Band. Ron Carlson avoids all the perils that a lesser writer might have experienced when writing a novel that involves a small town and high school. <u>Return to Oakpine</u> is set in a small Wyoming town and features four central characters. As high school boys they formed a band that began and ended in 1969. Two of them left town after high school, and two stayed. Thirty years later, Jimmy has come home from life as a novelist in New York City to his parents who care for him as he dies of AIDS. Mason came home to sell his parents' house, where he finds a better life than the one he's been living as a	

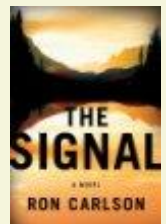
successful lawyer in Denver. Frank stayed in town and owns the local bar. Craig owns the hardware store. Oakpine has changed in three decades, but the small town values remain pretty consistent. Through Craig's high school son, Larry, we see both continuity and change. Jimmy helps Larry learn to play the guitar, and the other band members try to revive the group. Carlson develops each character with depth and intensity, revealing the broad scope of human behavior. This novel is one of those rare gifts: a finely written story, brief enough to read quickly, and deep enough to think about for a long time. Most readers will finish the novel feeling pretty good about human nature.

Perils. Ron Carlson presents the character Mack as a 2009 Everyman in his short novel, [The Signal](#). Set over six days in the Wind River Mountains of Wyoming, Mack is camping with his ex-wife, Vonnie, in the hope of restoring their relationship. He withholds from Vonnie a second reason for their trip: Mack is trying to make some money from crooks who want him to find a piece of military hardware that crashed in those mountains. The title refers to the transmission that Mack is trying to locate via a BlackBerry that will allow him to recover the missing hardware. Mack was recently released from jail, he's losing the family farm, drinks too much and continues to make bad choices. Mack is also competent: he knows these mountains well, and even when he's at his worst, he's able to move forward. Like each of us, Mack has made mistakes, chosen poorly, and has worked in ways that make him skilled. Carlson wastes no words on the pages of [The Signal](#): his prose includes vivid description, clear dialogue and ways of moving the plot forward efficiently.

[The Signal](#)

Carlson, Ron

[7/9/09](#)

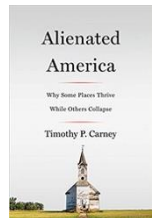


[Alienated America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse](#)

Carney, Timothy P.

3/26/20

Community. In his book titled, [Alienated America: Why Some Places Thrive While Others Collapse](#), Timothy P. Carney, makes a strong case that discomfort and alienation by some Americans may be less about income equality and more about social isolation. He describes what he found across the United States as he reported on this story: more Americans are or feel alone. The building blocks of community like churches, sports teams and volunteer organizations provide a foundation for a strong and engaged community life. In places without those support networks, individuals feel alienated because they lack the bonds that tie them to others. I write this review on the fourteenth day of sheltering in place to slow the spread of Covid-19. I live in a community where I do not feel isolated. I'm now six feet or more away from neighbors and friends, but I can feel the solidarity of all of us acting for the common good. Reading Carney's book helped me appreciate what I have in the community where I live, and I now better understand the plight of those who feel no social support from their own communities.

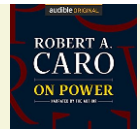


[On Power](#)

Caro, Robert A.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

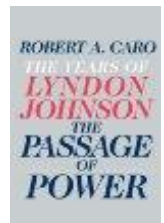


[The Passage of Power: The Years of Lyndon Johnson](#)

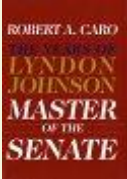
Caro, Robert A.

8/6/12

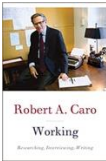
Transition. The latest installment of Robert Caro's massive biography of Lyndon Johnson is titled [The Passage of Power](#). The time period covered in this book is from 1958 to 1964, with the key action centered on the transition of the presidency to Johnson upon John F. Kennedy's assassination. In many respects, this book presents Johnson at his best and Caro at his best. Caro explores Johnson's hesitation to run for President in 1960, and the desolation he felt when he became



a powerless Vice President. The enmity between Johnson and Robert Kennedy provides a backdrop that also sets the stage for the next book on Johnson's presidency. Caro describes with cogent insight the effective transition of presidential power, and the masterful ways in which Johnson behaved in the first days, weeks and months following 11/22/63. Any reader interested in American politics will enjoy this finely written biography.

<u>The Years of Lyndon Johnson: Master of the Senate</u>	Caro, Robert A.	****	<u>Oct 02</u>	Hands On. At 4 pounds and 1,040 pages of text, there are ample stories and examples in this well written presentation of how Lyndon Johnson transformed the use of power in the United States Senate.	
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Process. Along with many fans of Robert Caro's books about Lyndon Johnson, I look forward to reading the fifth and final book whenever Caro finishes it. In the meantime, it was a real joy to read his latest book titled, [Working](#), that assembles perspectives old and new about his writing process. The conclusions are not unexpected. Caro works very hard. He digs deeper and deeper, turning every page in research, asking more and more questions in multiple interviews. He begins to write after he feels his research is done, and that takes a while. Once he starts to write, he writes quickly, but then rewrites multiple times. He wants to be sure that a reader is brought inside the story: that the reader understands the issues and feels as if one is there with what Caro describes. Caro's prose reads so well that he makes it seem easy. This book explains how hard it is to make prose seem that easy.

<u>Working</u>	Caro, Robert A.	*****	<u>5/9/19</u>		
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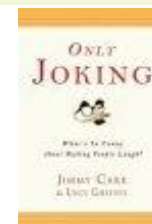
<u>Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer</u>	Carpenter, Novella	***	<u>2/19/10</u>	<p>Locavore. I found myself both laughing and wincing as I read Novella Carpenter's <u>Farm City: The Education of an Urban Farmer</u>. Any reader wanting to glimpse into a way of living that's more likely than not to be opposite from one's own will find a lot of reading pleasure here. Carpenter describes growing food as a squatter on a lot next to the apartment she rented, and also keeping bees, raising rabbits and even raising two pigs, all in the city of Oakland, California. Dumpster diving three times a week at gourmet restaurants to find food for the hogs made me wince. The smells of the place also came alive for me, and made me glad that I don't live next door. Humor and lightheartedness reign throughout, and Carpenter tells a light story with grace and ease. <u>Farm City</u> may lead some readers to reconsider eating locally.</p>	
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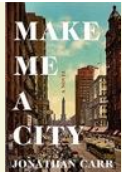
Only Joking

Carr, Jimmy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



<u>Make Me a City</u>	Carr, Jonathan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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[Black Sun Rising](#)

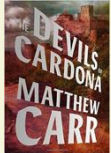
Carr, Matthew

[9/19/20](#)

Blood. In Matthew Carr's novel titled, [Black Sun Rising](#), protagonist private detective Harry Lawton gets a plum assignment in London to investigate a murder in Barcelona and the circumstances surrounding a mysterious large payment made by the victim shortly before death. Set in 1909, the novel captures all the atmospheric of that time period. Harry uncovers other mysteries in Barcelona involving murders in which the victim's



blood has disappeared. As the case progresses, we feel anxiety with Harry and his epilepsy, and we learn about the scientists who were promoting eugenics at that time. Readers who enjoy complex crime fiction with great plot twists are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

<u>The Devils of Cardona</u>	Carr, Matthew	****	<u>12/2/16</u>	<p>Intrigue. Fans of action-packed historical fiction may want to consider reading Matthew Carr's debut novel titled, <u>The Devils of Cardona</u>. Carr presents lots of characters who he places in a complex plot set in the late 16th century in Spain. With the Inquisition as the backdrop, what's not to like? Protagonist Bernardo Mendoza is a royal prosecutor and his investigation into the murder of a corrupt priest provides the core of the action. I was highly entertained by this novel, especially the scope of the intrigue that Carr examines without letting up on the plot momentum.</p>	
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The Glass Cage:
Automation and
Us

Carr, Nicholas

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



<u>The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains</u>	Carr, Nicholas	***	<u>7/20/10</u>	<p>Concentration. I had enjoyed reading Nicholas Carr's cover story in <i>The Atlantic</i> titled, "Is Google Making Us Stupid?" and I was a bit apprehensive that his new book, <u>The Shallows: What the Internet Is Doing to Our Brains</u>, might be nothing more than a ballooning of the earlier essay into a book with nothing new to offer readers. I was pleasantly surprised to find enough new content to satisfy most readers, especially neurological information. I especially liked the interesting digressions that Carr placed between chapters. Any reader looking to read a book that will stimulate thinking will find satisfaction from these pages.</p>	
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Hollowing Out
the Middle: The
Rural Brain
Drain and What
It Means for
America

Carr, Patrick J.
and Maria J.
Kefalas

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

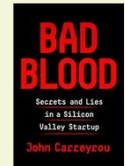


Bad Blood:
Secrets and Lies
in a Silicon
Valley Startup

Carreyrou, John

1/9/19

Duped. Many readers may have followed the story of Theranos and CEO Elizabeth Holmes in the business press in recent years, especially the work of The Wall Street Journal's reporter, John Carreyrou. In his book titled, Bad Blood: Secrets and Lies in a Silicon Valley Startup, Carreyrou pulls readers into a business scandal involving prominent people who were duped. I hope he sold the book rights to Hollywood, since a screenplay would be great binge-watching melodrama. Holmes worked very hard to suppress Carreyrou's reporting of the scandal at Theranos, but her efforts failed. His investigative skills and the help of employees and others got the story right and the bubble that was Theranos burst. Business is usually more boring than this book, so corporate readers can be titillated by this narrative, and all general readers will find a human story of manipulation and deceit and greed that will keep the pages turning quickly. I wonder if one day we will hear Elizabeth Holmes' side of the story, since she refused Carreyrou's requests to be interviewed.

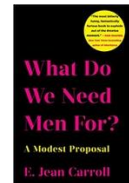


What Do We
Need Men For?
A Modest
Proposal

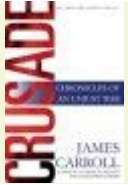
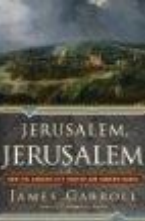
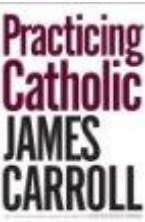

Carroll, E. Jean

10/25/19

Spunky. Set aside for a moment that you already know one thing E. Jean Carroll says about President Trump in her memoir titled, What Do We Need Men For? A Modest Proposal. With that off your mind, let me set up the rest of this book. Carroll went on a road trip asking women the question in the title. The book is packed with anecdotes, asides, interesting people, and stories from the full and exciting life of the author over the



course of many years. This spunky writer is full of life, humor and resilience. There's a dark history related underneath the lightness of the narrative, and Carroll's ability to convey her story with grace makes this book capture the highs and lows of an interesting life during fascinating times.

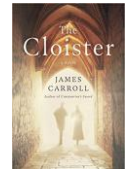
Crusade : chronicles of an unjust war	Carroll, James	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
House of War	Carroll, James	*****	Oct 06	Personal. Chronicles the rise of military power from World War II to today, and leaves readers to reflect on many unanswered questions. Author's father was Air Force General, so Carroll grew up inside and alongside the Pentagon.	
Jerusalem, Jerusalem: How the Ancient City Ignited Our Modern World	Carroll, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Practicing Catholic	Carroll, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009. I read as far as page 96 and got bored.	
Secret Father	Carroll, James	**	Oct 03	Legacy. Recollections by father and son narrators of what happened to trio of teens in Germany in the weeks before the wall was erected. Secrets that were kept are revealed. A legacy is passed along from one generation to another. Understanding develops over time, and with perspective.	

[The Cloister](#)

Carroll, James

[4/16/18](#)

Héloïse. Intelligent readers of historical fiction are in for a treat while reading James Carroll's novel titled, [The Cloister](#). Carroll presents two strong female characters in two time periods and the similar work they did in preserving important documents. We see the intensity of the famous relationship between Héloïse and Abelard in France in the 1100s, and how Héloïse preserved writings by Abelard that might have otherwise been destroyed. The other time period moves us to Manhattan after World War II and to Father Michael Kavanagh who meets Rachel Vedette, a Holocaust survivor whose prize possession is a document written by her deceased father about Abelard's engagement with Jewish scholars. These interwoven stories are finely written, and Carroll moves with ease from one time period to another delving into all kinds of matters of importance.



[Warburg in Rome](#)

Carroll, James

[8/26/14](#)

Complicit. James Carroll writes well in both fiction and non-fiction. While I've gotten bogged down with many of his non-fiction works and left them unfinished, I totally enjoyed his latest novel, [Warburg in Rome](#). Set in Rome toward the end of World War II, Carroll assembles a cast of interesting characters who are trying to deal with the problems of that time, especially the plight of Jewish refugees. Carroll presents the complicity of the Vatican in their dealings with Nazis, while profiling the courage of some church officials to aid the Jews who were trying to flee persecution. By taking his knowledge of the history of this time period and creating fictional characters to embody the story, Carroll avoids the didactic nature of nonfiction and tells us about this time in a way that's engaging and interesting to any reader.

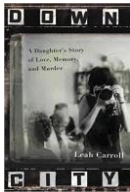


[Down City](#)

Carroll, Leah

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

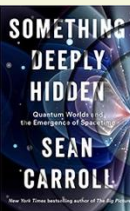


[Something Deeply Hidden: Quantum Worlds and the Emergence of Spacetime](#)

Carroll, Sean

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



Skills. Jimmy Carter’s latest memoir, [A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety](#), provided exactly what I expected and a bonus. The former president sweeps through recollections about his life from childhood to the present, using anecdotes about things big and small in his ninety-year lifetime. He writes in a conversational style that makes his points clearly, without a lot of fuss. Whether you agree or disagree about things from his political life, his writing makes his views and personality vivid. The bonus for me was an insight about his many different skills. In every chapter, there’s an example or two about Carter doing something by himself. Sometimes, it’s making furniture for his family or friends. Other times, it’s learning about running a farm including repairing equipment or his making a personal plea to a world leader. It made me wonder whether one of the shortcomings of his presidency was a tendency to do things himself rather than rely on others.

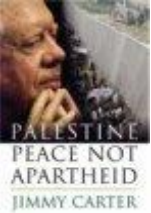
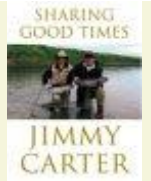
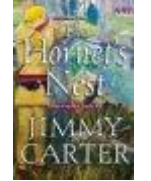
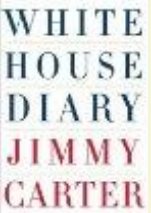
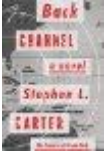
[A Full Life: Reflections at Ninety](#)

Carter, Jimmy

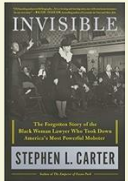
[8/4/15](#)



A Remarkable Mother	Carter, Jimmy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Beyond the White House: Waging Peace, Fighting Disease, Building Hope	Carter, Jimmy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Christmas in Plains: Memories</u>	Carter, Jimmy	*	<u>Jan 02</u>	Brief, nostalgic snapshots of memories of Christmases past, with “folk art” illustrations by Amy Carter.	
<u>Faith: A Journey for All</u>	Carter, Jimmy	****	<u>4/16/18</u>	Personal. What is faith in your life? In his book titled, <u>Faith: A Journey for All</u> , former President Jimmy Carter explores what faith has meant in his life and offers readers insight and wisdom from his experience. While religious faith occupies much of this book, Carter covers faith and doubt from many different perspectives. As always, Carter speaks with a moral authority and authenticity that for most readers is well worth hearing.	
<u>Our Endangered Values</u>	Carter, Jimmy	***	<u>Jan 06</u>	Concise. Former President weighs in on topics including war, the environment, poverty, civil liberties and the church and state divide in a calm and concise manner. Carter is worth listening to, whether you agree with him or not.	

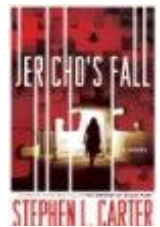
<u>Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid</u>	Carter, Jimmy	***	<u>Apr 07</u>	Provocative. Former President presents his three decades of perspective on the issue of peace between Israel and its neighbors and lays out a blueprint for achieving peace if the parties are willing.	
<u>Sharing Good Times</u>	Carter, Jimmy	**	<u>Oct 05</u>	Travelog. Interesting stories, often sweet, but little insight from this memoir that often reads like a travelog.	
<u>The Hornet's Nest</u>	Carter, Jimmy	*	<u>Jan 04</u>	Stung by Curiosity. A novel set during American Revolutionary War with wooden characters, slow moving plot and weak dialogue, but written by ex-President. 150 or more pages could have been edited out.	
White House Diary	Carter, Jimmy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
<u>Back Channel</u>	Carter, Stephen L.	****	<u>9/6/14</u>	Trust. One pleasure that I get from reading novels is the escape from any contemporary concerns while visiting a different time and place. I spent many satisfying hours visiting a global situation even more frightening than the hotspots causing so much anxiety today. Stephen L. Carter's novel, <u>Back Channel</u> , is set in Washington in 1962 during the Cuban missile crisis. Kennedy and Khrushchev and the countries they lead are poised for disaster as the temptation to use nuclear power to disable an adversary becomes almost irresistible. Warhawks on both sides are gaining influence and need to be contained to avoid nuclear war. Direct communication between leaders is missing, so	


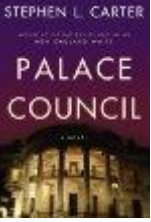
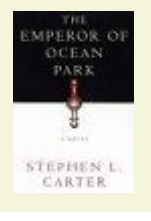
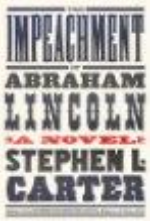
actions can be subject to erroneous interpretation. Carter injects 19-year-old Cornell student, Margo Jensen, as protagonist and a trusted intermediary between Kennedy and Khrushchev. The action in the novel is thrilling, the situation fraught with tension, and Carter's prose kept me interested from beginning to end.

<u>Invisible: The Forgotten Story of the Black Woman Lawyer Who Took Down America's Most Powerful Mobster</u>	Carter, Stephen L.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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Suspense. A good thriller maintains suspense throughout the novel, and Stephen Carter accomplishes that well with his new novel, [Jericho's Fall](#). Jericho Ainsley is a former CIA director, former Secretary of Defense and former White House National Security Advisor. After he was brought down by an affair with Rebecca DeForde (Beck), he worked for a financial firm and may have pulled off a huge fraud scheme. Most of the action is set in a small town in the Colorado Rockies, where Jericho is dying of cancer, and he calls Beck, whom he has not seen in fifteen years, to come to his bedside. The potential revelation of CIA secrets causes Jericho's enemies to take action to protect their interests. Unlike Carter's earlier novels, there's less complexity and depth in [Jericho's Fall](#). This straightforward approach produces a pure thriller that I found to be an exciting book to read and enjoy.

[Jericho's Fall](#) Carter, Stephen L. **** [8/22/09](#)



<u>New England White</u>	Carter, Stephen L.	***	<u>Nov 07</u>	<p>Mirrors. Fine literary writing fills almost 600 pages with philosophical questioning of why we do what we do, within the structure of a mystery. Audience isn't serial mystery genre readers, but those who love intelligent examination and reflection.</p>	
<u>Palace Council</u>	Carter, Stephen L.	***	<u>Sep 08</u>	<p>Power. Over 500 sprawling fictional pages set from the mid-1950s to the mid-1970s about the longing for power by a secret group. Both Nixon and J. Edgar Hoover appear in this novel packed with plot twists and a huge ensemble of characters.</p>	
<u>The Emperor of Ocean Park</u>	Carter, Stephen L.	***	<u>Oct 02</u>	<p>No Clothes. Narrator Talcott Garland takes readers into a 650 page legal thriller trying to unravel various mysteries following the death of The Emperor, Tal's father, conservative Black Judge Oliver Garland. Interesting structure, but too wordy and plodding, especially in the first half.</p>	
<u>The Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln</u>	Carter, Stephen L.	****	<u>9/4/12</u>	<p>Imaginative. I can picture the glee that Stephen L. Carter must have felt when he embarked on his latest novel, <u>The Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln</u>. What if Vice President Andrew Johnson had been assassinated instead of Lincoln? Carter answers that question with creativity and heightened imagination in this novel, informed by his knowledge of what actually happened during that time. Instead of making Lincoln the protagonist of the novel, Carter creates an intriguing character, a recent Oberlin graduate, Abigail Canner, who wants to read for the law in Washington, D.C. The plot and many subplots and large cast of characters require an intelligent reader to remain alert throughout the novel, which I found to be a special treat. Readers who like speculative historical fiction, especially set in this period, are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	

The Violence of Peace: America's Wars in the Age of Obama	Carter, Stephen L.	Unread		Got as far as page 39. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
40 More Years: How the Democrats Will Rule the Next Generation	Carville, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Had Enough? A Handbook for Fighting Back	Carville, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Stickin': The Case for Loyalty</u>	Carville, James	***	<u>3/00</u>	Whether you agree or disagree with what he says, there's a real pleasure in the clear and straightforward manner in which he says it.	
Shocked: Adventures in Bringing Back the Recently Dead	Casarett, M.D., David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>The Syndrome</u>	Case, John	***	<u>07/01</u>	Page-turning thriller. Great summer reading.	

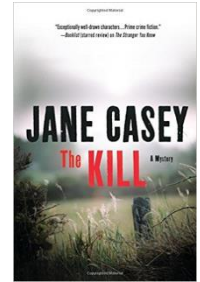
<u>After the Fire</u>	Casey, Jane	****	<u>10/27/16</u>	<p>Characters. Jane Casey's sixth novel to feature London police detective Maeve Kerrigan is titled, <u>After the Fire</u>. Three people are killed in a fire at the Maudling Estate housing project, one of whom was a wealthy politician who seemed to be distinctly out of place in this setting. Maeve and her boss, Josh Derwent, go at each other with fervor in this installment, and both are developed with more depth and complexity than in the earlier novels. Josh's boss, Una Burt, has his number, and that adds to the plot in interesting ways. While the mystery is well done, I find it is the characters that I enjoy most in Casey's novels. Readers who enjoy character-driven crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
Bet Your Life	Casey, Jane	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>Let the Dead Speak</u>	Casey, Jane	****	<u>10/2/17</u>	<p>Family. The seventh novel by Jane Casey to feature detective Maeve Kerrigan is titled, <u>Let the Dead Speak</u>. Fans of the series know we can count on Casey to provide unexpected plot twists and interesting characters. The bonds of family are twisted, tightened and frayed as Casey draws readers into a crime investigation and Maeve injects herself into the thick of things. Josh Derwent is also back, along with an up and comer rookie who adds a level of conflict.</p>	

[The Kill](#)

Casey, Jane

[10/26/15](#)

Secrets. The fifth novel in the series by Jane Casey featuring detective Maeve Kerrigan is titled, [The Kill](#). This novel has all the elements fans love in crime fiction: murder, suspense, well-developed characters, and a mystery to solve Casey proceeds at a pace that may frustrate those who prefer fast-paced thrillers, but will delight those readers who like the gradual presentation of a case to allow a reader time to puzzle out the likely perpetrator. Here's an example of the prose that delighted me, but might frustrate other readers: "Tea, the answer for every problem. Burglary? Tea. Missing child? Tea. Dead husband? Tea. No one ever seemed to drink it. For us, the cups were a prop, something to do with your hands while gently delivering the bad news and easing yourself back out to the street." (p.47) There are secrets at the core of this novel, and the relationships are fascinating to observe, given their complexity. Readers who like crime fiction should consider reading this novel.



The Last Girl

Casey, Jane

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.

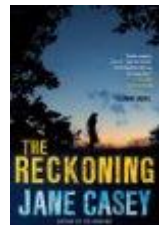


[The Reckoning](#)

Casey, Jane

[4/12/13](#)

Partners. Readers who like crime fiction should consider reading Jane Casey's [The Reckoning](#). This was my first exposure to Casey, and I found her character and plot development produced a most satisfying and entertaining novel, supported by finely written descriptive prose and dialogue. Protagonist DC Maeve Kerrigan works on a London murder task force and has been assigned to a difficult boss, DI Josh Derwent. Their partnership provides a great motif within the novel, as does a romantic relationship Maeve has with another



member of the task force. The murders are gruesome, and the insight into police work highlights how things are not always what they seem to be.

Compass Rose	Casey, John	*****	1/4/11	<p>Locale. More than twenty years after writing award-winning <i>Spartina</i>, John Casey has returned to the fictional place and people he created in that novel and presents another book titled, Compass Rose. The protagonist of <i>Spartina</i>, fisherman Dick Pierce, returns in a background role, while the foreground contains three women who love him: his wife, May, his mistress, Elsie, and his daughter with Elsie, Rose. Casey excels at creating a setting that readers can see, smell and touch. His characters are bound to the setting in deep ways, and the place and the people merge and meld as their lives become interconnected. The characters are people that most readers can see as fully formed complex individuals, making choices that any of us would consider complicated. Casey's writing is superb, and any reader who enjoys literary fiction is likely to appreciate this fine work.</p>	
The Man Who Walked Away	Casey, Maud	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
When the Dow Breaks	Cassidy, Don	DNR	10/99	Skip it.	

How Markets Fail: The Logic of Economic Calamities

Cassidy, John

12/10/09

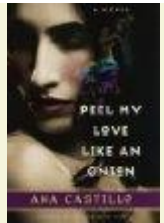
Ideas. John Cassidy's new book, How Markets Fail: The Logic of Economic Calamities is a call for reality based economics. This is a book of ideas, along the lines of Economics 201. Cassidy explains in plain language the ideas behind lots of economic theories, and how some dominant theories have come in and out of favor. I especially enjoyed his exploration of rational irrationality. For those readers who are looking for an understanding of the context in which the recent financial crisis occurred, there's a viewpoint expressed here that shows the consequences of the expectation that markets are self-correcting. How Markets Fail is well written, and will provide every reader with some increased level of understanding.



Peel My Love Like an Onion

Castillo, Ana

We liked So Far from God , and found this one even better

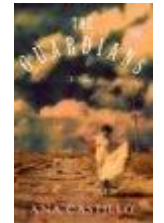


The Guardians

Castillo, Ana

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

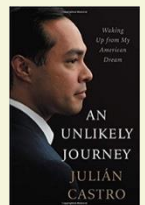


An Unlikely Journey: Waking Up from My American Dream

Castro, Julian


9/22/20

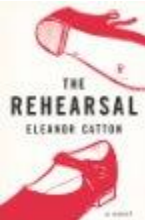
Opportunity. There was one individual I really wanted to meet after reading Julian Castro's memoir titled An Unlikely Journey: his mother. This no-nonsense loving person propelled Julian and his twin, Joaquin, to superior educational opportunities at Stanford and Harvard, and on to roles of service for others at high levels of government. This is a quintessential American story, and also a Latino assimilation story as big as

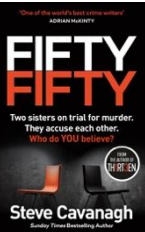



				all Texas. Whether you're politically aligned with Castro's views or not, reading this memoir will give you renewed hope in how the American dream remains alive.	
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Churchill's folly : how Winston Churchill created modern Iraq	Catherwood, Christopher	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
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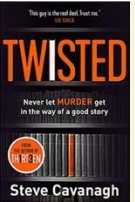
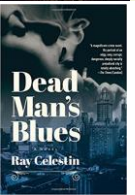

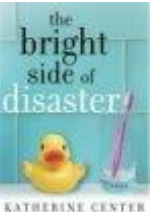
The Luminaries	Catton, Eleanor	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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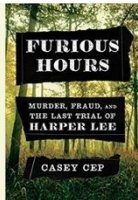
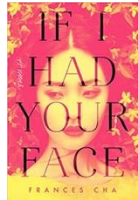
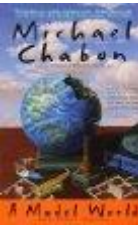
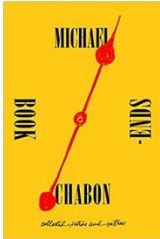
The Rehearsal	Catton, Eleanor	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
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<u>Fifty-Fifty</u>	Cavanagh, Steve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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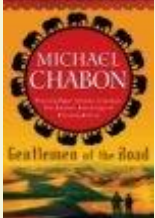
<u>Thirteen: The Serial Killer Isn't on Trial. He's on the Jury.</u>	Cavanagh, Steve	*****	<u>1/2/20</u>	<p>Serial. While the novel by Steve Cavanagh titled, <u>Thirteen: The Serial Killer Isn't on Trial. He's on the Jury.</u>, is the third book to feature conman turned lawyer Eddie Flynn, this was my first exposure to the character. Flynn is the ideal protagonist: troubled and complex and talented. Fans of crime fiction will love this novel's plot involving a smart serial murderer who has been outsmarting the justice system. For his latest</p>	
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killing, he has gotten himself a seat on the jury of a trial of someone he framed for murder. Squeamish readers may find the graphically described violence disturbing. The characters are complex and interesting, the plot exciting, and the premise intriguing. This may be the first novel I've seen with a descriptive subtitle, which is clever and appealing.

<u>Twisted</u>	Cavanagh, Steve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Dead Man's Blues</u>	Celestin, Ray	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>Y: A Novel</u>	Celona, Marjorie	*****	<u>4/12/13</u>	Lucky. Marjorie Celona's debut novel, <u>Y</u> , would be the perfect selection for a book club because it's short enough for all members to read it, and it prompts discussion about what constitutes a family and how we make our decisions in relationships. The protagonist is a young woman who was abandoned by her mother on the steps of the Vancouver YMCA shortly after her birth. Bounced through several foster homes, her life is difficult and also lucky. Celona presents both the story of the child and her mother in ways that will make most readers want to think and talk and share, perfect for a book club.	
The Bright Side of Disaster	Center, Katherine	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

<u>Furious Hours: Murder, Fraud, and the Last Trial of Harper Lee</u>	Cep, Casey	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>If I Had Your Face</u>	Cha, Frances	*****	<u>7/15/20</u>	<p>Image. Frances Cha's debut novel is titled, <u>If I Had Your Face</u>, and features four young women in Seoul struggling to find their place in the world. Cha helps us understand the choices faced by women in Korea and how image can be something with which one is never satisfied. Readers can identify with the well-drawn characters and can feel the power of friendship and love that leads them through difficulties. Gender inequity in South Korea is portrayed with raw and unblinking imagery and stories. Economic inequality adds to the struggle for these characters both in terms of the cost of looking one's best and in being able to raise a child. Some book clubs will find this debut novel will open broad conversations about contemporary issues.</p>	
A Model World and Other Stories	Chabon, Michael	Unread		We've read Chabon's novels, The Mysteries of Pittsburgh and Werewolf but haven't cracked the cover on this book of stories.	
<u>Bookends</u>	Chabon, Michael	*****	<u>8/27/19</u>	<p>Pleasure. I read for pleasure, and Michael Chabon's short collection titled, <u>Bookends</u>, reminds me how much joy there can be in reading and in sharing what we like with others. For those of us with wide interests, Chabon is a model for following any paths where our interests lie. I think Chabon is one of our finest contemporary writers, and he prose sings in this collection. For the first time, I learned about the writers who have influenced Chabon, and I realized that none of them surprised</p>	

me. Any reader who appreciates finely written prose can enjoy this collection of brief pieces that reveal the prodigious skill of this talented writer.

Gentlemen of the Road	Chabon, Michael	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
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Wordcraft. Michael Chabon knows how to turn a phrase. I've enjoyed his fiction, and was intrigued by his assembly of a bunch of essays in a collection titled, [Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son](#). Each essay is candid and thoughtful, and for most readers, some element or other will resonate with one's life experience. Chabon comes across as comfortable with himself and at ease in the disclosure of aspects of his life and behavior that others might withhold. He does this with the perfect choice of words and phrases, and never falling into the kind of disclosures that many readers find icky or uncomfortable. With skill, Chabon finds a balance in his writing, and his wit and wisdom kept me turning the pages of [Manhood for Amateurs](#), occasionally re-reading a paragraph to enjoy how well we writes.

[Manhood for Amateurs: The Pleasures and Regrets of a Husband, Father, and Son](#)

Chabon, Michael

[1/2/10](#)



<u>Moonglow</u>	Chabon, Michael	*****	<u>1/16/17</u>	Invention. Fans of finely written literary fiction can celebrate the latest novel by Michal Chabon titled, <u>Moonglow</u> . With the cleverness I've come to anticipate from this fine author, Chabon offers this work as a memoir, structures it as a novel, and uses deep autobiographic resources to bring the characters to vibrant life. The novel's narrator refers to the protagonist as his grandfather, and much of the plot involves what the grandson learns about his grandfather at the very end of the	
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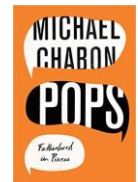
grandfather's life. Sex, prison, invading Germany in WWII, secrets, lies, regrets, the Space Race: all these elements flow out in rich detail and fine prose. Chabon maintains energy throughout the novel despite adding layers of complexity. This fine writer tells a great story about storytelling, and does it using such finely crafted prose and such insight into character that at times he took my breath away.

Pops:
Fatherhood in
Pieces

Chabon, Michael

6/9/18

Minder. There's not a lot to read in a brief collection of seven essays by Michael Chabon titled, Pops: Fatherhood in Pieces, but each essay is finely written. If there is a father in your life who doesn't read a lot, this book would make an ideal gift. For any father, mother or child, there is thoughtfulness behind each essay, and a grounding in affection and love. I loved the essay about taking his thirteen-year-old son to Paris and having the insight to understand that his role was not necessarily that of "father," but of "minder," as his son found other people with whom he connected. Chabon's closing essay about his own father was loving and moving. I have always enjoyed Chabon's writing, especially for his skill at choosing the perfect word to add to his finely crafted sentences.



Summerland

Chabon, Michael

Dec 02

Take Me Out. Master writer Chabon tries a children's book, fails to reach the heights of E.B. White or J.R.R. Tolkien, but delivers a enjoyable, magical story of baseball, good and evil, and coming of age. Great to read aloud to kids over many weeks.



Telegraph
Avenue

Chabon, Michael

1/16/13

Messy. I love reading Michael Chabon's fiction because I find that the words and phrases and sentences he builds are among the best I've read. In Telegraph Avenue, Chabon displays all that virtuosity with language while drawing readers into caring about the messy lives of the protagonists,



Archy Stallings and Nat Jaffe, and their wives, Gwen Shanks and Aviva Roth-Jaffe. Archy and Nat are partners in Brokeland Records, located in a former barbershop in Berkeley, where they sell used vinyl records. Gwen and Aviva are midwives. All these characters are facing threats to the status quo, and Chabon builds on their love, their history, and the setting to reveal a slice of humanity that speaks to every one of us. The business troubles, relationship challenges, and threats to harmony are all familiar themes that Chabon mines with great skill and precision. I cared about these characters by the end of the novel, and I thought of them as if they were my neighbors. I reread many sentences, savoring Chabon's skilled writing, especially when he seemed a bit off track, and found those elaborations to be beautiful.

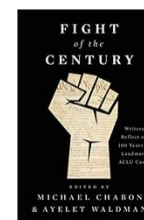
<u>The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay</u>	Chabon, Michael	****		Chabon's best writing yet. Great story, well-written. Highly recommended.	
<u>The Final Solution: A Story of Detection</u>	Chabon, Michael	**	<u>Mar 05</u>	Homage. Literary impresario tries mystery genre in novella that pays homage to Sherlock Holmes, presented here as an old man solving his last case. Mystery fans and literary fans will both find some disappointment amid good writing.	
<u>The Yiddish Policeman's Union</u>	Chabon, Michael	****	<u>Aug 07</u>	Imagination. Fine writing from master storyteller, this time creating an imaginary community in Alaska where Jewish refugees have been living since after World War II, and which now reverts back to American rule.	

[Fight of the Century: Writers Reflect on 100 Years of ACLU Cases](#)

Chabon, Michael
and Ayelet
Waldman

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



[1912: Wilson, Roosevelt, Taft & Debs: The Election That Changed the Country](#)

Chace, James

[Sep 04](#)

Quartet. Escape from the 2004 presidential election to the one in 1912 when four viable candidates vied for office. Agree or disagree with author's premise that 1912 changed the country, but enjoy his telling of the story and the issues.

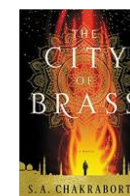


[The City of Brass](#)

Chakraborty,
S.A.

[2/8/19](#)

Adventure. With her debut novel titled, [The City of Brass](#), S.A. Chakraborty begins a series titled, The Daevabad Trilogy. Fans of adventure fantasy novels will find protagonist Nahri as a delightful character, full of magic and mischief. The world Chakraborty creates has a complicated history and lots of long-held resentments among different groups. Nahri finds herself in the middle of conflicts, and on an exciting adventure at the center of power. She has learned to be a healer, and her special skills are on display in many different contexts. Readers who enjoy big fantasy books with interesting stories should consider starting this trilogy and joining in the ongoing adventure.



[The Kingdom of Copper](#)


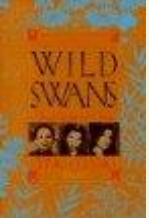

Chakraborty,
S.A.

[6/10/19](#)

Siblings. The second installment in S.A. Chakraborty's Daevabad Trilogy is a novel titled, [The Kingdom of Copper](#). Readers who have not read *The City of Brass* will lose the context for the conflicts in this book. Political conflict is building in Daevabad and sets of siblings are in the middle of the action along with powerful parents. The destruction and violence along with fantasy elements will appeal to those readers who enjoy action and imagination. These six hundred pages provide a transition to next year's finale, a novel



				<p>titled, <i>The Empire of Gold</i>. Readers like me who've invested time to enter into this imaginary world anxiously await the conclusion of this story.</p> <p>Idiosyncratic. There may be a perfect audience for Vikram Chandra's book titled, Geek Sublime: The Beauty of Code, the Code of Beauty. I thought I was in that audience, but if am, it's in the standing room only area at the back. Despite effort, I'm just not geeky enough to "get it." Chandra is both a fine writer and a good computer programmer. When he writes about coding, I could almost understand the artistry and beauty he described. Other readers who know more about coding might understand. Lacking understanding, I got the geek, but never the sublime. I suggest reading a sample before you decide if you're a member of the audience for this idiosyncratic book.</p>	
Geek Sublime: The Beauty of Code, the Code of Beauty	Chandra, Vikram	***	4/11/15		
Imperial Life in the Emerald City	Chandrasekaran, Rajiv	****	Feb 07	<p>Turf. Former Baghdad bureau chief for The Washington Post tells the story of incompetence, turf battles, and the dominance of idealogues in Iraq under Paul Bremer's leadership of the Coalition Provisional Authority.</p>	
<p>Little America: The War Within the War for Afghanistan</p>	Chandrasekaran, Rajiv	Unread		<p>Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.</p>	
As Long As We Both Shall Live	Chaney, JoAnn	****	6/10/20	<p>Marriage. Fans of crime thrillers will love the intensity of JoAnn Chaney's novel titled, As Long As We Both Shall Live. Matt tells park rangers that his wife, Marie, fell off a cliff. Detectives suspect Matt of murder. And we're off. Just when we think we're sure that Matt killed Marie, we think there might be something else going on. Chaney keeps us</p>	

Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism	Chang, Ha-Joon	Unread		thinking and reading as she never lets up. What is it about marriage that leads people to the very edge?	
Wild Swans	Chang, Jung	*****		Three generations of women in China during the 20 th century. Highly recommended.	
Await Your Reply	Chaon, Dan	***	9/19/09	<p>Identity. Who are we, really? Who are those others, really? Dan Chaon's fine prose riffs on identity in his new novel. Await Your Reply. The title refers to those e-mails asking strangers for one's help, especially in getting money out of foreign countries. While identity theft plays a part in Await Your Reply, the larger questions dominate as three connected stories play forward and backward for a reader's alert engagement. Orphaned Lucy Lattimore leaps at the chance to leave the constraints of her small town with her Maserati-driving high school history teacher, George Orson. Miles Cheshire searches for his twin brother, Hayden, whom he hasn't seen in 10 years. Ryan Schuyler has found his birth father, Jay Kozekek, and from their base in Saginaw, Michigan, they are running identity theft schemes. Nothing and no one is what it appears to be, and reading Await Your Reply can bring joy or frustration to readers, depending on one's tolerance for surprise.</p>	

<u>Ill Will</u>	Chaon, Dan	****	<u>4/12/17</u>	<p>Unsettling. Don't be alone when you read Dan Chaon's latest psychological thriller titled, <u>Ill Will</u>, not just because there's a murder at the core of the story. I've found a theme of being unsettled in Chaon's other writing, and in many ways this novel left me feeling not just unsettled, but somewhat unmoored. A major part of the novel involves the unreliability of memory, and for anyone who questions our own recollection of the past, this novel can lead one's mind to travel down paths that are missing all guardrails and road signs. Maybe I am not who I think I am. Short chapters from multiple points of view can keep a reader off balance, and Chaon does that well. Along the way, he builds the complexity of each character as he reveals more about each individual character that leads us to revise early impressions. I was entertained by reading this novel, and frankly, was a little relieved to close the last page.</p>	
<u>Stay Awake</u>	Chaon, Dan	***	<u>3/19/12</u>	<p>Lost. There are twelve short stories in a new collection from Dan Chaon titled, <u>Stay Awake</u>. The characters in these stories are people facing disorientation, loss and situations that are weird. Readers who like psychological tension in fiction are those most likely to enjoy this collection. Life is messy, bad things happen, and the story ends. Readers are left uncertain about resolution. The unsettled nature of the story also leaves the reader somewhat unsettled. Try a story or two. If you like one, you're likely to enjoy the others.</p>	
You Remind Me of Me	Chaon, Dan			Shelf of Reproach 2004	

The Last of the
Imperious Rich:
Lehman
Brothers, 1844-
2008

Chapman, Peter

1/15/11

Incomplete. After I turned the last page of Peter Chapman's The Last of the Imperious Rich: Lehman Brothers 1844-2008, I had the feeling that the author patched this together with a minimum of research and few interviews with insiders. Chapman's previous book about the United Fruit Company, Bananas, provided him with much information about their banker, Lehman Brothers, and I had the sense that he recycled what he had that fit this book. Rather than a comprehensive and insightful history of Lehman Brothers, this book presents the personalities of the leaders through anecdotes, and the historical context is presented in a paragraph or two. At its best, the book brings those personalities to life. As a comprehensive and accurate history or as a commentary with insight on the demise of the company, this book falls far short.



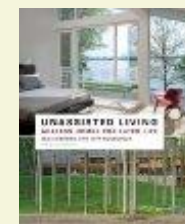
Unassisted
Living: Ageless
Homes for Later
Life

Chapman, Wid
and, Jeffrey P.
Rosenfeld

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12/18/12

Showy. I am the target demographic for a book by architect Wid Chapman and gerontologist Jeffrey P. Rosenfeld titled, Unassisted Living: Ageless Homes for Later Life. The 33 homes presented in this book are intended to provide readers with examples of home design that can allow for alternatives to the senior housing choices of earlier generations. I found all the spaces to be severe and cold. They contained lots of open space, designed for show more than for daily living and practical utilization of space. There's fine photography to present these houses, but most floor plans were far too small to read or interpret accurately, in other words: useless. I found that few of these unusual buildings respected their settings: most look like they crash landed. Take a pass on this book unless you find from a sample that you think you can find something useful here for you.



Global Tilt:
Leading Your
Business
Through the
Great Economic
Power Shift

Charan, Ram

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

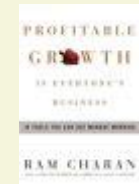


Profitable
Growth Is
Everyone's
Business: 10
Tools You Can
Use Monday
Morning

Charan, Ram

Apr 04

Defective. Sounds good, but lacks adequate context and how-to, making the tools unlikely to be used Monday afternoon and beyond.

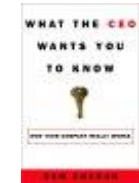


What the CEO
Wants You to
Know: How
Your Company
Really Works

Charan, Ram

Feb 02

Basic training for any employee on the fundamentals of business that apply from the smallest organization to the largest. Clearly written and brief.

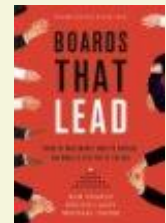


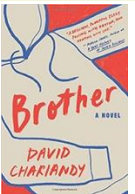
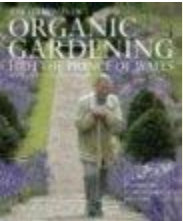
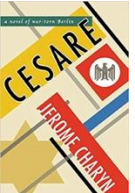
Boards That
Lead: When to
Take Charge,
When to
Partner, and
When to Stay
Out of the Way

Charan, Ram
and Dennis
Carey and
Michael Useem

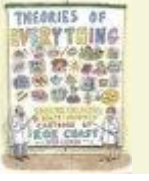
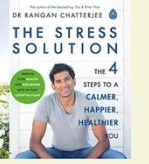
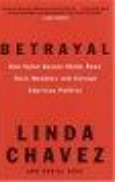
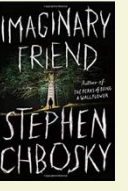
3/22/14

Triad. Three experts in leadership collaborated on a book titled, Boards That Lead: When to Take Charge, When to Partner, and When to Stay Out of the Way. Consultant Ram Charan, headhunter Dennis Carey and academic Michael Useem presented me with three key takeaways from this quick-to-read book. First, their experience with many companies and boards informed their perspective in offering general guidance about leadership and corporate governance. Second, they provide examples of success (where they name names) and failures (where they disguise names). Such examples are described adequately enough for readers to understand the situation. Third, the authors present checklists that can be a quick way to organize thinking and action. While I found many examples of them missing the mark, or providing very shallow insight, most of the book will provide executives and directors with



				something to think about and consider applying to a particular company.	
<u>Brother</u>	Chariandy, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
The Elements of Organic Gardening	Charles, Prince of Wales	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Cesare</u>	Charyn, Jerome	*****	<u>8/5/20</u>	<p>Madmen. Open up Jerome Charyn's novel titled, <u>Cesare</u>, and be prepared to be caught up in life and death decisions in Berlin during the Second World War. A young naval cadet named Erik unwittingly saves the life of Admiral William Canaris, the head of German Military Intelligence. Set amid the horror of Nazi atrocities, the novel riffs on <i>The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari</i>, making Erik the character of Cesare, and Canaris the mad doctor. Readers join in a nightmare situation where madness rules as they try to hide and protect Jews from the death camps. Erik's loyalty to Canaris drives much of the action. Madness increases when the setting changes to Theresienstadt. Historical fiction can take us to places and times that can be perceived as better or worse than our current ones. While this novel is one that takes us to a much worse time and painful places, Charyn's fine prose and imagery pull us along until we have had enough and must escape the madness and return to the relative sanity of our homes.</p>	

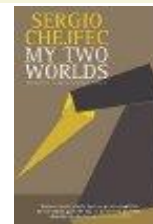
<u>The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King</u>	Charyn, Jerome	****	<u>2/2/19</u>	Bully. TR fans will be dee-lighted by Jerome Charyn's historical novel titled, <u>The Perilous Adventures of the Cowboy King</u> . We find the raucous Teddy Roosevelt in this novel which takes readers to the time he became President. Charyn excels at dialogue in this novel, and the language seems perfectly suited to the time period covered, and never comes across as awkward or clumsy to this reader.	
<u>This Common Ground: Seasons on an Organic Farm</u>	Chaskey, Scott	***	<u>Sep 05</u>	Restoration. Poet-farmer-author describes what it took to restore a farmed-out plot of land on Long Island, and what society yields when land is cared for and food is grown close to the people who eat it.	
<u>Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir</u>	Chast, Roz	*****	<u>8/8/14</u>	Care. I read Roz Chast's book, <u>Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?: A Memoir</u> , in a single sitting. I've been thinking about what I read for days after I closed the book. There are many chances to smile and cry as we read about Chast's care for her aging parents. Anyone who has cared for aging parents, whether close up or from a distance, will find empathy for Chast's situation. Chast fills most of the book with this story in cartoon form, and supplements that with some photos that add to what she conveys.	
<u>Going into Town</u>	Chast, Roz	****	<u>1/4/18</u>	Poignant. Fans of Roz Chast's <i>New Yorker</i> cartoons are those readers most likely to enjoy her poignant and funny love letter to Manhattan titled, <u>Going into Town</u> . Chast grew up in Brooklyn, blossomed after moving to Manhattan, and accepted parenthood after moving to the suburbs. This book began as a guide to New York City for her daughter. As expected, the book is funny and sweet.	

Theories of Everything	Chast, Roz	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
What I Hate	Chast, Roz	***	11/14/11	Neurotic. As a longtime fan of Roz Chast's cartoons in <i>The New Yorker</i> , I thoroughly enjoyed reading her new collection, What I Hate: From A to Z . A perfect riff on a children's ABC book, Chast chronicles her list in both grim and hilarious scope. Any reader who can laugh at a bit of neuroticism in oneself and others will appreciate this book. It can also provide a perfect gift to that special someone, especially a person who hates at least one of the things that Chase highlights.	
The Stress Solution: The 4 Steps to Reset Your Body, Mind, Relationships and Purpose	Chatterjee, Rangan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Betrayal: How Union Bosses Shake Down Their Members and Corrupt American Politics	Chavez, Linda	**	Mar 05	Diatribes. Partisan call for dramatic union reform, replete with politically-charged rhetoric and repetitive themes that become ponderous over three hundred pages.	
Imaginary Friend	Chbosky, Stephen	*****	1/10/20	Biblical. There's a battle between good and evil that rages throughout the seven hundred pages of Stephen Chbosky's novel titled, Imaginary Friend . Readers can choose the lens through which one reads this book. The horror lens will focus attention on all of the truly gruesome scenes in the novel that will test the strongest stomachs for grisly images. The small town lens allows readers to focus on the	

			<p>cast of characters in a community who are weathering the normal ups and downs of life and who contain elements of good and evil within them. I chose the biblical lens in which protagonist Christopher can be viewed in a savior role and the roles of Eve and the Virgin Mary appear in the text. Chbosky focuses on the binds that hold us in fear and what it takes to be free. The devil is at play in the world and his wily ways entice us to align with him. Pick your lens and settle down for chills and frights in the woods and possibly take time to reflect on the ways in which your freedom is constrained and what you can do about that.</p>	
Cape May	Cheek, Chip	****	<p><u>6/18/19</u></p> <p>Desire. Chip Cheek's debut novel titled, Cape May, pulls readers into the honeymoon of virgins Henry and Effie in 1957. The couple arrive in Cape May from Georgia at the end of September and see that the resort town has pretty much closed down for the season. Cheek presents their innocence and reveals their desire for sexual intimacy. They cross paths with Clara, who had teased Effie years earlier. Clara is staying in Cape May with her lover, Max, and Max's sister, Alma. Before long, the extended cast are eating, drinking and sailing together. Desire among the characters is like electricity in the air, and Cheek takes the action one step at a time during the rest of the honeymoon, with consequences for the tenure of Henry and Effie's marriage.</p>	
Desire: Where Sex Meets Addiction	Cheever, Susan	**	<p><u>1/17/09</u></p> <p>Musings. Susan Cheever muses about her own life and shares personal stories and insight in her new book, Desire: Where Sex Meets Addiction. I finished the book drawing the conclusion that anything can be addictive, and that we don't know the cause of addiction. Cheever doesn't pretend to be an expert on addiction, but addiction has been a constant companion throughout her life. By the end</p>	

of the book, I was thinking that Cheever might be addicted to addiction, and has come to see it everywhere. Her musings are interesting to read, and I felt a bit of a voyeur as she disclosed some of the embarrassments of her life.

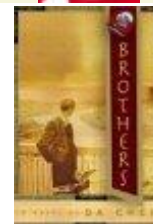
My Two Worlds Chejfec, Sergio Unread Shelf of Ennui 2012.



The Case Against the Supreme Court Chemerinsky, Erwin Unread Shelf of Ennui 2015.



Brothers Chen, Da *** Read, but not reviewed.

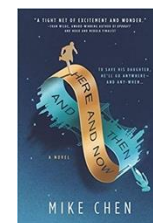


My Last Empress Chen, Da Unread Shelf of Ennui 2017.



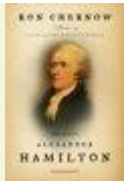
Here and Now and Then Chen, Mike **** 4/25/19

Parenthood. Time flies and stuff happens. That's one summary of life. Mike Chen's debut novel titled, Here and Now and Then, presents a typical dad, Kin Stewart, who loves his wife and tries to be a good dad to his daughter, Miranda. Unlike the typical dad, Kin leads two lives. In one, he is a time-traveling secret agent living in 2142. In another, he works in IT in San Francisco where he has been living since the 1990s when he got stranded while



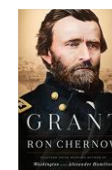
on assignment. After his time travel colleagues pull him out of San Francisco, he still tries to be a good parent to Miranda, while breaking all kinds of rules. This is a great book for a dad to read with a teenage daughter and have something in common to talk about.

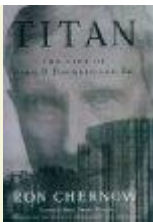
<u>Final Exam: A Surgeon's Reflections on Mortality</u>	Chen, Pauline W.	***	<u>Mar 08</u>	Worrying. Finely written memoir by liver transplant surgeon which shares her introspection and reflections on being with patients who face death.	
<u>Body Brokers</u>	Cheney, Annie	***	<u>June 06</u>	Products. Journalist's sensational first person account of the legal and illegal ways that money is made from cadavers, with or without the knowledge and consent of loved ones, and how body parts have become products that meet the needs of medical practitioners.	
Blue Skies, No Fences	Cheney, Lynne	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Spy Handler: Memoir of a KGB Officer: The True Story of the Man Who Recruited Robert Hanssen and Aldrich Ames	Cherkashin, Victor	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

Alexander Hamilton	Chernow, Ron	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
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Vulnerable. Some United States Presidents are so well-known that a contemporary biography can easily be passed over by readers. I thought I knew a lot about U.S. Grant, but thanks to reading Ron Chernow's fine biography titled, [Grant](#), I have a widely expanded base of knowledge and deeper respect for this complicated and complex individual. Thanks to Chernow, I have a new appreciation of how a great military strategist could be conned and taken advantage of. He was vulnerable to the machinations of others off the field of battle. Grant was guileless and that's a rare trait in a successful politician, especially one who won two presidential terms of office. Any reader interested in American history will love reading this complete biography of a great United States President.

[Grant](#) Chernow, Ron ***** [1/23/18](#)



Titan	Chernow, Ron	Unread		This life of John D. Rockefeller has been sitting unopened on the shelf of reproach since 1998. On the bright side, it's a first edition in perfect condition.	
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Fresh. I opened Ron Chernow's 900 page biography, [Washington: A Life](#), with the expectation that I would become bored quickly and put it aside. After all, is there anything new or fresh to add to the extensive books that have been written about the first President over the past two centuries? I was pleasantly surprised that I found myself absorbed in a story that, while familiar, came across as fresh and alive. Before I knew it I

[Washington: A Life](#) Chernow, Ron *** [1/25/11](#)



was hooked, and I was happy to read through to the end, learning many new tidbits about Washington along the way. Any reader who enjoys American history will find something to appreciate in this finely written biography.

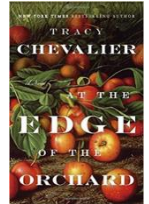
<u>The Arrogance of the French: Why They Can't Stand Us--and Why the Feeling Is Mutual</u>	Chesnoff, Richard	**	<u>Dec 05</u>	Clash. Long-time Paris-based journalist for U.S. periodicals presents harsh rhetoric and specific examples of the problems in French-US relations, as well as some insight into the conditions that led to the current riots.	
<u>The Fires</u>	Cheuse, Alan	**	<u>June 08</u>	Grief. Two novellas explore grief from different perspectives. Compact reading for a short flight, provided one can slough off lingering sadness. Novella structure means less tight prose than in a short story, and weaker character development than a novel provides.	
<u>A Single Thread</u>	Chevalier, Tracy	****	<u>9/24/19</u>	Embroidery. If you have any interest at all in the lives of single women in England before the middle of the 20 th century, consider reading a novel by Tracy Chevalier titled, <u>A Single Thread</u> . Protagonist Violet Speedwell is thirty-eight years old in 1932 and realizes that she's unlikely to marry, given the deaths of so many men of her cohort during The Great War. Living at home with her cantankerous mother becomes unbearable, so Violet moves to Winchester and tries to make a living as a typist. She joins a group doing embroidery for the cathedral and makes friends and learns how to handle a needle and thread. Meeting a bell ringer turns Violet's life in quite another direction. If any of that sounds appealing to you, pick up this novel, return to the past, and relax to the sound of the bells of Winchester Cathedral.	

At the Edge of the Orchard

Chevalier, Tracy

4/6/16

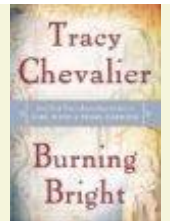
Trees. The latest historical novel by Tracy Chevalier is set in Ohio and California in the early and mid-nineteenth century and is titled, At the Edge of the Orchard. Chevalier describes the travails of the Goodenough family struggling to survive on land in an Ohio swamp. James, Sadie and their five children are trying to grow an apple orchard with at least fifty trees. James loves sweet apples, and Sadie loves applejack. Chevalier develops these characters with great skill, and even the trees become like characters, given Chevalier's descriptive prose. After setting the family story in the early part of the novel, the focus shifts to son, Robert, who leaves Ohio to go West trying to find his place in the world. He finally discovers new trees to nurture: the redwoods and sequoias. Fans of historical fiction are those readers who are most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.



Burning Bright

Chevalier, Tracy

Read, but not reviewed.



New Boy


Chevalier, Tracy

10/2/17

Poison. The Hogarth Shakespeare installment that retells Othello is titled, New Boy, and is written by Tracy Chevalier. The action is set in the 1970's, mostly in a Washington D.C. grade school playground. Chevalier pulls key elements from the tragedy, and condenses the story in ways that prove that the poison of manipulation and racism and sheer evil can find a place even in a playground.



<u>Remarkable Creatures</u>	Chevalier, Tracy	***	<u>4/26/11</u>	<p>Friendship. Historical novelist Tracy Chevalier continues her formula of bringing the past to life through real characters in fictionalized narrative focused on craft with a new novel titled, <u>Remarkable Creatures</u>. The craft this time is fossil hunting, and the narrative focuses on the friendship between fossil hunter Mary Anning and Elizabeth Philpot. While from different classes and background, a love of fossils brings them together and provides the glue for what would have been a tiresome novel without the complexities of their friendship. The difficult position of women in Victorian England provides ample grist for Chevalier to present these two women, especially with their contribution to the scientific thinking of the era. Readers who like historical fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>Exhalation</u>	Chiang, Ted	****	<u>6/24/19</u>	<p>Possibility. There are nine short stories in a collection by Ted Chiang titled after one of them, <u>Exhalation</u>. Fans of science fiction often enjoy the ways in which this genre allows speculation about what might be possible, and how the big questions in our own lives can be pondered in the context of that conjecture. Some science fiction writers have a few clever ideas and build clunky prose around their concepts. Chiang's prose is finely written and enhances his clever ideas. From time travel to free will to multiple parallel worlds to living under constant surveillance and recording, Chiang's speculations will stimulate every reader to think about what is possible and what that means for our lives.</p>	

<u>The Bishop's Bedroom</u>	Chiara, Piero	****	<u>4/16/20</u>	<p>Sultry. The cover of the late Piero Chiara's novel titled, <u>The Bishop's Bedroom</u>, announces the contents with clarity. Sailing around Lake Maggiore and seeing the fine houses invites a rise in sexual tension as a cast of sultry characters tack around each other supported or stalled by the winds of attraction. Set in 1946 in Northern Italy, the atmosphere that Chiara offers pulls readers into that place and time with great skill. The opaque characters lie to one another with ease, and readers are the observers of the loose bonds that new relationships provide. One can almost feel the rubbery nature of idleness that imbeds in their lives that summer following the world war. I read this novel in winter in Chicago and within these pages, everything was sultry.</p>	
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My Life in France



Child, Julia

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



<u>61 Hours</u>	Child, Lee	***	<u>8/16/10</u>	<p>Obvious. Readers looking for a light and quick reading experience will find reliable entertainment from Lee Child's 14th Jack Reacher novel titled, <u>61 Hours</u>. Reacher lands in a small South Dakota town following a bus accident, and finds himself immersed in the activities of a Mexican drug cartel at an abandoned military facility near town. A reward for long-time readers of this series comes in the form of greater understanding of Reacher's past, and how that formed the person he is today. The depth of this character also expands in this installment when Reacher shows poor judgment, which had seemed to be a rare event in the earlier novels. While the plot moved along briskly, I found</p>	
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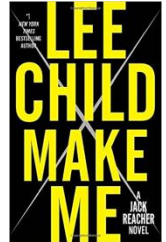
			<p>the mystery quite obvious, but that didn't necessarily distract from my reading pleasure.</p> <p>Sidetracked. The seventeenth Jack Reacher novel by Lee Child is titled A Wanted Man. The setup involves Reacher being in the wrong place at the wrong time. He's in Nebraska and is hitchhiking to Virginia when he gets picked up and becomes diverted into a very odd adventure. The physical Reacher takes a backseat in this novel to the cerebral Reacher, and should have been an opportunity for richer and deeper character development. Instead, the novel proceeds at a snail's pace and even long time Reacher fans are likely to be bored, even with the protagonist himself. Readers who are hooked on the series will probably read this novel anyway. Readers who like thrillers will find some action in this one, but could do better with most other novels from this series and others. I endured to the end, and felt mildly entertained.</p>	
A Wanted Man	Child, Lee	**	9/25/12	
Blue Moon	Child, Lee	****	11/9/19	<p>Mayhem. The twenty-fourth installment in the Jack Reacher series by Lee Child is a novel titled, Blue Moon. This time out, Reacher does a good deed to help an old man, and one thing leads to another as a week of mayhem unfolds. The old man was on his way to repay a loan from a loan shark affiliated with the town's Albanian gang. Neither Reacher nor the old man understood why the loan shark didn't show up to receive the payment. Within the first few pages, readers learn that a gang war has erupted between the Albanians and Ukrainians, a conflict that Reacher stokes. The body count is high in this novel as Reacher uses all his skills to do the right thing. By the time Reacher leaves town the community is much better off. Fans of this series and any reader who likes character-driven action novels will enjoy this book.</p> 

[Make Me](#)

Child, Lee

[9/23/15](#)

Unhurried. Those of us readers who are addicted to character-based fiction series will be delighted with the return of Jack Reacher in the novel by Lee Child titled, [Make Me](#). As an individual with no fixed abode, Reacher can follow his whims as he meanders in an unhurried manner. When he gets off a train at a town called Mother's Rest, he inquires about the source of the town's name and no one tells him. His curiosity increases rather than being satisfied, so he hangs around. What follows is action, killing, gore and other forms of violence and crime that will not appeal to readers with squeamish stomachs. Fans of Reacher will delight in his latest way of just being Reacher.



[Never Go Back](#)

Child, Lee

[11/26/13](#)

Forward. After a dozen and a half novels featuring Jack Reacher, can author Lee Child still surprise readers with aspects of this complex character? In a word: yes. In [Never Go Back](#), there were a few times I paused to reflect that this is something I didn't quite expect Reacher to do. With reliable skill, Child moves this character forward in the latest novel, providing fast-paced action, good dialogue and interesting twists. I was entertained by this novel, and recommend it to new and old Reacher fans.

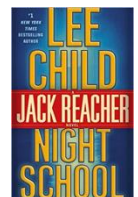



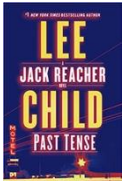

[Night School](#)

Child, Lee

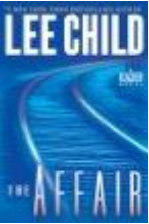
[8/19/16](#)


Deduction. Lee Child set his latest Jack Reacher novel titled, [Night School](#), in 1996 when Reacher was in the Army. Fans of the series will be thrilled with this installment in which Reacher's deductive skills soar, the adversaries are worthy, the action moves quickly, and medals are awarded. Reacher is a complex and interesting character, and while more recent novels have been set in his post-Army days, this novel remains true to the complexity of Reacher's character while pulling us back to see his ways of conforming to Army discipline and breaking rules at the same time.







<u>No Middle Name</u>	Child, Lee	****	8/4/17	<p>Solid. Other than one short story that I had read as a Kindle single, the dozen Jack Reacher stories by Lee Child in the collection titled, <u>No Middle Name</u>, were new to me, and I enjoyed every one. Child does a great job in all his Reacher fiction, especially in how he keeps core elements of this character consistent, while continuing to develop depth, to this and other readers' pleasure. Short form or long form, the Reacher stories provide great reading entertainment.</p>	
<u>Past Tense</u>	Child, Lee	****	11/17/18	<p>Detour. Now that I've finished reading the 23rd Jack Reacher novel by Lee Child titled, <u>Past Tense</u>, I feel a certain loss, knowing it will be about another year before the next installment is released. Fans of the series will find lots to enjoy in the latest 400 pages of the life of a finely developed complex character. New readers can start here or anywhere in the series and find a great heroic character: a person who lives by a code of conduct and morality and acts in ways consistent with that code. In this novel, Reacher takes a detour on the way from New England to San Diego to visit the town where his father was born. By the end of the novel, Reacher learns things about his father, Stan, and sees the place where his father was raised. Along this journey toward his roots, there's lots of malfeasance that Reacher stumbles across and addresses with all his skills and focus. Fans of action thrillers will love this novel and this series.</p>	
<u>Personal</u>	Child, Lee	****	10/6/14	<p>Sniper. Nothing is straightforward in the 19th Jack Reacher novel by Lee Child titled, <u>Personal</u>. Reacher is lured back into service to track down a marksman who is suspected of plotting an assassination at an upcoming G8 summit. The skill level of this sniper is such that there are only a handful of individuals in the world who match the profile. One of the suspects has a history with</p>	

				<p>Reacher, and that personal dimension is the reason for the title of this exciting and fast-paced thriller. The cast of characters, heroes and villains, are drawn with skill, and Child's continued development of Reacher will please fans of this series.</p>	
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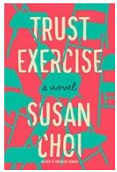
<u>The Affair</u>	Child, Lee	***	<u>10/8/11</u>	<p>Backstory. The fictional character Jack Reacher, who Lee Child created more than a dozen novels back, remains something of an enigma to readers. His backstory is the focus of the latest Reacher novel, <u>The Affair</u>. Set in 1997 when Reacher was in the Army, this novel sends him to Mississippi to investigate a murder that might be linked to a soldier. The local sheriff, Elizabeth Deveraux is also ex-military and she and Reacher understand each other. Reacher's integrity leads him to uncover the truth wherever it leads, and in Child's capable hands, readers are unsure about the truth until very late in the novel. Fans of thrillers and Reacher are those most likely to enjoy this fast-paced and entertaining novel.</p>	
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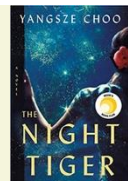
<u>The Enemy</u>	Child, Lee	**	<u>July 04</u>	<p>Bad Apples. Jack Reacher's Army days are reprised in this novel, set after the fall of the Berlin Wall. A few Army bad apples do serious damage, and Reacher struggles to solve murder cases.</p>	
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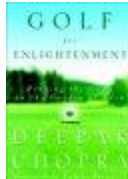
<u>The Hero</u>	Child, Lee	****	<u>3/6/20</u>	<p>Story. In a rare foray into non-fiction, prolific author Lee Child offers fans a short book titled, <u>The Hero</u>, that summarizes the long history of the story and the hero, in both oral and written traditions. This long essay helps readers think about Child's recurring protagonist, Jack Reacher, in the context of a very long storytelling tradition. Some of the quirky asides were as fascinating as his core premise. Now that I've better versed in the context, I'm ready for the next Reacher installment.</p>	
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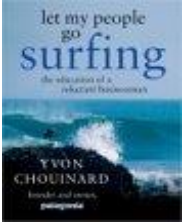
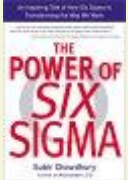
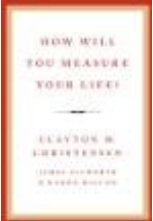
<u>The Midnight Line</u>	Child, Lee	****	<u>12/18/17</u>	<p>Opioids. The twenty-second Jack Reacher novel by Lee Child it titled, <u>The Midnight Line</u>. Child knows how to please fans of this series: let Reacher be Reacher, and put him in new and interesting situations. In this outing, Reacher finds himself on a quest to find the owner of a West Point ring. Along the way, he finds himself in the middle of the opioid crisis, doing his part to help a fellow soldier overcome addiction. Fans of the series should find a lot to enjoy in this installment. New readers can meet Reacher here, and roam through the whole series.</p>	
<u>Worth Dying For</u>	Child, Lee	***	<u>11/18/10</u>	<p>Recovery. Lee Child's fifteenth novel to feature the heroic and uber-competent Jack Reacher is titled <u>Worth Dying For</u>, and answers the cliff hanger from the previous novel to those fans of the series. Readers need not have read the earlier novels to appreciate this story in which Reacher stumbles into a rural Nebraska town controlled by a criminal family who intimidate everyone in the area. Child draws readers into the story quickly, and maintains plot momentum throughout 400 pages of thrilling entertainment. It's no spoiler to reveal that by the end of the novel, Reacher has beaten the bad guys and restored the citizens of the town to normal ways of living. Readers who like strong and competent protagonists will enjoy this novel, as will those who like plot resolution that ties together all the loose ends.</p>	
<u>The Sentinel</u>	Child, Lee and Andrew Child	****	<u>12/17/20</u>	<p>Russians. For the twenty-fifth installment in his Jack Reacher series, author Lee Child has teamed up with his brother, Andrew, a fellow writer, for a jointly written novel titled, <u>The Sentinel</u>. The roaming Reacher takes a pause in his nomadic life when something interesting catches his attention. Soon after arriving in a town near Pleasantville, Tennessee, Reacher observes Rusty Rutherford, an</p>	


				IT manager, stumble into an ambush. After Reacher intervened with his skills and saved Rusty, his interest is piqued. Before long, he's sticking around running across Russian spies and a ransomware attack with a secret objective. I found the slower pacing of this installment to be different from the earlier novels, but the plot and entertainment value remained satisfying for this reader.	
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Trust Exercise	Choi, Susan	*****	5/28/19	<p>Memory. Is truth what really happened or what we remember? As I finished reading Susan Choi's novel titled, Trust Exercise, that's the question I came away with. We meet Sarah and David at age fifteen at the beginning of the book, set in 1982, as a third person narrator describes their relationship and the acting class that helped form them when they were adolescents. The second section of the novel is from Sarah's perspective in the late 1990s, after she has become a successful author. Choi writes with great skill, and she leads readers to the coda of the novel at which time I found myself thinking about the question I note at the beginning of this review. Fans of literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
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The Night Tiger	Choo, Yangsze	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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Golf for Enlightenment: The Seven Lessons for the Game of Life	Chopra, Deepak	DNR	June 03	<p>Lights Out. Our first exposure to a Chopra book left us wondering what others find good about his writing. Take a pass, or just play through.</p>	
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Holy Unexpected	Chotzinoff, Robin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Let My People Go Surfing	Chouinard, Yvon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>The Power of Six Sigma: An Inspiring Tale of How Six Sigma Is Transforming the Way We Work</u>	Chowdhury, Subir	**	<u>Jun 02</u>	Primer suitable for any employee that explains the buzzwords of Six Sigma and presents an easy-to-read story that explains Six Sigma clearly.	
<u>How Will You Measure Your Life?</u>	Christensen, Clayton M.	***	<u>6/14/12</u>	<p>Homiletic. Harvard professor Clayton M. Christenson became something of a celebrity following his landmark book, <i>The Innovator's Dilemma</i>. Readers who know him and his work will find something completely different in his latest book, <u>How Will You Measure Your Life?</u> Expanded from a summer 2010 article in <i>Harvard Business Review</i> and a speech to the 2010 graduates of Harvard Business School, this book provides Christenson's reflections on his own life and the advice he offers others to live more fully. Some readers will find this to be another self-help book, either useful or not. Some readers will learn new things about Mormon values from reading these pages. Some readers will pass this book along to recent graduates who are making decisions about work and relationships. Read an excerpt before deciding to buy and read this book.</p>	

The Innovator's Dilemma	Christensen, Clayton M.	***		Helps executives find ways to adapt to change, especially technological innovation.	
The Innovator's Solution: Creating and Sustaining Successful Growth	Christensen, Clayton M. and Michael E. Raynor	*****	Jan 04	Using Theory. Dozens of tough questions about innovation explored, theory explained, success and failure illustrated, conclusions drawn, and sources documented in footnotes galore. Advice to think about and use in growing your organization.	
Blue Plate Special: An Autobiography of My Appetites	Christensen, Kate	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
The Astral	Christensen, Kate	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Last Cruise	Christensen, Kate	****	9/5/18	Adrift. After not too many pages into Kate Christensen's novel titled, The Last Cruise , it became easy to anticipate how different characters are likely to behave when placed under stress. Christensen doesn't disappoint; we see a wide range of human behavior by a large cast of interesting characters. A vintage ocean liner is taking a final voyage and the guests are being treated to an experience like one would have experienced onboard in 1950. With that backdrop, we glimpse at characters above and below decks. After engine failure sends them adrift, the true colors of each	

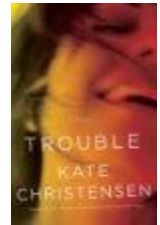
character are revealed. Once adrift, things remain unsettled through the last page.

Trouble

Christensen,
Kate

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

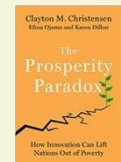


[The Prosperity Paradox: How Innovation Can Lift Nations Out of Poverty](#)

Christenson,
Clayton M.,
Efosa Ojomo and
Karen Dillon

[7/3/19](#)

Lens. Some companies look for growth from places where consumption can be observed. In their book titled, [The Prosperity Paradox: How Innovation Can Lift Nations Out of Poverty](#), Clayton Christiansen, Efosa Ojomo and Karen Dillon, offer a different lens to consider. They provide loads of examples of looking for situations of non-consumption and providing innovative solutions that provide expanded markets and stable growth. Along that path, underdeveloped communities can escape from poverty and become self-sufficient. Few business writers understand innovation as well as Christensen, and this book will help many business leaders ask and answer questions about market engagement.

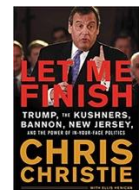


[Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey, and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics](#)

Christie, Chris

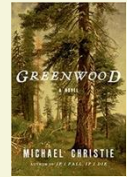
[4/25/19](#)

Scores. There are some words that easily come to mind when one thinks of Chris Christie: blunt, brassy, cocksure, confident, larger than life. All of that is on display in his memoir titled, [Let Me Finish: Trump, the Kushners, Bannon, New Jersey, and the Power of In-Your-Face Politics](#). If you think Christie has some scores to settle in this book, you are correct, and he scores with skill. If you expect the book is all “me, me, me,” you are also correct, but after all, this is a memoir. You’ll read about Bridgegate, the relationship between the Christie’s and the Trumps, and come away feeling exactly the same about Christie as you did before opening the book. Readers interested in public affairs are those

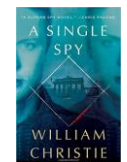


most likely to enjoy this novel. I assume all the Kushners received signed copies, with the compliments of the author.

Legacy. Where have we come from and where are we going? In his novel titled, [Greenwood](#), Michael Christie displays four generations of the Greenwood family and the island and forest legacy that connects the family members. We find love, loss, success, failure, and climate change. We find wealth and poverty, exploitation and stewardship. Christie plumbs the many different ways that we care for each other and our environment, and the ways we hurt each other and squander our inheritances. The prose is finely written, and the novel will appeal to those readers who are patient with frequent shifts in time periods, and a meandering way of getting to know the people and places. I was enchanted by this novel, the complexity of the characters, and the vivid life of the forest.



Alexsi. I had low expectations when I picked up a copy of William Christie's novel titled, [A Single Spy](#). There have been plenty of great espionage novels, and would there be anything fresh in yet one more set during World War II? In a word: absolutely. Christie gives readers an interesting and complex character in an orphan, Alexsi Ivanovich Smirnov. Filled with raw intelligence, this resourceful young man finds ways to survive against all odds throughout the novel. The action is set in Russia, Germany and England. I was thoroughly entertained by the classic espionage plot and delighted by the character Alexsi whose exploits, risk taking and changing allegiances were exciting. Readers who enjoy character driven fiction, especially spy novels, are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



[Greenwood](#)

Christie, Michael

[11/9/20](#)

[A Single Spy](#)

Christie, William

[8/4/17](#)

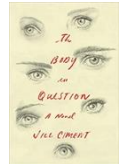
The Bestiary	Christopher, Nicholas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother</u>	Chua, Amy	***	<u>5/8/11</u>	<p>Discipline. Amy Chua's <u>Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother</u> might well be the most entertaining work of nonfiction that I've read this year. This law professor relates how she has raised her children to achieve and excel through discipline, monitoring and constant badgering, and tells that story in an engaging, humorous and entertaining fashion. Parents will agree, disagree, admire or disparage her child rearing methods. In many respects, that's beside the point. We live in relationship with others, and this book tells of the family relationships and the dynamics of love and care that play out in everyday interactions. By the time the dogs arrive on the scene, I was mesmerized. Any reader who likes to peek over the fence at what the neighbors are up to will be well-entertained by what goes on in the Chua household.</p>	
<u>Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations</u>	Chua, Amy	****	<u>7/6/18</u>	<p>Identity. Amy Chua analyzes the American and global landscape and dissects the ways in which the dominance of political tribes has been the hallmark of major conflicts from Vietnam to the hatred between Sunnis and Shias. In her book titled, <u>Political Tribes: Group Instinct and the Fate of Nations</u>, she offers a passionate call for the restoration of a national identity that leads us away from our political corners and into a unity that recognizes and respects our differences and leads us toward bridging what divides us. Those readers interested in public policy will find her observations cogent and interesting.</p>	

The Body in Question

Cimint, Jill

4/23/20

Dalliance. Jill Cimint makes thinking about mortality and morality flow on the pages of her novel titled, The Body in Question. Protagonist Hannah, also known as juror C-2, finds herself with mixed feelings about being sequestered on the jury of a sensational murder trial. As the possibility of a dalliance with Graham, juror F-17, unfolds, she rationalizes this as a last fling, and minimizes any effect of this affair on her much older husband. Mortality inhabits every page of this novel, and the moral choices predictably lead to consequences. Cimint writes with great efficiency in this novel, and her insight into human nature unfolds with wisdom as the narrative progresses. There's really nothing casual about a dalliance when Cimint gets her hands on it.

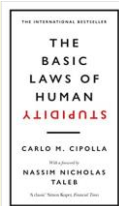


The Basic Laws of Human Stupidity

Cipolla, Carlo M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

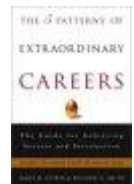


The 5 Patterns of Extraordinary Careers: The Guide for Achieving Success and Satisfaction

Citrin, James M.

Oct 03

Provocative. No matter what degree of success or satisfaction you've achieved in your career, you'll find something to think about when you read this insightful book based on analysis of successful executives.

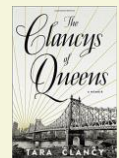


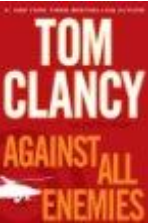
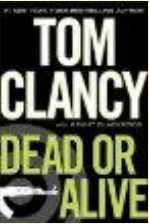
The Clancys of Queens

Clancy, Tara

2/3/17

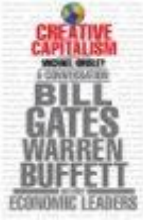


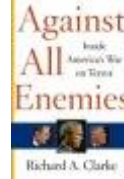
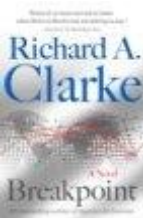
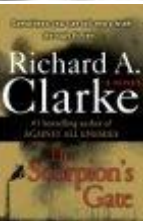
Voice. Readers who want to dive into contemporary life in working class Queens, New York, will delight in the authentic voice of Tara Clancy in her memoir titled, The Clancys of Queens. A bonus is that Clancy lived two lives: one in working class Queens and another in wealthy Bridgehampton where her mother lived with a wealthy businessman. These contrasting lives

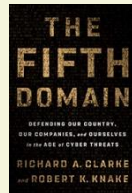
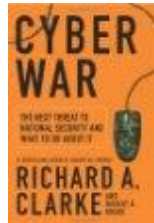
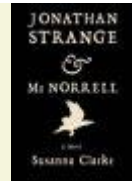



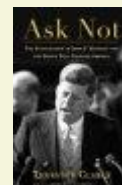



				<p>combine to form an engaging story and Tara's voice comes through with perspective and authenticity. She addresses her sexual identity with candor and clarity and the acceptance by her family was heart-warming. I enjoyed reading about an interesting life by a person open to sharing so many aspects of that life.</p>	
Against All Enemies	Clancy, Tom	*	7/22/11	<p>Legion. The advantage of reading Tom Clancy's new novel, Against All Enemies, in ebook form was that it was lighter that way than in hardcover, and the pages turned faster when I was not distracted by how far it was to the end. Back in the <i>Red October</i> days, the Soviet enemy was clear and present. Today, threats are everywhere, and Clancy not only presents them individually, but he conjures up the notion of collaboration between Gulf region terrorists and Mexican drug cartels. In usual Clancy form, there is minute description of weaponry, and tedious plot development. Readers who perceive fiction value in pages per dollar spent will be able to compute based on almost eight hundred pages in this messy novel. There might be a good three hundred page novel in there somewhere.</p>	
Dead or Alive	Clancy, Tom	**	12/18/10	<p>Bloat. It's been almost a decade since I read a Tom Clancy novel, and I decided to take a deep breath and try the new one, Dead or Alive. Memories came back at once of the trademark Clancy: a bloated narrative with more description and detail that's necessary (more than anyone would need to know about weaponry); rapid movement from scene to scene and one part of the world to another; and repetition that made me think that even the author glossed over a lot of the text. In the new novel, Clancy creates a fictional Osama bin Laden called the Emir, and puts a secret group called the Campus in a dramatic adventure to hunt him down.</p>	

				<p>Readers who enjoy action fiction and like a lot of pages for the money are likely to enjoy this novel. I would have enjoyed five hundred fewer pages.</p> <p>Tame Retro Stew. Clancy returns to the 1980s and reprises Jack Ryan who escorts a Soviet defector, a “rabbit,” to the West. The rabbit became disillusioned with Russian leadership when he learned of a plot to kill the Pope. Few plot twists, and a slow and repetitious pace over twice as many pages as needed.</p>	
Red Rabbit	Clancy, Tom	*	Oct 02		
The Bear and the Dragon	Clancy, Tom	DNR	11/00	<p>Lots of words and pages; too many for us. Take a pass.</p>	
The Hunt for Red October	Clancy, Tom	***	11/00	<p>Our favorite Clancy book. Better than The Bear and the Dragon.</p>	
Facts and Fears: Hard Truths from a Life in Intelligence	Clapper, James R.	****	7/12/18	<p>Candid. In a book titled, Facts and Fears: Hard Truths from a Life in Intelligence, former United States director of national intelligence, James R. Clapper, offers readers a professional and candid description of five decades of life in the intelligence committee and the lessons he learned. Clapper’s life has been spent in public service, and he describes that life with a frankness that seems foreign and refreshing in relation to other memoirs. He seems to take an objective view of his failures, and praises others frequently. He can’t disclose classified things that readers would like to know, but nudges our attention toward areas of focus, including concerns about North Korea and Russian interference in United States elections. Set partisan views aside</p>	

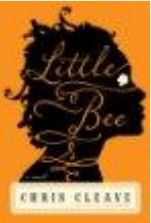
				and listen to what Clapper has learned, whether you want to hear his message or not.	
<u>The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy</u>	Clark, Anna	*****	<u>8/27/18</u>	<p>Negligence. In her book titled, <u>The Poisoned City: Flint's Water and the American Urban Tragedy</u>, journalist Anna Clark provides interested readers with a comprehensive account of the recent Flint water crisis. Every chapter describes incompetence, neglect and negligence on the part of those who are responsible for delivering clean and safe water to citizens. There's also a story here of racism and disenfranchising citizens, while providing exemptions for corporations. Readers interested in public policy are those most likely to appreciate this book.</p>	
The Great Stink	Clark, Clare	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Plain Heathen Mischief	Clark, Martin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Sweetness #9	Clark, Stephan Eirik	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>Starbucked: A Double Tall Tale of Caffeine, Commerce and Culture</u>	Clark, Taylor	***	<u>Feb 08</u>	<p>Ubiquity. The growth of Starbucks has changed many communities and individuals. Taylor explores many of the ways in which these changes aren't for the better. Have an espresso as you read and decide whether you agree or disagree.</p>	

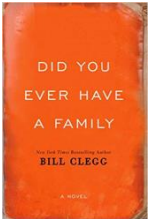
Creative Capitalism	Clarke, Conor and Michael Kinsley, editors	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Guilt by Association	Clarke, Marcia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Sting of the Drone	Clarke, Richard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Against All Enemies: Inside America's War on Terror	Clarke, Richard A.	***	June 04	Service. Compelling personal account by career civil servant on his area of specialization: terrorism. Too soon for history, personal perspectives add to the record, recognizing the biases that come with personal involvement.	
Breakpoint	Clarke, Richard A.	***	May 07	Predictive. Former anti-terror pro blends fact and fiction to predict ways in which networks and communication can be disrupted (BlackBerry outage, only longer). Set in 2012.	
The Scorpion's Gate	Clarke, Richard A.	***	June 06	Stinging. Debut novel set in 2010 by government expert on security and terrorism who advised four U.S. Presidents. Recommended for the author's experience and expertise, not for the quality of the writing.	

<u>The Fifth Domain: Defending Our Country, Our Companies, and Ourselves in the Age of Cyber Threats</u>	Clarke, Richard A. and Robert K. Knake	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It</u>	Clarke, Richard A. and Robert Knake	***	<u>7/10/10</u>	<p>Scary. If on the off chance any reader is running short of things to be worried about, pick up a copy of the latest book by former national security advisor Richard Clarke titled, <u>Cyber War: The Next Threat to National Security and What to Do About It</u>. This frightening book explores all the ways in which we are vulnerable to cyber warfare, and how much needs to be done to shore up our defenses. I read this while watching how the Gulf oil spill brought a way of life to a halt for so many Gulf residents. I couldn't help but imagine the nightmare of how our dependence on the Internet could disrupt our lives if a cyber attack succeeded in critical areas. Readers who want to be both scared and informed will find a lot on these pages.</p>	
Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell	Clarke, Susanna	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2004	
The Ladies of Grace Adieu	Clarke, Susanna	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

Ask not : the inauguration of John F. Kennedy and the speech that changed America	Clarke, Thurston	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Open: The Progressive Case for Free Trade, Immigration, and Global Capital</u>	Clausing, Kimberly	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Everyone Brave Is Forgiven</u>	Cleave, Chris	*****	<u>7/8/16</u>	<p>Fidelity. Literary fiction fans can find much to enjoy in Chris Cleave's latest novel titled, <u>Everyone Brave Is Forgiven</u>. Set in London during World War II, Cleave presents complex and interesting characters, places them into relationships that cross class and race boundaries, and propels a plot that draws readers into the stress of life during war both on the battlefield and at home. Cleave's descriptive language and insight into human behavior combine to offer a vivid and resonant portrayal of love, fidelity and of course, bravery in all its forms. I didn't expect to enjoy reading yet one more novel set during the second world war, but here I am enjoying all four hundred plus pages of another finely written novel set during that time.</p>	
<u>Gold</u>	Cleave, Chris	***	<u>8/21/12</u>	<p>Sacrifice. Readers who are suffering withdrawal now that the London Olympic Games have concluded can reengage with Chris Cleave's novel, <u>Gold</u>. Cleave presents five characters whose lives revolve around track cycling. Zoe and Kate have been competing against each other for years, and while their skills are comparable, their personalities are a study in contrast. Zoe is cold and Kate is</p>	

warm. They are both coached by Tom, who faces conflict in how he brings out the best in each racer. Kate's husband, Jack, is also a world class cyclist, and he and Kate juggle their time to care for Sophie, an eight year old who suffers from leukemia. This novel is a study in sacrifice, and Cleave tugs at every emotional thread he can to influence the feelings of readers. Like some Olympic events, I watched, this novel hit some marks and missed others. Despite ample backstory fill-ins, none of the characters were as fully developed as I would have liked. As a judge, I would have rated this novel off the podium. Readers who prefer emotional intensity in a novel are those most likely to enjoy this one.

<u>Little Bee</u>	Cleave, Chris	***	<u>4/18/09</u>	<p>Refugee. Evil, injustice and inequality remain abstract concepts until they become personal. In Chris Cleave's new novel, <u>Little Bee</u>, the plight of refugees becomes vivid through the character Little Bee. With some contrivance, Cleave brings the refugee experience home to England, because of the experience of characters Andrew and Sarah on a beach in Nigeria where they were on a brief vacation. As the lives of Sarah and Little Bee intersect, they both become survivors in a world where compassion may be needed on a broad scale, but can be implemented only by one person at a time. Cleave's fine storytelling will keep most readers enthralled to the last page, and reflective for many days afterwards.</p>	
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<u>Did You Ever Have a Family</u>	Clegg, Bill	*****	<u>10/26/15</u>	<p>Wedding. I savored so many components of Bill Clegg's debut novel titled, <u>Did You Ever Have a Family</u>. I enjoyed the absence of a question mark in the title since it caught my attention immediately and made me think. Clegg uses multiple narrators to assemble points of view that reflect a wide range of human behavior, and tease out for a reader a</p>	
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slowly developed understanding of the pivotal action in the novel: a house fire the night before a wedding. I appreciate the tension among multiple characters, insight into small town community, and Clegg's presentation of the long process of grief and forgiveness. Though finely written restrained prose, Clegg offers insight into how individuals can bear the unbearable. Fans of literary fiction and good writing are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

<u>New Patterns of Power and Profit: A Strategist's Guide to Competitive Advantage in the Age of Digital Transformation</u>	Clemons, Eric K.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Diana's Altar</u>	Cleverly, Barbara	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Second Sight</u>	Clifford, Aoife	****	<u>4/9/20</u>	Revelations. Patient readers who can enjoy the slow simmering as a crime novel builds gradually are those most likely to enjoy Aoife Clifford's novel titled, <u>Second Sight</u> . Set in Australia, protagonist Eliza Carmody, returns to her hometown and stumbles into family secrets and revelations. The connection between crimes in the present and ones from the past make this novel complex and interesting. The search for the truth is worth the slow pace because there are rewards to be found when secrets are revealed.	

Everybody Rise

Clifford,
Stephanie

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



Finn

Clinch, Jon

May 07

Pap. Debut novel fleshes out Huck's dad, Pap, with vivid and gruesome description of this dark character and his life.



Daddy

Cline, Emma

12/21/20

Underneath. Emma Cline plumbs what's beneath the surface of the lives of interesting characters in her short story collection titled, Daddy. In each of the ten stories, Cline finds a way to touch the wounded place, or to home in on the key turning point that disturbs a life. As we read, we find authenticity underneath a veneer. Things are never as they initially appear. Fans of finely written literary short stories are those most likely to enjoy this collection.







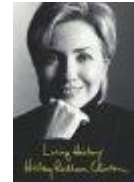
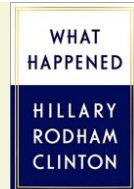
The Girls

Cline, Emma

12/2/16

Manson. I noticed that I kept getting tired while reading Emma Cline's debut novel titled, The Girls. Set in 1960s California, the novel takes an intense look at the relationships among young women in a cult based largely on what we came to think of as the Manson family. I realized that I was sated by too much of a good thing. Emma Cline's prose is so finely structured that I was receiving it as overwrought and would get tired reading good sentence after good sentence. There was a level of detail and a degree of intensity that I appreciated on many pages, but certainly not on every page. I found myself putting the novel aside to read something a bit less intense and with prose that flowed a bit more smoothly. Readers who



<u>Back to Work: Why We Need Smart Government for a Strong Economy</u>	Clinton, Bill	***	<u>5/18/12</u>	<p>appreciate carefully constructed literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p> <p>Optimism. Fans of political nonfiction who are tired of partisan negativism will find a positive, optimistic and balanced presentation about government in Bill Clinton's <u>Back to Work: Why We Need Smart Government for a Strong Economy</u>. Packed with great charts, Bill can engender contagious optimism about the future, and, as usual, there's no shortage of specific policy details to consider.</p>	
<u>Giving: How Each of Us Can Change the World</u>	Clinton, Bill	***	<u>Jan 08</u>	<p>Something. In a preachy but non-political way, the former President offers myriad ways in which each of us can do or give something to help others. Lots of resources and links on how to give.</p>	
My Life	Clinton, Bill	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Hard Choices</u>	Clinton, Hillary Rodham	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Living History</u>	Clinton, Hillary Rodham	**	<u>Aug 03</u>	<p>Lifeless. Political junkies may enjoy this 534 page memoir, but most readers will find the writing detached and revealing little about the author. Sometimes it reads like a travelogue; other times like a policy essay.</p>	
<u>What Happened</u>	Clinton, Hillary Rodham	***	<u>10/26/17</u>	<p>Comey. No reader's viewpoints about Hillary Rodham Clinton will change after reading her book about the 2016 presidential election titled, <u>What Happened</u>. There is no question mark in the title, so this is her definitive attempt to tell citizens what</p>	

she thinks happened. While Clinton holds herself accountable for the outcome, she focuses particular attention on the actions of James Comey and the ways in which all media avoided policy issues where she was strong, and maintained false equivalency between her and Trump. She doesn't quite say that Trump used the press better than she did, but recognizes that his actions led to media diversion away from policy matters. Clinton comes across as more candid in this book than in earlier ones. I wanted to read three things in this book: that she admits she was not a very good candidate; that the energy during the election was more engaged by Sanders and Trump because this was a change election and she represented the status quo; and that she did not pay enough attention to the economic concerns of many Americans. I didn't get exactly what I wanted, but received more than I expected. Sigh.

Mr. China

Clissold, Tim

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



[The Hopefuls](#)

Close, Jennifer

[9/16/16](#)

Friendship. For those readers looking for an escape through fiction from the polarized reality of a presidential election season, consider reading Jennifer Close's novel, [The Hopefuls](#). Close presents two political couples, and explores their friendship and their marriages. While often funny, stress and tension drive the plot, and the presentation of both marriage and friendship rings true. Set in D.C. and Texas, both settings anchor the action with a strong sense of place, and proximity to power and the use of ambition as fuel felt perfect.

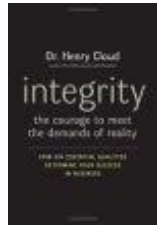


Integrity: The
Courage to Meet
the Demands of
Reality

Cloud, Henry

June 06

Character. Psychologist explores six character traits that he's observed can contribute to a leader's success. Minimal jargon and a conversational style of writing.

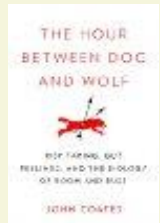


The Hour
Between Dog
and Wolf: Risk
Taking, Gut
Feelings and the
Biology of Boom
and Bust

Coates, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.

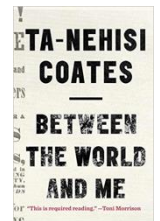


Between the
World and Me

Coates, Ta-
Nehisi

8/4/15

Struggle. The raw power of the prose in Ta-Nehisi Coates' book titled, Between the World and Me, raised my heart rate and held my breath. I'll never really know or fully understand Ta-Nehisi Coates' world. His experiences as a black man who has lived in rough neighborhoods seems very distant from my privileged life. But the struggle of his life is universal, and his love for his son is shared by all parents. He structured this book as letters to his son, and he stresses the struggle, the fragility of life, and the consequences of choices. We seem to be living in a time of permanent polarization, with deep racial tension, yet we hold more in common than we acknowledge. We live in one world and between us and that world there are perils and we long to protect those we love from these dangers. Coates puts voice to this in ways that are unique and universal. Read this book and see his life and your own. Join the struggle.



The Water
Dancer

Coates, Ta-
Nehisi

10/10/19

Conductor. Treat yourself by reading Ta-Nehisi Coates' debut novel titled, The Water Dancer. I completed reading it within twenty-four hours of its release because the well-told story grabbed me, and Coates' characters, prose and plot are finely written.



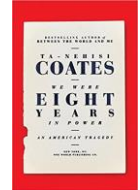
				Protagonist Hiram Walker is a young slave whose life is transformed when he encounters the force of a power he has inherited. Hiram escapes from slavery and becomes a conductor on the underground railroad. I found this to be a powerful and imaginative story with finely written prose that exposes the center of our humanity, our aspirations for a better life for ourselves and those we love.	
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[We Were Eight Years in Power: An American Tragedy](#)

Coates, Ta-Nehisi

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

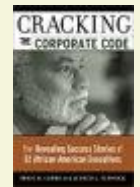


[Cracking the Corporate Code: The Revealing Success Stories of 32 African-American Executives](#)

Cobbs, Price M.

[Apr 04](#)

Mentors. Eavesdrop on the memories of 32 successful executives, reflect on the challenges of any workplace, and consider the opportunities available to those who prepare for success.

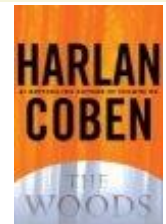


The Woods

Coben Harlan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007




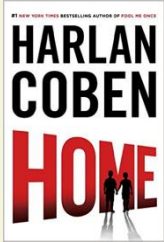

[Don't Let Go](#)

Coben, Harlan

[12/18/17](#)

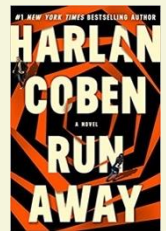
Truth. Fans of mysteries will find a lot to enjoy in Harlan Coben's novel titled, [Don't Let Go](#). Protagonist Napoleon "Nap" Dumas faced trauma as a senior in high school, when his twin brother died and then the love of his young life, Maura, disappeared. Now working as a suburban New Jersey police detective, Nap finds evidence that may lead him to Maura, and to getting answers to questions that have plagued him for over a dozen years. Coben, as always, captures suburban life,



				creates interesting characters, and offers a plot that keeps readers engaged and entertained from beginning to end.	
<u>Fool Me Once</u>	Coben, Harlan	*****	<u>8/26/16</u>	<p>Twists. Some readers choose Summer as a time to indulge in guilty pleasures. For those who are overdue for a plot-heavy thriller packed with surprising twists, consider reading Harlan Coben's novel titled, <u>Fool Me Once</u>. Chances are you'll be fooled more than once. Guilt is one of the themes in this novel, and pleasure comes from the sheer joy of riding the plot waves wherever they went. By the time I finished the novel, my credulity was stretched to its limit, I was still waiting for more character development, and I remained totally entertained by a plot that keep wending and weaving.</p>	
<u>Home</u>	Coben, Harlan	*****	<u>11/22/16</u>	<p>Resolution. Longtime readers of Harlan Coben novels will be pleased with the return of recurring character Myron Bolitar in a novel titled, <u>Home</u>. The thrilling pace of the novel starts on the first page and remains taut until resolution comes four hundred pages later. Two boys went missing a decade ago, and the novel explores what happened back then, and what needs to happen now to bring the boys home. Readers who love thrillers, especially those with well-developed characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
<u>Missing You</u>	Coben, Harlan	*****	<u>5/16/14</u>	<p>Manipulation. If it were not for having strong desires, none of us could be manipulated. Once those desires and longings are revealed, we are vulnerable to being manipulated. Harlan Coben weaves multiple plotlines together in an exciting crime thriller titled, <u>Missing You</u>. Social media, particularly a dating website, plays a prominent role in this novel. Protagonist NYPD detective Kat Donovan has a deep longing to convict the person who killed her father. When she sees a photo of her</p>	

lost love on a website her longings for him return. Those two desires blend together as Kat kinds herself involved in a case outside her jurisdiction. Coben keeps readers on alert from beginning to end, as he unfolds an exciting story of vulnerability and desire.

Secrets. Thanks to Harlan Coben, even family trauma can be thrilling. In his novel titled, [Run Away](#), Coben takes us into the challenges of the Greene family. Simon and Ingrid Greene are disrupted from their successful lives by their daughter, Paige, who has become a drug addict. To what lengths will a parent go for a child? Coben pulls readers into the Greene family situation, then kickstarts a nationwide set of connections to revealing secrets long held. Most readers will become anxious to keep turning the pages to see the next turn in the exciting story. How many secrets will be exposed and with what consequences? Fans of thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this one.



Conundrum. Harlan Coben delivers a lot of suspense in his novel, [Six Years](#). Protagonist Jake Fisher is a college professor who reads about the death of the man who stole the love of his life from him six years earlier. Jake fell quickly in love with artist Natalie Avery, but she suddenly married Todd Sanderson. When Jake reads of Todd's death, he decides to attend the funeral in hopes of seeing Natalie again, despite his promise to her that Jake would never try to locate them. In the course of more than 350 pages, Jake tries to unravel the mystery of Natalie. The intricate plot was entertaining, but I never quite understood Jake's love for and obsession with Natalie, especially their quick attachment, then how Jake could have spent six years less obsessed and then consumed anew.



Run Away	Coben, Harlan	****	4/4/19
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Six Years	Coben, Harlan	***	5/3/13
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My willing suspension of disbelief faltered from the beginning, and I was left not caring much about what happens. Readers who like suspense novels as well as Coben diehard fans are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

Serial. Harlan Coben's latest crime novel, [Stay Close](#), offers readers who like this genre some reliable entertainment. There's a cast of intriguing and interesting characters dealing with a variety of life's challenges from the past and the present. There's serial murder at the core of the story, and gradual revelation of who has been doing what over a long time period. The pace of the novel suits a hot summer: one can read this novel at a slow simmer and remain refreshed.

Secrets. Can you think of a better name for a person who was found in the woods as a child and had no memory of his past than "Wilde?" That's the name of the protagonist of Harlan Coben's exciting novel titled, [The Boy from the Woods](#). Three decades after he came out of the woods, another child has gone missing, and now Wilde has been asked by a recurring Coben character, Hester Crimstein, to help find that child. Wilde agrees and finds himself returning to an uncomfortable place and he's focused on revealing the secrets that have been kept for a long time. The story is engaging, the plot has just the right twists, and the characters are compelling. Fans of Coben and crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.

[Stay Close](#)

Coben, Harlan

[7/16/12](#)



[The Boy from the Woods](#)

Coben, Harlan

[9/19/20](#)

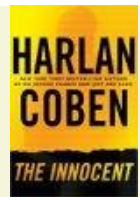


The Innocent

Coben, Harlan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

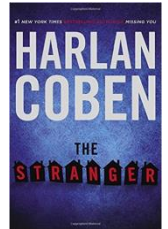


Vulnerability. Harlan Coben presents three elements in his novel, The Stranger, which will satisfy many readers. His plot grabbed my attention quickly, and the momentum continued to the end, including a handful of twists that were delightful. His characters, especially protagonist Adam Price, face situations that are believable, and their behavior always seems realistic to how any of us might act. Finally, Coben's exploration of the vulnerability present in all relationships came across as reflective, thoughtful and insightful. Sometimes all it takes to create doubt is the whisper of a question or a small statement that can unravel the binds that unite us with others.

The Stranger

Coben, Harlan

5/16/15



Rumsfeld

Cockburn,
Andrew

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



It Was Today

Codrescu, Andrei

**

Dec 03

Dreams. Poets use words and images to show us who we are and where we are heading. This collection does that well, whether we like the images or not.

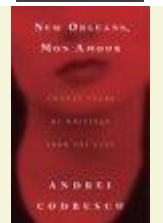


New Orleans,
Mon Amour

Codrescu, Andrei

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2006

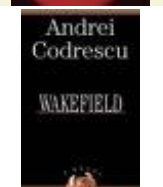


Wakefield

Codrescu, Andrei

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2004



Whatever Gets You through the Night: A Story of Sheherezade and the Arabian Entertainments	Codrescu, Andrei	Unread		Both the cover and the topic grabbed my attention. I read the introduction and set aside for a while. I picked up again and read a few pages and footnotes. My interest waned rapidly. Your wakefulness might exceed mine. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington	Coe, Alexis	*****	8/25/20	Lively. If reading about dead people from earlier centuries isn't high on your list of priorities, try picking up a copy of Alexis Coe's lively and funny book titled, You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington , and learn that reading about dead people can be entertaining. With playful wit, Coe dispenses with the many myths about Washington, and presents a different view of the person behind the heroic marble façade. She carefully curates those aspects of his life that bring the man down to earth from a remote pedestal. This breezy and cheeky book entertained me thoroughly.	
Expo 58	Coe, Jonathan	*****	12/27/14	Spies. After I finished reading Jonathan Coe's novel, Expo 58 , I hoped that someone would present this entertaining and humorous story as a movie. This novel is a satire of the cold war, using the backdrop of the Brussels World's Fair of 1958 as the setting. Protagonist Thomas Foley is chosen to oversee the Britannia pub at the British pavilion. He leaves his wife and baby at home for six months and spends lots of time in Belgium with one of the fair's hostesses, Anneke. Coe presents spies that are the funniest I've encountered since Maxwell Smart. Foley becomes entangled in a scheme to prevent a defection to the Soviet Union, and his naiveté allows him to play the part as the spymasters intend. Readers who enjoy satire, spies, and this time period are those most likely to enjoy reading this very entertaining novel.	

Middle England

Coe, Jonathan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



Number 11

Coe, Jonathan

5/23/17

Eleveneses. I stopped counting how many times the number eleven appeared in Jonathan Coe's eleventh novel which is aptly titled, Number 11. There are a lot of them. Fans of Coe will be delighted that this is a sort-of sequel to *The Winshaw Legacy*. New readers will find fine writing, confusing or absent transitions, interesting characters, especially Allison and Rachel, and comedy and satire about our contemporary society. I enjoyed Coe's wit, his sharp social observations, and his well-written prose. Readers who enjoy literary fiction and can tolerate abrupt transitions are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



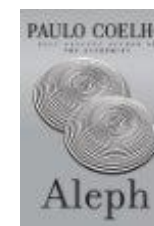
Aleph

Coelho, Paulo

*

12/15/11

Journey. The popularity of Paulo Coelho's novels led me to read his latest, Aleph. The last time I read a novel this odd was fifteen years ago with *The Celestine Prophecy*. These new age pseudo-spiritual journey novels may appeal to certain readers, but not to me. I found the writing weak, the characters poorly developed and the premise and plot annoying. Read a sample before you consider reading this novel. If you develop any interest at all from the sample, you'll find more of the same in the full novel. Otherwise, take a pass.



Abolishing Performance Appraisals: Why They Backfire and What to Do Instead

Coens, Tom and Mary Jenkins

05/01

Great book that replaces current assumptions about performance appraisals with new ones and proposes alternatives.



Diary of a Bad Year

Coetzee, J.M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

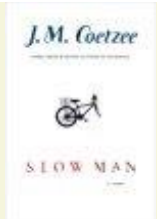


Slow Man

Coetzee, J.M.

Dec 05

Caring. Finely written novel in which a man loses his leg in a bicycle accident, struggles with life's key questions, becomes infatuated with his nurse, and becomes cared for by a character from a prior Coetzee novel.

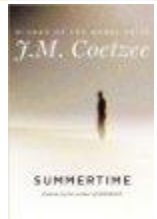


Summertime

Coetzee, J.M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

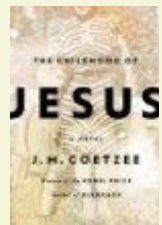


The Childhood of Jesus

Coetzee, J.M.

9/24/13

Inquiry. The protagonist of J.M. Coetzee's novel, The Childhood of Jesus, is an exceptional boy who was renamed David when he arrived as a refugee. Separated from his mother, a man named Simon takes charge of his care. David's relentless questions of Simon provided me with pleasure from the richness of the philosophical inquiry that this novel offers. Many readers will want to talk about the novel with other readers to gain perspectives on everything that this novel contains. I found the writing superb and after a while I became comfortable with the allegory. Readers who are comfortable with enigma are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

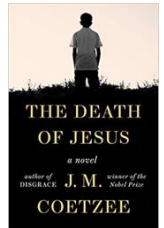


[The Death of Jesus](#)

Coetzee, J.M.

[7/6/20](#)

Orphan. I'm undecided whether or not to recommend that you must read J.M. Coetzee's two novels titled *The Childhood of Jesus* and *The Schooldays of Jesus* before you read the third novel, [The Death of Jesus](#). Normally, reading a series in sequence leads to greater understanding. For these three novels, there's no understanding, only lots of questions. The main question that David, the now ten-year-old protagonist, asks in this novel is: Why am I here? While Simon and Inez act as if they are his parents, he is an orphan, as we all are, since at some time we are all alone in the world with our unanswered questions about the meaning of life. I've read all three novels, and feel unsettled, which is probably the best outcome achievable from these unusual and finely written novels.

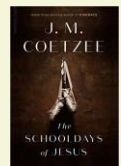


[The Schooldays of Jesus](#)

Coetzee, J.M.

[4/5/17](#)

Dance. The Socratic style of questioning that J.M. Coetzee began in *The Childhood of Jesus* continues in a new novel titled, [The Schooldays of Jesus](#). Refugee David is now ready for school in a new town, and Simon and Inez enroll him in the Academy of Dance, purported to be the best school in the town. The curriculum involves, as one would expect, dance. In some mystical way relating to numbers, the dance combines reason and passion. Using the structure of Socratic dialogues, Coetzee presents ways of coming to an understanding of the world. Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



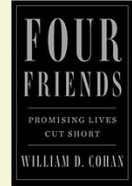


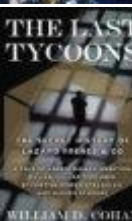

[The Eight Mountains](#)

Cognetti, Paolo

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



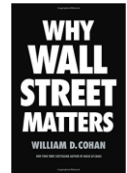
<u>Four Friends: Promising Lives Cut Short</u>	Cohan, William D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
House of Cards: A Tale of Hubris and Wretched Excess on Wall Street	Cohan, William D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Money and Power: How Goldman Sachs Came to Rule the World	Cohan, William D.	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Last Tycoons	Cohan, William D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>The Price of Silence: The Duke Lacrosse Scandal, the Power of the Elite, and the Corruption of Our Great Universities</u>	Cohan, William D.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	

Why Wall Street Matters

Cohan, William D.

5/23/17

Reform. Many complicated issues are reduced to what can fit on a tweet, and too much explanation can't overcome a few memorable phrases. "Break up the banks," or "fat cats on Wall Street," can convey sentiment, but not nuance or context. Financial writer William D. Cohan has written an easy to read, mostly jargon free book titled, Why Wall Street Matters, that provides readers without financial expertise with reasons why the demonization of Wall Street should stop. Cohan provides a history of Wall Street to create context, and explains why Wall Street should continue in its important role of allocating capital. He also calls for reform, but cautions against vitriol leading to actions with unintended consequences. He makes it plain that Wall Street compensation needs to be fixed, but that the core role of capital allocation keeps our economy strong. If you know something about finance, this book won't teach you anything new, but it may help explain to doubters why you agree that Wall Street helps all of us. If you don't know much about finance, this book can inform you about the role that Wall Street plays in your life and why that role should continue.



Blink of An Eye

Cohen William S.

2/3/12

Insecurity. Former Senator and former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has written another novel in the thriller genre, this one titled, Blink of An Eye. Packed with clunky writing and acronyms, this novel focuses on the detonation of a nuclear device on U.S. soil, and the rush to retaliate. The protagonist is a National Security Advisor named Sean Falcone, and this character is drawn in the heroic tradition. The plot moves quickly, some of the characters are interesting, and in the back of my mind, the insider knowledge of Cohen made me shiver even more that the plot required. Readers



				who like thrillers and can overlook some weak writing are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<u>American Pharoah</u>	Cohen, Adam	***		Flattering biography of the late Mayor Richard J. Daley. Well worth reading.	
<u>A Big Fat Crisis: The Hidden Forces Behind the Obesity Epidemic — and How We Can End It</u>	Cohen, Deborah A.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>The Glitch</u>	Cohen, Elisabeth	*****	<u>8/17/18</u>	<p>Priorities. The protagonist of Elisabeth Cohen's debut novel titled, <u>The Glitch</u>, is not an everywoman. Shelley Stone is a Silicon Valley CEO who seems to have mastered the elements of a successful life. As CEO, she is ready to travel around the globe at any time. As wife, she schedules sex for efficiency. As mother, she gets her daughter the best care possible. Sounds like a normal life, right? Cohen uses tension and humor to shake up Shelley's life, including introducing a younger woman with the same name, and injecting a corporate crisis that tests Shelley's mettle. Shelley has to reset her priorities and decide what is most important in her life. If Bernie Sanders reads novels, he would have a lot to say about this portrayal of the top 1% of the 1%. The rest of us can read and enjoy this clever and funny novel.</p>	
<u>Book of Numbers</u>	Cohen, Joshua	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	

Quirky. Joshua Cohen writes many great sentences in his book [Four New Messages](#). Some of the phrases he turned made me smile, and others pleaded to be read two or three times, which I was happy to do. The four pieces in this collection are all odd and quirky and by the time I finished the book I concluded that I am either too old or too dull witted to appreciate Cohen's skills. His take on the internet age and my reality may be too far apart to reconcile. Read a sample before you tackle this book.



[Four New Messages](#)

Cohen, Joshua

[9/24/13](#)

[Moving Kings](#)

Cohen, Joshua

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



[No Book But the World](#)

Cohen, Leah Hager

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



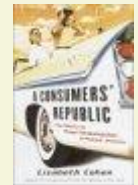
[A Consumer's Republic: The Politics of Mass Consumption in Postwar America](#)

Cohen, Lizabeth

**

[May 03](#)

Citizen Shopper. Prosperity arrived to Postwar America in the form of government action prompted by consumers active in political processes pushing for national action. Cohen presents what we had, what we lost, and what we can restore.

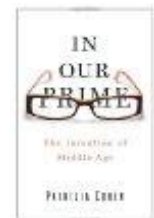






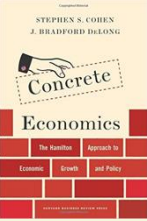
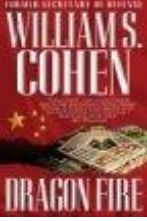
In Our Prime:
The Invention of
Middle Age



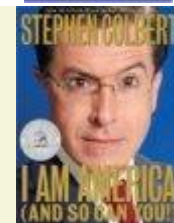
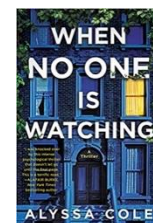
Cohen, Patricia

Unread

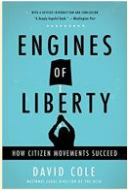
Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line.
Shelf of Ennui 2012.

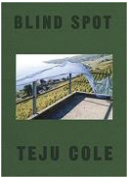


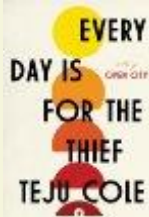
<u>A Chance Meeting</u>	Cohen, Rachel	***	<u>Sep 04</u>	Networking. 36 imaginative essays on how 30 writers and artists “probably” interacted, based on extensive research. General readers will enjoy how well Cohen portrays artistic connections and interactions.	
<u>The Good The Bad & The Difference: How to Tell Right From Wrong in Everyday Situations</u>	Cohen, Randy	**	<u>May 02</u>	Collection of “The Ethicist” columns from <i>The New York Times</i> , many of which are practical, clear, and witty.	
<u>Sweet and Low</u>	Cohen, Rich	***	<u>July 06</u>	Family. Insightful and humorous exploration of the family business, producer of Sweet and Low, from its inception to market dominance, stagnation, and the disinheritance of the author’s mother.	
<u>Blindsided</u>	Cohen, Richard M.	***	<u>June 04</u>	Coping. Well-written memoir of three decades of struggling with multiple sclerosis followed by colon cancer, while coping as a worker, husband and parent. A story of courage and hope, helpful to all readers coping with life’s challenges.	
<u>Concrete Economics: The Hamilton Approach to Economic Growth and Policy</u>	Cohen, Stephen S. and J. Bradford DeLong	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Dragon Fire</u>	Cohen, William S.	***	<u>Nov 06</u>	Outlandish. Debut novel by former Secretary of Defense has clunky writing, convoluted plot and implausible actions, but still recommended given the author’s insider experience.	


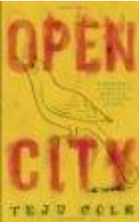
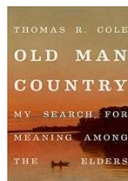
Final Strike	Cohen, William S.	***	6/9/18	<p>Warning. The third novel in the Sean Falcone series by former Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen is titled, Final Strike. Don't look now, Earthlings, because an asteroid you didn't see coming is on a collision course with our planet. That exciting plot and warning provides the momentum to the novel and can often be strong enough to overcome clunky writing, weak dialogue and incomplete character development. Fans of thrillers may overlook the weaknesses thanks to a great premise and decent plot. I was mildly entertained, but a bit annoyed by an extra hundred pages or so.</p>	
Sick	Cohn, Jonathan	***	June 07	<p>Personal. <i>New Republic</i> editor chronicles the stories of citizens for whom the health care system hasn't worked, and illustrates why changes must be made.</p>	
I Am America (And So Can You)	Colbert, Stephen	***		Read and not reviewed.	
When No One Is Watching	Cole, Alyssa	****	11/24/20	<p>Rejuvenation. There's something fishy about the gentrification in progress in a Brooklyn neighborhood, and Alyssa Cole pulls us into a complicated scheme in her novel titled, When No One Is Watching. Protagonists Sydney and Theo represent the contrasts in the neighborhood as they alternate as narrators: the longtime resident and the newcomer. Both narrators face major challenges that become complicated as they uncover the unsavory and illegal ways in which neighborhood rejuvenation has accelerated. There's</p>	

crime and exploitation afoot, and Cole keeps thickening the muck in which the characters find themselves as we watch the scheme unfold.



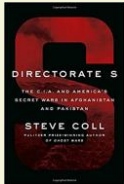
<u>Engines of Liberty: How Citizen Movements Succeed</u>	Cole, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
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<u>Blind Spot</u>	Cole, Teju	*****	<u>5/11/18</u>	<p>Vision. Fans of both Teju Cole's writing and his photography get a double treat when these artistic ventures are combined in a book titled, <u>Blind Spot</u>. Readers can linger on the images and absorb the prose that reveals Cole's memories, the different settings and his reflections. We can see through the eyes of an artist and hear from him about the connections he has made while traveling around the around the world. We can observe with him how a change in his vision altered his photography. I finished reading this book thinking a lot about the art of seeing.</p>	
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<u>Every Day Is for the Thief</u>	Cole, Teju	*****	<u>3/22/14</u>	<p>Observations. I enjoyed the ways in which Teju Cole's lean prose in <u>Every Day Is for the Thief</u>, describes Lagos and the observations of the narrator in just the right amount of detail to be both atmospheric and vivid. In this finely written novel, Cole presents the story of a writer who returns to Nigeria for a visit after fifteen years living in the United States. From the time he first approaches the consulate, he enters into a culture in which almost every person is asking for some money in exchange for doing something or nothing. The protagonist often complies, although he does so with reluctance. Photographs by Cole are inserted throughout the novel and they add to the vivid imagery of the life he describes. Readers who</p>	
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				enjoy literary fiction will find a lot of entertainment in this short novel.	
Known and Strange Things	Cole, Teju	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 11/26/17	
Open City	Cole, Teju	**	1/4/13	<p>Wandering. I usually have the patience to overlook the absence of plot in fiction. My patience was sorely tested by Teju Cole's debut novel, Open City. The protagonist, Julius, is a Nigerian immigrant and graduate student studying psychiatry in New York City. The novel is an assembly of the vignettes of his dreamy wandering, mostly around NYC. Cole presents the inner thoughts of Julius and the connections he makes between what he sees now and what it reminds him of in his earlier life. Just when I started to get into the spirit of the NYC wandering, Cole jets Julius to Europe, where the wandering continues. I kept reading, but never became engaged enough to care about Julius, and I found Cole's writing became methodical and tiresome. Read a sample to see if these vignettes will bring you reading pleasure. For me, it never clicked.</p>	
Old Man Country: My Search for Meaning Among the Elders	Cole, Thomas R.	****	2/14/20	<p>Aging. Curiosity and his own aging led Thomas R. Cole to seek out perspectives from men over eighty, a growing cohort in the United States. In his book titled, Old Man Country: My Search for Meaning Among the Elders, Cole provides snippets of interviews with about a dozen old men, and intersperses aspects of his own life throughout. This short book broaches a topic many old men avoid, but I can assure readers that it's safe to enter these waters. Whether a reader finds meaning or wisdom on these pages may depend on one's individual</p>	

situation. Ask me when I'm ninety if any of this makes sense.

<u>The Churchgoer</u>	Coleman, Patrick	****	<u>10/12/20</u>	<p>Lost. Is a person who is lost himself capable of finding someone else who is lost? In his debut novel titled, <u>The Churchgoer</u>, Patrick Coleman gives readers fine writing, intriguing and unpleasant characters, twisting plot lines, and insights into our human condition. The protagonist and narrator, Mark Haines, is a surfer who had been a youth pastor and has reached a point in his life where he feels he has failed at everything. Cindy is a young drifter, who has gone missing, and Mark turns detective as he tries to find her. The California setting and noir feel invoke Raymond Chandler in some ways alongside religious fervor and laidback surfside life. Coleman deploys great skill in crafting these characters and placing tension and insight in just the right ways to satisfy many readers. An occasional perfectly crafted sentence will whack you on the head with something profound.</p>	
<u>To Capture What We Cannot Keep</u>	Colin, Beatrice	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>Directorate S: The C.I.A. and America's Secret Wars in Afghanistan and Pakistan</u>	Coll, Steve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

Private Empire:
ExxonMobil and
American Power

Coll, Steve

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line.
Shelf of Ennui 2012.

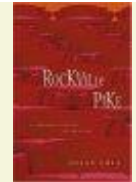


Rockville Pike:
A Suburban
Comedy of
Manners

Coll, Susan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

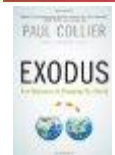


Exodus: How
Migration is
Changing Our
World

Collier, Paul

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

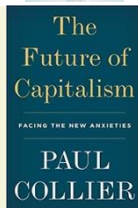


The Future of
Capitalism:
Facing the New
Anxieties

Collier, Paul

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

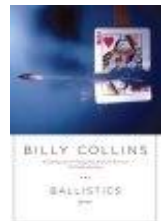


Ballistics

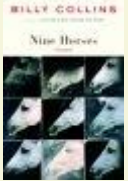
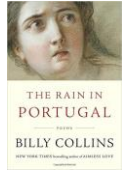
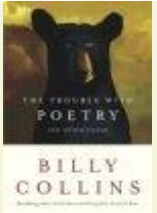
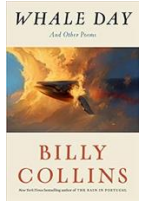
Collins, Billy

1/27/09

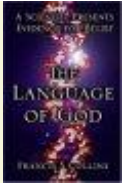
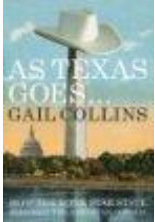

Charming. There are 56 poems in Billy Collins' latest collection titled, Ballistics, after the title of one of the poems. In several of the poems, the narrator/poet is drinking tea, and so was I while reading most of these poems in spurts of three or four at a time. I'm sure that while I enjoyed his self-deprecating lines about poetry, himself, and other poets, I didn't know the poets to whom he referred, even when he made it pretty easy to figure out. That in no way detracted from my enjoyment of these poems. Collins is assessable and charming as poets go, and his style brings me a lot of reading pleasure. The efficient way in which he notes the ordinary, and creates a few lines of beautiful poetry from everyday things, belies the skill it takes to come across with such apparent ease. Sit down with a cup



of tea and read a poem or two. Relax and note something about the ordinary that displays beauty in your life.

<u>Nine Horses: Poems</u>	Collins, Billy	***	<u>Feb 03</u>	Gallops. If you've not read any poems by our current poet laureate, you may as well start with this latest collection. Finely written. Some funny; some sad.	
<u>The Rain in Portugal</u>	Collins, Billy	****	<u>1/10/17</u>	Smile. I defy a reader to read four or five of Billy Collins' poems and not come away smiling. There are fifty-six witty poems in his new collection titled, <u>The Rain in Portugal</u> . Collins admits he's not a good rhymers, hence the rain in Portugal, not Spain. Readers who think they don't like poetry may read a few Collins poems and change that view. Collins takes the ordinary, delivers a few finely written lines, and gives a reader delight.	
<u>The Trouble with Poetry</u>	Collins, Billy	**	<u>Feb 06</u>	Dull. Accessibility and humor are still present, but more poems seemed tired and dull in this collection when compared with laureate's earlier work.	
<u>Whale Day and Other Poems</u>	Collins, Billy	****	<u>11/9/20</u>	Alive. For many readers, 2020 has been a challenging year that has narrowed our travels and offered such repetition that days and weeks can seem indistinct. We can become attuned to things in our environment that in a "normal" year we might easily overlook. In the 59 poems in his collection titled, <u>Whale Day and Other Poems</u> , Billy Collins draws our attention to what seems ordinary and familiar. Thanks to him, we can laugh or wince as we look more closely at our surroundings. Fans will know that some of the poems will lead to laughter, while others celebrate the sheer joy of	

being alive in the places where we find ourselves at any given moment.

<u>The Language of God</u>	Collins, Francis S.	**	<u>Jan 07</u>	<p>Credentials. Scientist-author headed the Human Genome Project and is a fundamentalist Christian. These credentials allow him to tell his personal faith story and explain science clearly.</p>	
<u>As Texas Goes...: How the Lone Star State Hijacked the American Agenda</u>	Collins, Gail	***	<u>7/16/12</u>	<p>Anthropological. <i>New York Times</i> columnist Gail Collins approached her study of Texas the way an anthropologist would study an unfamiliar culture in a foreign country. She observed the behavior of the people there, mainly politicians, and drew sweeping conclusions, which she presents in a book titled, <u>As Texas Goes...: How the Lone Star State Hijacked the American Agenda</u>. In the current divisive political environment, we can expect that liberals will love this book and conservatives will hate it. Citizens of any political leaning will find her writing lively, and the stories she tells about the public policies in Texas are engaging to read. This book is unlikely to change any minds, but it's great political writing and I enjoyed reading it.</p>	
When Everything Changed: The Amazing Journey of American Women from 1960 to the Present	Collins, Gail	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	

<u>Beginner's Greek</u>	Collins, James	***	<u>June 08</u>	Sweetness. Debut novel by longtime journalist and former investment banker presents a Jane Austen-like romance, with twists and turns of fate leading the main characters together, apart and back together.	
<u>Good to Great: Why Some Companies Make the Leap ... and Others Don't</u>	Collins, Jim	****	<u>Mar 02</u>	“Much of what we’re doing is at best a waste of time.” Read <u>Good to Great</u> and find out from this well-researched book what works and what’s a waste of energy.	
<u>How The Mighty Fall: And Why Some Companies Never Give In</u>	Collins, Jim	***	<u>1/16/10</u>	Stages. I’ve liked the fact-based research approach that Jim Collins takes in writing his business books, specifically <i>Good to Great</i> and <i>Built to Last</i> . His latest book, <u>How the Mighty Fall</u> , examines the research on how companies decline, and what might be done to avert disaster. Collins structures decline into five stages, and provides brief examples of companies in each stage. Steps can be taken through four stages to overcome setbacks. Collins makes the point toward the end of the book, “... success is falling down, and getting up one more time, without end.” Any manager reading <u>How the Mighty Fall</u> will come away from the book with thoughts about how success can be achieved and disaster averted.	
Great by Choice: Uncertainty, Chaos, and Luck--Why Some Thrive Despite Them All	Collins, Jim and Morten T. Hansen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	

Origin. Fans of the Hunger Games trilogy are those readers most likely to enjoy Suzanne Collins' origin story of Coriolanus Snow in a novel titled, [The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes](#). We meet eighteen-year-old Snow at the 10th Hunger Games, where he and other students are selected as mentors to the tributes. Snow is assigned to a female tribute from District 12 and their chance of winning seems remote. Collins presents readers with an immature Coriolanus and there are times when we think he might choose to do good. To the satisfaction of fans, we see the character traits of the villainous adult Snow appear in one form or another at every pivot in this selection from his formative years.



[The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes](#)

Collins, Suzanne

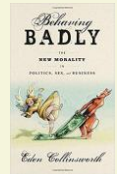
[7/6/20](#)

[Behaving Badly: The New Morality in Politics, Sex, and Business](#)

Collinsworth, Eden

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.

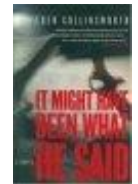


It Might Have Been What He Said

Collinsworth, Eden

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



[The Big House: A Century in the Life of an American Summer Home](#)

Colt, George Howe

**

[Dec 03](#)

Twits. Fine writing about a Boston Brahmin family's 100-year attachment to a Cape Cod summer home that they almost sell outside the family because of neglect and cluelessness.

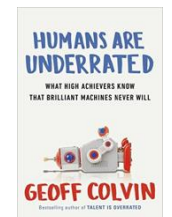


[Humans Are Underrated: What High Achievers Know That Brilliant Machines Never Will](#)

Colvin, Geoff

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



<u>Talent Is Overrated: What Really Separates World-Class Performers from Everybody Else</u>	Colvin, Geoff	*****	<u>4/18/09</u>	<p>Practice. Geoff Colvin expanded his <i>Fortune</i> article, “What It Takes to Be Great,” into an evidence-based book titled, <u>Talent Is Overrated: What Really Separates World-Class Performers from Everybody Else</u>. Colvin renounces the notion that leaders are born with innate talent, and shows how disciplined forms of deliberate practice lead to remarkable success. The practice he describes may not be the practice that many of us follow, but his presentation is compelling about how the right kind of repetitive practice leads to extraordinary success. You may be just 10,000 hours away from world-class performance. After reading <u>Talent Is Overrated</u>, you may think differently about talent, and about Mozart. Read it to find out why.</p>	
<u>A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership</u>	Comey, James	*****	<u>4/23/18</u>	<p>Values. If you haven’t heard about James Comey’s book titled, <u>A Higher Loyalty: Truth, Lies, and Leadership</u>, you might be living a simpler life than most of your neighbors. The former and fired FBI director offers a reasonable and readable account of ethical leadership as he sees it, using many examples from his life, back to the manager of the grocery store where young Jim had plenty of opportunities to learn. This is a book about values, and a view that truth is the most important value. I encourage any reader to pick up this book and draw your own conclusions about Comey. The interviews on his book tour reveal just a sliver of what the book presents.</p>	
<u>Let Love Have the Last Word</u>	Common	*****	<u>6/24/19</u>	<p>Reflections. The many fans of musical artist and actor Common will provide a natural audience for his book titled, <u>Let Love Have the Last Word</u>. Introspection about his life leads Common to sharing candidly his reflections about life and love. There’s an upbeat message in this book that may be inspiring to those readers who can hear the lessons from another’s life and apply them to one’s own</p>	

				<p>situation. In an age when hate and polarization gets loads of attention, it's terrific to spend some time basking in messages about love.</p> <p>Friendship. The declassification of secret records can provide authors with a treasure trove of material about individuals and situations. Jennet Conant's book, <u>A Covert Affair: Julia Child and Paul Child in the OSS</u>, tells a bundle of interesting anecdotes about the wartime adventures of the Childs and how their postwar life led to challenging times for them and their friends. The central character of the book, Jane Foster, was a friend of the Childs, and she was accused of being a Soviet spy. That led to McCarthy challenges of the loyalty of her friends. Even with many American and Russian documents declassified, it remains unclear whether or not Foster was a spy. Fans of Julia Child may feel shortchanged by all the pages that are not connected to her. Readers interested in this era are those most likely to enjoy this account of some fascinating people and events of the 1940s and 1950s.</p>	
<u>A Covert Affair: Julia Child and Paul Child in the OSS</u>	Conant, Jennet	***	<u>2/17/12</u>		
<u>The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington</u>	Conant, Jennet	***	<u>2/19/09</u>	<p>Overflowing. The late Steve Allen brought historical characters to life on his series <i>Meeting of Minds</i>. Were that show still broadcast, I can now think of another fascinating person for him to assemble at an eclectic table for conversation: Roald Dahl. Having known Dahl as the author of <i>Willy Wonka</i> and <i>James and the Giant Peach</i>, I became aware of the rest of his life thanks to Jennet Conant's book, <u>The Irregulars: Roald Dahl and the British Spy Ring in Wartime Washington</u>. After this fighter pilot career in the Royal Air Force was cut short by illness, Dahl was assigned to the British Embassy in Washington in 1942, and joined an effort to influence American public opinion toward the war in Europe. The suave and debonair Dahl</p>	

				<p>became enmeshed in social circles, and ate, drank and slept his way into relationships that helped the British achieve their objectives. In Conant's depiction, Dahl is "a man in full," overflowing with charm, intelligence, and a physical presence that made him capable of influencing those with or near power. This is a readable and enjoyable tale of a fascinating time, and is packed with intriguing characters.</p>	
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[Tuxedo Park: A Wall Street Tycoon and the Secret Palace of Science That Changed the Course of World War II](#)

Conant, Jennet

[Jan 03](#)

Catalyst. Thanks to the money Alfred Loomis spent on a private research lab, the Allies were able to use radar to win World War II.

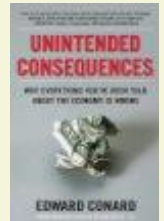


Unintended Consequences: Why Everything You've Been Told About the Economy Is Wrong

Conard, Edward

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



[The Last Romantics](#)


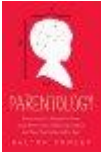
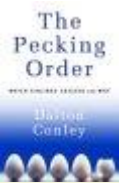


Conklin, Tara

[8/27/19](#)

Siblings. Sometimes siblings have the same childhood, especially when they are close in age. Other times, siblings recall family life in radically different ways. In her novel titled, [The Last Romantics](#), Tara Conklin introduces readers to the Skinner family. The three girls and one boy shared major trauma in childhood: the death of their father, and the depression of their mother for multiple years, a period they named "the pause." The perspective of the novel comes from the future, giving comfort that the siblings survived. Sorrow and love formed them and changed them. Conklin



tells their stories with great skill and insight into human nature.

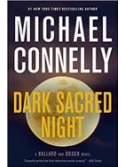
Elsewhere, U.S.A.	Conley, Dalton	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
<u>Parentology: Everything You Wanted to Know about the Science of Raising Children but Were Too Exhausted to Ask</u>	Conley, Dalton	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>The Pecking Order: Which Siblings Succeed and Why</u>	Conley, Dalton	***	<u>May 04</u>	Size Matters. Lots of factors, but not birth order, predict sibling success, based on this analysis of lots of data. Read and recognize that you and your siblings were not raised equally.	
Blue Blood	Conlon, Edward	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
Red on Red	Conlon, Edward	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	

Dark Sacred Night

Connelly,
Michael

2/2/19

Partners. Michael Connelly's novel titled, Dark Sacred Night, features both protagonists Harry Bosch and Renee Ballard. Ballard's skills are underutilized while she works the night shift at LAPD's Hollywood station. After she meets Harry in the wee hours at the station, the two hit it off and begin to work as partners on a neglected case. Connelly develops Ballard a lot in this novel, especially her dedication to the job, and the skills she deploys expertly. Harry Bosch is a beloved character and Connelly sets him up here with a gig for more novels to come. Fans of crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy the plot and characters of this novel.



Echo Park

Connelly,
Michael

**

Read and not reviewed.

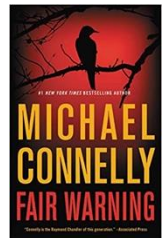


Fair Warning

Connelly,
Michael

9/19/20

Cyberstalking. Journalist and protagonist Jack McEvoy returns for the third time in Michael Connelly's novel titled, Fair Warning. A serial killer may be using a form of cyberstalking to select targets with great efficiency. Jack gets on the story because he had a one-night stand with the latest victim. Before long, readers are exposed to the dark web and to a fast-paced plot trying to reveal the identity of the killer. Fans of action thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.

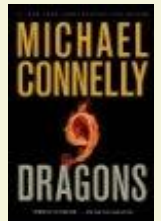


Nine Dragons

Connelly,
Michael

1/2/10

Character. Michael Connelly's fourteenth Harry Bosch novel is titled, Nine Dragons, and is set both in L.A. and Hong Kong. The pacing of this thriller engaged me from the beginning to the end. Harry Bosch is a complex character who works diligently and cares deeply for family. In Nine Dragons, those two elements converge as he works a homicide in



L.A. that leads him to rush to Hong Kong to find his daughter who has been abducted. While both plot and character development are finely developed in this novel, the dialogue is often sketchy, and a lot of momentum takes the form of narrative. Fans of Bosch will enjoy this latest installment, and new readers can start here as easily as anyplace and come to enjoy reading exciting stories about an interesting character.

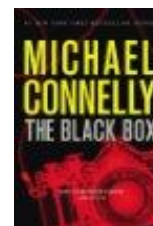
Persistence. Fans of Michael Connelly's Harry Bosch novels will enjoy his latest installment, The Black Box. The cold case that Harry opens in this novel involves a murder from the 1992 L.A. riots in which Harry himself had been called to the scene, but someone else handled the case. In his trademark dogged and consistent manner, Harry follows one lead after another as he tries to solve the case. Harry's persistence survives internal politics that threatens his job. Both new and longtime readers who enjoy well-paced crime fiction with strong character development are those most likely to enjoy this engaging novel.

Redemption. The latest Harry Bosch novel by Michael Connelly is titled, The Burning Room. While detective Bosch is facing retirement, and can seem to be moving toward mellowness and acceptance, his work ethic never flags. His new partner, rookie detective Lucy Soto, matches him hour for hour, and their relationship develops well in this novel. One theme of the novel is redemption, and the plot leads toward an ending that addresses the consequences of the actions that played out in this installment. Fans of the series will find both an old Harry and a new one in this novel. I was entertained and delighted by this novel.

The Black Box

Connelly,
Michael

1/24/13



The Burning Room

Connelly,
Michael

12/27/14

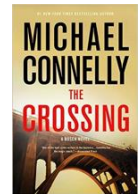


The Crossing

Connelly,
Michael

12/18/15

Brothers. Some readers who enjoy novels with recurring characters will be delighted that Michael Connelly has joined brothers from two of his crime fiction series in a novel titled, The Crossing. Harry Bosch and Mickey Haller are half-brothers, the former now a forcibly retired LAPD detective, and the latter a criminal defense lawyer. Mickey convinces Harry to help him defend a client arrested for murder and for whom the DNA evidence in the case seems ironclad. While reluctant to cross from the prosecution to the defense side (hence the title), Harry becomes convinced that Mickey's client is innocent. Fans of crime fiction will find a lot to enjoy while reading this novel.

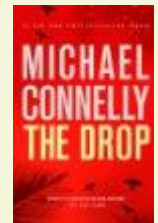


The Drop

Connelly,
Michael

1/18/12

Twists. The latest detective Harry Bosch novel from Michael Connelly is titled, The Drop. Fans of the series and first-time readers can find equal pleasure in the exploits of this heroic, flawed protagonist whose moral compass distinguishes right from wrong with clarity. The world gets messier than he'd like it to be, and the good guys can let him down, while the bad guys also need justice. Can Harry overcome the demons that distract him and move on? Can he be a father and a detective? Will he find love again? Connelly writes a fine crime novel, and the character of Harry Bosch continues to develop and mature. Readers who like character-driven crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



The Gods of Guilt

Connelly,
Michael

2/7/14

Jury. The latest legal thriller from Michael Connelly to feature Lincoln lawyer Mickey Haller is titled, The Gods of Guilt. With each new novel in the series, Connelly deepens Haller's character for readers. Already the most likeable defense attorney, Haller's shortcomings and flaws add to him being presented as a complex character, a fully formed



human, just like us. Fans of the series will gobble up this new installment and come away with great satisfaction. New readers can start here or anywhere with Connelly and be well entertained. I found the plot interesting and the courtroom drama engaging. Readers who like crime fiction are those most likely to be satisfied by this entertaining one.

Indomitable. Fans of Michael Connelly who wish he would stick to Harry Bosch novels are likely to come around after meeting a great female protagonist in his latest novel titled, The Late Show. Renee Ballard is a LAPD detective who works the night shift, known as the late show. She ended up on that beat after she filed a sexual harassment complaint against another detective. As the plot of this novel develops, readers enter into Ballard's character: grit and determination to never give in or give up when she knows what is right. Ballard is complex, interesting and quirky, and most readers will want many more books featuring this great character. I was highly entertained by the opener.

Perils. The twenty-second crime novel by Michael Connelly to feature Harry Bosch is titled, The Night Fire. Once again, LAPD Detective Renée Ballard is on hand to face new perils with Harry. The widow of Harry's mentor, Jack Thompson, gives him a murder book that Jack took home from the LAPD two decades earlier. Bosch and Ballard collaborate to get to the bottom of the case, which exposes them both to danger. Meanwhile, Harry is worried because his daughter faces peril at college, thanks to a stalker near campus. Harry is also collaborating with Mickey Haller, his half-brother, on a murder case which leads Bosch and Ballard toward added peril. Fans of this series and crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this

The Late Show

Connelly,
Michael

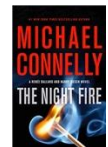
8/12/17




The Night Fire

Connelly,
Michael

1/2/20



novel and may look forward to the reprise of the Black Widow from this book in a future installment.

The Overlook	Connelly, Michael	***		Read and not reviewed.	
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Surprises. Master crime novelist Michael Connelly's new novel is titled The Reversal, and reprises criminal defense attorney Mickey Haller and detective Harry Bosch, his half-brother. These quirky and competent characters could bear the full burden of the novel, but Connelly supports them with a well-constructed plot that kept me engaged from beginning to end, with enough surprises to add to the overall entertainment. Haller agrees to an unusual proposal from the D.A. that he sign up as a special prosecutor for the retrial of an old case. Haller reluctantly agrees, and enlists his ex-wife as co-counsel and Bosch as investigator. All the family and relationship issues provide added enjoyment for Connelly fans, and the teenagers provide enough background to draw out more balanced dimensions from the hardworking main characters. Readers who like crime fiction are likely to find reading pleasure from this novel.

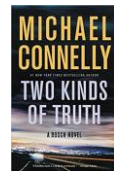
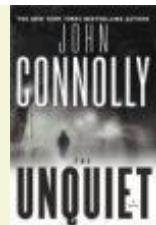

The Reversal

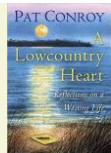
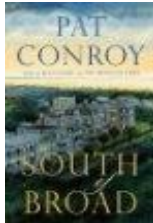
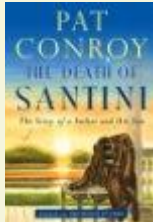
Connelly, Michael

11/27/10



<u>The Wrong Side of Goodbye</u>	Connelly, Michael	****	<u>11/27/16</u>	Heir. I raced through the four hundred pages of the 19 th Harry Bosch novel by Michael Connelly titled, <u>The Wrong Side of Goodbye</u> . The plot alternates between two story lines. In one line, Harry is working as a private detective and has been retained by a billionaire to find an heir. In another line, Harry's part-time work as an unpaid detective for the San Fernando PD uses all his skills to track down a serial rapist. Connelly continues to develop Harry and uses this novel to connect the	
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				<p>Bosch of today back to his experiences in Vietnam. Both plot lines were entertaining and the mature Bosch gets better with every installment. Fans will be thrilled with the latest novel, and any new reader can start here and find a whole new series to love.</p> <p>Fresh. Sometimes when I'm reading serial fiction, I get the feeling that I've already read the novel. With caution, I opened the twentieth installment in the Harry Bosch series by Michael Connelly, a novel titled, <u>Two Kinds of Truth</u>. I was delighted that even after so many previous novels, Connelly is able to put our familiar Harry in fresh situations and experience new things so that not once did I have the feeling that I had already read this novel. The old detective goes undercover in this novel. At the same time, his half-brother, Mickey Haller, prepares to defend Harry against a claim that Harry planted evidence to secure a conviction on an old case. Harry and Mickey get to the truth in different ways. Fans of the series will enjoy spending more time with these familiar characters and with an engaging plot.</p>	
<u>Two Kinds of Truth</u>	Connelly, Michael	****	<u>12/19/17</u>		
The Unquiet	Connolly, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Mr. Blue	Connolly, Myles	**		Read, but not reviewed.	

<u>A Lowcountry Heart</u>	Conroy, Pat	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>South of Broad</u>	Conroy, Pat	***	<u>11/25/09</u>	<p>Fate. Pat Conroy's first novel in fourteen years, <u>South of Broad</u>, is a sweeping love story of Charleston, South Carolina. The large cast of wounded and hurt characters are bound together by friendship, marriage, and fate. Conroy's lyrical writing delivers passion about people and place, and kept me engaged in their lives from the first page through the last. I often find novels over three hundred pages in length to become bloated, but with <u>South of Broad</u>, Conroy uses over 500 pages with care, needing each page to bring the people and places to life. The social issues Conroy covers on these pages are done with courage and empathy. There's a depth to each character, and a backstory that added to my appreciation of this novel. Like most good novels, <u>South of Broad</u> grabbed me, and wouldn't let me go until I surrendered myself to Conroy's world.</p>	
<u>The Death of Santini: The Story of a Father and His Son</u>	Conroy, Pat	***	<u>11/19/13</u>	<p>Therapy. It's pretty clear to any casual reader of Pat Conroy's books that he had a tumultuous relationship with his father, Don, also known as The Great Santini, whom Pat featured in an earlier book that also became a movie. Conroy's latest book, <u>The Death of Santini</u>, reflects on the full range of their relationship from Pat's childhood to Don's death. I came away from this memoir with a sense that it was the product of hundreds of hours of therapy. I was reminded that each of us brings a point of view to all our relationships; siblings can seem to have had different childhoods because of one's unique perceptions of what happened, what it meant, and how one felt. For any reader who enjoys great storytelling, this memoir presents a well-told</p>	

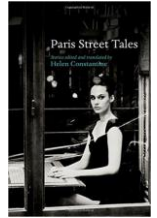
				story of a powerful relationship from one point of view. While I enjoyed the writing, I could have done without this recap of the dynamics of yet another dysfunctional family. Read a sample before deciding if this is a memoir that you're likely to enjoy reading.	
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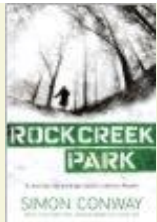
[Paris Street Tales](#)

Constantine, Helen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



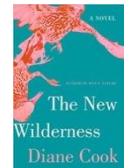
Rock Creek Park	Conway, Simon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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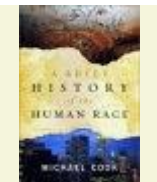
[The New Wilderness](#)

Cook, Diane

[12/21/20](#)

Experiment. Diane Cook's ambitious debut novel titled, [The New Wilderness](#), taps into themes that will satisfy many readers. We enjoy the dynamics of a complicated mother-daughter relationship in protagonists Bea and Agnes. We explore the challenges of life in a not-too-distant future when an unhealthy urban environment leads Bea, Agnes and a group of eighteen fellow nomads to live in the wilderness as an approved experiment to learn if community survival can be achieved through this way of living. Cook examines power, survival and coming of age within an engaging and imaginative plot filled with interesting and complex characters.



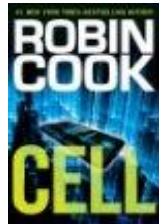
A Brief History of the Human Race	Cook, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
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[Cell](#)

Cook, Robin

[3/7/14](#)

Glitch. There's a central idea at the core of the latest medical thriller by Robin Cook titled, [Cell](#). What would happen if we used smartphones and artificial intelligence software to provide improved healthcare? Cook presents iDoc, a smartphone app that provides patients with 24/7 monitoring along with the capability to interact with a digital physician avatar created by the user. What if there is a glitch? What could possibly go wrong? Protagonist George Wilson, a radiology resident reprised from earlier novels, stumbles over mishaps from iDoc and risks his career to investigate what is happening. The dialogue is clunky as usual with Cook, and the prose can be tedious, but the idea and the action here offset those flaws, more in this novel than in many of his earlier books. Read a sample, and if you can be patient with the prose, chances are you'll like reading this entertaining and frightening story about a possible future of healthcare.

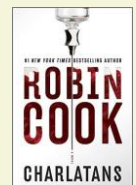


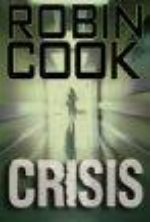
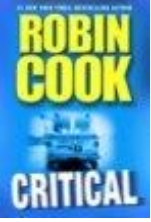
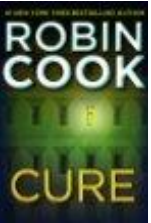

[Charlatans](#)

Cook, Robin

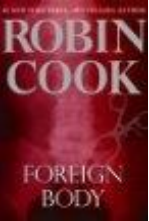
[9/18/17](#)

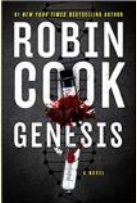
Fake. The protagonist of Robin Cook's novel, [Charlatans](#), is one of those characters to whom readers want to shout some warning as he is about to do something stupid again. Noah Rothausser may be a smart chief resident but he become clueless and gullible so often, it became something of a distraction to the thrilling plot of the novel. As the title indicates, Cook is exploring fakery in this novel, and he does this in ways that seem pulled from the headlines. This is a quick novel to read, and it will entertain those readers who like thrillers and can overlook some problems in plot and character development.




<u>Crisis</u>	Cook, Robin	**	<u>Dec 06</u>	Crisis. Reprised characters explore malpractice and concierge medicine in slow paced courtroom medical drama. Somewhat entertaining escape novel.	
<u>Critical</u>	Cook, Robin	**	<u>Dec 07</u>	Specialty. Cook reprises medical examiners Laurie Montgomery and Jack Stapleton, centers the action on the spread of infections among specialty hospitals, and adds a dose of corporate corruption.	
<u>Cure</u>	Cook, Robin	**	<u>10/8/11</u>	Mob. Robin Cook's novel, <u>Cure</u> , has three elements that might appeal to fans: the return of protagonists Laurie Montgomery and Jack Stapleton; an interesting crime uncovered by forensic medicine; and a passionate expression of a point of view about health care. The burden on readers to achieve satisfaction is to plow through four hundred pages of weak writing. I found myself intrigued by Cook's description of Japanese mobsters. Laurie and Jack are quirky and interesting characters, but their dialogue often falls flat. Most readers will find better books than this to bring reading pleasure. Serial readers like me will put up with weak writing in exchange for a decent story and familiar characters.	
<u>Death Benefit</u>	Cook, Robin	***	<u>2/17/12</u>	Organs. It's been a long time since I finished reading a Robin Cook medical thriller without being annoyed. Perhaps I've set the bar too low, but I felt pretty good when I finished <u>Death Benefit</u> and concluded that Cook entertained me. The protagonist, Pia Grazdani is a beautiful and smart medical student who is still damaged from a troubled childhood. Her mentor's research lab has made a breakthrough in stem cells that shows	

				promise in providing patients with replacement organs. Not everybody is pleased, and the behavior of hedge fund villains and the Albanian mob spice up the plot. Recurring characters Laurie Montgomery and Jack Stapleton make their appearance very late in this novel, and that seemed just right. Readers who like medical thrillers and can overlook some clunky writing are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
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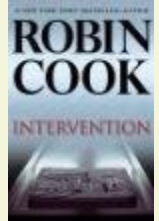
<u>Foreign Body</u>	Cook, Robin	***	<u>Dec 08</u>	Deal. Prolific author applies usual formula to the subject of medical tourism, and presents poorly developed characters and a weak plot. Reprised characters from earlier novels save the day.	
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<u>Genesis</u>	Cook, Robin	***	<u>1/24/20</u>	Genealogy. The twelfth novel by Robin Cook to feature New York City medical examiners Laurie Montgomery and Jack Stapleton is titled, <u>Genesis</u> . As chief Medical Examiner, Laurie has her hands full, and in this installment, she has major personal issues to deal with as well. The theme in this novel involves the use of DNA and genealogical databases. Fans of medical thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.	
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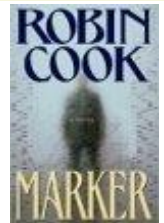
<u>Host</u>	Cook, Robin	***	<u>12/18/15</u>	Biologics. Fiction demands that readers suspend disbelief and surrender to the world and characters created by the author. This demand is stretched to the absolute limit in Robin Cook's latest medical thriller titled, <u>Host</u> . A pair of dopey medical students are the unlikely heroes in uncovering a major and implausible breach of medical ethics at a hospital center. Their curiosity leads into a medical world of the sleaziest criminal activity imaginable. Cook gets to educate readers a little about biologics in this novel, but the price a reader must pay to be	
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informed and entertained may be too high for most readers.

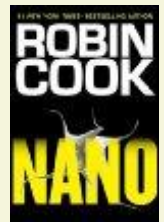
Soliloquies. When Robin Cook talks to himself in his novels, is anyone listening? His latest novel, Intervention, is filled with long explanations of what Cook is trying to convey, and the tedious dialogue to deliver his messages became overwhelmingly frustrating at times. On the positive side, the return of protagonists Jack Stapleton and Laurie Montgomery provided some entertainment. A trip to Rome added to the excitement, since Jack in New York can be more than a little manic. Readers who love medical thrillers may find some reading pleasure here, as will returning fans of Jack and Laurie. Other readers can find much better books to read.



Tedious. Over 500 pages of predictable exposition, unnecessary dialogue and political polemics. An average Cook offering that will appeal to fans, but may not be as thrilling as genre readers expect.



Reprise. I set myself up with low expectations for novels by Robin Cook. I usually pick one up after I've finished reading a more challenging book. I often find them as annoying as they are entertaining. I finished reading the latest, Nano, and felt less annoyed than usual and pleasantly entertained. Cook reprises a troubled protagonist, Pia Grazdani, from his earlier novel, *Death Benefit*, and changes the setting from her being a med student in New York, to her working at a nanotechnology company in the Rockies. The plot moves swiftly, characters develop narrowly, dialogue seems off, the technology is interesting, and I finished the book not long after I started it. Readers with the patience to move beyond some



Intervention

Cook, Robin

**

5/5/10

Marker

Cook, Robin

**

Sep 05

Nano

Cook, Robin

9/10/13

				<p>flaws are those who are most likely to be entertained by this novel.</p> <p>Plodding. Readers who enjoy medical thrillers might be satisfied with Robin Cook's novel titled, <u>Pandemic</u>. If you've heard anything about gene modification using CRISPR/CAS9, this is the book for you. Frequent Cook protagonists Jack Stapleton and Laurie Montgomery are reprised in this book and their relationship has become rocky since Laurie became Jack's boss at work. My expectations of recent Cook novels have been low, and this installment gave me the exact level of entertainment I expected.</p>	
<u>Pandemic</u>	Cook, Robin	***	<u>2/8/19</u>		
<u>Seizure</u>	Cook, Robin	*	<u>Sep 03</u>	<p>Slippery Slope. Unethical medical behavior leads to major crimes and punishment. Poor writing overall, with weak dialogue, predictable plot, and shallow character motivation.</p>	
<u>Amor and Psycho</u>	Cooke, Carolyn	***	<u>6/11/14</u>	<p>Passion. There are eleven short stories in the collection by Carolyn Cooke titled for one of them, <u>Amor and Psycho</u>. I spread my reading of this collection out, selecting one story about every two weeks. I enjoyed Cooke's wit and the way she can twist a phrase to pack as much passion as possible into a few of just the right words. Life and death are side by side in these stories, and passion and physical decline coexist. Readers who like literary fiction and the short story genre are those most likely to enjoy this collection.</p>	
Daughters of the Revolution	Cooke, Carolyn	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	

When
Corruption Was
King

Cooley, Robert

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



Dispatches
From the Edge

Cooper,
Anderson

Sept 06

Precipice. CNN reporter's memoir focuses on war, disaster and survival, as seen through the sharp pain that formed his character from the premature death of his father to the suicide of his older brother.



The Bill From
My Father

Cooper, Bernard

Apr 06

Approval. No matter what relationship you have had with your own father, this memoir will tell you about unusual lives and extraordinary behavior that would never be believed in a novel.



The Last Word:
Reviving the
Dying Art of
Eulogy

Cooper, Julia

2/9/18

Grief. Julia Cooper has written an odd little book titled, The Last Word: Reviving the Dying Art of Eulogy. She reflects on her own loss and grief while observing the rituals of death, especially the eulogy. Often packed with clichés, the eulogy comes so quickly after a loss that grief has not been present long enough to provide the perspective necessary to describe a life lost and to come to some understanding of our sorrow. Her writing in this book is lively and playful and will be of interest to anyone who expects to deliver a eulogy or to listen to one.

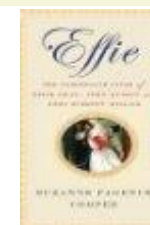


Effie: The
Passionate Lives
of Effie Gray,
John Ruskin
and John
Everett Millais

Cooper, Suzanne
Fagence


Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2012.



Florida Man	Cooper, Tom	*****	10/27/20	<p>Crowe. The two words in the titled of Tom Cooper's novel titled, Florida Man, tell you what this book is all about. First is the place, Florida, more specifically Emerald Island, in the central swampy part of the state. Second, a man, protagonist Reed Crowe, who we see from the 1960s to the present, but mostly in the 1980s. Supporting the setting are the businesses Crowe has on Emerald Island: a motel and an attraction featuring amusement and animals. A broader cast of characters are all well described, bringing humor, love and terror in various doses. All of the characters orbit around Crowe, and he is the Florida man in all its eccentric magnificence for those readers who enjoy imaginative character-based fiction.</p>	
The Marauders	Cooper, Tom	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Going for a Beer	Coover, Robert	*****	4/23/18	<p>Range. I spent a delightful month reading one short story a day from a collection of thirty stories by Robert Coover, titled after one of the very fine ones, Going for a Beer. Coover's range is on full display in this collection which supports the perspective of many critics that Coover is a master craftsman in this genre. No subject is too small or too large for Coover to give a take on it that will surprise and interest most readers, with or without the support of a beer or two.</p>	
Huck Out West	Coover, Robert	*****	5/3/17	<p>Pards. When I was a teenager reading <i>Huck Finn</i>, the dialect conflicted so much with my Brooklyn patois that I struggled with understanding lots of sentences in the novel. The dialect in Robert Coover's novel titled, Huck Out West, rang true to the original as Coover presents to readers an adventure set up by Twain: to escape civilization</p>	

and head West. I re-read the original Twain before opening this sequel, and the refresher prepared me for the dialogue and the potential next steps for the renowned cast of characters. Both novels are stories about friendship, pards, as they would say in Coover's version. The original is a great novel, and Coover's sequel will entertain many readers who love these characters, that time period, and the sheer adventure.

<u>The Orchardist</u>	Coplin, Amanda	****	<u>10/29/12</u>	<p>Fruitful. <u>The Orchardist</u> is a finely written debut novel by Amanda Coplin. Set in the Wenatchee Valley area of Washington at the turn of the twentieth century, this novel excels in many ways. The characters are vividly drawn and the love and caring they express in the face of pain and turmoil maintains an emotional authenticity that could have crossed into melodrama, but never did. The setting and time period come alive through carefully chosen descriptive language that was often poetic. Coplin accomplishes something a debut novelist often misses: she helps readers care deeply for these characters and feel moved by what happens in their lives. We look to fiction to help us understand human nature more fully. Readers who want to spend time in that pursuit will find reading this novel to be a fruitful experience.</p>	
<u>Crofton's Fire</u>	Coplin, Keith	***	<u>Aug 04</u>	<p>Hero. Fans of historical fiction will appreciate this debut novel from 60 year old author, and the portrait of an American soldier in the 1870s. A satisfying story.</p>	
Alice: Alice Roosevelt Longworth, American Princess and	Cordery, Stacy A.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	

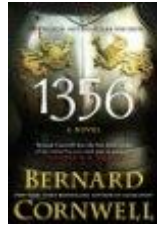
Washington
Power Broker

[1356](#)

Cornwell,
Bernard

[9/10/13](#)

Bloody. If your taste in historical fiction tends to favor bloody battles, Bernard Cornwell's [1356](#) is the novel for you. Packed with lively action, Cornwell relates the Battle of Poitiers, in which the outnumbered English overcame the French army and captured both the city and the king. If you have an appetite for more than 400 pages of action-packed violence, be sure to read this one.



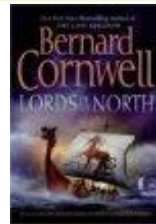




[Agincourt](#)

Cornwell,
Bernard

[2/14/09](#)

Violence. There were times during my reading of Bernard Cornwell's [Agincourt](#) that I had to put the book down, close my eyes and try to remove the images of violence and bloodshed from my mind. Cornwell does what good writers of historical fiction attempt: transport readers into the time and place while maintain much historical accuracy, and add fictional characters and dialogue that brings history to life in the form of the impact of major events on ordinary lives. In this case, most readers already know from Shakespeare or elsewhere what happened in this battle in France in October 1415. Cornwell leads readers into the battle with a few hundred pages of buildup that sets a context and presents characters that make the novel a story of people as much as the event itself. [Agincourt's](#) protagonist is Nick Hook, a perfect English name (one can almost hear Rowan Atkinson pronouncing it with heavy emphasis on that "k" consonant). Nick is a talented archer at a time when England's archers delivered mass destruction to the enemies of King Henry V. Nick becomes an outlaw after a long family feud leads to trouble at home. He runs away and is taken under the wing of a warrior-lord who prizes Nick's skills. Nick's exploits include his rescue of the bastard daughter of a French lord from being raped in the convent where she is a



				novice nun. The battle scenes are bloody, the violence almost constant, and the pace of the story brisk. The 460 pages turned rapidly, interrupted only when I needed to cleanse my brain from all the violence.	
Lords of the North	Cornwell, Bernard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Sharpe's Escape: Spain and Portugal, 1810</u>	Cornwell, Bernard	***	<u>Aug 04</u>	Indomitable. 20 th novel featuring Captain Richard Sharpe rewards readers with the reprise of familiar characters and the introduction of new heroes and villains, while Sharpe behaves as expected: impulsive, imprudent and successful. Enjoy.	
The Burning Land	Cornwell, Bernard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The Last Kingdom	Cornwell, Bernard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>War of the Wolf</u>	Cornwell, Bernard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

<u>Guillotine</u>	Corral, Eduardo C.	****	<u>11/17/20</u>	<p>Body. I selected Eduardo Corral's poetry collection titled, <u>Guillotine</u>, from the longlist of the 2020 National Book Award for Poetry. His descriptions of the Sonoran Desert, tragedy, and grief are breathtaking. He selects words that form the body and presents the human condition with poignant insight. I realized after spending time with this collection that I just don't read enough poetry and will continue to add more poems to my reading queue.</p>	
<u>Leave Me Alone, I'm Reading</u>	Corrigan, Maureen	***	<u>Mar 06</u>	<p>Transported. Memoir of author's life as a reader, by popular book reviewer from NPR's <i>Fresh Air</i>. Her insight into how books have shaped and changed her will resonate with readers.</p>	
<u>So We Read On: How The Great Gatsby Came to Be and Why It Endures</u>	Corrigan, Maureen	****	<u>12/4/15</u>	<p>Enthusiasm. I set aside Maureen Corrigan's book about <i>The Great Gatsby</i> titled, <u>So We Read On</u>, while I dug up an old copy of Fitzgerald's novel. I decided to read the novel again as a refresher, since I last read it fifty years ago. After some procrastination, I ended up reading <i>Gatsby</i> in an afternoon, after which I picked up Corrigan's book. Her enthusiasm for the book comes across powerfully, and her skill as a teacher transcends the classroom and enlivens the printed page. Having read her loving account of this favorite novel, I decided to give Fitzgerald one more reading before I set the novel aside. I was more enthusiastic having had Corrigan's love rub off on me.</p>	

The Zen of Fish Corson, Trevor Unread Shelf of Ennui 2007

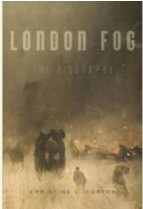


[London Fog:
The Biography](#)

Corton, Christine
L.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

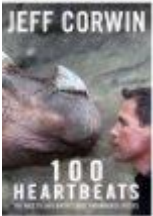


[100 Heartbeats:
The Race to
Save Earth's
Most
Endangered
Species](#)

Corwin, Jeff

[9/19/09](#)

Survival. Jeff Corwin's new book, [100 Heartbeats:
The Race to Save Earth's Most Endangered Species](#), is a plea for us all to do the right thing and save those animals that are closest to extinction. He describes the plight of several species that face habitat erosion, poaching, invasive predators and other severe threats to survival. Readers who love animals will feel great sadness from some of his stories in [100 Heartbeats](#). Corwin also notes several successful efforts to help species survive. After presenting his vivid examples of the problem, he concludes with the realistic assessment that we face a matter of resource allocation, and that the costs of species conservation are small in relation to other problems that receive significant resources. His argument never quite convinced me, inclined though I am toward conservation. He did help me realize that what we do to reverse global warming will help those animals whose habitat is threatened by that problem. I'm just not convinced that the priority he expects to address the problem of extinction can be achieved given the multiple challenges demanding resources around the world.



Cosbyology: Essays and Other Observations from the Doctor of Comedy	Cosby, Bill	**	Jan 02	Cosby gets it right on many pages in this book. It's an entertaining hour's reading. If you're looking for Cosby's best, look elsewhere; this little book is amusing, but not gut splitting.	
I Am What I Ate ... and I'm Frightened!! : and Other Digressions from the Doctor of Comedy	Cosby, Bill	**	Dec 03	Yummy. Savor a funny exploration of the joys and sorrows of eating, especially everything that's not good for you. Readers can almost hear Cosby's voice and pacing of the text.	
Blacktop Wasteland	Cosby, S.A.	****	12/17/20	Bug. One of my favorite protagonists among the many books I've read in 2020 is Beauregard "Bug" Montage in S.A. Cosby's novel titled, Blacktop Wasteland . Bug is a talented auto mechanic, and he knows how to drive cars fast. Abandoned by his criminal father, Bug strayed for a while when he served as a wheelman in crimes. He now owns his own business and has a loving wife and children. Financial constraints lead to temptation, and the novel explores the tension with Bug as he's caught between the man he wants to be, and the identity he feels with his missing father who chose crime over family many years before. Cosby draws Bug as a complex character and readers will feel the tension as Bug tries to become the man he was born to be.	


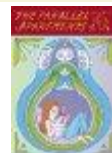
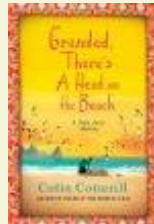
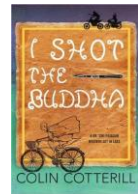
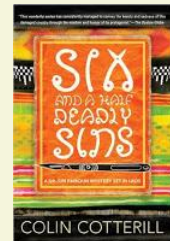
Academy Street


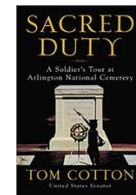
Costello, Mary

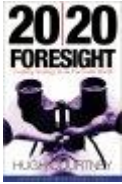
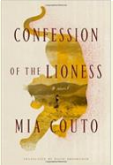
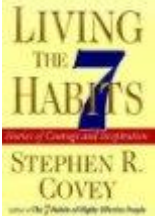

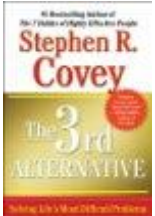
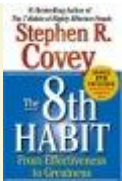
Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



<u>Halsey Street</u>	Coster, Naima	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>The Parallel Apartments</u>	Cotter, Bill	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Grandad, There's a Head on the Beach</u>	Cotterill, Colin	****	<u>3/16/13</u>	Spunky. I admit it was the title, <u>Grandad, There's a Head on the Beach</u> , that led me to the latest novel from Colin Cotterill, a novelist I had not read before. What I found inside was a spunky protagonist, Jimm Jurree, whose slapstick actions provided ongoing mild humor. Beneath this façade of this comedy set in Thailand, Cotterill increases the awareness of readers of the plight of refugees from Burma. This juxtaposition of a serious social issue with comedy may be jarring to some readers, but I found that I appreciated the way in which Cotterill made this work.	
<u>I Shot the Buddha</u>	Cotterill, Colin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>Six and a Half Deadly Sins</u>	Cotterill, Colin	***	<u>1/10/17</u>	Lured. The tenth novel in Colin Cotterill's Dr. Siri Paiboun mystery series is titled, <u>Six and a Half Deadly Sins</u> . This time out, Siri receives a package in the mail: a <i>pha sin</i> , which is a traditional skirt. In the <i>sin's</i> lining, Siri finds a severed human finger. Convinced that he has received a message that he needs to figure out, Siri heads to the north of Laos and into the middle of violence. Lured into a deadly scavenger hunt, Siri and his friends take loyal	

				<p>readers on a delightful journey packed with clues at every stop.</p> <p>Malaprop. The third novel in the series by Colin Cotterill to feature Jimm Juree is titled, <u>The Axe Factor</u>. Readers who enjoy light fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series. Jimm and her quirky family have left Chiang Mai for a small village in Southern Thailand. She gets an assignment to interview a local crime writer who is splitting watermelon with an axe when she meets him. The serious subject in one part of the novel calls attention to how poor mothers rely on formula instead of breastfeeding and how that leads to some bad outcomes. I found the great wit in the novel came from the headings for many chapters with signs that have been translated with the fine art of malapropism.</p>	
<u>The Axe Factor</u>	Cotterill, Colin	***	<u>6/18/14</u>		
<u>The Rat Catchers' Olympics</u>	Cotterill, Colin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington National Cemetery</u>	Cotton, Tom	****	<u>12/16/19</u>	<p>Honor. Fed up with partisan politics? Take a busman's holiday with a non-partisan book by partisan politician Tom Cotton titled, <u>Sacred Duty: A Soldier's Tour at Arlington National Cemetery</u>. Cotton tells us about the revered U.S. Army unit known as "The Old Guard," and the work they do to honor soldiers. During a time period when respect seems scarce, it was a respite to read this account of the honor shown to fallen soldiers.</p>	
Demonic: How the Liberal Mob Is Endangering America	Coulter, Ann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	

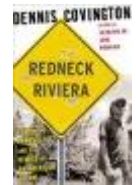
<u>20/20 Foresight: Crafting Strategy in an Uncertain World</u>	Courtney, Hugh	****	<u>Jan 02</u>	McKinsey and Company consultant Hugh Courtney proposes ways to develop strategy within a context of four levels of uncertainty. He presents approaches to answering five key questions.	
<u>Confession of the Lioness</u>	Couto, Mia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Living the 7 Habits: Stories of Courage and Inspiration</u>	Covey, Stephen	DNR	<u>5/00</u>	Vapid anecdotes that lack context. Take a pass on this book and Covey in general. Do what works for you.	
The SPEED of Trust	Covey, Stephen M.R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The 3rd Alternative: Solving Life's Most Difficult Problems	Covey, Stephen R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The 8th Habit : From Effectiveness to Greatness	Covey, Stephen R.			Shelf of Reproach 2005	

Redneck
Riviera:
Armadillos,
Outlaws, and
the Demise of
an American
Dream

Covington,
Dennis

Oct 04

Scammed. Strange and true story of how Covington's father bought Florida swampland, how the neighbors used the land for a hunt club, and when author inherited land, all that he did to retake possession.

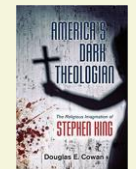


America's Dark
Theologian: The
Religious
Imagination of
Stephen King

Cowan, Douglas
E.

11/9/19

Questions. Any Stephen King fan who has noted the religious imagery and themes in his writing should consider reading Douglas Cowen's book titled, America's Dark Theologian. Cowan explores all the core questions that King raises in his writing. This invitation to questioning is prevalent throughout King's writing, and he is always skeptical about those who purport to have the answers to life's big questions. Readers who may not know why we love horror may come away from this book with greater understanding.

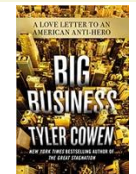


Big Business: A
Love Letter to
an American
Anti-hero

Cowan, Tyler

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

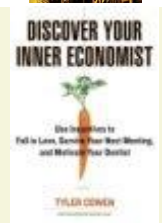


Discover Your
Inner
Economist

Cowan, Tyler

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



An Economist
Gets Lunch:
New Rules for
Everyday
Foodies


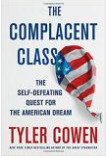


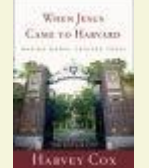
Cowan, Tyler

6/15/12

Quirky. Both economists and foodies may be left hungry after reading Tyler Cowen's book, An Economist Gets Lunch: New Rules for Everyday Foodies. It is through the lens of an economist that Cowen does one of his favorite things: eat well. He makes a passionate case for good, cheap food. Some fellow economists may view that food is always priced accurately based on market factors. Some



foodies would never consider eating at some of the strip mall places Cowen prefers. For those readers who are neither foodies nor economists, this is a quick book to read, in the style of *Freakonomics*, and Cowen's writing style is often highly entertaining.

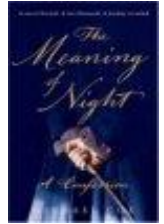
<u>Average Is Over: Powering America Beyond the Age of the Great Stagnation</u>	Cowen, Tyler	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>The Complacent Class</u>	Cowen, Tyler	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>Dog Days</u>	Cox, Ana Marie	*	<u>Mar 06</u>	Wonked. Debut novel with some humor by the writer of the wonkette blog, covers Washington politics and a presidential campaign, presenting characters and situations readers will care not a whit about.	
The Future of Faith	Cox, Harvey	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
When Jesus came to Harvard : making moral choices today	Cox, Harvey Gallagher	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

The Meaning of Night: A Confession

Cox, Michael

June 08

Dark. Debut novel by expert on popular 19th century fiction presents just that: a dark tale of good and evil set in mid-19th century England, with a cast beset with secrets and a heavy dose of murder.

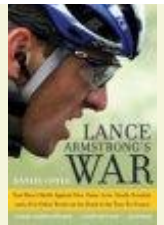


Lance Armstrong's War

Coyle, Daniel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



All That Follows

Crace, Jim

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

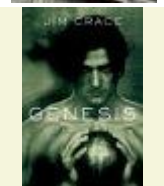


Genesis

Crace, Jim

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004

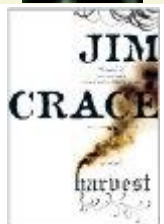


Harvest

Crace, Jim

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

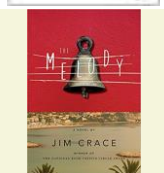


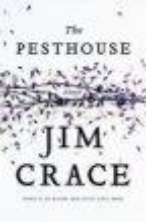
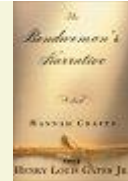


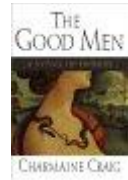
The Melody

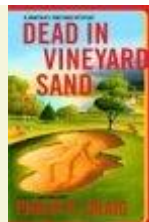
Crace, Jim

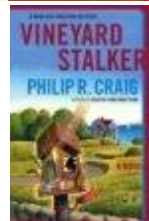
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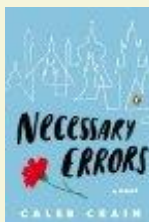
Shelf of Ennui 2019.

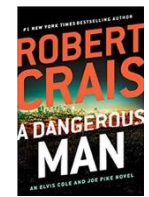


<u>The Pesthouse</u>	Crace, Jim	***	<u>Nov 07</u>	Refuge. Finely written novel set in America in the distant future which seems more medieval than technological. Some characters look to leave America for a better place, while others find ways to overcome all odds and thrive.	
<u>The Bondwoman's Narrative</u>	Crafts, Hannah	**	<u>Sep 02</u>	Proposed by Professor Henry Louis Gates, Jr. as the first novel written by a black woman. Female slave describes life from a point of view only another slave could know.	
<u>Love in Idleness</u>	Craig, Amanda	***	<u>Oct 03</u>	Dreamy. Reprise of Shakespeare's <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> using the form of an English extended family and friends on vacation in Tuscany, where all the magic happens. Clever and deft writing provides an amusing diversion.	
<u>Miss Burma</u>	Craig, Charmaine	****	<u>10/13/17</u>	Ethnicity. Persecuted ethnic minorities suffer around the world today and this situation has a long history. In her finely written novel titled, <u>Miss Burma</u> , Charmaine Craig takes readers into Burma and to the troubles of an ethnic minority, the Karin. Set over the past seventy or so years, we live with one family from life in a British colony through Japanese occupation during World War II and a bloody civil war thereafter. Readers who enjoy historical fiction and poignant family sagas are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.	
<u>The Good Men</u>	Craig, Charmaine	***	<u>Apr 02</u>	Absorbing and well-written first novel. Life in 14 th century rural France includes strong women, a sinful priest and a rigorous Inquisition.	

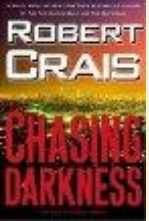
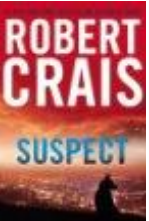
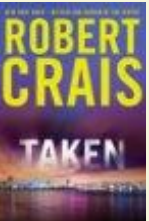
<u>Dead in Vineyard Sand</u>	Craig, Philip R.	**	<u>August 06</u>	Shallow. Seventeenth novel in series doesn't require much thinking and may appeal to vacationing readers and to those fans who find the protagonist believable.	
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Vineyard Stalker	Craig, Philip R.	**		Read and not reviewed.	
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<u>Necessary Errors</u>	Crain, Caleb	****	<u>6/11/14</u>	Prague. Jacob Putnam, the protagonist of Caleb Crain's debut novel, <u>Necessary Errors</u> , arrives in Prague in 1990. Jacob is on the brink of adulthood, and the city is ready for transformation from communism to capitalism. Crain lets readers slowly enter into the everyday nature of what life is like for Jacob at that time and in that place. While at times I became bored by the minutiae of the exposition, I always came back to the sense that I was seeing the situation unfold as would any newcomer to an unfamiliar setting. Over the course of the novel, both Jacob and the city both seem to be getting more of what they want. Readers who enjoy literary fiction and who can tolerate a lot of reading about "nothing" are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.	
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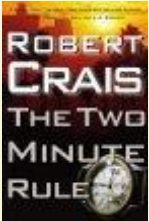
<u>A Dangerous Man</u>	Crais, Robert	****	<u>9/3/19</u>	Quick. The eighteenth Elvis Cole and Joe Pike novel by Robert Crais is titled, <u>A Dangerous Man</u> . After a routine bank transaction between teller Isabel Roland and Joe Pike, both their lives get complicated very fast. Joe watches Izzy get abducted from the sidewalk in front of the bank. It's no spoiler that Joe rescues Izzy, but what happens to the abductors and where the story leads will	
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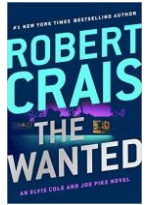
delight those readers who like character-driven crime fiction. The plot moves fast, and the action seems constant. What could be dramatic in other lives becomes just another case for Joe and Elvis.

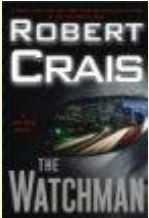
<u>Chasing Darkness</u>	Crais, Robert	***	<u>Sep 08</u>	<p>Madness. Elvis Cole broods that his prior investigation could have freed a killer to take more lives. He follows every lead to get to the bottom of crimes that were committed by someone overwhelmed by darkness.</p>	
<u>Suspect</u>	Crais, Robert	****	<u>2/22/13</u>	<p>Dog. Robert Crais leaves behind the familiar characters from his previous novel, and offers readers a four-legged protagonist in his latest novel, <u>Suspect</u>. Maggie is a German shepherd who suffers from PTSD following three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and the death of her handler from an IED explosion. Maggie's new pack leader is LAPD officer Scott James who also suffers from PTSD following the death of his partner and his own injuries. Crais engages readers quickly in the story of Maggie and Scott, and along the way explores all levels of "suspect." Maggie is a good dog, and Scott is a good guy, and most readers will come away from this story feeling pretty good. I know I did.</p>	
<u>Taken</u>	Crais, Robert	***	<u>3/19/12</u>	<p>Trafficking. Robert Crais sets his latest Elvis Cole and Joe Pike novel on the Mexican border and uses the current headline issue of human trafficking as the backdrop for the fast-paced action in <u>Taken</u>. Crais moves us backward and forward in time from the perspective of multiple characters, and that device increases the tension a reader feels. A young woman and her boyfriend are kidnapped, and the woman's mother hires the man she read about as "the world's greatest detective," Elvis Cole, to find her. Elvis asks Joe Pike to protect his back, and things get more than a little complicated when plans don't turn out as expected. Fans of action</p>	

				thrillers or this particular series are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<u>The First Rule</u>	Crais, Robert	***	<u>2/12/10</u>	<p>Justice. Protagonist Joe Pike takes center stage in Robert Crais' second novel to feature him titled, <u>The First Rule</u>. Pike's cool and competent demeanor is put to the test when one of his guys is murdered. You don't let one of your guys down, so Joe, always faithful, doggedly pursues the murderer in a page-turning thriller that deepens Pike's character development just a little more than the previous book and in the Elvis Cole novels that included Pike as a character. Always a tough guy, Pike is aided in this novel by a supporting cast of heroes and villains that will delight those readers who love the achievement of justice even outside the system. Crais' writing can often be clumsy, but plot and character offset any weaknesses in <u>The First Rule</u>. Any reader looking for a few hours of escapist entertainment will find pleasure from reading <u>The First Rule</u>.</p>	
<u>The Promise</u>	Crais, Robert	****	<u>12/18/15</u>	<p>Maggie. Protagonists Elvis Cole and Joe Pike take second billing in a novel by Robert Crais titled, <u>The Promise</u>. The hero of the novel is a dog named Maggie. Along with her LAPD K-9 officer Scott James, Maggie takes center stage in this entertaining crime novel in which the good guys tackle a villain who presents himself as a very worthy adversary. Readers who like crime fiction, especially dog lovers, are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>The Sentry</u>	Crais, Robert	***	<u>2/11/11</u>	<p>Adversaries. The crime fiction from Robert Crais usually provides lots of action pitting a better-than-real hero against a very evil villain. In <u>The Sentry</u>, Crais reprises two protagonists from earlier novels, Joe Pike and Elvis Cole, and pits good against evil in dramatic ways. Murders and mayhem provide the backdrop for Joe and Elvis to perform heroic</p>	

acts, and a very competent killer provides Pike with a very worthy adversary. The prose is clunky at times, but the action never falters, and the characters remain true to the behaviors that readers have come to expect. Whether a fan or new reader, anyone who finds crime fiction entertaining will get some thrills from this novel.

The Two Minute Rule	Crais, Robert	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
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The Wanted	Crais, Robert	****	1/23/18	<p>Pursuit. If I've counted correctly, The Wanted is the seventeenth novel by Robert Crais to feature private detective Elvis Cole and his talented sidekick, Joe Pike. After Cole is hired by a concerned mom to find out where her son may be getting cash, Elvis stumbles into burglaries and then murders. It doesn't take us long to learn that the wrong thing was stolen from the wrong person. The pursuit in finding the lost item and certain individuals keeps the action moving quickly from beginning to end. Fans of character-driven crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
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The Watchman: A Joe Pike Novel	Crais, Robert	***	June 07	<p>Protector. In this fast-paced crime thriller, the sidekick from earlier novels takes center stage as he agrees to pay off an old debt by protecting an heiress from harm.</p>	
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Shop Class as
Soulcraft: An
Inquiry Into the
Value of Work

Crawford,
Matthew B.

8/18/09

Reliance. Matthew Crawford's new book, Shop Class as Soulcraft is a philosophical treatise calling for manual competence: the mastery of one's own stuff that can lead to happiness and fulfillment. Some frustrated cubicle workers will find hope on these pages, and those who work successfully with their hands may feel affirmation and recognition. We depend on one another in our connected world, and understanding the value of all kinds of work can be helpful as we exchange skills and talents with others. At its core, this book is a work of philosophy, and can be a bit plodding at times to make a point. In anyone's search for the good life, reading Shop Class as Soulcraft can be a useful way of thinking about what leads to satisfaction and joy. For some of us, it can be as simple as taking something apart and putting it back together.



Dragon Teeth

Crichton,
Michael

7/6/17

Paleontology. Sometime after Michael Crichton's 2008 death, his wife found an unfinished manuscript that the author worked on for about fifteen years. Readers and fans who miss Crichton will be those most interested in reading the novel titled, Dragon Teeth. Set in the late nineteenth century, the story is a fictional account of the real rivalry between two paleontologists of the time: Othniel Charles Marsh and Edwin Drinker Cope. Protagonist William Johnson is a student who worked for both paleontologists, and Crichton's story of a fossil hunt includes a cast of familiar characters of the Wild West of that time, especially in the town of Deadwood.

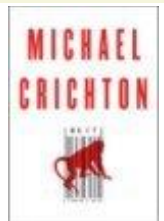


Next

Crichton,
Michael

Feb 07

Patented. Entertaining and thought provoking fiction about the exploitation of human genes. The author's note and bibliography will lead some readers to think there's more fact than fiction here. Perhaps there is.



<u>Pirate Latitudes</u>	Crichton, Michael	***	<u>1/16/10</u>	Escape. Thanks to the discovery of a completed manuscript, fans of the late Michael Crichton have another novel of his to read: <u>Pirate Latitudes</u> . Set in the late 17 th century, this novel is an action-packed romp around the Caribbean as protagonist Charles Hunter overcomes all odds, escapes peril at every turn, and makes friends as easily as he vanquishes enemies. The action is non-stop, the gore plentiful, and the plot twists frequent enough to keep the pages turning briskly. Any reader looking for entertaining escape fiction will find lots of pleasure in <u>Pirate Latitudes</u> .	
<u>Prey</u>	Crichton, Michael	***	<u>Feb 03</u>	Mechanical Plague. Typical weak dialogue and writing, but strong plot full of wildly creative ideas. Scary story of the merger of biology and technology. A quick read.	
<u>State of Fear</u>	Crichton, Michael	**	<u>Feb 05</u>	Manipulation. Fiction with footnotes in which scientists manipulate data to further personal interests, and Crichton notes how fears of global warming are misplaced according to scientific data.	
<u>Timeline</u>	Crichton, Michael	***		Crichton's blend of scientific speculation with a fast-moving plot makes for pleasurable reading. Recommended.	
<u>Micro</u>	Crichton, Michael and Richard Preston	**	<u>7/16/12</u>	Tedious. Buried inside the 400+ pages of <u>Micro</u> by Michael Crichton and Richard Preston, there's a 200 page fast-paced thriller. The challenge for readers is that the extra pages make it very tedious to read. There's the usual Crichton scientific framework providing the basis for the action: in this case, nanotechnology. There's a villain to make the plot interesting. Somehow the pace flagged	

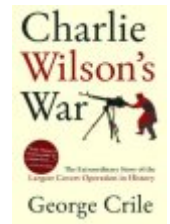
almost from the start, and I found myself caring less about what was happening, and just wanting to get it over with. Readers looking for something to help the time pass like during an airport delay, are those most likely to overlook the faults of this book and actually enjoy it. For most readers, this book will be tedious or annoying.

Charlie Wilson's War: The Extraordinary Story of the Largest Covert Operation in History

Crile, George

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009. Saw the movie and read most of the book.



Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World

Critser, Greg

**

Mar 03

First Circle of Fat Hell. A tedious and fascinating account of how we've gotten so fat, and why Earl Butz takes a lot of the blame. Some interesting case studies and a shocking view of the future.

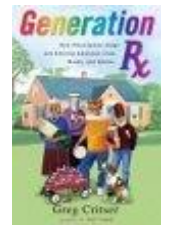


Generation Rx : How Prescription Drugs Are Altering American Lives, Minds, and Bodies

Critser, Greg

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



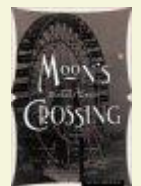
Moon's Crossing

Croft, Barbara

**

Sep 03

Spinning. Debut novel from short story writer spins together the life of Jim Moon with tales from the Civil War, his Iowa marriage, the way the World's Columbian Exposition captivated him, and how he died in New York. Lyrical, confusing at times, and replete with sub-plots that seem to go nowhere.



Consumed

Cronenberg,
David

Unread

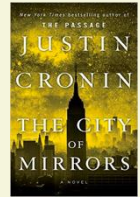
Shelf of Ennui 2015.


[The City of
Mirrors](#)

Cronin, Justin

[6/3/16](#)

Finale. I plowed through the final book of *The Passage* trilogy by Justin Cronin titled, [The City of Mirrors](#), within a few days of its release. Cronin brought the story to a very satisfying finale, both bringing forward the plot for a large group of familiar characters, and introducing some new and interesting characters. An added bonus is what amounts to a novel within the novel, about two hundred pages of the Fanning back story. That tidbit became critical in bringing the finale to its conclusion. Readers who like a big sprawling story for summer reading will enjoy this novel and this series.


[The Passage](#)

Cronin, Justin

[9/10/10](#)

Dystopia. Justin Cronin asks readers to stay with him on many journeys over almost 800 pages in his new novel, [The Passage](#). I remained on board for the entire trip, but felt by the end that the journey could have been shorter by at least half. The novel presents science run amok, as a virus creates mutants who destroy most of the population. A remnant of people escaped the virus, and it is their story of survival that consumes the energy of the book. The novel is absorbing and engaging, and Cronin's writing style kept me engaged, but for far longer than I would have wished. Readers with the patience to enjoy an 800-page novel may love this novel, but others may find the commitment too large for the value derived from the experience.


[The Summer
Guest](#)

Cronin, Justin

[Oct 04](#)

Restoration. Finest novel read so far this year. Six characters narrate current and past experiences at a fishing camp in rural Maine. Each character receives redemption or restoration from the caring love of another.

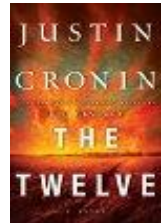


The Twelve

Cronin, Justin

10/26/12

Transition. The good news is that the second novel of Justin Cronin's trilogy, The Twelve, came in three hundred pages shorter than *The Passage* which opened the series. The bad news is that while you can read the current novel on its own, you'll understand the material far better if you pay the 800 page price of reading the first one. The other bad news is that Cronin needs to wrap up the story in an upcoming novel, and my guess is that the third novel will be a long one. So be careful, once you start, you're likely to endure to the end. This trilogy tells of a scientific experiment gone bad and what happened to people and cities. Cronin excels at character development, and both the good and bad ones are drawn with precision. The plot is complex and entertaining. Readers who like big sweeping books with dark themes are those most likely to enjoy this one.

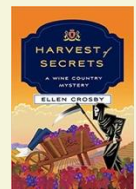


Harvest of Secrets

Crosby, Ellen

2/2/19

Workmanlike. The ninth installment in the Wine Country Mysteries series by Ellen Crosby is a novel titled, Harvest of Secrets. Protagonist Lucie Montgomery faces more than the usual challenges at her winery in Virginia at harvest time. A storm is coming before the grapes have ripened as far as desired; old human bones have been discovered just outside the family winery, and there's a murder to solve. While part of the structure of the novel is formulaic and the characters are often not fully formed, this novel will appeal to those readers who enjoy mysteries. I finished this book with the same kind of feeling I get after a glass of a moderately priced New Zealand Sauvignon Blanc: workmanlike, tastes exactly as expected, and not much complexity.

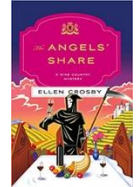


The Angels' Share

Crosby, Ellen

8/5/20

Madeira. The tenth wine country novel by Ellen Crosby is titled, The Angels' Share. Protagonist Lucie Montgomery finds herself in the center of the key events in this installment. She discovers the body of her neighbor in his wine cellar shortly after he told her he wanted to buy bottles of Madeira dating back to Presidents Jefferson and Madison that her father had acquired. While Lucie was the executor of her father's estate, she knew nothing about this Madeira. While she searches for the wine, her neighbor's death was ruled a homicide and the killer poses a serious threat to Lucie. Fans of this series and crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel. I finished the book with an interest in tracking down some old Madeira myself.



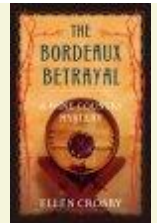
The Bordeaux Betrayal

Crosby, Ellen

**

Nov 08

Thirsty. A formulaic mystery novel that doesn't tax the mind much contains a likeable female protagonist. While this latest in a series went down better than the previous ones, readers will still thirst for better character development.

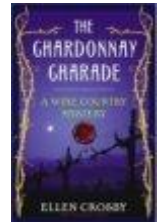


The Chardonnay Charade

Crosby, Ellen

**

Read, but not reviewed.

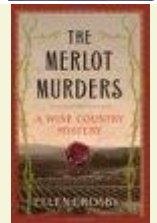


The Merlot Murders

Crosby, Ellen

**

Read, but not reviewed.



[The Sauvignon Secret](#)

Crosby, Ellen

[8/19/11](#)

Deception. Readers new to the Wine Country series as well as old friends can equally enjoy the mystery Ellen Crosby presents in [The Sauvignon Secret](#). Protagonist Lucie Montgomery is a Virginia winemaker and in this outing she tries to unravel deception and a cover-up following the discovery of a wine merchant found hanged not far from her vineyard. Lucie's grandfather is back along with her paramour, Quinn. They are following the mystery from Virginia to California and back trying to figure things out. This novel provides gentle and evenly paced entertainment, especially for those readers who like continuity of character in serial novels. One can pick up the story here and be satisfied, or go back and start from the beginning. Most will close this novel and look forward to the next installment.

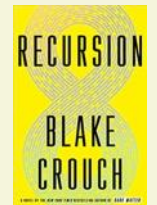


[Recursion](#)

Crouch, Blake

[7/26/19](#)

Memory. Science runs amok in Blake Crouch's novel titled, [Recursion](#). Using a common science fiction trope, Crouch explores the consequences of time shifting causing the erasure of memories. Many readers can anticipate what happens after false memory syndrome spreads in the populace. Without spoiling the thrilling plot, this is also the story of a hero saving the world from Armageddon. Readers who enjoy thrillers, whether with a sci-fi element or not, are those most likely to enjoy this fast-paced and entertaining novel.



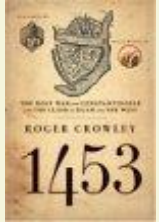


Younger next year : a guide to living like 50 until you're 80 and beyond

Crowley, Chris and Henry S. Lodge

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



1453: The Holy War for Constantinople and the Clash of Islam and the West	Crowley, Roger	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2006	
<u>Sweetland</u>	Crummey, Michael	*****	5/16/15	<p>Island. Sixty-nine-year-old Moses Sweetland lives on an island off Newfoundland named <i>Sweetland</i> by his ancestors who settled there. In Michael Crummey's finely written novel, <u>Sweetland</u>, readers are drawn into this person and this place. The tension in the novel comes from the decision by the government to pay to relocate the remaining residents of the slowly dying island, provided all agree. Moses and one other person have not agreed, creating conflict with their neighbors. The themes of community and isolation are presented, along with the depth of this fully formed character who reflects on his life in ways that will provide a complete picture of a complicated person who has lived a hard life, and who is willing to stand alone. Readers who enjoy well-written literary fiction are those who are most likely to be entertained by this novel.</p>	
<u>The Innocents</u>	Crummey, Michael	*****	3/26/20	<p>Isolation. I finished reading Michael Crummey's novel titled, <u>The Innocents</u>, on the day that the mayor of my town declared a shelter-in-place order to slow the spread of Covid-19. That context is helpful, considering that as a result of reading this novel, I had a positive view of the richness of life that can come even from isolation. In the novel, a brother and sister eke out ways of surviving in coastal Newfoundland where they live in primitive habitation far from other people. From the title, readers can expect that the isolation represents innocence on the part of these characters. I found the story riveting and well-told. Whether you are in</p>	

				isolation or not, you may be gripped by this story and how living for another day is rich in and of itself, whether your supplies are sufficient or running low.	
<u>Anatomy of Greed: The Unshredded Truth from an Enron Insider</u>	Cruver, Brian	**	<u>Nov 02</u>	Pinky's View. A coming of age story about a recent MBA and the year he spent at Enron as it died. Equivalent to a pinky's view of human anatomy, given Cruver's job level within Enron.	
<u>Still Foolin' 'Em: Where I've Been, Where I'm Going, and Where the Hell Are My Keys?</u>	Crystal, Billy	****	<u>11/18/13</u>	Entertaining. Readers looking for some laughs and light entertainment should consider reading Billy Crystal's memoir, <u>Still Foolin' 'Em: Where I've Been, Where I'm Going, and Where the Hell Are My Keys?</u> . Crystal is a master storyteller, and the personal and family stories in this book provide a great balance between the downright funny and the heartfelt and moving. If you're looking for an entertaining book for an airplane trip, consider this one. I zipped through this book on a trip and found myself smiling often and reflecting on the components of a life well-lived.	
<u>Good Business: Leadership, Flow and the Making of Meaning</u>	Csikszentmihalyi, Mihaly	**	<u>June 03</u>	White Hats. A respite from the business scandal books. From interviews with executives who've done a good job, we learn how business can be done well, and the hurdles that need to be overcome.	
<u>Brazillionaires: Wealth, Power, Decadence, and Hope in an American Country</u>	Cuadros, Alex	****	<u>10/10/16</u>	Olympic. My 2016 Olympics pre-reading was Alex Cuadros' finely written book titled, <u>Brazillionaires: Wealth, Power, Decadence, and Hope in an American Country</u> . The thrill of victory and the agony of defeat comes through loud and clear in this book, especially in relation to the rise and fall of Eike Batista. Any reader interested in Brazil will enjoy this finally written book.	

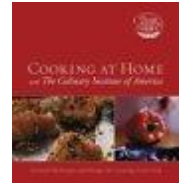
[Cooking at Home with the Culinary Institute of America](#)

Culinary
Institute of
America

*

[Dec 03](#)

Bland. Interesting photos and clear descriptions of basic cooking methods that may be helpful for kitchen novices. Boring recipes lead readers to want to eat out.



A Slight Trick of the Mind

Cullin, Mitch

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



[A Colder War](#)

Cumming,
Charles

[9/6/14](#)

Mole. Fans of spy fiction should be satisfied after reading Charles Cumming's latest novel, [A Colder War](#). Protagonist Tom Kell (introduced in an earlier novel) took the fall in a torture scandal and his reputation as an MI6 agent has been damaged. When the head of station in Turkey is found dead, Amanda Levene, the head of MI6, suspects there may be a mole wreaking havoc on espionage operations in that part of the world. Levene recruits Kell to try to get to the bottom of things, which are complicated by the fact that the dead spy was her lover. I enjoyed character exposition and development, plot momentum and the interesting details of espionage. I was entertained by this novel and my attention remained focused throughout the book.

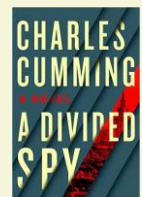


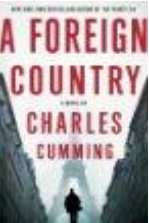
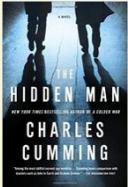

[A Divided Spy](#)

Cumming,
Charles

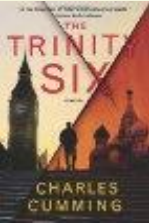
[3/14/17](#)

Weary. The third spy novel by Charles Cumming to feature MI6 agent Thomas Kell is titled, [A Divided Spy](#). Fans of the series will understand why Tom seems weary over the course of the latest novel: his twenty years as a spy have been a roller coaster of highs and lows, going from hero to goat. Tom is disillusioned and distraught and grieving over a personal loss. In the latest novel he is drawn back into the action and breaks out of his lethargy. The pace of the novel is quick, the prose well-written, and the continued development of a



				<p>complex character will reward those readers who enjoy character driven fiction.</p> <p>Imaginative. Post-cold war spy novels can lack the tension that follows from the large scale deceptions that superpowers wrought on each other. Charles Cumming skillfully recreates that tension on a smaller scale in his finely written novel, A Foreign Country. Protagonist Thomas Kell had been tossed out of MI6 and doing very little for a half year when he's called in from the cold to investigate the disappearance of the incoming chief, Amelia Levene. What follows is an imaginative and engaging story of personal and professional betrayal and support. If you like spy novels, you're likely to enjoy this one. If you enjoy fine writing and avoid spy novels, you might want to give this one a try.</p>	
A Foreign Country	Cumming, Charles	*****	1/24/13		
The Hidden Man	Cumming, Charles	*****	2/23/17	<p>Deceit. One of the reasons that I enjoy reading spy novels is for the creative ways in which secrets are kept and revealed. Charles Cumming maintained my enthusiastic interest in his treatment of deceit in his novel titled, The Hidden Man. The action centers around three members of the Keen family: father Christopher, and sons Mark and Benjamin. Deceit involving each of these men led to dramatic consequences. Cumming's prose maintains suspense throughout the novel and his writing should appeal to any reader who enjoys spy fiction.</p> <p>Recruited. In a novel titled, The Moroccan Girl, Charles Cumming presents protagonist Kit Carradine, a writer who is recruited by MI6. Kit takes to the work quite well in his novice outing, and Cumming may reprise him, as he has done when writing other novels. Fans of espionage novels will find all the usual elements here: intrigue, deception, danger, betrayal and uncertainty about who is friend and who is foe.</p>	
The Moroccan Girl	Cumming, Charles	*****	6/18/19		

Thanks to Cumming's fine writing, the suspense is taut, the characters interesting, and the story captivating.

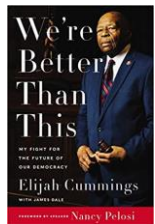
<u>The Trinity Six</u>	Cumming, Charles	***	<u>4/22/11</u>	<p>Secrets. I place a premium on those spy novels where the characters are clever and when the secrets are worth keeping. Charles Cumming delivers both in his latest novel, <u>The Trinity Six</u>. All the key characters are clever, and their wily ways contribute to a reader's engagement with the plot. Cumming takes the rumor that the infamous Cambridge Five soviet spy ring in Britain had a sixth member, and he methodically pursues the secret that has remained closely guarded for decades. The pacing of the novel begins modestly, and once a reader becomes comfortable with all characters, the pace accelerates toward a very satisfying resolution. Any reader who enjoys spy novels is likely to be entertained by this one.</p>	
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[We're Better Than This: My Fight for the Future of Our Democracy](#)

Cummings, Elijah

[11/24/20](#)

Inspirational. The memoir by the late Congressman Elijah Cummings titled, [We're Better Than This: My Fight for the Future of Our Democracy](#), provides an inspirational call to action for those readers who want to make our country better. After we read of his life of serving others, most of us will want to be of some form of service to others. This is the story of an honorable man, rooted in faith, who did his best in building a stronger society.



Yellowcake	Cummins, Ann	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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American Dirt

Cummins,
Jeanine

3/13/20

Anguish. As I read Jeanine Cummins novel titled, American Dirt, I felt the anguish of the main characters as they fled drug violence in Mexico and joined migrants trying to enter the United States. I concede that legitimate concern has been raised about cultural appropriation in that this was not necessarily Cummins' story to tell. Nonetheless, Cummins tells a compelling story very well, leading readers to care about these people. This is an individual story that is also universal in a time of anxiety when life can change in an instant. Cummins writes with great skill and I was moved by the story.

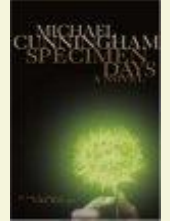


Specimen Days

Cunningham,
Michael

Mar 06

Connections. Three interconnected stories set in the past, present and future, full of beautiful, precise and elegant prose.



The Snow Queen

Cunningham,
Michael

5/28/14

Light. Readers who enjoy finely written prose are those most likely to enjoy reading Michael Cunningham's novel, The Snow Queen. Set in hip Brooklyn, the novel presents the contemporary life of a closely knit non-traditional family. Protagonist Barrett Meeks shares an apartment with his brother Tyler who lives there with his lover, Beth. Barrett and Beth work together in the vintage shop of another character Liz, whose current paramour is more than twenty years her junior. There's a yearning among all these characters for coolness and meaning, yet their behavior remains more adolescent than adult. After being dumped by another boyfriend, Barrett pauses in the park to look up and observes a light that both captures his attention and disturbs him. Is this the light that erases the feelings of darkness? Beth's cancer draws

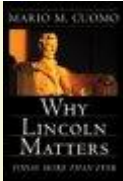


all the characters away from themselves and toward understanding.

Why Lincoln Matters: Today More Than Ever

Cuomo, Mario M.

Shelf of Reproach 2004



Possibilities. Part of the natural order is that all things come to an end. Whether we like the idea or not, each of us will one day die. Ron Currie, Jr.’s new novel, [Everything Matters!](#), explores the theme that we face an infinite number of choices in life, and those choices become connected with others, and have consequences that make a real difference, hence the title. Protagonist Junior Thibodeau hears voices and has precognition from infancy. He dreams with clarity and specificity that Earth will be destroyed by a comet on June 15, 2010. Junior’s considerable intelligence leads him in one set of choices to save the world. Along the way he realizes that there is no way to avoid the tragedies of living: both the good and the bad matter. Deliverance or salvation comes from living, not from avoiding life. We will all die, most of us just don’t know the date, so why would knowing the date make a difference in how we choose to live? Junior chooses another possible set of choices, and that approach to life also has consequences, both good and bad. [Everything Matters!](#) could be considered a philosophical novel and would provide for lively discussion by any book club. Junior could be compared to Jesus, and the ensuing “what would Jesus do?” conversation would be animated. Currie’s characters are thoughtfully constructed, and his prose includes fine dialogue, vivid descriptions and remarkable creativity. [Everything](#)

[Everything Matters!](#)

Currie, Jr., Ron

[6/9/09](#)



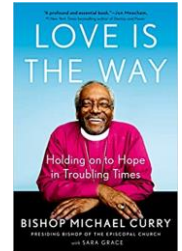
<u>Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles</u>	Currie, Jr., Ron	****	<p><u>9/24/13</u></p> <p>Matters! is a joy to read, and left me thinking and reflecting long after I turned the last page.</p> <p>Messy. Readers who are not put off by a messy and odd structure for a novel can find a lot to enjoy from Ron Currie, Jr.'s <u>Flimsy Little Plastic Miracles</u>. Lots of short pieces from snippets to episodes combine to produce something that engages the brain and provides reading satisfaction. I found myself from the beginning placing myself in Currie's competent hands, and letting the whole thing unfold. When I finished the novel, I thought to myself, "Now that was interesting."</p>	
<u>God Is Dead</u>	Currie, Jr., Ron	**	<p><u>Feb 08</u></p> <p>Satire. In this debut novel of connected stories, God comes into the world as a Dinka woman who dies in the Darfur region of Sudan. What follows is even darker in this finely written satire.</p>	
<u>The One Eyed Man</u>	Currie, Jr., Ron	*****	<p><u>7/20/17</u></p> <p>Relativity. I find that satire can often disappoint me because over the course of a novel, the prose can become uneven. I was completely engaged while reading Ron Currie, Jr.'s novel titled, <u>The One Eyed Man</u>. Protagonist K becomes both misfit and perfect fit for a society in which everything is relative. Following the death of his wife, K speaks to everyone he encounters with a literalness that disarms and usually offends. His life is presented as alternative highs and lows that revolve around grief, belief, and the meaning of relativity. In the blind world of contemporary life, K is the one who shines a light on everything and everyone. Currie offers humor and psychological insight while never flinching from the satire he delivers with precision. This is an unusual novel with an unconventional protagonist, which is perfect for reading right now and reflecting on what is relative and what is not.</p>	

Love Is the Way:
Holding on to
Hope in
Troubling Times

Curry, Michael

11/17/20

Balm. Readers looking for a balm to sooth one's soul during troubled times should consider reading Bishop Michael Curry's book titled, Love Is the Way: Holding on to Hope in Troubling Times. The presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church reached a wide global audience when he preached about love at the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle. In this book, he tells his personal story, and preaches to all of us that the path of love is the one that will lead us toward solving our personal and communal problems and challenges.

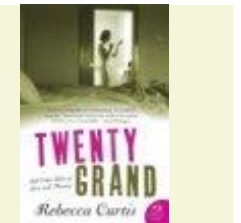


Twenty Grand

Curtis, Rebecca

Sep 07

Characters. Debut collection of 13 short stories featuring complex characters, mostly young women leading bleak lives, displays skilled literary talent.

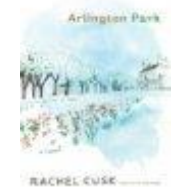


Arlington Park

Cusk, Rachel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Coventry

Cusk, Rachel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.





In the Fold

Cusk, Rachel

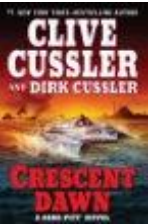
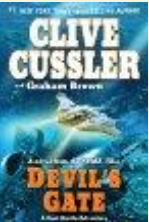
Dec 06

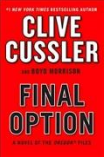
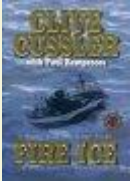
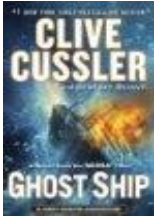
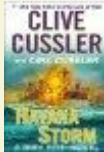
Belonging. Dark comedy of being part of the people and places that form us over time. Ensemble of strange characters show variable morals and expectations based on where they are.

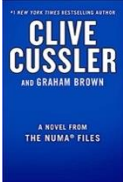
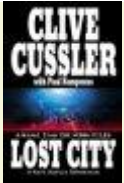
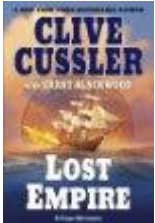


<u>Kudos</u>	Cusk, Rachel	*****	<u>7/24/18</u>	<p>Reflections. Rachel Cusk's novel titled, <u>Kudos</u>, completes her trilogy with great success. Cusk takes her musings and reflections on everyday life to some higher level. Her prose led me to reread many of her finely crafted sentences. Her musings turn into insight often, and any reader who enjoys finely written literary fiction will find a lot to enjoy in this finale as well as in the earlier books in the trilogy. Those readers who prefer a well-structured beginning, middle and end won't find that here, but patience with the loss of structure might lead to pleasure found in Cusk's great sentences.</p>	
<u>Outline</u>	Cusk, Rachel	*****	<u>1/15/16</u>	<p>Neighbor. Who is my neighbor? How well do I know them? How well do I know myself? What does it take to move from the sketchy outline of a relationship toward intimacy? Structured as a series of conversations, Rachel Cusk's finely written novel titled, <u>Outline</u>, explores those questions and others. Readers who appreciate fine writing will find much to admire in this short novel. Those readers who like cerebral fiction will also engage those little gray cells while reading and after finishing this novel. I was thoroughly entertained and engaged from beginning to end.</p>	
<u>Transit</u>	Cusk, Rachel	*****	<u>2/10/17</u>	<p>Change. The second novel in a trilogy by Rachel Cusk is titled, <u>Transit</u>, a good name for a book that takes us from the first toward the third. Cusk's unusual prose style and structure for fiction may unsettle some readers. After a few pages, I was reminded of what I liked so much in <i>Outline</i>, the first novel. Cusk offers readers access to the conversations, everyday experiences and stories of a protagonist's life during a time of change. Thanks to Cusk's great writing skill, each sentence can bring pleasure to readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction. Along the way, some musings in those sentences can become philosophical and offer</p>	

				great insight into how we deal with the significant changes in our lives. I enjoyed this finely written novel and look forward to reading the finale.	
Mirage	Cussler, Clive	****	2/7/14	<p>Tesla. Readers looking for reliable entertaining action in a novel can find plenty of it in Clive Cussler's novel, Mirage. Protagonist Juan Cabrillo, Chairman of The Corporation, is back on the <i>Oregon</i>, risking his life in heroic ways on land, under the sea and up in the air. This is a guy who shouldn't be able to get a life insurance policy no matter what the premium, but somehow he survives every near-death encounter with his deadly foes. The key gimmick in this novel is something Nikola Tesla built a century ago, brought to life again by the Russians, and ready for exploitation by the Chinese. These worthy adversaries for Cabrillo provide fast-paced action and lots of high tech toys to deploy.</p>	
Atlantis Found	Cussler, Clive	*	3/00	If you like sloppy grammar, excessive violence and are a regular Cussler reader, try his latest. Otherwise, take a pass.	
Black Wind	Cussler, Clive	**	Apr 05	<p>Familial. Cussler reprises Dirk Pitt Sr. and Jr., and brings along his own son as co-author. Typical cool heroes, one-dimensional villains, tech toys, and thrilling plot.</p>	
Celtic Empire	Cussler, Clive	****	6/2/20	<p>Pitts. The twenty-fifth installment in the Dirk Pitt adventure series by Clive Cussler is a novel titled, Celtic Empire. Pitt father and son are both back along with their familiar cohorts in a predictable adventurous romp around the world. We're grounded in something from history, in this case three-thousand-year-old Egyptian version, and tension comes when an evildoer is up to no good, and the Pitts come to the rescue. No plot spoilers</p>	

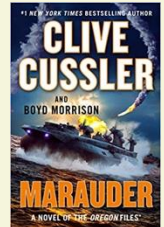
				<p>there, that's the successful formula, and in this installment, I was predictably entertained.</p> <p>Turkey. The latest Dirk Pitt novel from Clive and Dirk Cussler is titled <u>Crescent Dawn</u>, and much of the action takes place in and around Turkey. The structure of this action thriller follows the authors' proven formula: multiple plot lines; various time periods; and characters that are either heroes or villains. The usual 500+ pages provide ample opportunity for rapid page turning as the action moves quickly. The whole Pitt family appears on these pages, and their exploits are both outlandish and highly competent. The villains are almost comic, and before a reader knows it, the action has wrapped up and the story ends. Readers looking for quality writing are likely to be disappointed, while those readers who like heroes to be swashbucklers, and villains to be malicious can enjoy every page of this novel.</p>	
<u>Crescent Dawn</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>1/4/11</u>		
<u>Devil's Gate</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>12/11/11</u>	<p>Strained. Fans of Clive Cussler novels are those most likely to enjoy the latest NUMA adventure featuring Kurt Austin titled, <u>Devil's Gate</u>. I enjoyed the usual Cussler attention to technical detail and to a fast moving plot. Unfortunately I found Austin's heroics to be so far beyond belief that I began to laugh at his exploits. Other characters were so poorly developed that even the villains were unbelievable. Happily, these novels can be read quickly, so not much time is wasted in seeing if the strained effort to bring all the tension to resolution is achieved. It's no spoiler to disclose that the good guys win, and for those readers who like fast action and confident resolution to threats, this novel may be a perfect fit.</p>	

<u>Final Option</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>4/23/20</u>	<p>Nemesis. The fourteenth installment of Clive Cussler's Oregon Files series is a novel titled, <u>Final Option</u>. Chairman Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon face a doppelganger of their ship and a talented nemesis who has plotted his revenge against Cabrillo for a long time. As expected with formulaic fiction, Juan proves that he is a worthy adversary. The action will appeal to many readers, and the pace is always exciting.</p>	
<u>Fire Ice</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>Aug 02</u>	<p>Lukewarm action novel starring one-dimensional character Kurt Austin who foils a Russian's plot to terrorize America.</p>	
<u>Ghost Ship</u>	Cussler, Clive	****	<u>7/9/14</u>	<p>Reliable. There are worse ways to spend a summer afternoon than relaxing with a cool drink and reading an adventure novel. I spent a pleasant afternoon in the good company of the NUMA characters in Clive Cussler's latest novel in that series titled, <u>Ghost Ship</u>. It's no spoiler to convey that Kurt Austin performs heroic feats and Joe Zavala banters with Kurt and saves him from peril. The Trouts are fearless, competent and smart as hell. The villains are formidable. This reliable formula entertained me on a summer afternoon that was enjoyable, refreshing and well-spent.</p>	
<u>Havana Storm</u>	Cussler, Clive	****	<u>11/21/14</u>	<p>Calm. Like most fans of the Dirk Pitt series by Clive Cussler, I expect fast-paced action within a predictable formula. The calmest, most laid-back novel in this long running series may be the latest titled, <u>Havana Storm</u>. The familiar cast of characters return to sea and are performing heroic feats to battle against evildoers. My heart rate remained low as I read this novel, and I was able to set the book aside whenever the action accelerated since I knew that a slowdown would follow. While calm, I remained entertained, mostly because of my</p>	

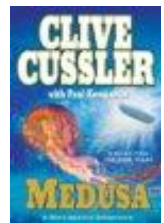
				familiarity with the characters. New readers of this series may want to begin with a more exciting novel.	
<u>Journey of the Pharaohs</u>	Cussler, Clive	****	<u>9/22/20</u>	<p>Bloodstone. Protagonist Kurt Austen and friends have returned in a novel titled, <u>Journey of the Pharaohs</u>, the fifteenth installment in the NUMA series by Clive Cussler. Following the formula of the earlier novels, Kurt and team use their skills to great effect in combatting an enemy, this time called the Bloodstone Group. Fans of the series will find the familiar mayhem in the form of fast-paced action around the world. Two backstories, one from Egypt's distant past, and the other from the 1920s, add to the context for today's adventure. These books are quick to read and provide reliable entertainment to those who enjoy this genre and formula.</p>	
<u>Lost City</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>Jan 05</u>	<p>Formula. Comfortable predictability of heroes, villains and fast plot meet expectations to provide distracting entertainment and quick reading.</p>	
<u>Lost Empire</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>11/15/10</u>	<p>Puzzles. The Fargo Adventure sub-brand of the Clive Cussler conglomerate has released the second novel in the series, <u>Lost Empire</u>. Protagonists Sam and Remi Fargo continue their treasure hunting off the coast of Tanzania, and stumble into an adventure that pits them in the crosshairs of the nationalist president of Mexico who wants to keep a big secret. Once the thriller action starts when the bad guys pursue Sam and Remi the pace remains constant to the end. The Cussler writers are in no hurry to reveal more than is necessary in any one Fargo novel, so I came away from this novel with as many questions about the protagonists as I had the first time. Nonetheless, this is reliable entertainment for those readers who like</p>	

alternative versions of history and a high dose of excitement.

Paralyzed. Chairman Juan Cabrillo and the other members of the Corporation have returned in a novel titled, Marauder, the sixteenth installment in The Oregon Files series by the Clive Cussler franchise. Following the damage in the last installment to their ship, The Oregon, a whole new craft has been built with even more powerful weapons and disguises. A worthy adversary has developed a chemical weapon that causes paralysis and it's up to Juan and the team to thwart the complicated plans to deploy the chemical on a large population center. As fans expect, the action moves rapidly, the characters are familiar, and the entertainment is satisfying.



Reliable. The latest Kurt Austin novel from Clive Cussler and Paul Kemprecos is titled Medusa. In this outing, the NUMA hero tackles the exploits of a Chinese gang who are trying to overthrow the government through the spread of a virus, and have stolen an undersea lab that is developing a cure by using jellyfish toxins. While the action can be adrenaline-packed at times, and the structure of the novel follows Cussler's typical formula, most of the writing is weak, and the extremes of character development: super-heroes and super-villains leave little room for the nuances found in most real personalities. So many of the entrances and exits of both heroes and villains were unlikely and unexplained that I found myself laughing when one or the other made a slippery getaway. I find most of Cussler's novel to be the Lay's Potato Chips of action novels: reliable in taste, one you start, you'll probably finish, and in the end, it's still junk food. For a summer escape that doesn't require any



Marauder

Cussler, Clive

12/17/20

Medusa

Cussler, Clive

**

6/25/09

thinking, consider picking up [Medusa](#) for a few hours of mild entertainment.

Nighthawk	Cussler, Clive	****	8/4/17	<p>Tension. Fans of Clive Cussler's NUMA series featuring protagonists Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala are those readers most likely to enjoy reading Nighthawk, the latest novel in this series. An advanced aircraft vanishes, and NUMA is on the search, not knowing much about the dangerous cargo onboard and the efforts of Russia and China to beat the US to finding the plane. The plot tension carries this novel along, and the full cast of characters adds to the overall spectacle. This novel provides reliable entertainment that should align with the expectations of readers of this series. Novels like this remind me of potato chips: you usually get exactly what you buy: salt, fat, crunch. This is not a gourmet meal; it's a reliable snack. Dig in if it matches your appetite.</p>	
Odessa Sea	Cussler, Clive	***	2/3/17	<p>Predictable. The latest novel in the Dirk Pitt series by Clive Cussler is titled, Odessa Sea. I read Cussler because the books can be entertaining and there are elements that remain constant and predictable. The good guys get into tight situations. The bad guys are up to no good in complicated and serious ways. The good guys win. In another week or two I will have totally forgotten the plot. By the time the next Pitt novel comes out, I'll be ready to read it, knowing that what I predict will come true: the good guys will outsmart the bad guys again, no matter what.</p>	
Piranha	Cussler, Clive	***	12/18/15	<p>Formula. One benefit of formulaic series fiction is the expectation that familiar characters will behave in expected ways. The latest Oregon Files novel from the Clive Cussler franchise is titled, Piranha, and the familiar characters were true to fan expectations. One downside to a familiar formula is a reader's confidence that the plot will proceed in</p>	

				<p>an expected way and that can lead to boredom. Readers who like formulaic thrillers are those likely to enjoy this novel, especially if one reads fast enough to stave off looming boredom from a clear sense of what's likely to happen next as the plot develops according to the formula.</p>	
<u>Pirate</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>12/20/16</u>	<p>Treasure. I read novels from the various franchises that Clive Cussler has created for the same reason I will go to some fast food outlets: I get exactly what I expect and it doesn't take long to achieve satisfaction. The latest Sam and Remi Fargo novel is titled, <u>Pirate</u>, and, spoiler alert: there is treasure involved. As fans can safely assume, the Fargos travel to multiple locations, and face a formidable foe in the search for treasure. If you have any doubt about who gets the treasure, you've never read a novel in this series. Readers who enjoy action novels that lead toward good feelings by the end are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
<u>Plague Ship</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>Aug 08</u>	<p>Responsive. Formulaic thriller pits a heroic leader against the plans of a secret group trying to reduce global population in a drastic way.</p>	
<u>Polar Shift</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>Jan 06</u>	<p>Magnetic. Readers keep coming back to the Cussler brand for the pleasures of one-dimensional villains out to destroy the world, a cooler than words hero (Austin here) who foils the scheme, and a fantastic plot that exudes scientific possibilities.</p>	
<u>Sea of Greed</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>3/6/19</u>	<p>Energy. Kurt Austin and the team from NUMA are back for the fourteenth installment in the NUMA Files series by Clive Cussler in a novel titled, <u>Sea of Greed</u>. A terrific female villain, Tessa Franco, has</p>	

				<p>invested in a method to eliminate reliance on oil as a source of energy. As with all the novels in this series, the technology is intriguing, the action is fast-paced, and the heroes always beat the bad guys. Despite that predictability, this novel and the series can provide satisfying entertainment that doesn't demand much thought.</p>	
Shadow Tyrants	Cussler, Clive	***	11/24/18	<p>Colossus. The thirteenth installment in Clive Cussler's Oregon files series is titled, Shadow Tyrants. Fans of the series will get everything expected from this novel: Chairman Juan Cabrillo and his talented crew at the Corporation zip around the world going after the bad guys. We're never in doubt about who will prevail. This time out even the villains are fighting other villains. Nine unknown wealthy men lead a secret society that has been passed down to descendants for thousands of years. They are working together on a project named Colossus that will lead to major changes in the world. They are taking the next step in artificial intelligence: creating a biological computer that will learn on its own. What could possibly go wrong? This and other Cussler formulaic fiction franchises provide some reliable entertainment for those readers who enjoy an exciting story with a clear beginning, middle and end.</p>	
Spartan Gold	Cussler, Clive	***	11/7/09	<p>Treasure. Readers who are looking for the relaxed reading comfort that can come from a formulaic adventure novel will find some pleasure in reading the latest Clive Cussler novel titled, Spartan Gold. New protagonists are featured in this book: Sam and Remi Fargo, highly skilled and adventure-loving treasure hunters. Wine bottles from Napoleon's Lost Cellar lead the Fargos on a multi-country adventure that ends with the discovery of gold. Along the way, Sam and Remi are engaged in physical and mental repartee with a villain who</p>	

				wants the gold. The bad guy, Hadeon Bondaruk, remains an underdeveloped and one-dimensional character, but serves his purpose well in the novel. Sam and Remi are backed up by a paid staff at their California base, about whom I wanted to know more than is presented in this novel. Perhaps next time. In the meantime, Spartan Gold is an acceptable diversion offering some reading fun to those readers who like this genre.	
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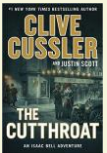
The Assassin	Cussler, Clive	***	4/11/15	<p>Plot. The winning formula for Clive Cussler novels usually contain three elements: strong characters who behave with consistency; a fast-paced plot; and technical or historical accuracy that adds interesting detail. Until reading the latest novel in the Isaac Bell series titled, The Assassin, I found that formula in almost all of Cussler's novels, and I could count on some reliable reading entertainment from the combination of those elements. In this novel, I found the Isaac Bell character to seem flat despite his escapades. Other characters, especially John D. Rockefeller in this novel, were developed so narrowly or inadequately that they came across as caricature. The plot here was well-paced, and the historical details were interesting, but the weak character development made this a less entertaining novel for me than previous books in this series and in the others from the Cussler franchise.</p>
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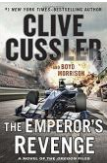


The Bootlegger	Cussler, Clive	****	3/22/14	<p>Explosive. The seventh Isaac Bell adventure novel by Clive Cussler titled, The Bootlegger, begins and ends with dramatic action. Isaac's boss, Joseph VanDorn, head of the Van Dorn Detective Agency, has been shot, and Isaac directs agents to follow every lead and find the perpetrator. It's the time of Prohibition in the United States, and rum runners are supplying alcohol to a thirsty nation. Small operators are being edged out of the business by</p>	The image shows the front cover of the book 'The Bootlegger' by Clive Cussler. The cover features a blue and yellow background with the title 'THE BOOTLEGGER' in large, bold, white letters at the bottom. Above the title, the author's name 'CLIVE CUSSLER' is printed in a smaller, white font.
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				<p>organized criminal elements, including some Russians who have a particular use for their illegal earnings. While Isaac is often a step or two behind the bad guys, it's no spoiler to say that after many pages of exciting action, Isaac saves the day. Fans of this series and this prolific author are those most likely to enjoy this latest installment. If you're new to the series, you can start here or anywhere else and get a good sample of what's in the series.</p>	
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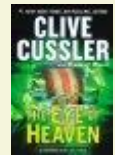
<u>The Chase</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>Jan 08</u>	<p>Momentum. Set in 1906 in San Francisco, this novel features a new hero, detective Isaac Bell, who's hired to chase down the Butcher Bandit, and does so in a race car and a locomotive.</p>	
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<u>The Cutthroat</u>	Cussler, Clive	****	<u>4/19/17</u>	<p>Swordplay. Isaac Bell is one of my favorite protagonists among the many characters in the multiple Clive Cussler franchises. The 10th Bell novel is titled, <u>The Cutthroat</u>, and fans will enjoy the return of a familiar cast of characters, especially the quirky crew of the Van Dorn Detective Agency. A new skill for Bell in this installment involves swordplay, and as fans would expect, Bell is pretty good at this activity. Novels in this series, and anything with Cussler's name, can be relied on for some distracting entertainment, packed with tension and action, and a reliable resolution in which the good guys win at the end.</p>	
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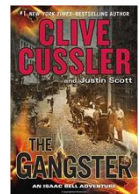
<u>The Emperor's Revenge</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>1/10/17</u>	<p>Grid. The 11th novel in the Oregon Files series by Clive Cussler is titled, <u>The Emperor's Revenge</u>. Readers who enjoy fast-paced adventure novels, and who can suspend disbelief often, are those most likely to enjoy this novel. The emperor in the title is Napoleon, and that was one of many places where my disbelief was put under severe strain as Cussler's creativity soared. Protagonist Juan Cabrillo performs with great skill as always. A plot</p>	
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to disrupt the power grid and wreak global financial havoc was delightfully sinister and highly enjoyable.

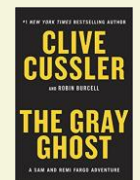
Emerald. A few pages into the sixth novel in the Sam and Remi Fargo series by Clive Cussler titled, The Eye of Heaven, had me double check to see if I had read it already. The formula was so familiar that only the publication date convinced me that this is a new installment. The title refers to a giant emerald. The wealthy Fargos travel the globe while they are hunting for treasure that they usually do not keep for themselves. They eat and drink well, staying in fine lodging, thanks to a talented support staff. They face worthy adversaries and prevail. In this outing, some of the villains are especially competent and crafty. For a few hours of predictable escapist reading, this series and this installment fits the bill for those readers who like this form of light reading.



Adversaries. The latest Clive Cussler series novel featuring detective Isaac Bell is titled, The Gangster. Set in New York at the beginning of the twentieth century, the novel pits the Black Hand against the Van Dorn Detective Agency. These formulaic novels provide entertainment to those readers who enjoy the predictability of the good guys defeating all adversaries. The action in this novel proceeds more slowly than others in the series, and the ending seemed more abrupt than I expected. For consistent, reliable historical crime fiction, consider reading this novel and this series.



Rolls-Royce. Remy and Sam Fargo are back with a different kind of treasure hunt in the latest installment in the Fargo series by Clive Cussler, a novel titled, The Gray Ghost. The title refers to a legendary Rolls-Royce automobile and crimes in contemporary times and decades earlier. There's a



<u>The Eye of Heaven</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>9/26/14</u>	
<u>The Gangster</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>5/26/16</u>	
<u>The Gray Ghost</u>	Cussler, Clive	****	<u>7/6/18</u>	

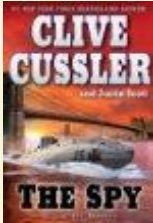
				<p>cute connection to Isaac Bell from a different Cussler series that will tickle loyal fans. Most readers will find this thrilling adventure novel to provide reliable entertainment where the protagonists are true to themselves, and the bad guys are caught by the end. Along the way, there's plenty of hijinks and tension.</p>	
<u>The Jungle</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>3/12/11</u>	<p>Quantum. The latest installment in the Oregon Files brand of Clive Cussler novels is titled, <u>The Jungle</u>. Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon zip around the globe as they take on assignments to rescue missing or kidnapped children. The title refers to the Burmese rainforest where they are following the trail of a billionaire's daughter who has gone missing. They become entangled in multiple deceptions and a plot to destroy Western civilization through the use of a quantum computer. This escapist novel may entertain readers looking for a quick and entertaining read, but both heroes and villains are so weakly developed that the result can be less than satisfying.</p>	
<u>The Kingdom</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>6/27/11</u>	<p>Shangri-La. This summer's installment of the Fargo series of the Clive Cussler brand of novels is titled <u>The Kingdom</u>. Over the course of a relaxing day or two, readers can travel around the world with Sam and Remi Fargo as they conduct another search to find something important that has been missing. In this case, they are looking for a missing colleague, and then for Shangri-La. As usual, there's a nemesis trying to thwart them, but the indomitable Fargos can't be beaten, and their competence gets them out of the most improbable of jams. This escapist novel can be entertaining for those readers who can tolerate weak writing in favor of an interesting plot. I find these novels to be mindless and pleasurable reading experiences that</p>	

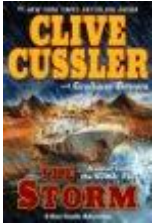
				are quick to ingest and are not particularly nourishing.	
<u>The Mayan Secrets</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>12/27/13</u>	<p>Codex. The next stop for world adventurers Sam and Remi Fargo is Central America in Clive Cussler's latest book in this series titled, <u>The Mayan Secrets</u>. The Fargos find an ancient Mayan codex in Mexico, and that leads them on an exciting adventure. The usual formulaic elements are present: Sam and Remi are skilled and heroic; the villains are worthy adversaries, and most readers will finish the novel feeling well entertained. There's some satisfaction from reading a formulaic novel, and that's the kind of comfort this novel delivers.</p>	
<u>The Navigator</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>Aug 07</u>	<p>Consistent. Latest offering of the Kurt Austin action brand, in which the good guys are consistently virtuous, and the bad guys are ruthlessly evil. Predictable reading when you'd prefer not to have to engage your brain.</p>	
<u>The Oracle</u>	Cussler, Clive	****	<u>8/27/19</u>	<p>Girls. The eleventh novel in Clive Cussler's Sam and Remi Fargo series is titled, <u>The Oracle</u>. Set in different parts of Africa, each chapter begins with an African proverb. The Fargo's philanthropy supports a girls' school, situated near where members of a group like Boko Haram are terrorizing the community. True to the series, there's a treasure to be found, and the plot moves quickly as good triumphs over evil. Most readers will fall in love with one of the girls whose courage and skill overcomes all obstacles. Fans of formulaic fiction and this series are those most likely to enjoy this novel. I can't recall Sam and Remi taking a break for delicious food and fine wine in this installment, so perhaps they'll find multiple Michelin starred restaurants on their next outing.</p>	

<u>The Pharaoh's Secret</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>3/15/16</u>	<p>Predictable. The eleventh formulaic installment in Clive Cussler's NUMA series featuring heroic protagonist Kurt Austin is titled, <u>The Pharaoh's Secret</u>. I've noticed that I pick up a predictable Cussler novel when I'm tired, and don't need to think much while reading. As with the earlier Cussler novels, the heroes win, the bad guys lose, and the action entertains. Readers with clear expectations from this author are those who are most likely to enjoy this and any of the novels in the series. I'm pretty confident that I'll continue to read novels in this series, and will delay opening them until my brain needs to relax.</p>	
<u>The Race</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>11/18/11</u>	<p>Soars. Clive Cussler takes protagonist Isaac Bell to the skies as the heroic Van Dorn detective protects a skilled aviatrix from harm during a cross-country airplane contest. This latest novel, set in 1910, is titled <u>The Race</u>, and no fan of this series will be surprised to learn that Bell masters the skill of flying a plane with ease. There's a wide cast of interesting characters, and the usual level of detail that Cussler readers demand. Bell's romance with his fiancé Marion Morgan proceeds at what seems like a glacial pace. The usual contest between the good guys and bad guys turns out as expected. Readers looking for some light reading that entertains without requiring a lot of thought are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>The Rising Sea</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>5/3/18</u>	<p>Machines. Fans of fast-paced thrillers will enjoy the latest installment in the NUMA Files series by Clive Cussler, a novel titled, <u>The Rising Sea</u>. Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala are back in an escapist novel that pits these heroes against worthy adversaries: machines. Past meets future when one scene has a swordfight, and another has Kurt driving a race car in competition against a self-driving machine. Meanwhile, water levels are rising because a mining</p>	


				operation has released undersea water into the ocean. As with all the installments in this series, it's no spoiler that by the end, the good guys win.	
<u>The Romanov Ransom</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>12/19/17</u>	<p>Romp. The ninth novel in the Sam and Remi Fargo series by Clive Cussler is titled, <u>The Romanov Ransom</u>. The current treasure hunt takes the Fargos on a romp from Europe to North Africa to South America, tracked at every turn by a ruthless adversary. Fans of formulaic adventure fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series. It's fast-paced and often highly predictable. Compared with earlier novels, I found less humor and repartee between Sam and Remi, and less fine dining. Nonetheless, I got exactly what I expected: a quick read that didn't require a lot of mental energy.</p>	
<u>The Silent Sea</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>4/5/10</u>	<p>Reliable. The Clive Cussler brand of action writing continues to provide reliable entertainment to those readers who like strong heroes, evil enemies, and lots of adventurous action. In the seventh Oregon series novel titled, <u>The Silent Sea</u>, protagonist Juan Cabrillo leads a team into hostile Argentina to recover a NASA satellite. Some opportunistic Chinese have been partnering with Argentines in Antarctica, and much of the context for the novel involves ancient Chinese sailing ships. Juan and his team travel the world to confront enemies, solve mysteries, and restore world order. Not bad in 400 pages.</p>	
<u>The Solomon Curse</u>	Cussler, Clive	****	<u>7/1/16</u>	<p>Giants. The seventh installment in the Sam and Remi Fargo series by Clive Cussler is titled, <u>The Solomon Curse</u>. While most of the formula remains intact in the current adventure, the Fargo's opulent eating and drinking is dialed down and their concern for the lives of others ramped up. They are looking for a lost city off Guadalcanal, and hear stories of giants. With dispatch, the plot moves</p>	

them to multiple places and to satisfying discoveries. Readers looking for wholesome, reliable adventure fiction will find an entertaining story in this novel.

<u>The Spy</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>6/22/10</u>	<p>Pacing. The latest adventure novel to feature protagonist Isaac Bell is titled, <u>The Spy</u>, and most readers are likely to enjoy this well-paced book as perfect summer reading. Fans of Cussler will find the usual elements: highly skilled heroic protagonist; something featuring technological innovation; and plot momentum that keeps the pages turning swiftly. The novel is set in 1908 and the spies represent the superpowers of that time trying to build their forces before the first world war. Bell and the Van Dorn Detective Agency encounter a formidable opponent in the spy who is trying to set back America's naval advancement. Bell again survives lots of close calls that supply the adrenalin rush in this exciting novel.</p>	
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<u>The Storm</u>	Cussler, Clive	**	<u>8/27/12</u>	<p>Watery. I can't believe that I read another Clive Cussler novel from the NUMA Files series. Kurt Austin and Joe Zavala narrowly escape death every hundred pages or so in <u>The Storm</u>, the latest in this series. The predicaments in which these characters find themselves become so implausible that readers like me laugh and cheer when they escape, as expected, from every peril. The formulaic structure of these novels provides readers with reliable entertainment featuring wicked villains with plots to control the Earth. In this novel, the villain wants to control the water temperature of the world's oceans and auction off the weather outcomes to the nations with the highest bids for his services. For that last taste of summer escape reading, or on a Hurricane influenced flight delay, consider reading this outlandish novel.</p>	
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<u>The Striker</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>10/25/13</u>	<p>Union. I had a new Clive Cussler experience while reading his latest Isaac Bell novel titled, <u>The Striker</u>. I found myself thinking that the pace was too slow. I've read enough Cussler novels to anticipate a very quick-moving plot, and in this novel, I realized the pace was pretty tepid. The young Bell, early in his detective career with the Van Dorn agency, faces a situation in which it appears that union activists have sabotaged a coal mining site. Things are not as they appear, and needless to say, young Bell gets to the bottom of things. Fans of the series are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel, especially the way in which it fills in the character with more backstory than had been previously revealed.</p>	
<u>The Thief</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>6/14/12</u>	<p>Acrobat. The formula for the Isaac Bell series by Clive Cussler is for the competent hero to overcome the treachery of a villain who is a worthy adversary. In <u>The Thief</u>, the villain is Christian Semmier, a talented German military leader who wants to steal technology to help his country in the run up to a likely war. His acrobatic skills provide much dramatic action in this novel. Readers who like to read quick and entertaining thrillers will find some entertainment here. It's no spoiler to relate with satisfaction that the good guy wins in the end.</p>	
<u>The Titanic Secret</u>	Cussler, Clive	***	<u>12/9/19</u>	<p>Mining. The eleventh installment in the Isaac Bell adventure series by Clive Cussler is a novel titled, <u>The Titanic Secret</u>. Cussler pulls protagonist Dirk Pitt from a different series to start this novel a century after the time when the main action in the novel takes place. Detective Isaac Bell investigates a Colorado mine disaster in 1911 and before long goes on a global adventure to track down the mining of a rare earth element named byzanium. As always, Bell is a terrific investigator who gets into life threatening scrapes with bad guys. Fans of</p>	

				<p>formulaic character-driven fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p> <p>Travels. Sam and Remi Fargo are back for another fast-paced adventure in Clive Cussler's novel, The Tombs. They match their wits against an evil Russian businessman as they race to locate and uncover the hidden tomb of Attila the Hun. It's no spoiler to say that the good guys win in the end. Along the way, their travels proceed quickly, and the action makes for very quick and entertaining reading. Fans of action novels with sharply drawn characters are those most likely to enjoy this one.</p>	
The Tombs	Cussler, Clive	***	11/8/12		
The Wrecker	Cussler, Clive	***	12/10/09	<p>Competence. There's a certain comfort to the reliability that a reader can count on from any Clive Cussler novel: the hero is competent and will succeed by the end; the villain is evil and can be a worthy adversary; the action moves quickly and usually involves incredible feats by many characters. A new novel, The Wrecker, fits the formula well, and will entertain those readers who can overlook the doggedness of the formula. Protagonist Isaac Bell (reprised from the earlier novel, <i>The Chase</i>) is the son of a prominent New England banker who works as a private detective. In The Wrecker, Bell is hired by the head of the Southern Pacific Railroad following a number of events that destroyed rail lines and facilities. While readers know the identity of The Wrecker early on, it takes a while for Bell to put all the puzzle pieces together in a mad scramble across the country and back several times. Along the way, there's murder, deception, engineering feats, and loads of competence. Cussler fans will want more novels featuring Isaac Bell. Readers looking for a few hours of entertainment and who have a willingness to overlook the clumsiness of a formula novel, are likely to enjoy The Wrecker.</p>	

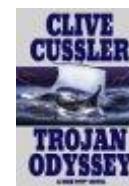
[Trojan Odyssey](#)

Cussler, Clive

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[Feb 04](#)

Predictable. Heroes are good and win, villains are bad and lose. Familiar characters, formula and dialogue provide entertainment for Cussler fans.



[Typhoon Fury](#)

Cussler, Clive

[3/9/18](#)

Pills. All the formulaic elements of the Oregon Series of novels by Clive Cussler appear in the twelfth installment titled, [Typhoon Fury](#). Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon perform heroic exploits against formidable adversaries, the cool technology works, and by the end of the novel, the good guys prevail, and the bad guys are defeated. Along the way, there's a thrilling plot about powerful pills from World War II and the discovery of artwork from an infamous theft. Another reliable action novel for those readers who enjoy a familiar formula.

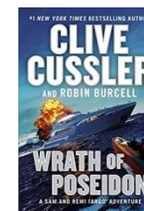


[Wrath of Poseidon](#)

Cussler, Clive

[11/9/20](#)

Origin. The twelfth installment of the Sam and Remi Fargo series by Clive Cussler is a novel titled, [Wrath of Poseidon](#). Fans of the series finally get to hear the story of how Sam and Remi met and fell in love and adventure. To deliver this backstory, the usual Cussler structure wraps around the Fargos telling the story to another recurring character in the Cussler family of action novels. Readers who enjoy the structure of these escapist novels are likely to enjoy this installment, boosted by the sweet origin story of these charming protagonists.

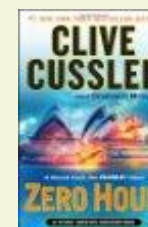


[Zero Hour](#)

Cussler, Clive

[8/27/13](#)

Countdown. If the summer has passed you by without letting you savor sticky cotton candy or some fried food on a stick, it's not too late to enjoy the reading equivalent from a novel like [Zero Hour](#) by Clive Cussler. This novel in the NUMA series follows the predictable and reliable formula: Kurt Austin comes close to death while outsmarting a villain. Fans will enjoy the wit and dialogue from a familiar cast of characters. As usual, Cussler weaves



				<p>a good story, keeps the action lively through a countdown toward peril, and the bad guy loses in the end. The short amount of time I spent with this novel delivered a large dose of entertainment.</p> <p>Warming. Clive and Dirk Cussler's latest collaboration, Arctic Drift, continues a formula for writing action novels that sell loads of copies. Through reprising a cast of characters that are reliable and predictable in their behavior, a familiarity develops for readers that provides for comfortable reading. In a cold snap of outside weather, reading Arctic Drift gave me a good excuse to stay inside and warm. The Cusslers can and have done better. We have a nasty and un-nuanced villain. While I can live with the herculean competence and just-in-time heroism by Pitt and team (after all, that's part of the successful formula), it's more fun to have a worthy and more complicated adversary than the bad guys in this novel. The imagined belligerence of Canada made me laugh out loud. This is truly a Canada of the imagination, and nothing like our friendly neighbors to the north. Aside from those shortcomings, Arctic Drift provides reliable suspense and adventure reading, especially for those Cussler fans who are willing to accept less than the best from these writers.</p>	
Arctic Drift	Cussler, Clive and Dirk Cussler	***	12/21/08		
Poseidon's Arrow	Cussler, Clive and Dirk Cussler	***	9/24/13	<p>Acrobatics. Special comfort comes from reading a new episode in a fiction series featuring known and interesting characters. Poseidon's Arrow by Clive and Dirk Cussler reprise protagonist Dirk Pitt and his trusty and talented sidekick Al Giordino for another thrilling adventure. Old and new submarines provide the backdrop for this novel, in which Dirk and Al engage in enough acrobatics and close calls to stretch a reader's willing suspension of disbelief to the point of breaking. That, of course, is</p>	

				part of the comfort and fun of this series: the good guys perform heroic feats to defeat the bad guys. Readers who like adventure novels will read this one quickly. I finished it rolling my eyes and feeling slightly entertained.	
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Treasure of Khan

Cussler, Clive and Dirk Cussler

Read, but not reviewed.



<u>Corsair</u>	Cussler, Clive and Jack Du Brul	***	<u>4/25/09</u>	Pirates. No writer does heroes with the flair that Cussler unapologetically delivers. In the ninth Oregon files novel, <u>Corsair</u> , Cussler (with co-author Jack Du Brul) presents protagonist and hero Juan Cabrillo as a ship's captain who, like Stephen Decatur before him, challenges and defeats Barbary pirates. Cabrillo is cool, especially when under fire. <u>Corsair</u> is filled with tension, high energy, toys and tricks that provide jolly reading entertainment. The real-life exploits of Somali pirates add to the timeliness of <u>Corsair</u> .	
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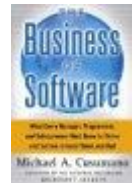


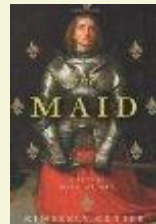
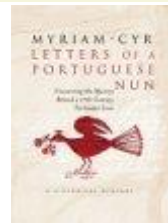

The business of software : what every manager, programmer, and entrepreneur must know to thrive and survive in good times and bad

Cusumano, Michael A.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



<u>The Maid: A Novel of Joan of Arc</u>	Cutter, Kimberly	***	<u>7/25/12</u>	<p>Mystic. The story of Joan of Arc is a familiar one to all readers. For those who like historical fiction, a debut novel by Kimberly Cutter titled, <u>The Maid</u>, presents this remarkable character from many different perspectives. Cutter uses vivid imagery to take readers into the troubled mind and courageous life of a young woman. The mystical elements of Joan's story, from feeling chosen by God to hearing voices, are presented with imagination and some perfectly chosen phrases. Readers who like historical fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
Letters of a Portuguese Nun	Cyr, Myriam	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
<u>The Falconer</u>	Czapnik, Dana	****	<u>7/16/19</u>	<p>Lucy. How does a coming of age debut novel stand out from the many others available to read? Write well and develop interesting and complex characters. That's exactly what Dana Czapnik has done in her novel titled, <u>The Falconer</u>. Set during a senior year in high school in New York City in 1993, we get to meet Lucy, a talented basketball player who is falling in love with her friend, Percy. Czapnik taps into all the questions and concerns that a seventeen-year-old girl faces, especially one whose talent in sports can alienate from her male and female peers. Readers should never underestimate the interior lives of others, and Czapnik reveals much insight about our human condition as she develops the character of Lucy for us.</p>	

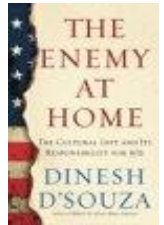
<u>Brand Warfare: 10 Rules for Building the Killer Brand</u>	D'Alessandro, David F.	***	<u>08/01</u>	Breezy personal anecdotes and clear and practical advice from a skilled practitioner of brand management.	
<u>Loitering: New and Collected Essays</u>	D'Ambrosio, Charles	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>The Dead Fish Museum</u>	D'Ambrosio, Charles	***	<u>July 06</u>	Schadenfreude. Eight well-crafted short stories that present an eclectic mix of characters whose lives most readers won't envy, and whose problems are often self-created.	
Mortal Sins: Sex, Crime, and the Era of Catholic Scandal	D'Antonio, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>The Shadow President: The Truth About Mike Pence</u>	D'Antonio, Michael and Peter Eisner	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Letters to a Young Conservative</u>	D'Souza, Dinesh	***	<u>Jan 03</u>	Compelling. D'Souza delivers an articulate case for conservatism in the form of letters from him to a college student. Whether you agree or disagree with D'Souza's politics, his writing is fine and his case is compelling.	

The Enemy At Home: The Cultural Left and Its Responsibility for 9/11

D'Souza, Dinesh

July 08

Values. A controversial point of view on how certain anti-family values, sexual promiscuity and aversion to religion has enflamed the enmity of America's enemies.

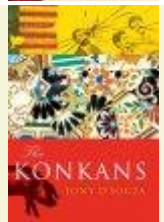


The Konkans

D'Souza, Tony

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



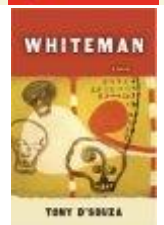
Whiteman

D'Souza, Tony

**

June 06

Aimless. Entertaining debut novel about relief worker stuck in Ivory Coast village without the resources to do his job, trying to immerse himself in village life and relationships amid coups and war.

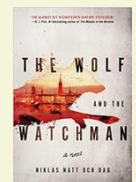


The Wolf and the Watchman

Dag, Niklas Natt Och

7/26/19

Justice. Historical fiction about unfamiliar places can place extra demands on a reader. An author needs to bring the place to clarity in our minds and present characters and plot that keep readers engaged. In his debut novel titled, The Wolf and the Watchman, Niklas Nat Och Dag brings late 18th century Stockholm to life and offers a gripping plot about justice filled with great characters. Protagonist Cecil Winge is an attorney dying of what we know now as tuberculosis, and Mikel Cardell is a watchman. This dynamic pair join forces to seek justice. Along the way, we meet the rich and the poor and are entertained by a complicated plot that I found totally entertaining.



[Bad Blood](#)

Dahl, Arne

[9/24/13](#)

Serial. Arne Dahl's second novel to feature Swedish Detective Paul Hjelm is titled [Bad Blood](#). In this book an American serial killer has come to Sweden, and it's up to Hjelm and others to find him. I liked the way Dahl paces this novel in a measured way, allowing suspense and suspicion to grow. I liked the dialogue and the effective ways in which Dahl presented and developed interesting characters. Readers who like crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



[Misterioso](#)

Dahl, Arne

[10/27/11](#)

Jazz. Sometimes when I read a novel translated from its original language, I wonder what I am missing from the original. I never once had that feeling when I read Arne Dahl's novel, [Misterioso](#). Plot takes prominence in this crime novel, as does character development. The title refers to a classic jazz piece by Thelonious Monk, and like music, this story needs no translation. The protagonist is a detective, Paul Hjelm, and Dahl develops his character in ways that engaged me throughout the novel. The slow pace of the novel and the gradual solution of the mystery was very satisfying; it always seemed just right.

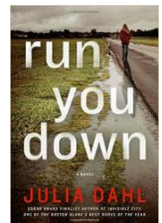


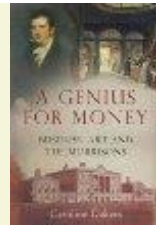


[Run You Down](#)

Dahl, Julia

[4/13/16](#)

Insular. The second mystery novel to feature protagonist and tabloid reporter Rebekah Roberts is titled, [Run You Down](#). In this novel, Roberts enters the insular ultra-Orthodox community in Roseville, New York, where a man living there asks her to look into his wife's death. While drawn into this community, Rebekah has to consider whether or not she wants her estranged mother in her life again. Dahl draws readers into an interesting cast of characters and into the complexities of their lives.



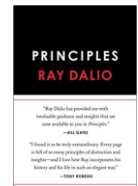
A Genius for Money: Business, Art and the Morrisons	Dakers, Caroline	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
Ethics for the New Millennium	Dalai Lama	*****	<u>11/99</u>	Recommend this book highly. One of the best books we've read all year.	
<u>Vox</u>	Dalcher, Christina	*****	<u>9/24/18</u>	<p>Misogyny. Fans of dystopian fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy the debut novel by Christine Dalcher titled, <u>Vox</u>. The President of the United States has been elected to implement the agenda of a charismatic fundamentalist religious leader that has a few key principles of misogyny: a woman's place is in the home and she must be subordinate to her husband who makes all decisions for the family. Step by step over the course of a year, a program to silence women changes society. Dalcher engages readers in the plot through a terrific protagonist, Dr. Jean McClellan, and with speculation on how this situation happened. A frequent conclusion reached comes from Edmund Burke: "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing." While lots of good people ignored the developing threats, some resisted. While Jean was surprised by the resistance, another character made it plain: there's always a resistance.</p>	

Discipline. Living and working in a disciplined and methodical way has worked for Bridgewater founder Ray Dalio, so he is giving back by writing a book titled, [Principles: Life and Work](#), about how he's done it. Dalio starts by telling us his life story, continues by describing the principles by which he led Bridgewater, and wraps up with tools that a reader can use to develop one's own principles and practices. I thought I was pretty organized and disciplined until I read this book. I even remember developing a list of principles during a time when I was managing lots of people. Dalio is a black belt especially when it comes to leading an idea meritocracy. Radical transparency has lots of consequences, and somehow or other, Dalio became comfortable with that and attracted others who thrived in that environment.

[Principles: Life and Work](#)

Dalio, Ray

[6/9/18](#)

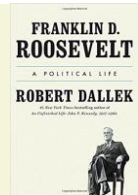


[Franklin D. Roosevelt: A Political Life](#)

Dallek, Robert

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

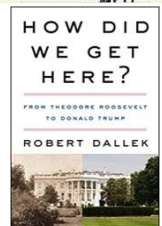


[How Did We Get Here: From Theodore Roosevelt to Donald Trump](#)

Dallek, Robert

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

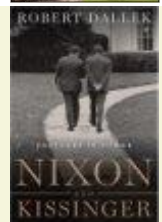


Nixon and Kissinger: Partners in Power

Dallek, Robert

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Heaven Lake

Dalton, John

Oct 04

Discovery. 450 pages unveil how young Midwestern missionary loses his innocence while in Taiwan and China and discovers, "It's a grayer, more complicated world than I ever imagined."



The Inverted Forest

Dalton, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2012.



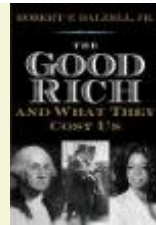
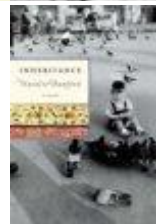
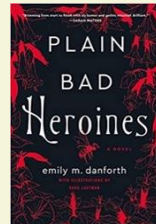
Just What Kind of Mother Are You?

Daly, Paula

9/15/14

Distractions. I prejudged Paula Daly's debut novel, Just What Kind of Mother Are You?, and let it sit on my bookshelf unread for almost a year. I assumed it was targeted to women and I thought it would have little interest for me. I sat down and read it this week, and I was surprised and delighted. I wish I had read it sooner. Daly presents protagonist Lisa Kallisto as an overworked, distracted and frazzled mom. The plot surrounds a missing girl, a friend of Lisa's daughter. Lisa feels responsible and guilty that because of her many distractions, she didn't do what she could have done to prevent the assumed abduction of the girl. Daly captured the lives of busy parents, and then layers on issues of class and wealth. The novel explores the nature of relationships and manipulation, and reveals that things are not always what they seem when we observe the lives of others. This short novel was a delight to read, and I recommend it to any reader, especially to parents.



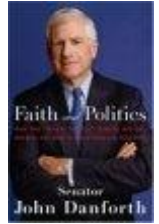
The Good Rich and What They Cost Us	Dalzell, Jr., Robert F.	Unread		I stalled somewhere in Chapter 3. Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>Inheritance</u>	Danford, Natalie	***	<u>June 07</u>	Unraveling. Fine debut novel full of descriptive language and engaging characters alternates between past and present as a daughter unravels her father's secrets after his death, and decides what they mean for her.	
<u>Plain Bad Heroines</u>	Danforth, Emily M.	****	<u>12/17/20</u>	Yellowjackets. There's a lot going on inside the 640 pages of Emily M. Danforth's novel titled, <u>Plain Bad Heroines</u> . There's a book within a book including asides to we readers, and a movie within a movie that's within the books. There's devil's work being done, along with satire, in two time periods: 1902 and 2015. Every time the yellowjackets appear, and they show up regularly, it's time to pay close attention. After a while, some readers may almost anticipate the arrival of some buzzing or the sense of a swarm getting underway. The cast of woman characters who are intensely interested in each other will intrigue many readers. The gothic overtones increase and diminish until we become accustomed to the presence of ghosts and the will of the yellowjackets. Danforth pulls us into her joyful playfulness in this novel, and we find it easy to get comfortable with ghosts and curses. Readers who enjoy clever writing and are comfortable with ambiguity are those most likely to enjoy this creative novel.	

Faith and
Politics

Danforth, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

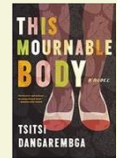


[This Mournable
Body](#)

Dangaremba,
Tsitsi

[11/24/20](#)

Zimbabwe. Sometimes a novel lets readers go to a place we've never been, spend time with people who seem very different from us, and come away with a fresh perspective about our shared human experience. In her novel titled, [This Mournable Body](#), Tsitsi Dangaremba writes about the aftermath of the transition in Zimbabwe from colonialism to capitalism through the experiences of protagonist Tambudzai Sigauke. In finely written prose and deep insight into human nature we feel the grief and struggle that Tambu faces as her world changes. Having left her village for a better life, her return home reveals how much has changed and how much has remained the same.



Rogue River
Journal

Daniel, John

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



Only
Revolutions

Danielewski,
Mark Z.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

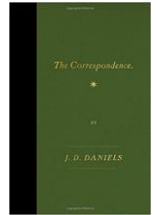


The
Correspondence

Daniels, J. D.

4/3/18

Stress. I've always felt that our true selves are revealed to all when we are under stress. Using the structure of six letters in his book titled, The Correspondence, J.D. Daniels, reveals the inner life of interesting characters whose lives are under some form of stress. Daniels' prose is also under stress: a careful constraint of choosing the perfect words to build good sentences, to compose a well-crafted letter, six times over. There's skilled craft on display in this book for those readers who appreciate fine writing.



Sweetbitter

Danler,
Stephanie

**

8/26/16

Spoiled. Have you ever had high expectations about a meal, and while eating, kept building the impression that those expectations would not be met? That's how I felt while reading Stephanie Danler's debut novel, Sweetbitter, set mostly in a New York City high end restaurant. I read some reviews that raised my expectations, but as I read, I found the prose over-seasoned, the characters under-baked, and the action usually unappealing. On one level this is a coming of age story, involving naiveté and the chance to make many mistakes with drugs, drinking and sex. I just never cared enough about the protagonist to enjoy her experiences. Life is often sweet and bitter, but in this novel I kept thinking it was just all spoiled.



1215: The Year
of Magna Carta

Danziger, Danny

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2004

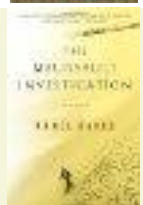


The Meursault
Investigation

Daoud, Kamel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

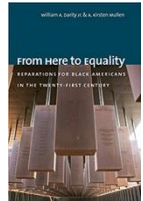


From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century

Darity, William A. and A. Kirsten Mullen

8/5/20

Injustices. Through describing a long litany of hundreds of years of injustice, William A. Darity and A. Kirsten Mullen made a case for justice in their book titled, From Here to Equality: Reparations for Black Americans in the Twenty-First Century. You probably have formed an opinion about reparations already. I guarantee that if you read this book, you are very likely to reconsider your position. The authors present their case with clarity and turn our eyes to aspects of the past that most of us would rather not see or acknowledge. Even if you still think reparations are impractical, have nothing to do with you, or are just a bad idea after reading this book, you will have spent a least a little time opening your mind to the possibility that reparations are the right thing to do and there are ways to do it right.



Landslide: LBJ and Ronald Reagan at the Dawn of a New America

Darman, Jonathan

1/16/15

Thousand. Jonathan Darman revisits the thousand days following the assassination of John F. Kennedy, and tracks Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan during that time in his book titled, Landslide: LBJ and Ronald Reagan at the Dawn of a New America. Both presidents have legacies packed with positive and negative consequences for American life, and one legacy for both involves the myths about them that permeate today's Democratic and Republican parties. Darman busts some of those myths with his reporting. Darman offers insight into these two dominant personalities, and tells their stories in ways that draw readers into their lives and times. Any reader interested in politics, especially in the last half of the twentieth century, will likely enjoy this book.



Universal Harvester

Darnielle, John

3/2/17

Loss. I never got comfortable while reading John Darnielle's novel titled, Universal Harvester, and maybe that was the point. Rural Iowa seemed at first an unlikely place for a mood of menace and foreboding. But in every place there is loss to experience, there is grief, there is some form of menace. I remained uncomfortable as Darnielle changed story lines, moved backward and forward in time, and maintained a mood of loss and of being left behind. Darnielle uses the importance of image as key to the novel. From altered VCR tapes, viewers and readers can see for themselves as Darnielle puts it, "...people and places and things that might otherwise go unnoticed." The images bear witness for those who weren't left behind. From the title through the conclusion, I felt part of meditation on mortality, and I felt the lingering presence of death of some form or another, always ready to bring in the crops, present company included.



Wolf in White Van

Darnielle, John

12/27/14

Creativity. I started reading songwriter John Darnielle's novel, Wolf in White Van, with low expectations. After a dozen or so pages, I was hooked. Darnielle explores themes of isolation and creativity, and the ways in which fantasy can reward and punish. The power of imagination is such a force in life, and Darnielle presents a protagonist whose vivid imagination may well have saved his life. Readers who can become comfortable with an unusual novel are those most likely to enjoy this one.

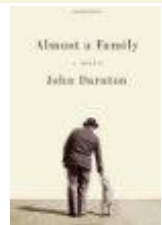


Almost a Family: A Memoir


Darnton, John

6/7/12

Times. If you are considering reading a memoir this year, you can't go wrong if you choose John Darnton's Almost a Family. Darnton's writing is superb: clear, interesting and engaging. Darnton's decades of experience as an award-winning writer at *The New York Times* inform every chapter of this



book. After his retirement, Darnton began to explore the life of his father, Byron Darnton, a *New York Times* war correspondent, who was killed by friendly fire in the Pacific in 1942, when John was a toddler. Darnton tells the story of his own life and what he uncovers about the character, personality and professionalism of his late father. Readers who like finely written nonfiction and who prefer reading about real people are those most likely to enjoy this memoir.

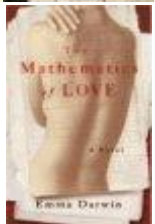
<u>Black and White and Dead All Over</u>	Darnton, John	***	<u>Nov 08</u>	Lede. Playful and satirical mystery novel contains as many plot lines as a newspaper has sections. Some very obvious personalities at <i>The New York Times</i> are evident even to the dullest reader.	
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The
Mathematics of
Love





Darwin, Emma



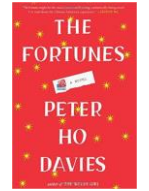

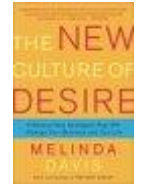
Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



<u>The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder, and the Birth of the American Mafia</u>	Dash, Mike	***	<u>7/2/09</u>	Roots. Mike Dash's history of the origins of the American Mafia is titled, <u>The First Family: Terror, Extortion, Revenge, Murder, and the Birth of the American Mafia</u> . While the narrative reads like a lively thriller, the almost forty pages of notes disclose the sources of Dash's tales, and led me to the conclusion that this book has been researched thoroughly and presents a reliable record of actual events. Set at the end of the 19 th century and the beginning of the 20 th century, <u>The First Family</u> describes the lives and criminal activity of a large cast of characters, led by the colorful Giuseppe Morello, whom Dash presents as the first boss of the New York mafia. Morello was known as "the	
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				clutch hand,” because of a deformed arm. His hand reached into the pockets of many, and killed with abandon. Dash offers the best of good history: a compelling story, backed by facts, and presented in ways that bring the dimensions of characters to life. For any reader interested in this time period, or in crime and the mafia, The First Family provides hours of reading pleasure.	
The Quality of Life Report	Daum, Meghan	*	Sep 03	Addicted. Debut novel pokes fun at NYC self centeredness and Midwestern political correctness as protagonist leaves NYC seeking an improved quality of life, but finding cycles of addiction and recovery.	
The Unspeakable: And Other Subjects of Discussion	Daum, Meghan	*****	1/16/15	Personal. Readers who love finely written essays will find lots of them in the collection from Meghan Daum titled, The Unspeakable: And Other Subjects of Discussion . The opening essay, <i>Matricide</i> , captures the personal voice that Daum brings to each essay: a disclosure that couldn't care less about the judgment of others about her behavior. Some essays are deadly serious and others are hilarious. Each is well-written and contains at least a kernel or two of wisdom.	
First Aid	Davey, Janet	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The Passion Economy: The New Rules for Thriving in the Twenty-First Century	Davidson, Adam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

<u>The Gargoyle</u>	Davidson, Andrew	***	<u>Oct 08</u>	Heart. Ambitious and finely written debut novel weaves a modern story with a medieval one. Superb storytelling and character development.	
<u>Cowboy</u>	Davidson, Sara	***		A well-told love story. Davidson hooks you early on, and each page is a pleasure. Recommended.	
<u>The Fortunes</u>	Davies, Peter Ho	****	<u>3/2/17</u>	Pearl. Some novels offer readers the opportunity to understand lives different from our own and gain insight into our human condition as a result. Peter Ho Davies offers four lives for our consideration in his novel titled, <u>The Fortunes</u> . Some of the characters are based on real historical figures. I found each of the four figures to be interesting, but concluded that the section titled, Pearl, was my favorite. Davies' prose is finely written, and his insight into the ways in which we fit in and the ways in which we are "the other" provided some resonant themes with our contemporary political rhetoric.	
The Welch Girl	Davies, Peter Ho	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>The New Culture of Desire: 5 Radical Strategies That Will Change</u>	Davis, Melinda	*	<u>Feb 03</u>	Oh O. Thanks to something called The Human Desire Project, we know way too much about what people want and the lengths to which they'll go to get it. Some desires should be sublimated.	

Your Business
and Your Life

E²: Using the
Power of Ethics
and Etiquette in
American
Business

Davis, Phyllis

*

Sep 03

Right Shoulder. More etiquette than ethics, and few business leaders want to read about etiquette. Agreed with her name tag advice (right shoulder). Read our excerpt on business meetings before taking on the whole book.



Blur: The Speed
of Change in the
Connected
Economy

Davis, Stan and
Meyer,
Christopher

Unread

This book came highly recommended in 1998 but we were changing too fast to slow down and read it. Still haven't. Maybe things have changed and it's out of date. Somebody read it and let me know.

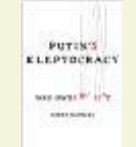


Putin's
Kleptocracy:
Who Owns
Russia?

Dawisha, Karen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

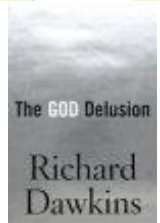


The God
Delusion

Dawkins,
Richard

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2007

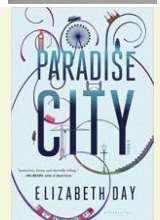


Paradise City

Day, Elizabeth

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

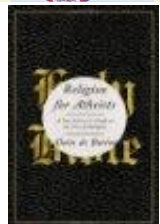



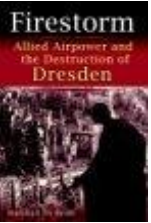

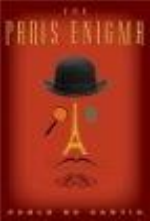

Religion for
Atheists: A Non-
believer's Guide
to the Uses of
Religion

De Botton, Alain

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



The Pleasures and Sorrows of Work	De Botton, Alain	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Firestorm: Allied Airpower and the Destruction of Dresden	De Bruhl, Marshall	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The House I Loved	de Rosnay, Tatiana	Unread		The prose became annoying to by page 11, so I stopped reading. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Paris Enigma	De Santis, Pablo	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009. Gave up on page 17.	
<u>The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss</u>	de Waal, Edmund	*****	<u>3/19/12</u>	Inheritance. Most families have stories about the lives of our ancestors. Fortunate families have some objects that were acquired by those ancestors that connect us to the past as a part of our inheritance. Edmund de Wall is a ceramicist who inherited 264 netsuke from a favorite uncle. One of the netsuke, small intricately carved objects from Japan, provided the title of his family memoir, <u>The Hare with Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss</u> . This finely written book tells of the Ephrussi family, wealthy grain traders and bankers from Russia whose wealth grew in the 20 th century as	

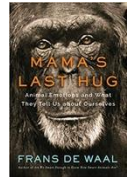
				they migrated to Paris and Vienna. Their wealth and some of their lives were destroyed by the Nazis. A family servant hid the netsuke from the Nazis, and they became the only objects that were passed along to the survivors of that tragic time. I was absorbed by this book from beginning to end and recommend it highly to any reader who enjoys how good writing can bring the past to life.	
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Mama's Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us about Ourselves

de Waal, Frans

11/21/19

Observations. Primatologist Frans de Waal shares insights drawn from decades of observations of animal behavior for his book titled, Mama's Last Hug: Animal Emotions and What They Tell Us about Ourselves. He has specialized in comparing human and primate behavior, and the abundant similarities he describes have significant implications. It may be humbling for some readers to accept the evidence that we humans are not as special as we think we are. There's a heartwarming story at the core of the book, and most readers will finish this book with a greater appreciation of other animals.



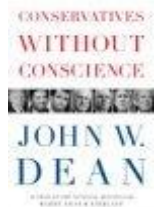
<u>A Place of Confinement</u>	Dean, Anna	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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Conservatives Without Conscience

Dean, John W.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



<u>Warren G. Harding</u>	Dean, John W.	***	<u>July 04</u>	Gamaliel. Nixon White House counsel writes volume in American Presidents' series on the man often rated as the worst. Dean describes someone who worked himself to death, and who was deceived by appointees.	
Worse Than Watergate	Dean, John W.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
The Sleeping Doll	Deaver, Jeffery	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Why Geography Matters	DeBlij, Harm J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
The Architecture of Happiness	DeBotton, Alain	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Rumsfeld: The Making of An Artful Warrior</u>	Decter, Midge	***	<u>Feb 04</u>	Lovesong. Flattering portrait of current Secretary of Defense, long on his public service, and short on his business career. Look elsewhere for more critical or balanced portrayal, but come away from this book convinced that Rummy is a great guy.	

<u>A Thousand Pardons</u>	Dee, Jonathan	*****	<u>3/25/13</u>	<p>Absolution. Literary novels can provide readers with deep insight about human nature through how ordinary people deal with life's common challenges. Helen Armstead, the protagonist of Jonathan Dee's novel, <u>A Thousand Pardons</u>, faces the reality of her family situation. Her husband, Ben, has exercised poor judgment in his life as a lawyer, and their marriage seems doomed. Helen moves out with their adolescent daughter, Sara, and she finds a way to support them. Helen learns that she has skill in advising others about confessing to their missteps, and finds rewarding employment in the public relations specialty of crisis management. Dee allows the themes of forgiveness and absolution to weave through this story in ways that I found interesting and engaging. Dee's writing is finely crafted, and this short novel packs a wallop in just over 200 pages.</p>	
<u>The Locals</u>	Dee, Jonathan	****	<u>9/6/17</u>	<p>Power. Sometimes a novelist will just hold a mirror to the way we live now, and on the pages of a book we can see our lives play out. Jonathan Dee's novel, <u>The Locals</u>, describes post-9/11 life in a small New England town. The power dynamics in the town of Howland, Massachusetts shift after a wealthy New Yorker moves to his summer home in the Berkshires after 9/11 and becomes First Selectman of Howland. He begins to lower taxes for the property owners of the town through paying for services out of his own pocket. Dee describes the cycle of boom to bust, and the foibles of our self-interest turning into selfishness and social unrest.</p>	
<u>The Privileges</u>	Dee, Jonathan	***	<u>3/22/10</u>	<p>Detached. There's a moral vacuum in the lives of the protagonists of Jonathan Dee's new novel, <u>The Privileges</u>, the Morey family. Having acquired great wealth, some of which was gained illegally, Adam Morey has grown in wealth over the course of the novel, but not in conscience or character. Despite</p>	

			philanthropy, Cynthia Morey seems to live an unexamined life that comes across as empty and ordinary when money is stripped away. The children have received everything they want, leading them nowhere. Each of the Moreys has an expectation of entitlement that detaches them from the experience of living in relationships with close friends. For those who wonder why a lot of money is never enough for some, here's a great quote, "Success was a fortress at which fear constantly ate away." The unsatisfying lives of the Moreys provides some entertainment, but little insight for readers looking to novels for deeper understanding about life.	
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Write It When I'm Gone

DeFrank, Thomas

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

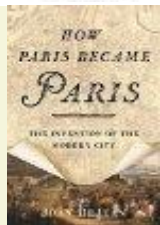


How Paris Became Paris: The Invention of the Modern City

DeJean, Joan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

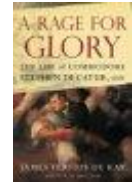


A Rage for Glory: The Life of Commodore Stephen Decatur, USN

DeKay, James T.

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2004



Ireland: A Novel

Delaney, Frank

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2005



The Last
Storyteller

Delaney, Frank

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line.
Shelf of Ennui 2012.

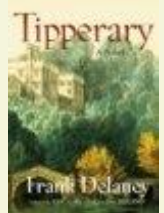


Tipperary: A
Novel

Delaney, Frank

Mar 08

Grand. Historical novel set at the beginning of the 20th century uses multiple narrators, past and contemporary, to present stories of love, of people, freedom, land and buildings, during a volatile era.

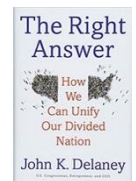


The Right
Answer: How
We Can Unify
Our Divided
Nation

Delaney, John

6/10/19

Pragmatist. John Delaney announced his campaign for the United States Presidency at the end of July 2017. I've just read his book titled, The Right Answer: How We Can Unify Our Divided Nation, and it reflects a pragmatism that seems refreshing in our polarized political environment. With experience as an entrepreneur and a member of Congress, Delaney brings experience in solving problems and in dealing with frustration. Despite the long tenure of his candidacy, his name doesn't pop up in polls. He may or may not gain traction after debates and early primaries. Whether he does or not, his positive approach to working together and finding solutions to serious problems is worth a fair hearing by those readers and voters interested in public policy and politics.

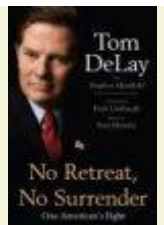


No Retreat, No
Surrender

Delay, Tom

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be

Delbanco, Andrew

6/15/12

Choices. Perhaps it is the quality of my own liberal arts education that made a receptive audience for Andrew Delbanco's book, College: What it Was, Is, and Should Be. This Columbia University award-winning professor explains the origins of higher education in the United States from the time of the Puritans onward. He lucidly describes the current high costs, unprepared students, and lack of attention to classroom teaching by great teachers who are directed toward research and away from the classroom. He offers ideas on how we can choose to change from the current state to one in which students are better served. Any reader interested in higher education should consider reading this book.



Ask Me Anything

Delbanco, Francesca

**

June 04

Dear. Debut novel describes advice columnist's coming of age in NYC. Readers of chick lit will especially enjoy this for erratic moments of fine writing.



Falling Man

DeLillo, Don

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

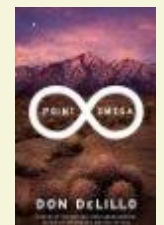


Point Omega

DeLillo, Don

3/5/10

Focus. After finishing Don DeLillo's novel, Point Omega, I closed the book and had two immediate reactions: "huh?" and "wow." Protagonist Richard Elster is in the California desert reflecting on his life and the role he played in helping plan the invasion of Iraq in 2003. With a funnel-like focus, DeLillo deconstructs Elster's troubling questions. The title refers to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's notion that humans are evolving a consciousness that is moving toward a point of exhaustion that could lead to paroxysm or to the sublime. Readers will choose for



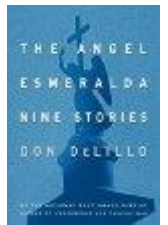
				<p>ourselves one or the other by the end of Point Omega. I find that I keep thinking about the art exhibit DeLillo uses in the novel, the 24 hour Psycho, in which the Hitchcock movie is played at a slow speed to cover a full 24 day. In that way, one's focus moves to elements not observed at the regular rate. The focus that DeLillo demands will reward some readers and frustrate others.</p>	
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[The Angel Esmeralda: Nine Stories](#)

DeLillo, Don

[11/22/11](#)

Unease. Don DeLillo's novels have received raves from readers over four decades. His debut short story collection covers that time period, and is titled, [The Angel Esmeralda: Nine Stories](#). I can't recall reading any of these stories before. In each one, I discovered the same precise writing from DeLillo's novels, and the way in which he holds a mirror to readers about our unease and discomfort with what's happening around us. The difference between these stories and his longer fiction is that I had the sense that every single word in his stories was carefully chosen, and that nothing extra was needed. He leads readers to see what he sees in American life, and presents connections between his characters and readers that are unmistakable.

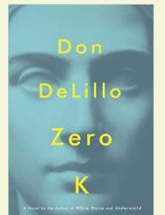


[Zero K](#)

DeLillo, Don

[6/17/16](#)

Mannequins. What good is having money if you can't buy your way out of disease and death? In his novel titled, [Zero K](#), Don DeLillo invites readers to enjoy his musings about life, death and identity. Jeffrey Lockhart narrates the surreal and uncomfortable situation in which he finds himself. His billionaire father, Ross, has supported a cryogenic facility. Ross' young wife, Artis, is in poor health, and she has chosen to have her body preserved for some future time when she might be healed. Ross invites Jeffrey to come to the facility for Artis' farewell. Through Jeffrey's eyes we see the things that we do for love, and how the cryogenic process has turned humans into what appear to be



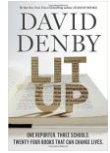
				<p>mannequins. All this calls into question what identity is, and what life and death are for. There's satire here, humor for those who see it, and deep questions about technology and humanity. Consider taking a summer vacation into Don DeLillo's world and discover the ways in which it is the same and different from yours.</p> <p>Place. The debut novel by Jane Delury titled, <u>The Balcony</u>, keeps a place constant and tells us the stories of some of the people associated with that place over time. The opening vignette grabbed my attention and interest. While I became a bit less focused for some of the middle chapters, the final chapter closed the book with one of the best chapters. The variety of different people Delury presents and their struggles and advantages are all interesting and suited perfectly to the place and to the time period in which they lived.</p>	
<u>The Balcony</u>	Delury, Jane	****	<u>5/3/18</u>		
<u>Slack: Getting Past Burnout, Busywork and the Myth of Total Efficiency</u>	DeMarco, Tom	***	<u>Jun 02</u>	<p>Diatribes against those who overdo efficiency and proposals for understanding the value of slack.</p>	
The Storm	DeMoor, Margriet	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
American Sucker	Denby, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	

Lit Up

Denby, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

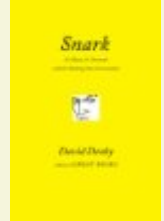


Snark

Denby, David

4/25/09

Better. It's been decades since I needed to draw on reserves of patience to get through a 144-page book. It took all the patience I had to finish reading David Denby's brief book, Snark. Denby writes film criticism for *The New Yorker*, and in Snark, he uses clever writing to try to define and crush what he sees as increasing tendency from many quarters to turn wit, vituperation and invective into a form of verbal abuse that he views as witless and uncivilized, called snark. He tries to use examples of wit that works and snark that doesn't, and verbal cruelty that succeeds, and verbal abuse that falls flat. We can be nasty in better ways, according to Denby. If you care, give Snark a try.



Why Liberalism Failed

Deneen, Patrick J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



Here Comes the Sun

Dennis-Benn, Nicole

12/20/16

Jamaica. Nicole Dennis-Benn's debut novel is titled, Here Comes the Sun. Set in Jamaica, the novel explores the longing for power and independence, the fulfillment of dreams by a cast of women whose lives are undergoing profound personal change. Each character is drawn with precision. Some characters are complex and fully formed; others seemed to be created as foils for the interaction needed to reveal other characters. Readers can feel the depth of greed and longing on many pages. There is sadness that permeates many parts of the novel and burdens that are borne by many characters right up to their limits. Readers



				<p>interested in a new literary voice are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p> <p>Hope. Both my parents emigrated to Brooklyn, so when I read Nicole Dennis-Benn's novel titled, <u>Patsy</u>, featuring an immigrant living in Brooklyn, I was receptive to the story. Patsy left her life in Jamaica for a better life in Brooklyn but finds her situation more difficult than she imagined. She left her five-year-old daughter, Tru, behind in Jamaica and Dennis-Benn moves back and forth over the course of a decade as she reveals the changing lives of both Patsy and Tru. Hope may be one of the most powerful drivers of human behavior, and the bonds between mothers and daughters take many forms. Life often requires resilience, and love can be a balm for what we do to harm others and to heal our own wounds. I learned only after my father's death that he never wanted to come to the United States. A brother had booked passage and arrangements had been made for him with a relative in New York. That brother broke his leg, and was unable to sail, so my father was told he had to quit his job and go to the US whether he wanted to or not. It took him forty years to see those brothers face-to-face again. Dennis-Benn understands.</p>	
<u>Patsy</u>	Dennis-Benn, Nicole	*****	<u>10/10/19</u>		
Satisfaction: How Every Great Company Listens to the Voice of the Customer	Denove, Chris and James D. Power	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>Are Snakes Necessary?</u>	DePalma, Brian and Susan Lehman	***	<u>5/15/20</u>	<p>Remake. The novel by Brian DePalma and Susan Lehman titled, <u>Are Snakes Necessary?</u>, offers readers a homage to Alfred Hitchcock's classic film, <i>Vertigo</i>, in print form, without being any form of remake. In this novel, a sleazy politician abuses a staffer and she exerts her just revenge. Sometimes</p>	

novels with a cast of unappealing characters can be a real kick to read. This time, I found it all sad, empty and shallow. Some readers who like crime fiction will enjoy this novel, but I found the writing to be weak. Perhaps I would have enjoyed it more if it had been a movie.

Absence. The four of them were together at one moment, then three of them were gone. Sonali Deraniyagala and her husband, Steve, were on vacation with their two sons at an oceanside hotel in Sri Lanka on December 26, 2004, when a trunami hit. Sonali survived. In her book, Wave, she expresses what happened on that tragic day, and mostly how her grief unfolded over weeks, months and years. In some ways, she filled the absence of their loss by bringing them back to life on these pages. Her writing could have become melancholy, but she never crosses that line. This is fine writing that grabbed my attention from the first page, and I wanted to stay with her to do whatever I could as a reader to ease her pain, perhaps just by thinking about her and her lost loved ones.

Lost. Every few pages or so I found myself offering a fist bump to author William Deresiewicz as I agreed wholeheartedly with so much of what he has to say in his book titled, Excellent Sheep: The Miseducation of the American Elite and the Way to a Meaningful Life. Deresiewicz observed his elite students at Yale arriving with great ambition and a long list of achievements, and leaving with good grades but adrift when trying to figure out the purpose of their lives, and ill equipped to think critically and creatively. This book can be seen as a manifesto for the benefits of a liberal education, especially for our best and brightest students.

Wave

Deraniyagala,
Sonali

1/13/14




Excellent Sheep:
The
Miseducation of
the American
Elite and the
Way to a
Meaningful Life

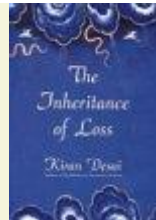
Deresiewicz,
William

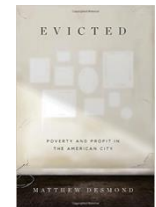
10/29/14



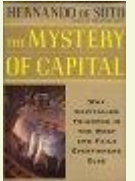
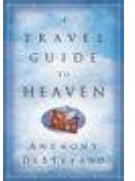
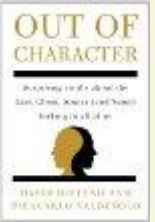
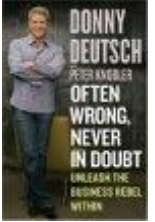

Damage Control	Dermont, Amber	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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<u>The Starboard Sea</u>	Dermont, Amber	***	<u>4/10/12</u>	<p>Truth. Amber Dermont's debut novel, <u>The Starboard Sea</u>, takes the 99% into a slice of the lives of the 1%. Set at a co-ed prep school for the outcasts of other prep schools, Dermont draws a picture of the loneliness and alienation of the rich children of busy parents. Their coming of age can be hampered rather than enhanced by privilege. Their search for the right path in life can be elusive. Dermont's writing is lyrical, the story engrossing, and the sailing exciting. Readers willing to give a debut novelist a try are likely to enjoy this novel, as will those who attended prep school, are wealthy, or who love sailing.</p>	
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<u>The Inheritance of Loss</u>	Desai, Kiran	***	<u>Jan 07</u>	<p>Contrasts. Well written tale of the inherited expectations of two characters, one living with a remote grandfather near the Himalayas during the Nepalese independence movement of the 1980s, and the other struggling to work in Manhattan. Won the Man Booker prize.</p>	
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<u>Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City</u>	Desmond, Matthew	*****	<u>3/24/16</u>	<p>Instability. Matthew Desmond lived among the poor in Milwaukee as an ethnographer during 2008 and 2009. His book, <u>Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City</u>, presents his observations about families and landlords from that time. By presenting the stories about people and their struggles, his puts a face on poverty that most readers will find disturbing. The frequency of eviction leads to great instability, and the cycle seems unrelenting. Desmond's writing is powerful, and he draws readers into the decisions made by</p>	
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people in a context of multiple bad alternatives. Desmond also presents the perspective of landlords in a nonjudgmental way. Any reader with compassion for the poor or with an interest in public policy must read this book.

<u>The Mystery of Capital: Why Capitalism Triumphs in the West and Fails Everywhere Else</u>	deSoto, Hernando	***	<u>05/01</u>	This book will change your perceptions about the Third World and the assets held there.	
<u>A Travel Guide to Heaven</u>	DeStefano, Anthony	***	<u>Dec 03</u>	Cute. Upbeat and comforting view of life in heaven, especially for those who have recently lost loved ones. Even included our image: "... reading a really good book by the fireside with a hot cup of tea nearby..."	
Out of Character: Surprising Truths About the Liar, Cheat, Sinner (and Saint) Lurking in All of Us	DeSteno, David and Piercarlo Valdesolo	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
<u>Often Wrong, Never in Doubt</u>	Deutsch, Donny	***	<u>Feb 06</u>	Entertaining. Host of CNBC's <i>The Big Idea</i> produces book as an ad for the Donny brand, full of confidence and certainty, as the title suggests, with a high energy level, providing enjoyable entertainment to readers.	
<u>The White Road: Journey into an Obsession</u>	deWaal, Edmund	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	

The Exiles
Return

deWaal,
Elisabeth

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



Some Trick

DeWitt, Helen

11/6/18

Wit. I have advice on how to approach reading the thirteen short stories in a collection by Helen DeWitt titled, Some Trick. I suggest you surrender yourself to her wit and follow wherever she takes you. Stop trying to connect how she went from the last paragraph to the next one. Enjoy her wit and insight and let her take you along for an enjoyable ride in each of these stories. She will introduce you to interesting people and you will come away with a fresh and positive view of human nature. Readers who enjoy intelligent writing will find lots of that in these stories.



French Exit

DeWitt, Patrick

5/24/19

Broke. Fans of dark humor and good writing are those readers most likely to enjoy reading Patrick DeWitt's novel titled, French Exit. Frances Price is a widow living on the Upper East Side of Manhattan with her adult son, Malcolm, and an old cat named Small Frank. Prodigious and carefree spending have made staying in NYC untenable, so where does one go in such a situation? Paris, of course. By what method should they travel? Ocean liner, of course. Pop the champagne and settle in for a very entertaining reading experience.

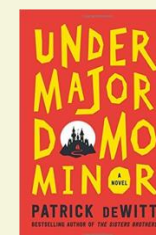


Undermajordomo
Minor

deWitt, Patrick

11/6/15

Quirky. A young man coming of age leaves his small town on a search for adventure, love, and to find his place in the world. Thousands of novels fit that description, but none quite as engaging or quirky as Undermajordomo Minor by Patrick deWitt. Protagonist Lucien (Lucy) Minor, leaves his home in the village of Bury to work at the castle of Baron Von Aux for the majordomo there, hence becoming undermajordomo Minor. Lucy leads a cast of characters who are funny and interesting.



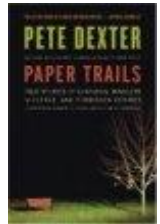
			deWitt's prose smoothly leads readers from a hilarious situation to something dark and imaginative and back again to action that will lead to laughter. Readers who want to be entertained by a novel with a familiar premise and a quirky narrative are those most likely to enjoy reading this finely written book.	
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Paper Trails

Dexter, Pete

Apr 07

Characters. Collection of 82 of Dexter's newspaper columns, packed with masterful writing, especially with the efficient way in which he presents the character and personality of the people he describes.



<u>Spooner</u>	Dexter, Pete	****	<u>8/18/09</u>	<p>Phrases. Pete Dexter's latest novel, <u>Spooner</u>, has been worth the long wait, and provided me with a reminder of why I like Dexter's writing so much. His characters are deeply developed, and full of the quirks and odd behaviors that bring them to life. Protagonist Spooner and his father, Calmer, are especially rich in their depth, but the full ensemble provide a range of behavior and breadth of personalities that brought me plenty of reading pleasure. Dexter's approach to narrative moves forward and backward, with a focus on either Spooner or Calmer. Consistently, the narrative encourages the reader to become immersed in their situation and their challenges. Dexter's finest quality is his language: each sentence has been carefully constructed, and phrases are worth reading more than once as a way to savor Dexter's talent. I laughed often while reading <u>Spooner</u>, and also found myself reflecting on family relationships and the compromises and misunderstandings that can form our choices and lead us through life's adventures.</p>	
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Train

Dexter, Pete

Dec 03

Raw. Superb writing about dimensions of pain and the struggles of relationships. Sparse writing style keeps readers happily glued to every page.

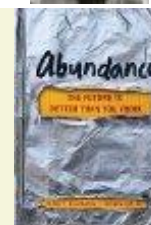


Abundance: The Future Is Better Than You Think

Diamandis, Peter H. and Steven Kotler

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.

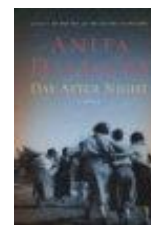


Day After Night

Diamant, Anita

10/14/09

Rescue. Anita Diamant's novel, Day After Night, presents four young women who come together in 1945 when they arrive at Atlit, a British internment camp in Palestine. As illegal immigrants who found passage away from the scars of their wartime lives in Europe, these four women display dimensions of ongoing shock, both from their recent experiences, and in arriving at a place of incarceration when they expected to start new lives. Each woman finds rescue, of one sort or another, as Diamant takes readers behind the barbed wire of Atlit, and into the personal stories of these women. Thanks to Diamant's fine writing, I felt as if I were in Atlit with those women, and I came to understand their fears and hopes.

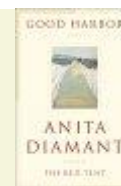


Good Harbor

Diamant, Anita

11/01

Diamant presents the depth of emotion within many characters, and explores how family members and friends protect each other when dealing with grief and loss.



The Boston Girl

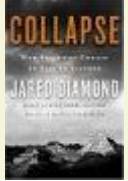
Diamant, Anita

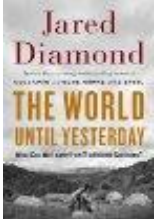
2/24/15

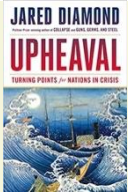
Warmth. Readers can feel the warmth of housebound Bostonians in this winter of great snowfall when reading a novel by Anita Diamant titled, The Boston Girl. Protagonist and narrator Addie Baum tells the story of her life to her

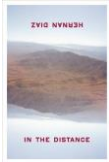


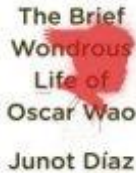
granddaughter. Spanning most of the twentieth century, Addie's life has been packed with experience that will delight most readers. I enjoyed the time spent listening to an entertaining account of an interesting life during tumultuous times.


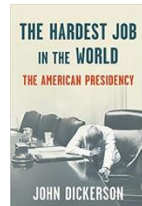


<u>Collapse: How Societies Choose To Fail or Succeed</u>	Diamond, Jared	***	<u>Mar 05</u>	Provocative. Companion work to <u>Guns, Germs and Steel</u> , that explores factors that caused some great civilizations to fail, and what this means for contemporary society.	
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<u>The World Until Yesterday: What Can We Learn from Traditional Societies?</u>	Diamond, Jared	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
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<u>Upheaval: Turning Points for Nations in Crisis</u>	Diamond, Jared	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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<u>In the Distance</u>	Diaz, Hernan	*****	<u>6/9/18</u>	Journey. I added Hernan Diaz' debut novel titled, <u>In the Distance</u> , to my reading queue after it was nominated as a finalist for the 2018 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. While emigrating from Sweden to the United States with his older brother, protagonist Håkan becomes separated and throughout the novel tries to reunite with that brother. Instead of landing in New York, Håkan debarks in San Francisco, and begins a meandering journey mostly east to try to find his brother. Diaz presents terrific character development in Håkan, and delves deeply into grief, loss and loneliness as he takes readers on this fascinating journey with a great character. The prose is finely written, and most readers who enjoy literary fiction will appreciate this novel.	
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<u>The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao</u>	Diaz, Junot	***	<u>May 08</u>	<p>Family. Finely written debut novel features nerdy Oscar de Leon and his family in the USA and the Dominican Republic, including their troubles under the regime of President Rafael Leónidas Trujillo.</p>	
<u>This Is How You Lose Her</u>	Diaz, Junot	****	<u>1/10/13</u>	<p>Voice. Junot Diaz reprises his well-developed character, Yuniór, in nine short stories collected under the title of one, <u>This Is How You Lose Her</u>. Diaz knows how to riff about love: passion, heartbreak, mistakes, falling head over heels. Yuniór's longing for love and his ease for losing what he most desires, made me laugh and wince. Diaz does an outstanding job of presenting well fleshed out characters quickly, and using imagery and dialogue to allow readers to enter into their world. You may not like Yuniór, but you will understand him. You will also understand the parade of women he loves and loses. I paced myself by reading one story at a time. That gave me time to reflect and to savor the treat of Diaz' fine writing. Readers who love crisp writing with a distinct voice should take a look at this well-written collection of stories.</p>	
<u>End Games</u>	Dibdin, Michael	***	<u>Oct 07</u>	<p>Finale. Finely written final episode in the Aurelio Zen mystery series by author who died in March 2007. Set in Calabria, Italy.</p>	
Upon the Dull Earth	Dick, Philip K.	Unread		<p>I read a few stories from this collection and liked them. I decided not to read all of them so I placed this third volume of his collected stories on the Shelf of Ennui 2013.</p>	

The End of Blackness: Returning the Souls of Black Folk to Their Rightful Owners	Dickerson, Debra	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency</u>	Dickerson, John	*****	<u>12/9/20</u>	<p>Descriptive. In his book titled, <u>The Hardest Job in the World: The American Presidency</u>, journalist John Dickerson calls on Americans to reevaluate how we define the role of United States President, what we expect of a president, and how to best select the best person to carry out that role for a specific period of time. Using loads of examples, Dickerson describes how the job has changed over time, and how the current expectations of any president makes that person be set up for failure. Readers interested in public affairs are those readers most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
<u>Whistlestop: My Favorite Stories from Presidential Campaign History</u>	Dickerson, John	*****	<u>9/23/16</u>	<p>Stories. I've listened to John Dickerson's Whistlestop podcasts that led to his book titled, <u>Whistlestop: My Favorite Stories from Presidential Campaign History</u>. Even in print, I can hear his voice and the excitement he exudes when telling a fascinating political story. Any reader interested in American politics will enjoy the stories that Dickerson presents in this book. This book offers an interesting perspective: today's lens applied to past politics. I found this book to be an engaging and entertaining way of feeding my political needs during a year when the current presidential campaign makes me want to turn the other way.</p>	
<u>Strangers Tend to Tell Me Things</u>	Dickinson, Amy	*****	<u>4/19/17</u>	<p>Relatable. Life is messy. Stuff happens. Memoirs can cover the gamut from the exciting lives of celebrities to the ordinary lives of nobodies, and the dysfunctional families that bind them together. Amy Dickinson's latest memoir titled, <u>Strangers Tend to Tell Me Things</u>, will be relatable to any</p>	

reader. That's not necessarily because her life and ours are a match. I know there is almost nothing she and I have in common when it comes to things like big city versus small town upbringing; intact nuclear families versus single parent environments; or getting married later in life to someone with children. Instead, whether aspects of our lives are similar or different from Amy's, we recognize her as a real person who has dealt with what life has thrown her in an authentic and genuine way. This memoir tells the story of her return to the place that is home. Each of us finds home somewhere, and this memoir will help every reader think about what home means for us.

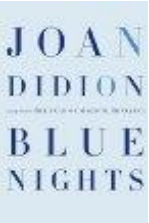

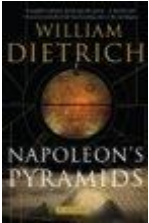
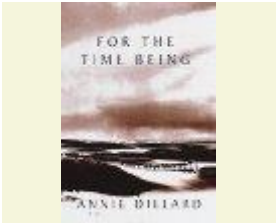
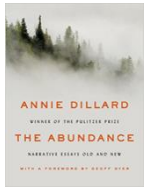
Humility. Memoirs tend to hit one extreme or another. Either the writer presents an idyllic life or one packed with unbearable troubles. Amy Dickinson tells her story with a lightness of touch that makes it all the more touching and real. She conveys her childhood without demonizing the father who abandoned his family. She presents the ways in which she raised her daughter as a single parent without railing against her ex-husband. Her success is presented as a matter of chance rather than skill, ambition and hard work. In all respects, she presents a humble personality, buoyed by a closely knit family, comprised of strong women, in a small town. These women carry on conversations that have no beginning and no end: they are always in motion. After one aunt dies in her eighties, her sister commented that she wished she knew her better. This is after spending every day of their lives in contact. Dickinson's wit and fine writing will bring pleasure to many readers.

The Mighty Queens of Freeville: A Mother, a Daughter, and the Town That Raised Them

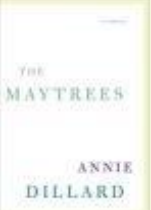
Dickinson, Amy

3/20/09

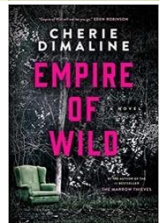


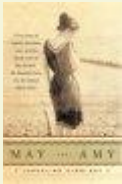
<u>Blue Nights</u>	Didion, Joan	***	<u>11/14/11</u>	<p>Disconnected. How can one speak about what life is like following the death of a spouse and a child within a short span of time? Joan Didion finds a way to do that in her new book, <u>Blue Nights</u>. Whatever form of grief a reader has experienced will become raw again as one reads this book. Even Didion's writing seems lost and disjointed at times as she describes her experience. One poignant scene was of Didion filling out her own medical form and struggling with the selection of who to notify in case of emergency. The two people closest to her are dead, and she feels lost.</p>	
<u>The Year of Magical Thinking</u>	Didion, Joan	****	<u>June 06</u>	<p>Grief. Outstanding, emotionally raw and powerful writing in the form of a memoir of the year following the death of Didion's husband, John Gregory Dunne. Also a memoir of grief itself, and a tribute to him and to their marriage.</p>	
<u>Napoleon's Pyramids</u>	Dietrich, William	****	<u>June 07</u>	<p>Adventure. Packed with historical accuracy of Napoleon's campaign to Egypt, this is a fine historical novel packed with action and entertaining adventure, not meant to be taken so seriously as to be boring.</p>	
<u>For the Time Being</u>	Dillard, Annie	***		<p>Dillard gently weaves philosophical threads throughout this book. If you need some introspective time, give this book a try.</p>	
<u>The Abundance</u>	Dillard, Annie	*****	<u>4/13/16</u>	<p>Variety. There's a new collection of essays by Annie Dillard titled, <u>The Abundance</u>. While reading these essays, I felt as if I had reconnected with an old friend, and remembered how acute her observations can be, how deep her insights and how beautiful her sentences. When I finished reading</p>	

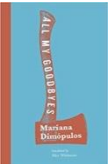
the collection, I felt refreshed by the variety of her essays. I found freshness even from those essays I've read before. Fans of Annie Dillard and cogent essays are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this collection.

The Maytrees	Dillard, Annie	*****	Aug 07	Abiding. Can love last? Fine novelist presents decades of relationships, full of love and longing, closeness and distance. Poetic language and lingering imagery provide much reading pleasure.	
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[Empire of Wild](#) Dimaline, Cherie Unread Shelf of Ennui 2020.



May and Amy: A True Story of Family, Forbidden Love, and the Secret Lives of May Gaskell, Her Daughter Amy, and Sir Edward Burne-Jones	Dimbleby, Josceline	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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All My Goodbyes	Dimópulos, Mariana	*****	3/26/20	Sadness. The protagonist of Mariana Dimópulos' novel titled, All My Goodbyes , has more than her share of sadness and sorrow. It seems like every time a human connection is made, it's time for it to be broken. Dimópulos explores in this novel our connections to people and places. There's a feeling of discomfort for readers as the chronology and location shifts erratically, giving us the same unsettled feeling as the protagonist. Most of us are	
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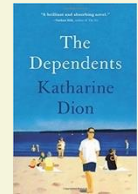
oriented toward a person or a place, but some people are never so settled. It won't take long to read this short novel, but it has taken me a long time to become reoriented and to shake off the sadness from these finely written pages.

End. It's rare for a debut novel by a young writer to be able to capture the quality of reflections toward the end of a long life. In her novel titled, The Dependents, Katherine Dion describes the ways in which protagonist Gene learns what life is all about after many years of marriage. Following the sudden death of his wife, Maida, Gene tries to focus on happy memories, but friends and his daughter, Dary, help him understand all that he didn't know about himself, Maida and Dary. The prose is finely written and should appeal to those readers who enjoy literary fiction.

The Dependents

Dion, Katharine

8/27/18

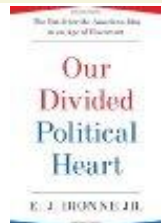


Our Divided Political Heart: The Battle for the American Idea in an Age of Discontent

Dionne, E.J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.

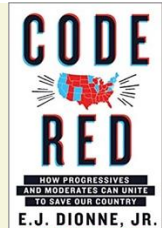


Code Red: How Progressives and Moderates Can Unite to Save Our Country

Dionne, Jr., E.J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



Stand up, fight back : Republican toughs, Democratic wimps, and the

Dionne, Jr., E.J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



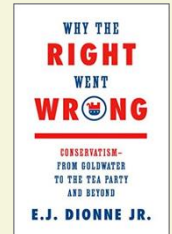
politics of
revenge

Why the Right
Went Wrong:
Conservatism
From Goldwater
to the Tea Party
and Beyond

Dionne, Jr., E.J.

12/20/16

Punditry. Political punditry is a dangerous game that is often played with confidence and a short shelf life. E.J. Dionne, Jr. selected what he thought was a perfect time for presenting his version of the story of conservatism in a book titled, Why the Right Went Wrong. I read this book before the completion of the 2016 election and am writing this review after Donald J. Trump was elected. Dionne offers readers a clear presentation of his interpretation of the past fifty years. Chances are, in light of the 2016 results, he might want to reconsider the “beyond” portion of his book. Readers interested in politics and open to multiple points of view are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.

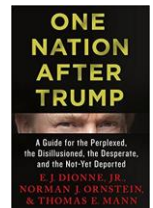


One Nation
After Trump: A
Guide for the
Perplexed, the
Disillusioned,
the Desperate,
and the Not-Yet
Deported

Dionne, Jr., E.J.,
Norman J.
Ornstein and
Thomas E. Mann

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



The Marsh
King's Daughter

Dionne, Karen

7/20/17

Helena. Helena is the narrator and protagonist of Karen Dionne's novel titled, The Marsh King's Daughter. She was raised in isolation in remote Upper Michigan where her father had kidnapped her mother, kept her in captivity, and conceived Helena. Alternating chapters in the past and present balance the exposition and allow Dionne to develop the characters deeply and build psychological tension. Readers who like fast-paced thrillers are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

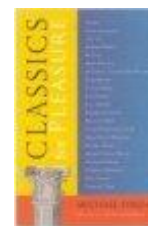


Classics for
Pleasure

Dirda, Michael

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008



The Art of
Losing

Dixon, Keith

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Walkaway

Doctorow, Cory

7/14/17

Inequality. There was a time when science fiction writers told stories of a future world that strained one's willing suspension of disbelief to the outer limits of plausibility. Today, some writers of science fiction describe a near future that seems to be just a few short choices away from our current society. Cory Doctorow leads readers into his story of the breakdown of civil order titled, Walkaway, as a logical consequence of growing inequality. I assume Doctorow wants to get readers thinking about the consequences of our current trajectory, consider what could be next, and then engage with others on making improved choices to build a better society.



All the Time in
the World: New
and Selected
Stories

Doctorow, E.L.

4/22/11

Virtuoso. I think I've read all of E.L. Doctorow's novels, and most of his short stories. His new collection of a dozen previously published and new short stories is titled, All the Time in the World. Within the constraints of the short story form, Doctorow masterfully presents fully developed characters in situations that are described well and that unveil aspects of human behavior that will resonate with and engage readers. Those readers who are too busy for long forms of fiction will find that reading one of these stories at a time is



				<p>pleasurable and achievable. Any reader who recognizes and admires fine literary writing will enjoy each of these twelve stories.</p> <p>Confusion. I first read E.L. Doctorow's novel, <u>Andrew's Brain</u>, in a single sitting on an airplane flight. For much of the book, I remained confused, but enjoyed Doctorow's skill in presenting images using just the right words, and the way in which he gradually revealed the memories of the protagonist, Andrew. My second reading occurred a few days later, and having completed the novel, I was able to reduce my confusion and more fully enjoy and appreciate Doctorow's fine writing. There are three brains required to unravel this novel: Doctorow's, Andrew's and the reader's. This novel will appeal in a special way to those readers who prefer to engage one's brain while reading.</p>	
<u>Andrew's Brain</u>	Doctorow, E.L.	****	<u>1/6/14</u>		
<u>City of God</u>	Doctorow, E.L.	***	<u>6/00</u>	A literary master's view of New York.	
<u>Creationists</u>	Doctorow, E.L.	***	<u>Jan 07</u>	<p>Cogent. Collection of sixteen powerful essays, mostly about American writers and their works, each finely written and full of cogent analysis.</p>	
<u>Homer & Langley</u>	Doctorow, E.L.	****	<u>10/14/09</u>	<p>Darkness. E.L. Doctorow's latest novel, <u>Homer & Langley</u>, brings readers into the strange world of the Collyer brothers, who lived eccentric lives in New York. While Doctorow based this novel on the real Collyer brothers and some of the facts of their lives, it is the inner life that Doctorow presents with great skill. Homer is blind, and while Langley has</p>	

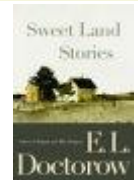
				physical sight, his own darkness can often be more desolate than that of his brother. Doctorow's writing led me to pause after finishing some sentences, and return to read them again to savor the experience. Here's one example (p. 193), "There were mental shutters too and mine were closed tight and I turned back to what I could rely on, the filial bond." Some shutters close gradually, and in many respects for both Homer and Langley, their descent into madness came slowly, adjusted each day by another step in a direction that became irreversible over time. Doctorow pulls this off with great skill and efficiency, allowing a reader to become absorbed page by page into Homer & Langley .	
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[Sweet Land Stories](#)

Doctorow, E.L.

[Aug 04](#)

Savory. Five well-crafted stories with universal themes presenting readers with the opportunity to think a little differently about life, love, power and alienation.

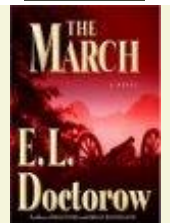


[The March](#)

Doctorow, E.L.

[Dec 05](#)

Sweeping. Well written historical novel of General Sherman's destructive journey across Georgia and the Carolinas at the end of the Civil War. Multiple perspectives from ensemble cast of interesting characters, both real and imagined.



[All the Light We Cannot See](#)


Doerr, Anthony

[8/26/14](#)

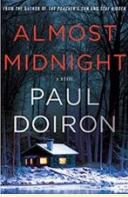
Insight. When I first read a blurb about Anthony Doerr's novel, [All the Light We Cannot See](#), my first thought was that the last way I wanted to spend time was reading another book set during World War II, let alone one containing more than five hundred pages. I didn't expect much especially from themes of blindness and radio waves. I decided to start reading it, and I'm delighted that I did. Doerr's novel is among the best I've read this year for several reasons. The plot kept me interested from beginning to end. The finely written



prose provided just the right level of description, imagery and dialogue. Character development provided one component the best novels always offer: insight into our human condition and the values that underlie our behavior. The structure of the novel with shifting time periods and narrators drew me in to the story, developed the characters and mesmerized me through finely written lyrical prose. I highly recommend this novel to any reader.

Cold War, Cool Medium: Television, McCarthyism and American Culture	Doherty, Thomas Patrick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
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<u>Massacre Pond</u>	Doiron, Paul	*****	<u>3/7/14</u>	<p>Maine. The fourth novel by Paul Doiron to feature Maine game warden Mike Bowditch is titled, <u>Massacre Pond</u>. Readers who enjoy crime fiction will find two successful elements in this novel and this series: an interesting protagonist with a balance of strengths and weaknesses, and a plot that keeps a reader's interest to the end. Doiron uses the backdrop of conflict between a wealthy philanthropist who wants to preserve land for the public good and the individuals who earn their livelihood from the same land. Bowditch faces many challenges in this novel as he tries to do his job. This series will appeal in a special way to those who love the wild outdoors, especially the beauty of Maine.</p>	
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<u>Almost Midnight</u>	Doiron, Paul	*****	<u>9/13/19</u>	<p>Vacation. Maine Game Warden Mike Bowditch is on something of a busman's holiday in the 10th installment of this series by Paul Doiron, a novel titled, <u>Almost Midnight</u>. Lots of characters from the earlier novel are back, including a wolf and dog hybrid, Shadow. As with the earlier novels, the protagonist is a complex and engaging character</p>	
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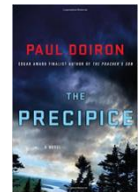
				<p>who's easy for readers to like and root for. Doiron's description of the Maine setting will make readers feel the places come alive, and the plots are consistently entertaining. While on vacation when Mike is asked to help a friend, his initial reaction is hesitation. Loyalty wins out, and readers set off with Mike on another rule-breaking exciting adventure.</p>	
Knife Creek	Doiron, Paul	*****	8/12/17	<p>Feral. The eighth novel by Paul Doiron featuring protagonist Maine game warden Mike Bowditch is titled, Knife Creek. While Mike is assigned to kill feral hogs that have crossed into Maine from New Hampshire, he finds a dead baby in a shallow grave. The case gets more interesting with every page, and Mike finds himself in peril as he carries out his investigation. Fans will enjoy the return of a familiar cast of interesting characters, and new readers will find well-written and entertaining crime fiction that has lots of plot twists and surprises.</p>	
One Last Lie	Doiron, Paul	*****	12/9/20	<p>Secrets. The latest installment in the Mike Bowditch series by Paul Doiron is a novel titled, One Last Lie. Fans of the Maine game warden will enjoy the return of a familiar cast of characters, and the revelation of long-held secrets. Retired warden Charley Stevens has gone missing, and Mike goes on a hunt to find him. Charley's daughter and Mike's former girlfriend returns adding interest about a new spark for an old relationship. Fans of crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.</p>	
Stay Hidden	Doiron, Paul	*****	8/3/18	<p>Island. The ninth novel in the Mike Bowditch series by Paul Doiron is titled, Stay Hidden. This installment has the Maine game warden sent to an island on his first big detective case. Bad weather and luck cause him to do much of the work on his own. As expected, outsiders like Mike aren't</p>	

welcomed with open arms by the island residents. A cast of characters, new and reprised, are well-drawn and the plot moves briskly. Fans of crime fiction and this series are those readers most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

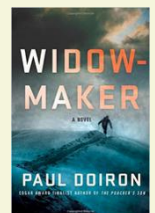
Freelance. The latest novel by Paul Doiron to feature protagonist Mike Bowditch is titled, The Bone Orchard. While Mike quit being a Maine Game Warden because of politics, he doesn't stop investigating. He abandons his job as a guide to pursue the person who shot his mentor, Kathy Frost. This freelance work allows Mike to follow his own rules, the same path that got him in trouble when he was a warden. The characters are fully developed, the plot is entertaining, and the setting is written with enough descriptive language to bring all readers to Maine. Anyone who likes crime fiction with strong central characters is likely to enjoy this novel and this series.



Trail. Reading a novel by Paul Doiron featuring Maine game warden Mike Bowditch is almost as much fun as being in Maine. Most of the action in The Precipice takes place along the Appalachian Trail, and there are coyotes, hikers and a great cast of interesting characters. Readers who enjoy action thrillers, especially those set in the great outdoors, are likely to enjoy this novel and this series.



Taut. I found that the seventh novel by Paul Doiron to feature Maine warden Mike Bowditch titled, Widowmaker, was paced a bit slower than the previous books. That rhythm was fine with me. Mike is drawn into searching for a missing person for personal reasons that involve unresolved issues from his past. The past is never too far removed from his thoughts in the present. The Maine woods carry a lot of secrets, and Mike remains emotionally taut throughout this novel dealing with one thing



<u>The Bone Orchard</u>	Doiron, Paul	*****	<u>8/8/14</u>	
<u>The Precipice</u>	Doiron, Paul	*****	<u>7/24/15</u>	
<u>Widowmaker</u>	Doiron, Paul	*****	<u>10/27/16</u>	

				after another. He and Stacey are also under stress and tension in their relationship. His job, as always, brings challenges. Fans of crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
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Bad Things
Happen

Dolan, Harry

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



The Good Killer	Dolan, Harry	*****	5/5/20	<p>Complexity. Fans of crime thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy Harry Dolan's novel titled, The Good Killer. After protagonist Sean Tennant shoots and kills a gunman who was wreaking havoc and death in a Houston shopping mall, the fast-paced action accelerates. Sean's act to kill garnered admiration by many, but he didn't hang around to receive it. He began to flee Texas and pick up his partner, Molly Winter, from a retreat in Montana, so they could start a fresh life someplace else. Sean knew that the photos of his good deed would spread and rouse interest in people from his past to come after him and Molly. Dolan keeps the action moving and creates believable and complex characters whose behavior is a complex mix of right and wrong.</p>	
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[The Irish
Americans: A
History](#)

Dolan, Jay P.

[2/14/09](#)

Grand. Jay Dolan is a professor emeritus of history at the University of Notre Dame. His latest book [The Irish Americans: A History](#) presents a comprehensive, factual and engaging story of the 250 or so years of immigration from Ireland to America, and the impact of the Irish on America. There's tragedy and complexity in this story that Dolan displays with great dexterity: never making things seem more complicated than they are, and never minimizing the struggles and difficulties that have been a hallmark of this experience. Any reader



who is Irish or Catholic or both will especially appreciate [The Irish Americans](#). I thought I knew a lot about this history, but learned much after reading Dolan's account. What I already knew came to life through Dolan's engaging writing.

Roommates. Naoise Dolan's debut novel, [Exciting Times](#), explores contemporary love and relationships. Protagonist Ava has arrived in Hong Kong from Dublin to teach English to privileged children. Before long, a banker named Julian begins a romantic relationship with Ava that is fraught with challenges. While Julian works abroad, Ava meets Edith, a lawyer, and they explore a relationship. Before long, the three characters are roommates trying to sort out what's next. Dolan finds ways to lead readers to care about what happens to these characters, and to think about modern love and the kinds of personal and financial transactions that can transform our lives.



[Exciting Times](#)

Dolan, Naoise

[10/27/20](#)

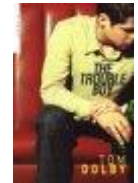
[The Trouble Boy](#)

Dolby, Tom

**

[Aug 04](#)

Lite Lights. Another debut novel about coming of age in New York City, this time the twenty-something gay version. Some punchy writing.



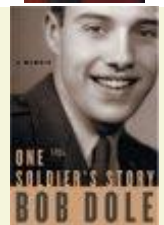
[One Soldier's Story: A Memoir](#)

Dole, Bob

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[July 05](#)

Understated. In plain and direct narrative, peppered occasionally with trademark wit, Dole relates his life from an average childhood in Kansas through a courageous three year recovery from war wounds.

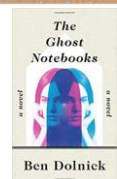


[The Ghost Notebooks](#)

Dolnick, Ben

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2018.



<u>We Are Lincoln Men: Abraham Lincoln and His Friends</u>	Donald, David Herbert	***	<u>May 04</u>	Lonely. Outstanding historian and Lincoln scholar selects six individuals who could be considered close friends of Lincoln and explores the nature of those friendships and the impact of those men on Lincoln's often lonely life.	
The Variations	Donatich, John	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
Wrong Information Is Being Given Out at Princeton	Donleavy, J.P.	DNR	<u>9/99</u>	Take a pass.	
<u>Akin</u>	Donoghue, Emma	*****	<u>10/10/19</u>	Rescue. Prepare yourself to settle into another one of Emma Donoghue's finely written novels, a book titled, <u>Akin</u> . Protagonist Noah is an old man, retired and widowed, and ready for a trip to his birthplace in France to explore questions from the past about his family. Just before his departure, Noah meets his eleven-year-old grandnephew, Michael, whose mother is in prison and who needs a new guardian. A social worker has tracked down Noah and when the choice comes down to Noah or a stranger as foster parent, Noah finds himself agreeing to a trial run, as long as Michael can accompany him to France. What follows is a touching story about the young and the old, the links of family relationships, and a rescue from the past and the present. As always, Donoghue's writing is superb, and most readers will love the story, the insights and the finely written prose.	

<u>Astray</u>	Donoghue, Emma	****	<u>1/24/13</u>	<p>Captive. With great skill in her story collection titled <u>Astray</u>, Emma Donoghue takes fourteen historical events and writes a story that brings to life characters and setting. I parceled myself one story a day, and came away from each story dazzled and satisfied. The efficiency of the short story requires a writer to manage every sentence with precision. I was held captive by Donoghue's fine writing, and found every character to be well developed and their situations and behavior believable and insightful. I found her use of the first person narrator in several stories to be particularly effective. Readers who like short stories and fine writing should consider reading this excellent collection.</p>	
<u>Frog Music</u>	Donoghue, Emma	*****	<u>4/24/14</u>	<p>Songs. The setting for Emma Donoghue's novel, <u>Frog Music</u>, is California, mostly during the hot summer of 1876. Using great dialogue and descriptive language, Donoghue leads readers back and forth over short time periods. On one level, this novel is a murder mystery, which will satisfy readers who like that genre. On another level, this is a character study, especially of protagonist Blanche Beunon, a burlesque dancer and mother of a young son. All the characters and the setting are enhanced by the words Donoghue uses to help us see and even smell the places described. The songs of that period provide another level of context for the plot and for insight into what life was like in San Francisco at that time. Readers who appreciate fine literary writing will find much to enjoy in this novel.</p>	

<u>Room</u>	Donoghue, Emma	*****	<u>10/26/10</u>	<p>Confinement. It's not often that one finds an adult novel narrated by a five-year-old boy. Emma Donoghue pulls off that feat with great skill in her novel, <u>Room</u>. Young Jack has spent all five years of his life living with his mother in an 11x11 space he calls "room" and which has been the totality of his world view. The slow disclosure of how they ended up in this situation and the depth of love that sustained them becomes the core of the novel. Donoghue's writing kept me engaged from beginning to end, and in some respects, I was reminded of Cormac McCarthy's <i>The Road</i>, in how well Donoghue explores parental love and the ways in which love overcomes any obstacle or limitation. Book clubs will likely enjoy this selection, and any reader looking for an unusual novel with fine writing will likely enjoy this book.</p>	
<u>The Pull of the Stars</u>	Donoghue, Emma	*****	<u>8/25/20</u>	<p>Pandemic. Consider taking a busman's holiday from the current pandemic to Emma Donoghue's finely written book set during the Great Flu of 1918, a novel set in Dublin and titled, <u>The Pull of the Stars</u>. As in her earlier novels, Donoghue doesn't need a lot of landscape in which to set her dramatic action: much of this novel is set in a hospital room over the course of three days. I was delighted by the point of view from narrator and protagonist Julia Power, a nurse. Donoghue's characters are deeply developed and reveal the depth of human nature and behavior. The prose is finely written, and the novel should appeal to any reader who enjoys the power of a well-told story and the selection of just the right words to convey it with love, care and precision.</p>	

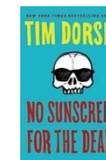
<u>The Wonder</u>	Donoghue, Emma	*****	<u>10/12/16</u>	<p>Watch. The latest novel by Emma Donoghue titled, <u>The Wonder</u>, is set in a small village in the middle of Ireland in 1859. The title refers to Anna, a young girl who claims to have not eaten in four months. A nurse trained by Florence Nightingale, Lib Wright, has been summoned to join another nurse in a round-the-clock monitoring of Anna to observe her with the intention to either affirm her claim or uncover how she is acquiring nourishment. Readers join this watch with Lib, and like observing a roadside accident, I found I could not look away. Anna's health deteriorates as Lib watches, and Donoghue draws us gradually toward understanding of Anna and her fasting. Donoghue's prose is finely written, and in this novel she tells a great story. I loved the novel from beginning to end.</p>	
Indispensable and Other Myths: Why the CEO Pay Experiment Failed and How to Fix It	Dorff, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>Naked Came the Florida Man</u>	Dorsey, Tim	****	<u>3/6/20</u>	<p>Rodeo. The twenty-third installment in Tim Dorsey's Serge Storms series is titled, <u>Naked Came the Florida Man</u>. The title alone should attract new readers, while fans of the series have already consumed this funny novel. Serge and Coleman tool around Florida and we learn about forgotten burial places. There's football and even a rodeo. The gold coins are a particular attraction, but the real joy comes in the new ways Serge finds to deliver justice. I can't wait for them to gas up the Plymouth and embark on adventure number twenty-four.</p>	

[No Sunscreen for the Dead](#)

Dorsey, Tim

[3/6/19](#)

Vengeance. Readers who have laughed through the Serge Storms series by Tim Dorsey are those most likely to enjoy the 22nd installment, a novel titled, [No Sunscreen for the Dead](#). The current stop for Serge and Coleman's Florida escapade is The Villages where the guys want to observe seniors in their natural habitat. As Serge gets to know some residents, he becomes a man with a mission: exact vengeance on behalf of those of the greatest generation who have been exploited by others. He recovers their swindled funds and delivers creative justice to the bad guys. If you like wacky humor and can tolerate a lot of violence, this novel will be a funny and entertaining treat.

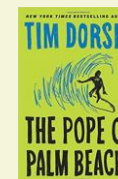


[The Pope of Palm Beach](#)

Dorsey, Tim

[2/9/18](#)

Slapstick. When will I ever learn? Just as my book queue swells to unreadable proportions, I open up a new novel from a series that was unfamiliar to me. The 21st Serge A. Storms novel by Tim Dorsey is titled, [The Pope of Palm Beach](#). I read it in a few delightful hours, and now I'm likely to add another series to my regular reading list. Dorsey has created an endearing and manic character in Serge, and his constant motion in this novel provided me with comedic entertainment, albeit of the slapstick kind. Two plot lines converge at the point of Serge in this book, and links between the past and present are offered to fill out the story. Any reader looking for a laugh or two will find plenty here, and those who find Florida a source of amusement will delight in all the local color that Dorsey provides.



[Trump Sky Alpha](#)


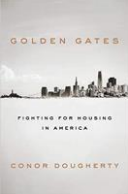

Doten, Mark

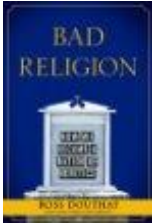
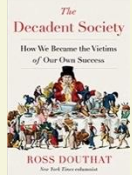
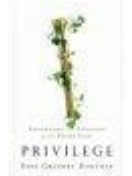
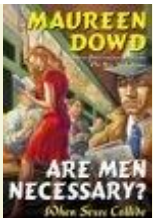


[10/25/19](#)

Satire. If aspects of contemporary life are not dystopic enough for you, consider reading Mark Doten's satire titled, [Trump Sky Alpha](#). The novel is set one year after President Trump's nuclear war, and the title refers to his huge aircraft available only for the very best people who look terrific. The protagonist is a journalist on an assignment to open



the door to the remains of the internet and uncover its secrets. More serious readers of this novel will see its exploration of the use of media, the consequences of disinformation and how hard it can be to determine what is true, especially when distracted by all the noise.

<u>Unnatural Leadership: Going Against Instinct and Experience to Develop Ten New Leadership Instincts</u>	Dotlich, David L. and Peter C. Cairo	**	<u>Dec 02</u>	Buzz. Long on the what, short on the how, but some solid concepts and thought-stimulating ideas. Up to you to figure out how to accomplish what they suggest, and what doesn't come naturally.	
<u>Golden Gates: Fighting for Housing in America</u>	Dougherty, Conor	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>My Father Left Me Ireland: An American Son's Search For Home</u>	Dougherty, Michael Brendan	****	<u>11/14/19</u>	Kindred. As he prepared to become a father, Michael Brendan Dougherty freaked out a little about how he would need to tell his daughter who she is and where she comes from. He writes a book titled, <u>My Father Left Me Ireland: An American Son's Search For Home</u> , as letters to his father who has been an intermittent presence in Michael's life. Dougherty's mother and father ended their relationship in Ireland before he was born. While he was raised in New Jersey, his mother spoke to him in Irish and his father visited from Dublin every few years. Facing fatherhood, he wrote letters to his own father that are heartfelt and moving. At some time in our life we answer identity questions for ourselves about who is kindred. If we are fortunate, we also come to understand the sacrifice	

				that parents have made to improve the lives of their children.	
Bad Religion: How We Became a Nation of Heretics	Douthat, Ross	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>The Decadent Society: How We Became the Victims of Our Own Success</u>	Douthat, Ross	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Privilege : Harvard and the Education of the Ruling Class	Douthat, Ross Gregory	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Are Men Necessary?</u>	Dowd, Maureen	***	<u>Mar 06</u>	Relentless. Witty and sarcastic observations likely to be viewed as funny by regular readers of her syndicated column, and as irritants by those who find her tone annoying. To all, her longer form here allows relentless expression.	
<u>A Passion for Paris: Romanticism and Romance in the City of Light</u>	Downie, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
The Rules of the Game	Downie, Jr., Leonard	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	

Diary of a Dead Man on Leave

Downing, David

1/2/20

Josef. Prolific novelist David Downing sets his stand alone novel titled, Diary of a Dead Man on Leave, in the town of Hamm, Germany in 1938. The book is structured as a diary that was found long after the war ended. The novel's narrator arrived in Hamm as a Russian spy calling himself Josef Hoffmann. He was sent to Germany to reactivate a communist cell. Josef knew that he should write nothing down, but he proceeds anyway. As he settles into Hamm, he grows close to a widow who rents him a room and he guides her son, Walter, in a fatherly way. Walter is the one who found the diary and his eyes are opened, as are ours, by this account from a fascinating character and overall good guy.

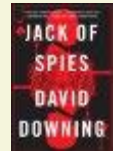


Jack of Spies

Downing, David

8/8/14

Betrayal. Fans of spy fiction and historical fiction set in the early twentieth century are those most likely to enjoy reading David Downing's novel titled, Jack of Spies. The run up to World War I was an exciting time, and Downing's plot moves protagonist Jack McColl from China across the US and on to Mexico, England and Ireland. McColl aspires to leave his job as a luxury car salesman and become a spy for the Royal Navy. I enjoyed both the well-developed characters and Downing's presentation of the time period. Tension in the novel is less than in many spy novels, as betrayal is the basis for all spy work, and that's what happens here. I had the sense that this is the beginning of a series, and Downing leaves us wanting to enter the war with McColl and see what might happen next.

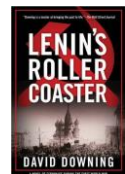


Lenin's Roller Coaster

Downing, David

4/19/17

Transit. The third Jack McColl novel by David Downing is titled, Lenin's Roller Coaster. Set in 1917-19, we find British spy Jack McColl and his lover, American journalist Caitlin Handley, in transit throughout the novel, often in separate places. Jack is on a mission to sabotage the



Germans in central Asia, while Caitlin is covering the Russian Revolution. Readers who enjoy historical fiction, especially of this time period, are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel. Readers of the earlier novels will appreciate the depth of relationship of these two characters. I was entertained because I find this time period fascinating, and these characters are compelling.

Rising. David Downing reprises characters Jack McColl and Caitlin Hanley from *Jack of Spies* for another spy novel set in the early twentieth century and titled, One Man's Flag. Jack goes from India and its troubles to Ireland and its troubles, close to the time of the Easter Rising. Fans of spy fiction and historical fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series. Love and betrayal take many forms, as does loyalty. Downing explores those themes and others with great skill while providing readers with an entertaining plot.

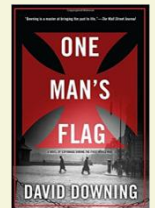
Alliances. The fourth novel in the Jack McColl series by David Downing is titled, The Dark Clouds Shining. The fast-paced actions starts in England in 1921 when Jack's former spymaster offers him an early release from prison in exchange for carrying out a risky and unofficial assignment. Happy to be sprung, Jack finds himself in Moscow and back into the life of the woman he loves, Caitlin Hanley. There are tenuous alliances throughout the novel, as Jack travels as far as India on this assignment. Fans of the series are those readers who are most likely to enjoy this novel.

Smitten. Brian Doyle was smitten by Chicago, and the love song he writes from that besotted state is novel titled appropriately, Chicago. An unnamed protagonist moves into a north side apartment after college and works at a job he likes. He walks around the city and shares the sights, sounds and people of

One Man's Flag

Downing, David

1/15/16



The Dark Clouds Shining

Downing, David

6/20/18



Chicago

Doyle, Brian

6/3/16



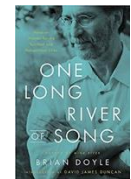
this place. I liked the ways in which Doyle drew readers into what it takes to build and maintain a community. While the love song is to the city at large, the core of the novel is the story of the people in one apartment building, whose lives separately and as a community provide a paradigm for us all. One of the loving characters is Edward the dog, as complete a character as any of the humans, and even more complex than many. If you like Chicago, or if you like dogs, and if you have a thing about community, chances are you will love reading this novel.

[One Long River of Song: Notes on Wonder](#)

Doyle, Brian

[6/10/20](#)

Essays. Brian Doyle died too young at age 60 from brain cancer, and I can only imagine how many more beautiful sentences he would be writing were he still alive. In a posthumous essay collection titled, [One Long River of Song: Notes on Wonder](#), readers can gorge on his fine prose, and his acute and alert observations about life. Whether musing on basketball, his children or nature, Doyle has a way of opening our eyes and our minds to the wonders around us. Treat yourself to the finely written essays in this collection and view your life and the world around you with more clarity, humility and understanding.



[The Adventures of John Carson in Several Quarters of the World](#)

Doyle, Brian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



[The Mighty Currawongs and Other Stories](#)


Doyle, Brian

[1/3/17](#)

Humanity. After I finished reading the 33 short stories in the collection by Brian Doyle titled, [The Mighty Currawongs and Other Stories](#), I found myself feeling very good about our human condition. Doyle captures images of interesting people in delightful settings and invites readers to share in the joys, sorrows and foibles of our human

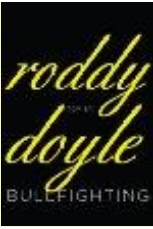


condition. I find that many short stories can leave me wanting more, but there's a sense of completion in each of Doyle's stories: he writes just enough, and not a word more than is necessary. One of the stories about an archbishop made me think of Willa Cather, and I thought that aspects of Doyle's writing mirrors the ways in which Cather presented depth of character with great efficiency. Doyle's skill brought me great reading pleasure along with a renewed confidence in our resilience.

I Love You, Beth Cooper	Doyle, Larry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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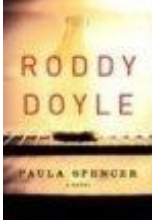
Threshold Doyle, Rob Unread Shelf of Ennui 2020.

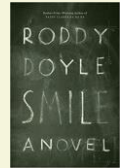


Bullfighting	Doyle, Roddy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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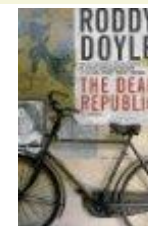
Paula Spencer Doyle, Roddy *** May 07

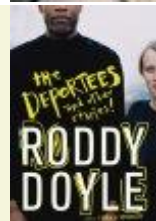
Addictive. Reprised character is now a recovering alcoholic, trying hard to improve her relationship with the grown children who grew up while she was drunk.



Smile	Doyle, Roddy	****	11/21/17	<p>Memory. One of fiction's great themes is that things are often not as they appear to be. In Roddy Doyle's novel, Smile, memories and what really happened may also be different. Protagonist Victor Forde remembers lots of vivid things, include abuse while at school, but he doesn't quite recall a fellow student named Eddie whom he meets decades later. Doyle offers readers crisp dialogue, humor, and great uncertainty about the reliability of memory.</p>	
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The Dead Republic Doyle, Roddy Unread Shelf of Ennui 2011



The Deportees and Other Stories	Doyle, Roddy	***	June 08	<p>Grand. Eight witty short stories about the experience of new immigrants in modern Ireland. No wasted words; on some pages you'll be laughing out loud.</p>	
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[The Dark Flood Rises](#)

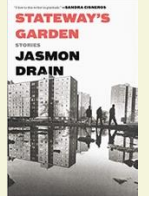
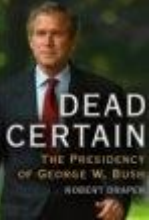
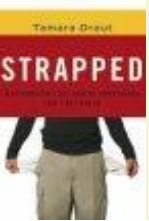
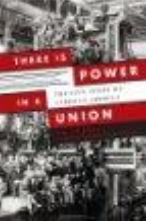

Drabble, Margaret

[8/12/17](#)

Mortality. Readers born before the middle of the twentieth century are those most likely to relate to and enjoy Margaret Drabble's novel titled, [The Dark Flood Rises](#). As the end of a normal lifespan comes closer to one, like a flood water rising slowly, standing still is not usually an option. Protagonist Francesca Stubbs rarely stands still, and through her we are introduced to an ensemble cast of elderly people and those who care for them. For a group on the Canary Islands, the flood also involves the migrants finding a place to survive. Drabble leads readers through a meandering plot dealing a lot with the places where we end up dying. Readers with the patience needed whenever one spends time with the elderly are those who are likely to be



rewarded with finely written prose and wise perspectives about the end of life.

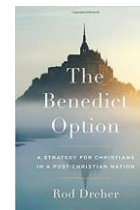
<u>Stateway's Garden</u>	Drain, Jasmon	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Dead Certain: The Presidency of George W. Bush	Draper, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Strapped	Draut, Tamara	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
There is Power in a Union: The Epic Story of Labor in America	Dray, Philip	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
Crunchy Cons	Dreher, Rod	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation

Dreher, Ron

6/16/17

Resistance. Ron Dreher proposes a radical form of community life for Christians in his book titled, The Benedict Option: A Strategy for Christians in a Post-Christian Nation. Instead of struggling to raise our children to not conform to the values they discern from secular culture, Dreher proposes forming communities of individuals with shared values. This call to community life has a long history which Dreher describes. While he belongs to the Eastern Orthodox Church, his message can apply to any believer struggling with the challenges of how to live a Christian life in a secular culture. Living in and not of the world has a long tradition, and whether a reader agrees with Dreher's analysis and advice or not, most engaged Christians will find serious points for personal and communal consideration in this book. Non-Christians who wonder what all the fuss is about will also find clarity on some issues in this book.

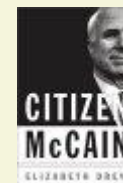


Citizen McCain

Drew, Elizabeth

Oct 02

Chronicle. Drew follows McCain from January 2001 through March 2002 as he shepherds campaign finance reform bill through Congress. Drew adds insight as she takes us inside politics and into the life of a Senator who leads with courage and skill.

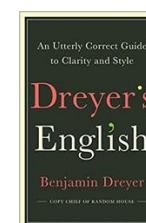


Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style


Dreyer, Benjamin

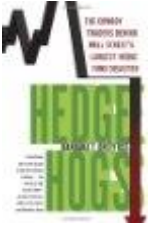
5/24/19

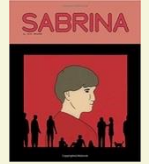
Fun. If you're a regular reader who loves words you should experience delight as you read Benjamin Dreyer's witty, sharp and experienced judgments in his book titled, Dreyer's English: An Utterly Correct Guide to Clarity and Style. If you've ever wondered what different editors do, this book will explain their work for you. Dreyer's writing is playful, clear and reflects a clear understanding of our foibles. The footnotes can be a bit distracting, often because I kept overlooking the marks that would send me to the bottom of the page. The content of the footnotes and text were a joy to read, and whether my usage

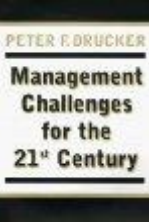


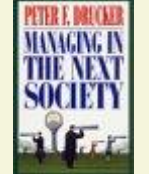
of the English language will improve as a result of reading this book, only time will tell.

All Things Shining: Reading the Western Classics to Find Meaning in a Secular Age	Dreyfus, Hubert and Sean Dorrance Kelly	Unread		Got as far as page 82 and then drifted off. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
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Hedge Hogs: The Cowboy Traders Behind Wall Street's Largest Hedge Fund Disaster	Dreyfuss, Barbara T.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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Sabrina	Drnasos, Nick	***	10/17/18	Trauma. When I read that a graphic novel had been longlisted for the Man Booker prize, I added it to my reading queue. Nick Drnasos's novel titled, Sabrina , is a gripping story of the disappearance of a woman and the trauma she and others experience thereafter. This is a story of trauma in real life and in social networks. The muted colors in the illustrations reflect the shadows of a dark world. Peek at a sample and see if a graphic novel is something you'd like to read.	
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Management Challenges for the 21st Century	Drucker, Peter F.	****		Executives prepared for action will be excited by this book. (More comments on Drucker in the Legacy section of the 7/99 Executive Times).	
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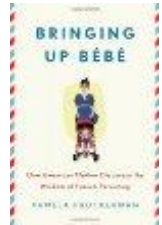
Managing in the Next Society	Drucker, Peter F.	***	Nov 02	Sampler. Compilation of Drucker essays from recent years contain candid opinions that are always thoughtful, rarely conventional. Drucker predicts that coming social changes will be more important than economic ones.	
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[Bringing Up Bebe: One American Mother Discovers the Wisdom of French Parenting](#)

Druckerman,
Pamela

[3/2/12](#)

Autonomy. I was entertained and amused by Pam Druckerman's book, [Bringing Up Bebe: One American Mother Discovers the Wisdom of French Parenting](#). Druckerman presents her personal story of raising children in France. Working like an anthropologist as a participant-observer of the culture, she is able to call attention to the differences she saw in how French parents behaved with their children as compared to many American parents. Among the many differences she presents are the approaches to patience and waiting rather than leaping in, and the ways in which autonomy is encouraged. No one parent's experience or observation is ever definitive for another parent's behavior, so those readers expecting a how-to manual will be disappointed. Readers who enjoy lively writing about family life across cultures will find this book interesting.

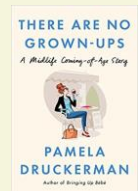


[There Are No Grown-ups: A Midlife Coming-of-Age Story](#)

Druckerman,
Pamela

[8/17/18](#)

Maturity. I expected to skim, but not complete, Pamela Druckerman's book titled, [There Are No Grown-ups: A Midlife Coming-of-Age Story](#). Once I settled into her lively writing, self-deprecating humor and overall cleverness, I laughed through to the end. In the midst of the humor, there's an exploration of the meaning of maturity in contemporary life. Personally, I didn't consider turning 40 to be as big a deal as Druckerman did, but when my older son turned 40, that caught my attention about maturity and mortality. I still laughed with Druckerman and her foibles.



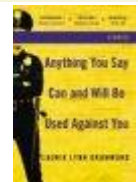
[Anything You Say Can and Will Be Used Against You](#)

Drummond,
Laurie Lynn

**

[Oct 04](#)

Copped. Ten short stories about five Baton Rouge policewomen, often brutal and violent. Colorful stories, not particularly well written.



Pacific	Drury, Tom	***	11/26/13	<p>Hope. Tom Drury reprises the Grouse County, Iowa setting from his debut novel, <i>The End of Vandalism</i>, and some of those characters for a new novel titled, Pacific. I enjoyed this book as a novel of hope, and appreciated the ways in which Drury contrasted a Midwestern small town with life on the West Coast. Drury's prose can be captivating, but I found myself pushing myself toward the end of the novel just wanting to finish it, not quite savoring it. Read a sample to see if you think his writing in this novel will appeal to you. For me, it was ok, but not one that I can highly recommend.</p>	
The Driftless Area	Drury, Tom	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
The Voyage of the Short Serpent	Du Boucheron, Bernard	*		Read, but not reviewed.	
Boy Genius: Karl Rove, the Brains Behind the Remarkable Political Triumph of George W. Bush	Dubose, Lou	***	June 03	<p>Turd Blossom. Largely self-taught, Rove lives and breathes politics, and has been right more than wrong in the advice he's given. Read this book and find out more about his nicknames and talents.</p>	

<u>Indiscretion</u>	Dubow, Charles	****	<u>3/16/13</u>	<p>Betrayal. Charles Dubow excels at developing the cast of characters in his novel, <u>Indiscretion</u>. He accomplishes what most novelists attempt: presenting us with human behavior in ways that resonate for us in nuance. Each character is neither totally good nor totally evil. There is love and betrayal. There are mistakes and consequences. These recognizable characters, like all of us, live in ways that are shaded, not black and white. What appealed to me so much was the way in which Dubow drew me in from the beginning and helped me care about what happened to these characters.</p>	
<u>Dirty Love</u>	Dubus III, Andre	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Bucky F*cking Dent</u>	Duchovny, David	****	<u>7/8/16</u>	<p>Character. I had low expectations when I picked up a copy of David Duchovny's novel titled, <u>Bucky F*cking Dent</u>. Having known Duchonvy as an actor, I didn't know much about his skills as a writer. I was pleasantly surprised by the quality of the writing as well as the abundant literary references. This well-educated and multi-talented person has written a very good novel. At the core of the novel there is a father-son relationship with two complex and interesting characters. Perfect for this time of year, there is baseball. Duchonvy explores love, loss, loyalty and perseverance in ways that were both light and deep at the same time. Three hundred pages can be turned with pleasure over the course of about as much time as one would spend at a baseball game.</p>	

Miss Subways

Duchovny, David

7/24/18

Enchanted. The Irish myth of the love between Emer and Cuchulain comes to modern life in New York City, thanks to a novel by David Duchovny titled, Miss Subways. I thought about Borges and magical realism as I read this novel and reflected about the enchanted realms that might be alongside us all the time, if we would only look. That person in a rush toward the subway might be a god. I was engaged in this love story of two interesting and complex individuals, as well as the ways in which the city itself was the setting for enchanted love. Fans of love stories and NYC are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel, as are those who are well-versed in myths.



The Change
Monster: The
Human Forces
that Fuel or Foil
Corporate
Transformation
and Change

Duck, Jeanie
Daniel

07/01

Helps executives ride what she calls “the change curve” and avoid the change monster.

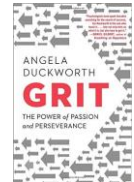


Grit: The Power
of Passion and
Perseverance

Duckworth,
Angela

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

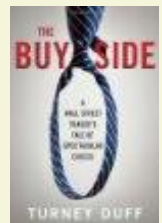


The Buy Side: A
Wall Street
Trader's Tale of
Spectacular
Excess

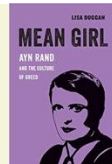
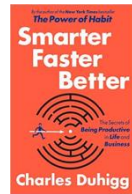
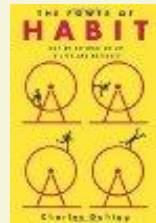
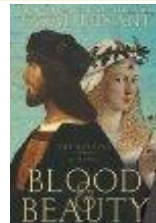
Duff, Turney

7/16/13

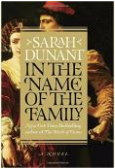
Addiction. Readers who like memoirs of addiction and recovery are those most likely to enjoy Turney Duff's The Buy Side: A Wall Street Trader's Tale of Spectacular Excess. Those readers who expect any insight into Wall Street life should look elsewhere. In many respects, this is a generic story of addiction with Wall Street as a backdrop to a story of personal bad choices and the consequences of those choices. Duff landed a job on Wall Street and found a sweet spot in his skills at networking and partying. Drinking and drugs led to full addiction



				and bad outcomes for Turney and his family. I found this to be a sad story, but one that many other authors have told. Duff writes well, and if you enjoy reading about the pain and misfortune of others, this is the book for you.	
House of Echoes	Duffy, Brendan	****	2/15/16	<p>Fear. Readers who like creepy page turners will find a lot to enjoy from Brendan Duffy's debut novel titled, House of Echoes. The Tierney family was ready for a change. Ben has writer's block on his novel. Caroline lost her banking job. Young Charlie is being bullied at his Manhattan school. They pour buckets of money into restoring a huge property in a remote valley in rural New York State. The town of Swannhaven was where some of Ben's Lowell ancestors lived, so he felt a connection to this place. The creepy people in the town felt the connection to him and his family as well in ways that led me to yell at the page: "don't go into the woods" and other assorted exclamations as Ben and Caroline do the wrong thing at the wrong time with great frequency. Despite the implausibility of much of the story, I felt well entertained by the plot's pacing and the ways in which Duffy kept the fear level at a low boil for hundreds of pages.</p>	
The Killing of Major Denis Mahon: A Mystery of Old Ireland	Duffy, Peter	***	Mar 08	<p>Troubles. Mahon was landlord to 12,000 tenants on his land in County Roscommon at the time of the potato blight, and was killed in an ambush in 1847. This book describes the context, the politics, the trial and the injustice of those troubling times.</p>	
Men Fake Foreplay and Other Lies That Are True	Dugan, Mike	*	Sep 05	<p>Chuckles. Fans of Dugan's live performances will find fewer laughs between these lines, and those attracted by this title will find less pleasure than anticipated.</p>	

<u>Mean Girl: Ayn Rand and the Culture of Greed</u>	Duggan, Lisa	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Smarter Faster Better: The Secrets of Being Productive in Life and Business</u>	Duhigg, Charles	*****	<u>4/21/16</u>	<p>Choices. I usually get irritated on the rare occasions when I pick up some form of self-help book. I was surprised, then, by how much I enjoyed reading Charles Duhigg's book titled, <u>Smarter Faster Better: The Secrets of Being Productive in Life and Business</u>. Duhigg's main point is that productivity is about making the right choices. Through interesting writing and telling lots of detailed stories, Duhigg offers eight insights that he picked up as he delved into this topic. He offers a deliberate process through which readers may want to think differently. Any reader who struggles with getting the right things done in an effective way should consider reading this engaging book.</p>	
<u>The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business</u>	Duhigg, Charles	***	<u>4/11/12</u>	<p>Cues. Readers who like science written for lay people are those most likely to enjoy Charles Duhigg's new book, <u>The Power of Habit: Why We Do What We Do in Life and Business</u>. Duhigg explains the science in enough detail to inform and in a writing style that entertains because of great examples and stories. The loop we all engage in is that some cue causes us to behave in a certain way to achieve a desired reward. Some readers are likely to become more self-reflective after reading this book, and may recognize the patterns that we follow without much thought.</p>	
<u>Blood & Beauty: The Borgias</u>	Dunant, Sarah	*****	<u>10/8/13</u>	<p>Alliances. One of the reasons that I like to read historical fiction is that the one or two dimensions of people from the past that settled in my brain can become more fully formed with complete personalities. Sarah Dunant takes on the exploits of the Borgia family in her novel, <u>Blood & Beauty</u>. Her</p>	

imagination about the personalities of Rodrigo, Cesare, Lucrezia and many others provided me with hours of entertainment as the crafty alliances and maneuvers provided the plot that seemed to me to cover the historical highlights with care. Dunant starts this novel when Rodrigo becomes Pope Alexander VI, and after more than a decade over almost 600 pages, she's left room for a sequel. Any reader who likes historical fiction or the formed and broken alliances in 16th century Europe will enjoy this novel.

In the Name of the Family	Dunant, Sarah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
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Cloistered. Sarah Dunant transports readers into a convent in 16th century Italy to tell an engaging story about the lives of women during that period. [Sacred Hearts](#) is a well-told story featuring a cast of fully developed characters who reveal so many aspects of human nature and the range of our behavior that at times I forgot the action was taking place behind the walls of a cloistered Benedictine convent. The Council of Trent has just ended and reforms are being implemented by bishops. Convent life is about to change, and the convent of Santa Caterina in the town of Ferrara is trying to keep a low profile and maintain good relations with their bishop. The abbess, Madonna Chiara, is equal parts CEO and politician, and she runs convent meetings expertly, charms money from the local swells, and gives the bishop what he wants. Born to a noble Ferrara family, Chiara has lived inside the convent since she was a child. The novice mistress, Suora Umiliana, would like the convent to return to greater simplicity and mortification of the flesh. A

Sacred Hearts	Dunant, Sarah	***	3/22/10
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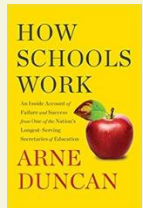
newly arrived novice, Serafina, provides the tension in the novel. She's been sent to the nunnery to end what he father considered an undesirable relationship with a fellow musician. She's mentored by protagonist Suora Zuana, who was also sent to the convent against her will following the death of her physician father. Zuana is the dispensary mistress and provides medical care to the nuns. Sacred Hearts is fine historical fiction that will captivate any reader who enjoys good writing and the joy of arriving in an unfamiliar place and uncovering a full range of behavior that displays human nature.

How Schools Work: An Inside Account of Failure and Success from One of the Nation's Longest-Serving Secretaries of Education

Duncan, Arne

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

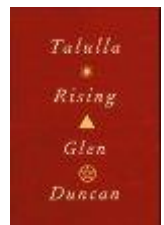


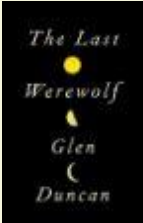
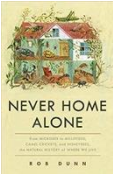

Talulla Rising

Duncan, Glen

7/23/12

Delicious. Were it not for the violence, gore and explicit sex, I think that Glen Duncan's Talulla Rising would be a perfect selection for high school English students to read to recognize the difference between good writing and bad. Paired against any other horror genre novel, Duncan's work will stand out. The likeable werewolf protagonist Talulla Demetriou goes to every possible extreme to protect her newborn children from harm. Duncan engages readers from the beginning to the end of this fast moving novel. The opportunity for another installment is clear at the end, so fans can look forward to even more from this fine writer.



<u>The Last Werewolf</u>	Duncan, Glen	***	<u>9/14/11</u>	<p>Hunger. Most of the three hundred pages of Glen Duncan's latest novel, <u>The Last Werewolf</u>, are narrated by Jacob Marlowe, who has become reconciled to his fate: an imminent death as the last of his species. He is being hunted down by an enemy hungry for revenge. Jake asks all the big questions as he records this diary, and explores the depths of hunger that prod us ahead. Duncan's writing often soars, and his throwaway lines are often the best ones. Jake's lunacy is an existential one that presents ways in which contemporary life leads to alienation and death. This is also a story about relationships that reinforces the ways in which love conquers all. Readers need not be drawn or repulsed by the werewolf motif; Duncan uses the werewolf as the element that targets Jake as the enemy that needs to be destroyed.</p>	
<u>Never Home Alone: From Microbes to Millipedes, Camel Crickets, and Honeybees, the Natural History of Where We Live</u>	Dunn, Rob	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>The Arrangement</u>	Dunn, Sarah	****	<u>4/19/17</u>	<p>Rumspringa. What is it about our human condition that we steer ourselves toward what or who we don't have, and pay little attention to achieving contentment with who and what we have? In Sarah Dunn's novel titled, <u>The Arrangement</u>, protagonists Lucy and Owen are living the good life in the NYC suburb of Beekman. While drunk at a dinner party, they decide to embark on an open marriage experiment for six months under a set of specific rules. Their arrangement is at times hilarious and at other times</p>	

tragic. While the sowing of wild oats may be appropriate at a certain life stage, as the Amish practice with rumspringa, within a marriage, especially one with children, the consequences of this experiment are likely to be perilous. Dunn presents a great cast of interesting characters, and her brisk writing entertained me, whether I laughed or winced at the foibles of Lucy, Owen and other characters.

Nothing Lost

Dunne, John
Gregory

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

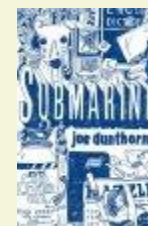


Submarine

Dunthorne, Joe

5/5/10

Youth. Readers looking for something new and creative to read might want to try Joe Dunthorne's debut novel, Submarine. The protagonist, Oliver Tate, is an almost-fifteen-year-old living in Swansea, Wales. The log of his daily observations reveals a precocious child on the one hand, and an adolescent bully on the other. His observations of his parents lead him on an investigation, as he looks to lose his virginity. Dunthorne's writing kept my interest throughout, and he offers a new voice that I found quite entertaining.



Wild Abandon

Dunthorne, Joe

**

2/24/12

Commune. There are some wickedly funny passages in Joe Dunthorne's novel, Wild Abandon. Set in a commune in Wales, the characters are quirky and the odd situations in which they find themselves make for some lively plot threads. By the end of the novel I realized that I had developed no empathy for any of the characters and found almost all of them to be weakly developed. Much of the novel involves their beliefs, including the imminent end of the world, and I found all that to be amusing, but Dunthorne's satire never quite



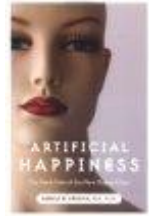
<u>Fallen Leaves: Last Words on Life, Love, War, and God</u>	Durant, Will	*****	<u>3/20/15</u>	<p>satisfied me. Readers who like finely written dark humor are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p> <p>Eloquent. I was blown away by the breadth and range of perspectives by Will Durant in his book titled, <u>Fallen Leaves: Last Words on Life, Love, War, and God</u>. Unpublished in his lifetime, the manuscript was found more than three decades after his death. The eloquence of his reflections kept me reading with great interest. I realized two key points: he was clearly a person of his time, and his views were consistent with those of an educated man of his era; and his insight about our time can be even more significant when we realize how the seeds of our current world and national situation were visible to a keen observer decades ago.</p>	
<u>The Last Taxi Driver</u>	Durkee, Lee	****	<u>4/16/20</u>	<p>Insights. Every time I finished laughing about a scene in Lee Durkee's novel titled, <u>The Last Taxi Driver</u>, I found myself reflecting about the insight into human nature that the funny scene captured. Protagonist Lou is a taxi driver in Mississippi working lots of hours and barely making ends meet. His kindness to others allows him to take on the unplanned role of wounded healer, as Carl Jung would describe him. He treats taxi passengers with respect and dignity hiding beneath his veneer of exasperation at the antics from others and his own descent into darkness. Durkee's writing glistens on these pages, making this novel a real joy to read, especially for fans of literary fiction who also have a fully functioning funny bone.</p>	
<u>Margaret the First</u>	Dutton, Danielle	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	

Artificial
Happiness

Dworkin, Ronald
W.

Oct 06

Engineering. Anesthesiologist claims that other doctors are prescribing anti-depressants to patients who don't need them. Normal unhappiness is not an engineering problem to be fixed by drugs.

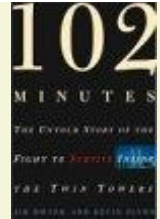


102 Minutes:
The Untold
Story of the
fight To Survive
Inside the Twin
Towers

Dwyer, Jim and
Kevin Flynn

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2005



The Verdun
Affair

Dybek, Nick

2/8/19

Quest. Fans of finely written historical literary fiction, especially relating to World War I and its aftermath, are likely to enjoy Nick Dybek's finely written novel titled, The Verdun Affair. Fate brings Tom Combs together with Sarah Hagen in 1921 as she is searching for her missing husband. Dybek uses multiple time periods and finely crafted prose to draw readers into a quest to discover both oneself and a loved one. Truth is, as always, elusive, and subject to multiple interpretations. Dybek's complex structure adds to the difficulty of the quest to decide whether or not a soldier with memory loss is the missing husband, and who will get to decide the truth.



When Captain
Flint Was Still a
Good Man

Dybek, Nick

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



I Sailed with
Magellan

Dybek, Stuart

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



Jeff in Venice,
Death in
Varanasi

Dyer, Geoff

6/25/09

Living. Geoff Dyer's latest work of fiction is titled Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi. Structured as two novellas without a clear connection, both stories are philosophical reflections about life. A jaded and burned out journalist reluctantly accepts an assignment to once again cover the Biennale when the international art world converges on Venice. Amid the beauty and the parties, there's a dullness and a deadness that seems to envelop Jeff until he meets someone who enlivens him, although his joy may not endure. The second story is set in India at the holy place where Hindus ritually cremate the dead. The first person narrator is a journalist (who might well be the same Jeff as in Venice) on a brief assignment to Varanasi, who elects to stay there for months, finding life amid death, while abandoning any ambition or desire for material things. Jeff in Venice, Death in Varanasi is an odd work of fiction that will require some reader patience. Dyer's talented writing can allow a reader to relax, reading page after page to see, feel and think about each scene, without having to be bound by connections or a logical narrative flow. The differences and similarities between Venice and Varanasi provide ample material to make reading this book pleasurable.

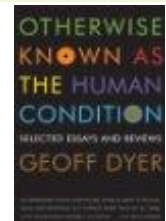


Otherwise
Known as the
Human
Condition:
Selected Essays
and Reviews

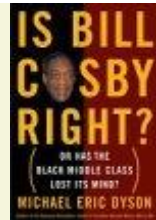
Dyer, Geoff


Unread

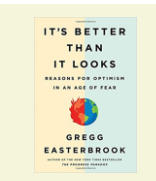
Shelf of Ennui 2011

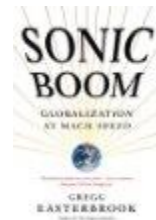


<u>White Sands: Experiences from the Outside World</u>	Dyer, Geoff	*****	<u>12/20/16</u>	<p>Outside. Before you plan your next trip, think about what a destination means, and what makes that place what it is. To help in that process, consider reading Geoff Dyer's book titled, <u>White Sands: Experiences from the Outside World</u>. In this interesting book of essays, Dyer explores interesting places, and reflects on what makes them what they are. He offers images that convey a unique sense of place, and correlates those to memories that have stayed with him for decades. When we step outside ourselves and our familiar places, we can ask questions different from our normal awareness. In other words, stepping outside can answer larger, inside, important questions about life and meaning. See how Dyer does it, and think about how you could do the same.</p>	
Clover Adams: A Gilded and Heartbreaking Life	Dykstra, Natalie	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>Chronicles: Volume 1</u>	Dylan, Bob	***	<u>May 05</u>	<p>Rambling. Thoughtful memoir by talented artist full of surprises for readers about life, art, and celebrity told with candor and in a rambling style that gradually reveals character and life choices.</p>	
The Scientist as Rebel	Dyson, Freeman J.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	



Is Bill Cosby Right?	Dyson, Michael Eric	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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The Blue Star	Earley, Tony	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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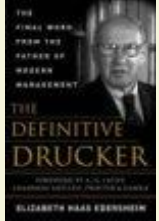


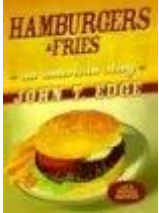
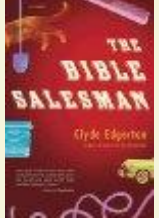
<u>It's Better Than It Looks: Reasons for Optimism in an Age of Fear</u>	Easterbrook, Gregg	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
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<u>Sonic Boom: Globalization at Mach Speed</u>	Easterbrook, Gregg	***	<u>4/5/10</u>	<p>Clamor. I think that Gregg Easterbrook makes a single forceful point in his book, <u>Sonic Boom: Globalization at Mach Speed</u>: worldwide development is booming and the change will be messy, loud and disruptive. I kept thinking as I read this book that Tom Friedman presented much of this in his recent books. In a single global market where goods and services will be both cheaper and more widely available, entrenched players need to be nimble. <u>Sonic Boom</u> is an optimistic and opinionated view of the world economy that readers may find agreeable or disagreeable with one's own view. Easterbrook presents no clear data to support his views, but I find his writing engaging enough to hear his views whether backed by facts or not.</p>	
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<u>The Progress Paradox: How Life Gets Better While People Feel Worse</u>	Easterbrook, Gregg	***	<u>Apr 04</u>	Discontent. Despite many improvements in the quality of life, Americans are no happier today than 50 years ago. This book explores why and offers advice to be grateful for what we have.	
<u>Bottle of Lies: The Inside Story of the Generic Drug Boom</u>	Eban, Katherine	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>The 19th Wife</u>	Ebershoff, David	***	<u>Nov 08</u>	Plural. Engrossing novel presents parallel stories of plural marriage: Ann Eliza Young, the 19 th wife of Brigham Young, and a modern woman accused of the murder of her polygamous husband.	
Why I Turned Right	Eberstadt, Mary	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Life Itself</u>	Ebert, Roger	***	<u>1/18/12</u>	Upbeat. Reading memoirs can be a crapshoot. Most readers of Roger Ebert's memoir titled, <u>Life Itself</u> , will come away winners. We know Ebert from his decades of movie reviews in print and on television. Most of us also know that because of complications from treatment for thyroid cancer, he can no longer speak nor eat and his face is disfigured from the loss of bone. His voice comes through with ebullience in his animated writing. In his account, he's had (and is having) a wonderful life. He's worked hard at doing what he loves. He's married to his soulmate, and thanks to AA, he quit drinking. He's made friends all around the world, and his conversational writing style makes readers feel like we're sitting at a dining room table	

				listening to the stories of a life well lived. All that adds up to an inspiring memoir, well worth reading.	
The Shape of Sand	Eccles, Marjorie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Baudolino	Eco, Umberto	*	Apr 03	Liar's lair. Hard to figure out when Baudolino is lying, or what he's saying in the first place. Read the full review to find out why we abandoned the text and listened to an audio version instead.	
History of Beauty	Eco, Umberto	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
The Mysterious Flame of Queen Loana	Eco, Umberto	***	Nov 05	Fog. Novel with illustrations allows readers to travel with protagonist, Yambo, as he tries to recover his lost memories, through finding objects from his youth meant to clear the fog of his past.	
The Prague Cemetery	Eco, Umberto	****	1/5/12	Hate. Can a novel about evil and hate be entertaining? In the competent hands of Umberto Eco, the answer is yes when it comes to his latest novel, The Prague Cemetery . Eco sets the novel in the tumultuous late 19 th century, and all the characters except the protagonist are historical. That protagonist is the scheming, evil, hateful Simonini who gives voice and action to a wide range of vitriol and plots. An equal opportunity figure, Simonini hates Jesuits, Masons, Russians, Germans, French, and blames the Jews for everything. What Eco accomplishes in this	

portrayal of hate and evil is to give readers goose bumps that such evil lives among us now. Readers who like to think when we read are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.

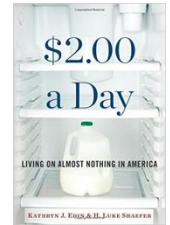
The Definitive Drucker	Edersheim, Elizabeth Haas	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2007	
Apple Pie	Edge, John T.	**	Dec 05	Fruitful. Interesting people, places and recipes, all focused on the many varieties of apple pie. Second in a series on iconic American foods.	
Fried Chicken: An American Story	Edge, John T.	**	June 05	Legs. Both foodies and travelers will enjoy the chapters of the first book in a planned series on iconic American food. Edge travels the USA and finds the best chicken, and provides recipes along with some great stories of people and places.	
Hamburgers and Fries	Edge, John T.	**	Jan 06	Greasy. Edge continues his series on iconic American foods with this exploration of the best burgers and the people who serve them. Less for spud lovers about the perfect fry.	
The Bible Salesman	Edgerton, Clyde	***	Nov 08	Characters. Set in the South after World War II, this novel presents rich characters and vivid descriptions, accompanied by a both religion and sex.	

[\\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America](#)

Edin, Kathryn J.
and H. Luke
Shaefer

[11/6/15](#)

Neighbors. I dare you to read [\\$2.00 a Day: Living on Almost Nothing in America](#) and not be moved by the plight of those living in poverty. Kathryn J. Edin and H. Luke Schaefer found something startling from two decades of research on poverty in America: a growing segment of the population is trying to survive on almost no income. If you think paying a living wage will lead to the loss of jobs, read this book and think about the impact of not paying a living wage. The people described in this book are our neighbors. It's time we start treating them with respect and with care, just as we want ourselves to be treated.

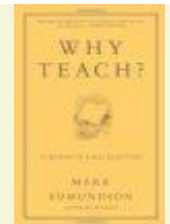


[Why Teach?: In Defense of a Real Education](#)

Edmundson,
Mark

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



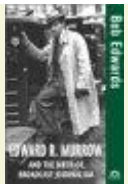

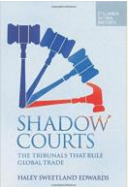
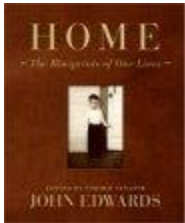
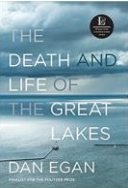
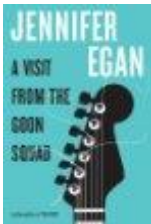
[Washington Black](#)

Edugyan, Esi

[1/9/19](#)

Freedom. Readers with all kinds of interests are likely to enjoy Esi Edugyan's novel titled, [Washington Black](#). Those who appreciate finely written prose will delight in her superb writing throughout this novel. Readers who enjoy fiction with interesting and well-developed complex characters will find a host of them in this novel, led by protagonist Wash Black. Fans of historical fiction will enjoy the detail with which Edugyan describes the 19th century from Barbados to England to the Arctic. Finally, those readers who enjoy fiction that leads to insights about life will come away from this novel with increased empathy for the suffering of others, with thoughts about the nature of freedom and the nature of slavery.



<u>Edward R. Murrow and the Birth of Broadcast Journalism</u>	Edwards, Bob	****	<u>Aug 04</u>	Pioneer. Fine biography of a driven, hard-working visionary whose approach and methods for broadcast journalism continue to be emulated by the best practitioners. Includes transcripts of great broadcasts.	
<u>Saving Graces</u>	Edwards, Elizabeth	***	<u>Jan 07</u>	Optimism. Moving memoir in plainspoken style has readers caring, and smiling or crying as Edwards describes what others have done to support her, and what she has done to try to help others.	
<u>Shadow Courts: The Tribunals that Rule Global Trade</u>	Edwards, Haley Sweetland	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
Home	Edwards, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>The Death and Life of the Great Lakes</u>	Egan, Dan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>A Visit from the Goon Squad</u>	Egan, Jennifer	***	<u>9/22/10</u>	Time. Jennifer Egan's new novel, <u>A Visit from the Goon Squad</u> , presents a cast of characters in the music business during various time periods in their lives. Jumping back and forth, she riffs like a musician as she deepens our understanding of the lives and times of the characters. Time is the goon. We change in ways that can improve our lives, and in ways that lead to decline and decay. In some ways, the music remains constant, and in other	

ways, new music emerges from new life experiences. Egan's writing keeps readers engaged, provided one remains patient with the shifting time periods. Any reader who enjoys novels that reveal insights into our human condition will likely enjoy this book.

Anna. While I'm reading historical fiction, I notice what happens when I recognize how much I am enjoying a novel: my mental images of the past change from black and white to color. From page one of her novel titled, Manhattan Beach, Jennifer Egan sent vivid color to my brain. Set mostly in and around the Brooklyn Navy Yard during World War II, the novel draws readers into that place and time through a well-developed protagonist, Anna, who overcomes resistance to become a diver. Egan leads us into a world of gangsters, complicated family dynamics and a variety of forms of loss and restoration. Her fine prose and well-told story entertained me thoroughly from beginning to end.



Manhattan Beach

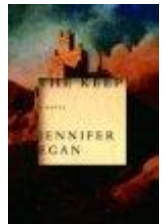
Egan, Jennifer

11/6/17

The Keep

Egan, Jennifer

Read, but not reviewed.

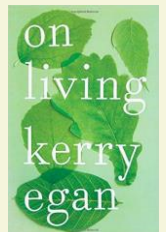


On Living

Egan, Kerry

5/23/17

Hospice. I knew that Kerry Egan works as a hospice chaplain when I opened her book titled, On Living. I wasn't sure what to expect as she began to present her story and the stories of people she met in hospice. Before I knew it, I noticed that each story built up my strongly positive feelings about the joy of living, and the important lessons that experience can teach us about living the best life we can live. There's nothing preachy in the short book, just some personal stories. Readers looking to feel good about life should consider reading this



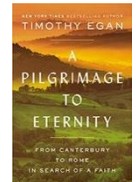
[A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith](#)

Egan, Timothy

[3/26/20](#)

inspiring book. I was surprised how moved I was by this finely written book.

Companion. I read Timothy Egan's book titled, [A Pilgrimage to Eternity: From Canterbury to Rome in Search of a Faith](#), while I was under the Illinois shelter-in-place mandate to slow the spread of Covid-19. The mortality rate for this pandemic disease may lead many to think about the meaning of life and mortality. So, my mind was receptive to joining Egan as he explored matters of faith while he walked a medieval route called the Via Francigena from England to Rome. Egan blends his own discernment process with the history of the places where he and other pilgrims stop along the path. If life is pilgrimage, Egan reminds us through his journey that we can easily lose our way and suffer from blisters or whatever else causes pain. He also reminds us that we can find wonderful things in unexpected places. There are especially poignant scenes as he describes the segments of the journey when in succession he's joined by his son, his daughter and his wife. Whether you are confined to your home, or able to walk or hike your own pilgrimage paths outdoors, Egan can be a welcome companion with this finely written book.

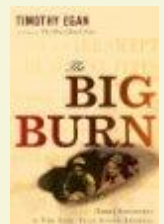


[The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America](#)

Egan, Timothy

[5/5/10](#)

Proven. Do yourself a favor and consider reading Timothy Egan's book, [The Big Burn: Teddy Roosevelt and the Fire that Saved America](#). August 2010 will mark the hundredth anniversary of the largest wildfire in American history, one that consumed three million acres of Western land. Teddy had just left office, and his head of forestry, Gifford Pinchot, was under fire from member of Congress who were questioning the need for forest rangers, who were seen as good for nothing. Egan does a fine job in telling the story of the fire, the

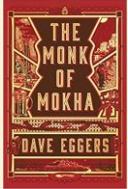


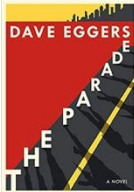
				people and the impact of this catastrophe on the century that followed it.	
<u>The Immortal Irishman: The Irish Revolutionary Who Became an American Hero</u>	Egan, Timothy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>A Hologram for the King</u>	Eggers, Dave	***	<u>8/6/12</u>	<p>Globalization. The protagonist of Dave Eggers novel, <u>A Hologram for the King</u>, works for a global IT company, and he is in Saudi Arabia to pitch the company's products and services to King Abdullah. Any salesperson or business executive who has made an important presentation to a key decision maker will empathize with much of what Alan Clay encounters. Eggers has created a great character in Clay, and the ways in which the trends in globalization are embodied in Clay himself make the humor and tragedy even sharper.</p>	
<u>Heroes of the Frontier</u>	Eggers, Dave	****	<u>9/9/16</u>	<p>Dentist. I wonder if the selection of a troubled dentist as protagonist for Dave Eggers' novel, <u>Heroes of the Frontier</u>, will attract more readers (like dentists) or repel readers (like those who hate going to dentists). Protagonist Josie lost her dental practice due to her malpractice on a patient. She has split up with the father of her children, and when he wants the children to meet his fiancée's parents, Josie takes the kids to the Alaska wilderness in an RV they call the Chateau. The novel is a search for shelter and refuge, from threats real and imagined. Josie's troubles come from external sources and from inside her mind. With nothing left to lose, Josie takes her children to the last frontier where they are totally unprepared for what life and nature brings. In this novel Eggers has added to his ongoing examination of human folly and modern life. Readers ready for a dark</p>	

story are those most likely to enjoy reading this one.

How We Are Hungry	Eggers, Dave	***	May 05	Impulses. Short story collection showcases talented writer's exploration of what people are looking for in life and how our impulses alternate from base to civilized as we try to get what we want.	
The Best American Nonrequired Reading, 2003	Eggers, Dave	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
The Captain and the Glory	Eggers, Dave	*****	2/21/20	Satire. Partisans love satire that pokes at opponents, and we bristle when satire hits any targets we support. In his satire titled, The Captain and the Glory , Dave Eggers focuses on the incumbent United States President, so how you assess Trump will likely lead you toward or away from this book. It's clear that Eggers views the situation in the United States as dangerous and destructive to norms, values and the institutions that form the fabric of democratic life. This is a look at how the ship of state is being steered, and Eggers concludes that the state of the union is perilous. Sometimes satire can make us smile or laugh. This satire makes us think. Approach or reject as you are inclined. I'm deep in thought.	
The Circle	Eggers, Dave	*****	11/19/13	Amazoogole. I knew as soon as I started reading an excerpt from Dave Eggers novel, The Circle , in <i>The New York Times Magazine</i> , that I'd enjoy reading the whole book. Readers who love satire are those most likely to love reading this novel. Protagonist Mae Holland gets to leave her boring job when a friend draws her into a powerful internet company called The Circle. Under the company's business plan everybody comes together with a single identity that links together all aspects of life. Eggers	

blends all the ambition and potential of companies like Google, Amazon, Facebook and others, to draw out the progression toward a world in which all behavior is transparent all the time. Eggers holds a mirror to the obsession with social media and a 24/7 approach to being connected. Readers who see this future state as desirable or as a nightmare may equally enjoy reading this novel.

<u>The Monk of Mokha</u>	Eggers, Dave	*****	<u>5/11/18</u>	<p>Journey. Fasten your seatbelt because once you start reading Dave Eggers' book titled, <u>The Monk of Mokha</u>, you will not want to stop. Eggers introduces us to Mokhtar Alkhanshali, a young Yemeni American whose journey through life changes dramatically after he finds passion about coffee from Yemen. Mokhtar knew nothing about coffee from Yemen when he drifted into this passion, and once he learned all he could, he hustled and bargained and found every way possible to bring the fine coffee from Yemen to the coffee lovers of the world. Along the way, he finds himself in Yemen when Saudi bombs are falling on the country, and he uses every means possible to get out of the country with a hundred pounds of beans to process and present to tasters at a conference in Seattle. Eggers clearly got hooked by Mokhtar's passion, and uses his finely written prose to tell us all an inspirational story.</p>	
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<u>The Parade</u>	Eggers, Dave	*****	<u>5/28/19</u>	<p>Road. Contractors are working on deadline to complete a road as Dave Eggers draws readers into consideration of the costs of war in his novel titled, <u>The Parade</u>. Set in an unnamed country, the characters Four and Nine react to the situation in which they have found themselves, and Eggers pulls readers into our own emotional reaction as the road comes to completion. We are all on a road of one sort or another and can be so absorbed in ourselves that we overlook what is happening around us.</p>	
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Eggers demands attention and reaction. Consider giving it to him as you read this novel that leads to personal introspection about important matters.

Artist. While I was turning the pages of Dave Eggers book titled, Ungrateful Mammals, I thought triple threat. Some performers are called a triple threat when they can sing, dance and act. Eggers is a talented writer. The illustrations he offers in this collection exhibit his drawing talent. What comes together with the pairing of phrases, including bible verses, with his illustrations is his skill at humor and poignancy. This is an eccentric and unusual book, and I enjoyed it, both times I paged through. I've liked Eggers' writing, and now understand better the extent of this artist's versatile talents.



Ungrateful Mammals

Eggers, Dave

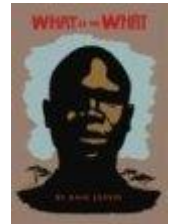
12/7/17

What is the
What

Eggers, Dave

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

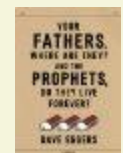


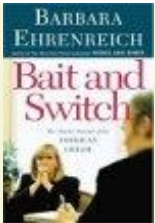
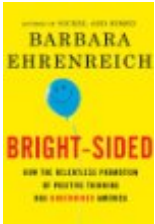
Your Fathers, Where Are They? And the Prophets, Do They Live Forever?

Eggers, Dave

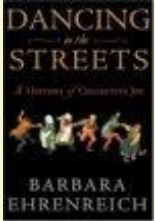
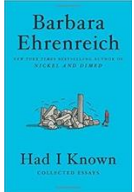
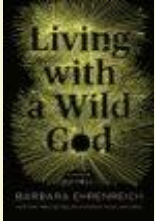
7/28/14

Thomas. I can't recall a novel I've read that was structured solely with dialogue. Dave Eggers pulls off that structure in his novel titled, Your Fathers, Where Are They? And the Prophets, Do They Live Forever? It's fitting that the title includes two questions, because the protagonist of the novel, Thomas, is looking for answers to his questions. This deeply troubled character abducts people, takes them to a deserted military base, and interrogates them. Thomas' questions are deep and significant ones for those of us in a society that can knock individuals off kilter, making them feel like they just don't fit in. Eggers uses his great writing skills to draw this picture of our world in which an individual feels lost and struggles to find out what happened. I was impressed with Eggers' skill in this


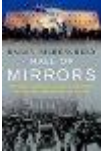
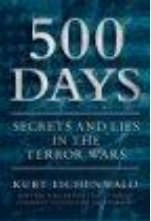

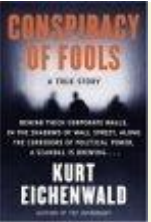
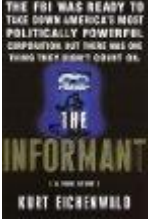


				<p>novel. Its unusual structure might throw off some readers, so read an excerpt before diving in. Readers who like the exploration of deep questions are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.</p>	
Zeitoun	Eggers, Dave	***	7/20/10	<p>Grounded. Disasters can have a scale that overwhelms observers and that can obscure the meaning of events to individuals. The oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico reminded me that I've had a book in my reading queue about Hurricane Katrina that I hadn't gotten around to reading. Dave Eggers' book, Zeitoun, presents the life of Syrian immigrant Abdulrahman Zeitoun before and after Katrina, with a focus on the days following the storm and how Zeitoun was treated. This is a tragic story than personalizes and grounds a region-wide disaster into terms that become alive on a personal level. Eggers' writing soars on these pages, and the gripping story moved and angered me.</p>	
Bait and Switch	Ehrenreich, Barbara	*	Nov 05	<p>Tiresome. Disappointing sequel to highly recommended 2001 book, Nickel and Dimed. This time around, Ehrenreich half-heartedly pursues a mid-level corporate job, pays for expensive transition advice which she usually ignores.</p>	
Bright-sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America	Ehrenreich, Barbara	****	11/21/09	<p>Realism. Anyone who has gagged at teambuilding events, or who rolls eyes while listening to motivational spiels will love reading Barbara Ehrenreich's new book, Bright-sided: How the Relentless Promotion of Positive Thinking Has Undermined America. In her comprehensive account she describes how the purveyors of relentless positive thinking have led the ill to blame themselves for sickness, and have created the unrealistic mindset that any obstacle can be overcome through "right" thinking. Through multiple examples and historical context,</p>	

Ehrenreich makes a compelling case that the emphasis on positive thinking has led to group and self delusion. She covers medicine, religion, politics and business with keen insight. [Bright-sided](#) is a call for a reality check, and a return to realism to make our individuals and our country healthier and stronger. Whether you're a pessimist or an optimist, there's much to learn and enjoy on the pages of [Bright-sided](#).

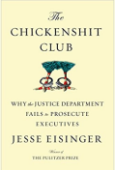
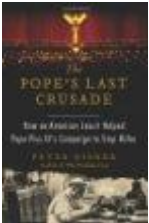
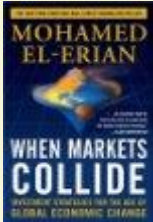
Dancing in the Streets	Ehrenreich, Barbara	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Had I Known	Ehrenreich, Barbara	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Living with a Wild God: A Nonbeliever's Search for the Truth about Everything	Ehrenreich, Barbara	*****	9/26/14	Open. Rarely can readers observe the process of opening a mind. Thanks to Barbara Ehrenreich's memoir, Living with a Wild God: A Nonbeliever's Search for the Truth about Everything , interested readers can do just that. Believers would conclude that the dissociative episodes Ehrenreich experienced in her youth involved some manifestation of God, a glimpse of the transcendent. Following a bout with cancer and the loss of many papers in house hit by a hurricane, Ehrenreich paid attention to a journal from her youth that survived, and represented a message from her past self to her current self. Thanks to her examination of the journal and her recollections of her youth, we have this fascinating book that tries	

				<p>to describe the process of reaching understanding and insight.</p> <p>Uncontrollable. One of my favorite personal foibles involves living under the delusion that I have some control over my life. In a book titled, <u>Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer</u>, Barbara Ehrenreich explores how our lives and journey toward death are uncontrollable, down to the cellular level, and the extraordinary means taken by medical practitioners to prolong life are often not based in scientific evidence. Ehrenreich faces the certainty of her death with confidence and describes her decision to abandon preventive and diagnostic medical procedures now that she has reached an age (mid-seventies) when death is more probable than long life. Supported by her PhD in cell biology, she uses a long section of this short book to explore how cells behave and misbehave. Readers beyond middle age think about quality of life and certainty of death, or we should, and Ehrenreich may not provide answers to our questions, but she stimulates thinking about what we can control and how much is far beyond anyone's control.</p>	
<u>Natural Causes: An Epidemic of Wellness, the Certainty of Dying, and Killing Ourselves to Live Longer</u>	Ehrenreich, Barbara	****	<u>5/22/18</u>		
<u>Nickel and Dimed: On (Not) Getting By in America</u>	Ehrenreich, Barbara	****	<u>06/01</u>	<p>Read this to glimpse on the life of minimum wage workers and the dependency of the rest of us on them and their sacrifices.</p>	
<u>This Land Is Their Land: Reports from a Divided Nation</u>	Ehrenreich, Barbara	**	<u>Sep 08</u>	<p>Snippy. Sixty-two essays organized in seven themes, each of which covers some aspect of polarization. Best read in small doses leading to a quick appreciation of her satire and viewpoint, or a fast moving on to something else.</p>	

<u>The Suitors</u>	Ehrenreich, Ben	**	<u>August 06</u>	Updating. Literary debut novel that updates <i>The Odyssey</i> as a romance featuring a modern Ulysses and Penelope. Author tries too hard at times.	
Hall of Mirrors: The Great Depression, The Great Recession, and the Uses-and Misuses-of History	Eichengreen, Barry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
500 Days: Secrets and Lies in the Terror Wars	Eichenwald, Kurt	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>A Mind Unraveled</u>	Eichenwald, Kurt	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Conspiracy of Fools</u>	Eichenwald, Kurt	***	<u>May 05</u>	Incompetence. Lengthy (650+ pages before notes) and well-told story of what happened at Enron when the wrong people were hired and allowed to run free. Enron lacked leaders with competence, character and good judgment.	
<u>The Informant: A True Story</u>	Eichenwald, Kurt	*****	<u>01/01</u>	Fascinating business thriller about Marc Whitacre, ADM lysine executive turned FBI mole turned embezzler.	

<u>Twilight of the Superheroes</u>	Eisenberg, Deborah	***	<u>Apr 06</u>	<p>Kapow! Six short stories by one of the best contemporary writers of the genre transport readers into entrancing lives and situations. Adroit writing, vivid images, memorable characters and settings.</p>	
<u>Your Duck Is My Duck</u>	Eisenberg, Deborah	****	<u>2/2/19</u>	<p>Words. I don't know about you, but words flow in and out of my consciousness all day long. Where they came from and where they are going is sometimes clear, and at other times very obscure. Deborah Eisenberg plucks words from whatever her source is, and constructs them into six playful and quirky short stories, a collection titled, <u>Your Duck Is My Duck</u>. Eisenberg taps into the inner and outer lives of eclectic characters and holds a mirror up to our regular and strange ways of being in the world. The characters are compelling, the stories engaging, and the words are chosen with great skill. Fans of literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this collection.</p>	
<u>The Number</u>	Eisenberg, Lee	*	<u>May 06</u>	<p>Bloviated. What could have been a succinct magazine article turned into a scattered and eccentric approach to financial and life planning aimed at anxious baby boomers facing retirement.</p>	
<u>Swell</u>	Eisenstadt, Jill	*****	<u>7/6/17</u>	<p>Rockaway. I spent most of every April to October in the 1950s and 1960s on the Rockaway peninsula. My parents had a bungalow in Roxbury and most of my childhood memories of Summer are set in that place. When I heard that Jill Eisenstadt was writing again about Rockaway, I knew I had to read her novel titled, <u>Swell</u>. Readers need not share my personal connection to this place to enjoy Eisenstadt's great writing and her insights into human behavior. She creates a great cast of</p>	

complex characters in this novel, places them in interesting situations, and allows readers to enter a special place and the ways in which the people in Rockaway live life to its fullest.

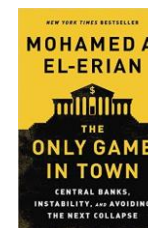
<u>The Chickenshit Club: Why the Justice Department Fails to Prosecute Executives</u>	Eisinger, Jesse	*****	8/24/17	<p>Impunity. I admit that there is no current shortage of things that trigger one's outrage, and looking for fresh trouble seems foolish. That said, many citizens remain outraged and confused about the lack of personal accountability on the part of individuals whose actions led to or deepened the great financial crisis of our time. Pulitzer-prize winning reporter Jesse Eisinger explores that subject in his book titled, <u>The Chickenshit Club: Why the Justice Department Fails to Prosecute Executives</u>. Eisinger provides context, stories and depth about the corrosion of our justice system and the ways in which the current environment provides broad impunity for executives whose wrongdoing led to bad outcomes. My outrage was on a simmer on this subject for long time. Thanks to Eisinger, it reached a boiling point.</p>	
The Pope's Last Crusade: How an American Jesuit Helped Pope Pius XI's Campaign to Stop Hitler	Eisner, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>When Markets Collide: Investment Strategies for the Age of Global Economic Change</u>	El-Erian, Mohamed	****	Dec 08	<p>Transformations. Great insights into the impact of the structural changes transforming the world's economies, and ways to mitigate the impact of disruptions.</p>	

The Only Game in Town: Central Banks, Instability, and Avoiding the Next Collapse

El-Erian, Mohamed A.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



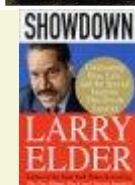
Showdown

Elder, Larry

**

Dec 02

Jeffersonian. If you're looking to read an articulate, clear and direct presentation of Libertarian ideas on race, education, welfare and politics, this is the book for you.



The Ten Things You Can't Say in America

Elder, Larry

**

Jan 02

Foes of political correctness will enjoy the libertarian manifesto in this book, whether you agree or disagree with Elder's point of view.



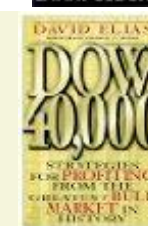
Dow 40,000

Elias, David

DNR

10/99

Skip it.



How Not to Be Wrong: The Power of Mathematical Thinking

Ellenberg, Jordan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

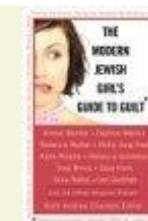


The Modern Jewish Girl's Guide to Guilt

Ellenson, Ruth Andrew

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

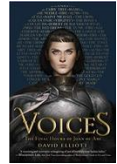


Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc

Elliott, David

3/26/20

Verse. Readers looking for a book a bit off the beaten path should consider reading David Elliott's book titled, Voices: The Final Hours of Joan of Arc. Elliott writes in verse, using a variety of medieval poetic forms. The voices from the title and in these poems include Joan of Arc as well as objects and people in her life. The voice of the fire is especially creepy.



Lunar Park

Ellis, Bret Easton

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

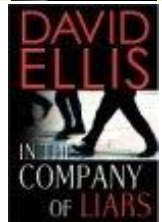


In the Company of Liars

Ellis, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

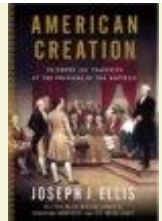


American Creation: Triumphs and Tragedies at the Founding of the Republic

Ellis, Joseph J.

Feb 08

Ambiguity. Skilled historian relates six stories from 1775-1803 highlighting both the success and failure of the ways the Founders dealt with issues and with ambiguity.

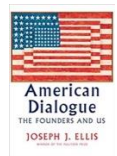


American Dialogue: The Founding Fathers and Us

Ellis, Joseph J.

1/4/19

We. What would our first four United States presidents think about our current situation? In a book titled, American Dialogue: The Founding Fathers and Us, historian Joseph Ellis creates a dialogue of sorts between those founders and the issues we deal with today. By reflecting on our history, past compromises and choices, and the principles underlying our Constitution, readers can gain some perspective on current events. The founders were by no means homogeneous in their



views, as anyone who has studied this period knows. Their arguments were thoughtful and principled. The shared objective was to unite different interests to bring meaning to “we the people.” Today, we can use insight about our past to forge unity about those important things we continue to hold in common.

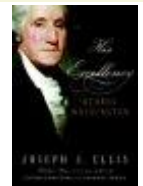
<u>First Family: Abigail and John Adams</u>	Ellis, Joseph J.	***	<u>1/4/11</u>	<p>Triumph. I don't think I learned anything new about John and Abigail Adams after reading Joseph Ellis' book, <u>First Family</u>. I did feel something new: an appreciation of the triumph this couple achieved having overcome great obstacles. Neither could have done as much without the other, and their deep love endured long absences. Thanks to their voluminous correspondence, we can eavesdrop on their lives and gain insight into their lives and time. Ellis writes with a style that most readers will find enjoyable as he tells story after story in ways that keep readers engaged. No matter how well you know the story of this Adams family, consider spending time with them again in the capable hands of Joseph Ellis.</p>	
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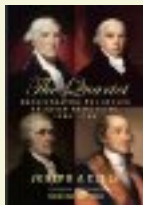
His Excellency: George Washington

Ellis, Joseph J.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



<u>The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789</u>	Ellis, Joseph J.	****	<u>7/9/15</u>	<p>Dependence. The Revolutionary War united the states briefly and a wide range of outcomes could have followed the end of fighting. Historian Joseph J. Ellis narrows in on the period from 1783 to 1789 in his book titled, <u>The Quartet: Orchestrating the Second American Revolution, 1783-1789</u>. Ellis describes the ways in which four individuals, George Washington, Alexander Hamilton, John Jay and James Madison, nudged others toward the creation of the United States. The story of</p>	
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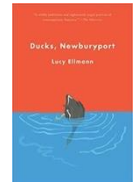
independence led to an opportunity for dependence of each state on others and on a central federal government. Ellis writes to please any general reader, and I found this book interesting from beginning to end.

Ducks, Newburyport

Ellmann, Lucy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

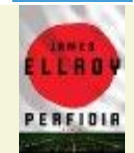


Perfidia

Ellroy, James

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

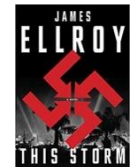


This Storm

Ellroy, James

8/15/19

Staccato. Readers are bombarded by the rhythm of staccato sentences over the course of almost six hundred pages of James Ellroy's novel titled, This Storm. Set in Los Angeles in 1942, the novel combines complex and interesting fictional characters with some historical characters and events. The pace never lets up and the complexity increases as the cast of characters grows. There's a noir mood from cover to cover and dialogue and language that fits the setting may grate contemporary readers. Patient readers are rewarded with avarice, vice, corruption and crimes aplenty. The world was crazy in 1942, and Ellroy draws readers into one slice of the world at that time and throws sentence after sentence at us until we are immersed or bludgeoned. I enjoyed the challenge of reading this novel.

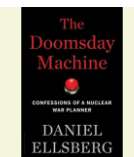


The Doomsday Machine

Ellsberg, Daniel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

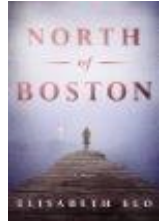


North of Boston

Elo, Elisabeth

3/7/14

Swimmer. Elisabeth Elo's debut novel, North of Boston, packs a wallop. The protagonist of this thriller is thirty-year-old Pirio Kasparov, and unlike the heroic characters in most thrillers, she is well-developed and complex. The action starts as she survives a hit and run ship to boat accident in the Atlantic. Her ability to remain in the freezing water for hours made her known to strangers as "the swimmer." She works as an executive for the perfume company her late mother founded. Elo uses great skill in maintaining the very fast pace of the plot action, while developing multiple interesting characters and varied plot lines. On top of those positive elements, Elo's prose remains graceful throughout the novel, leading me to wonder whether to classify this as a literary novel rather than a thriller. All readers who like a well-told tale, no matter what genre, will find a lot to like in this novel.



Propelled: How Boredom, Frustration, and Anticipation Lead Us to the Good Life

Elpidorou, Andreas

10/19/20

Motivation. Contentment and satisfaction may not help us achieve what we want in life, according to Andreas Elpidorou in his book titled, Propelled: How Boredom, Frustration, and Anticipation Lead Us to the Good Life. Instead, discontent is what leads us toward progress. After you read this book, you'll be tempted to reply to someone who tells you they're frustrated or bored with the response, "good." You may have to give them a copy of the book to explain the reason you said that.

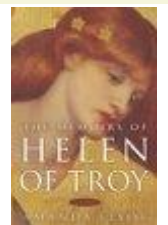


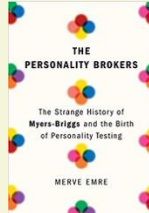

The Memoirs of Helen of Troy

Elyot, Amanda

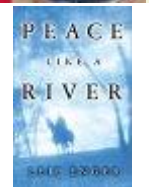
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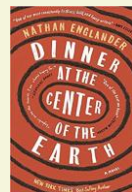


Shelf of Ennui 2006



<u>The Personality Brokers: The Strange History of Myers-Briggs and the Birth of Personality Testing</u>	Emre, Merve	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Tell Them of Battles, Kings, and Elephants</u>	Énard, Mathias	****	<u>3/26/19</u>	<p>Commission. I relaxed into the flow of Mathias Énard's novel titled, <u>Tell Them of Battles, Kings, and Elephants</u>, in which he describes the time that Michelangelo Buonarroti spent in Constantinople designing a bridge for the Sultan that would cross the Golden Horn. This novel is an homage to art and to the artist, and while I read the lyrical English translation, I can only assume that in French the poetry must soar. This is a short and quirky novel which draws from some historical fragments.</p>	
<u>It's Not Love, It's Just Paris</u>	Engel, Patricia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades in the Middle East</u>	Engel, Richard	****	<u>5/26/16</u>	<p>Concise. Some writers trying to cover a twenty year period of dramatic change would be just getting started after 250 pages. Not NBC foreign correspondent Richard Engel. In just over 250 pages of a book titled, <u>And Then All Hell Broke Loose: Two Decades in the Middle East</u>, Engel presents his personal story as a broadcast journalist in the Middle East and offers plenty of insight about the turmoil in that place over the past two decades. Engel writes with an authoritative style, reflecting his study of the area and its long troubled history alongside his presence in the area as turmoil erupted. Any reader interested in public policy and looking for some perspective about the past twenty</p>	

years in the Middle East will find much of value on the pages of this finely written book.

<u>War Journal: My Five Years in Iraq</u>	Engel, Richard	***	<u>Nov 08</u>	Gloom. Journalist's memoir presents his experiences alongside the progress of the war in Iraq. Insights and perspectives to be found no place else.	
<u>Peace Like a River</u>	Enger, Leif	****	<u>10/01</u>	Enger captures human nature, family relationships, love and compassion.	
<u>So Brave, Young and Handsome</u>	Enger, Leif	***	<u>July 08</u>	Journey. A classic Western, set in 1915, features a writer who embarks on a journey with a criminal stranger looking for his lost love, while being tracked by a Pinkerton detective who wants to get his man.	
<u>Virgil Wander</u>	Enger, Leif	*****	<u>1/4/19</u>	Repair. I've waited a decade for another novel written by Leif Enger, and having read his novel titled, <u>Virgil Wander</u> , I can imagine that it took him all of a decade to write with such perfection. A small Minnesota Lake Superior town struggles for survival between an industrial past that is gone for good and an uncertain future. Protagonist Virgil Wander requires physical recovery and repair following an auto accident. All characters are yearning for hope, dreaming of a better future, and along the way extending love, care and concern for each other. Virgil's cinema is a bright spot in the town's life, and young Bjorn leads the recovery of a sense of community. Readers looking for fine writing and a story of redemption are those most likely to enjoy this finely written novel.	

Dinner at the Center of the Earth	Englander, Nathan	*****	11/6/17	<p>Middle. Our finest artists look at the world and explain it to the rest of us. The talented writer Nathan Englander looks at the Israeli and Palestinian conflict and explains it to us in his novel titled, Dinner at the Center of the Earth. When differences divide us, it can be helpful to understand the other's point of view, clarify our own position, and find common ground or ways of meeting in the middle. The trope of meeting for a meal in the middle of a tunnel expresses the journey each party must take to come together. A long-held prisoner and his guard illustrate the ways in which different parties are put together and uncover common ground. Fans of literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
Kaddish.com	Englander, Nathan	*****	4/25/19	<p>Birthright. I laughed my way through much of Nathan Englander's novel titled, Kaddish.com. After all, the premise itself was funny. Protagonist Larry is a secular Jew when his Orthodox father dies. It is Larry's birthright and responsibility to recite the Kaddish for his late father every day for eleven months so that his father can find his way to heaven. He finds a website, kaddish.com, that allows Larry to outsource his responsibility. Two decades later, Larry has become a rabbi, and is drawn to repair his past action: he needs his birthright back. Underneath the humor, there is a serious story here about purpose and obligations. Englander's writing is superb, and the tenderness and humanity of these characters will enrich all readers.</p>	
The Ministry of Special Cases	Englander, Nathan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

The Forgotten
Waltz

Enright, Anne

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. To take the cheap shot: I forgot the last dance was for me. Oops. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



The Gathering

Enright, Anne

May 08

Falling. Superb novel uses the occasion of the death of the narrator's brother to present a freefall experience of the lives and losses of a large Irish family, the memory, the drink, England, and more.

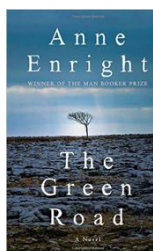


The Green Road

Enright, Anne

8/4/15

Ma. I can't think of a single element that Anne Enright could have gotten better in her novel titled, The Green Road. The prose is lyrical, and never overdone; she chooses the exact word that fits in every finely crafted sentence. The characters in the Madigan family are so expertly developed that every page adds to some insight about our human condition thanks to Enright's insight into people and our emotional depths. Four siblings living in different parts of the world couldn't be less alike until we see them in settings with their mother. As Ma draws her children home, the world narrows and the unimportant gives way to the essential. Fans of finely written literary fiction will find a lot to enjoy from reading this novel.



Yesterday's
Weather

Enright, Anne

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009. Got as far as page 159 before I stopped. It took three weeks to get from page 141 to 159.

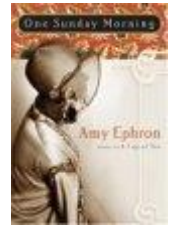


One Sunday Morning

Ephron, Amy

July 05

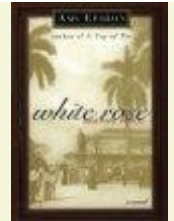
Precision. Four New York socialites in the 1920s respond to scandal. Setting and characters are presented with precision and brevity which allows for reading this novel during a single afternoon at the beach.



White Rose

Ephron, Amy

Ephron writes this historical love story with great skill. A pleasure to read.



Big City Eyes

Ephron, Delia

Enjoyable and engaging. Recommended. [Read more about this book.](#)



Siracusa

Ephron, Delia

2/3/17

Exposed. Vacations can do so much for us and to us. Delia Ephron uses a vacation in Sicily as the way to expose the pretenses in marital relationships. In her novel titled, Siracusa, Ephron alternates narrators to present different views on the action, the intentions and the impact of what happens while these characters are on vacation. Modern relationships can be complicated, and Ephron takes that complexity and reveals it with scathing simplicity. Take a vicarious and dark vacation, one you are not likely to emulate willingly, and read this novel as a perfect respite from your world and your relationships. When you finish, life will seem so perfect.

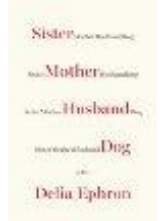


Sister Mother
Husband Dog:
Etc.

Ephron, Delia

11/18/13

Tasty. I noticed that after I read a dozen pages of Delia Ephron's Sister Mother Husband Dog: Etc., I got up to pour myself a drink and prepare a hearty snack. Then, I settled down for ninety minutes of enjoyable reading. The next day, I prepared the snack and drink first, and sat in a comfortable chair to finish reading the book. My reflection is that I found her writing to be both tasty and enjoyable, and led me toward nourishment. Her writing is witty as she calls attention to so many of the absurdities of life. The memories she selects of life with her late sister, Nora, were moving and were a pleasure to read. Readers looking for some good laughs and some wise writing about love are those most likely to enjoy this book.

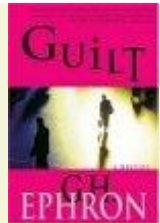


Guilt

Ephron, G.H.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



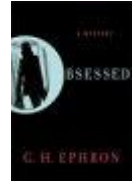
Obsessed

Ephron, G.H.

**

Apr 04

Deadly. Psychological murder mystery with staccato dialogue, ill-paced plot momentum and too much medical detail, provides some entertainment.

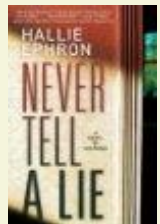


Never Tell A Lie

Ephron, Hallie

2/19/09

Evasions. Hallie Ephron's new novel, Never Tell a Lie is a mystery thriller primarily about relationships. The protagonists, Ivy and David Rose, were high school sweethearts, and have been married three years. As they await the birth of their first child, due in about a month, they hold a yard sale to clear junk out of the Victorian house they've owned for three years. A high school acquaintance, Melinda White, appears at the sale, buys something, and asks if she can see the inside of the house. She and David go inside, and she never



				comes out. David's evasions with the police and Ivy lead to serious complications. Using the tried and true "things are not as they appear" model, Ephron leads readers into an interest in these characters, their relationships, and in figuring out what happened. The pace is fast enough to avoid boredom, and steady enough so that you can put it down to finish on another day.	
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I Feel Bad
About My Neck

Ephron, Nora

Oct 06

Funny. Readers with a healthy sense of humor, especially those well settled into their middle or later years, will appreciate the humor in this collection of essays.

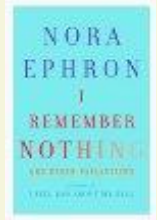


I Remember
Nothing: and
Other
Reflections

Ephron, Nora

11/27/10

Musings. I read Nora Ephron's new essay collection, I Remember Nothing, in a single sitting. In the title essay, she muses about not being able to remember more and more things as she ages, and that which she remembers seems incidental rather than important. Her wit is sharp, her insights cogent, and these musings were light and humorous. Here's a sample of her taking a serious point and leading the reader to a smile: "Alcoholic parents are so confusing. They're your parents, so you love them; but they're drunks, so you hate them. But you love them. But you hate them." (p. 38). Readers who like short, well-written essays are likely to enjoy this book, especially those who are old enough to join AARP.



The persistence
of memory







Eprile, Tony

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



<u>Range: Why Generalists Triumph in a Specialized World</u>	Epstein, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>Eating: A Memoir</u>	Epstein, Jason	***	<u>12/14/09</u>	<p>Tasty. I read Jason Epstein's <u>Eating: A Memoir</u>, in two seatings, with three interruptions to head to the kitchen to rustle up a tasty something or other to satisfy the appetite triggered by my reading. Epstein, a former Random House editor, loves to eat and cooks with a panache that comes across in his conversational recipes. His measurements will drive scientific cooks bonkers: a little of this, not too much of that. His point is that we learn to cook by cooking and tasting. His random walk through meals of his life introduces many famous characters with whom Epstein has dined. They add color to the narrative, just as table mates for any of us increase our appreciation of the food we enjoy together. <u>Eating</u> is quick to read, and for most readers will be followed by a good dose of some favorite food.</p>	
Alexis de Tocqueville	Epstein, Joseph	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Envy: The Seven Deadly Sins</u>	Epstein, Joseph	***	<u>Nov 03</u>	<p>Green. Witty, thoughtful, exploration of the many dimensions of envy and the variety of forms in takes during our lives.</p>	

<u>Friendship: An Expose</u>	Epstein, Joseph	***	<u>August 06</u>	Affinity. Author riffs on many dimensions of friendship, and tells his own friendship stories candidly. Readers will both laugh and think, as a tribute to the author's wit and wisdom.	
Gossip: The Untrivial Pursuit	Epstein, Joseph	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>Snobbery: The American Version</u>	Epstein, Joseph	**	<u>Nov 02</u>	<i>What Kind of Snob Are You?</i> Epstein finds some form or other of snobbery everywhere. Read this book and find the snob in yourself and others.	
<u>Wind Sprints: Shorter Essays</u>	Epstein, Joseph	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Um-Slips, Stumbles, and Verbal Blunders, and What They Mean</u>	Erard, Michael	**	<u>Nov 07</u>	Disfluency. Read this and find out more than you may ever want to know about the thirty types of disfluency that are normal. It may be enough to know that to um is human.	
The Missing Shade of Blue	Erdal, Jennie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	

<u>Future Home of the Living God</u>	Erdrich, Louise	*****	<u>12/18/17</u>	<p>Devolution. What could be more dystopian than devolution, the idea that man has reverted to some more primitive state? In her novel titled, <u>Future Home of the Living God</u>, Louise Erdrich explores a society in which evolution has gone into reverse with dramatic consequences. Protagonist Cedar Hawk Songmaker is twenty-six years old and pregnant. Erdrich places her in conflict with society and on a journey toward community, love and self-determination.</p>	
<u>LaRose</u>	Erdrich, Louise	*****	<u>2/23/17</u>	<p>Healing. What does it take to heal a serious wound? What does justice mean? Can there be any reparation for a loss of life? When one's actions lead to the death of another, can there be any redemption? What does it mean to be part of a family, a community, a culture? All those questions and more are explored with great skill by Louise Erdrich in her novel titled, <u>LaRose</u>. Erdrich presents a large cast of characters and develops them in diverse complexity so that readers can savor their depth. She presents a story that grabbed me from the first pages and kept me absorbed in key questions to the very end. Readers who enjoy finely written literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
The Round House	Erdrich, Louise	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	

[The Virgins](#)

Erens, Pamela

[3/22/14](#)

Unconsummated. Readers of a plot summary may think they have read the story Pamela Erens relates in her novel, [The Virgins](#), too many times before and would take a pass on this one. They would be wrong. Set in a New Hampshire prep school in 1979, Erens tells of the powerful sexual awakening of protagonists Aviva Rossner and Seung Jung. Narrated from the perspective of a classmate, readers learn quickly that this romantic relationship is not what it appears to be. Alongside love is loss and tragedy. Erens crafts her prose with exquisite skill, and creates perfect tension as she unfolds the narrative. Readers who appreciate finely written literary prose and well-developed complex characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



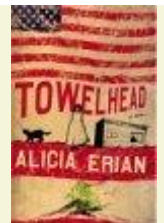
[Towelhead](#)

Erian, Alicia

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[Aug 05](#)

Abuse. 13 year old narrator describes her sexual coming of age amid ethnic and racial prejudice abuse and inappropriate behavior by a variety of one dimensional characters.

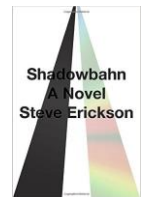


[Shadowbahn](#)




Erickson, Steve

[4/19/17](#)

Parallel. I can't think of ever being so pleased with reading a novel that confused me as much as Steve Erickson's [Shadowbahn](#). This imaginative book presents a parallel America, a country very different from the one we know. In this parallel country, Elvis wasn't born. Instead we have his non-singing brother, Jesse. Without Elvis, gospel music survived, and rock never emerged. In this other world, there is a JFK who was never elected president. The Twin Towers have appeared in the South Dakota Badlands. People flock to the site, and some see and hear things that others can't. A brother and sister are on a road trip listening to a music playlist that was made by their father. This intense novel provides paragraphs in disconnected



spurts and that was the key to my confusion. I was always losing my bearings. Adventurous readers with a high tolerance for confusion will find great writing, a dreamlike experience of imagining life in a divided nation absent many familiar cultural markers, and a work of art that riffs on the theme of parallels and twins and all that might have been and that might be. I was exhausted as I rushed through reading this novel. I was confused. I was delighted.

<u>Go, Went, Gone</u>	Erpenbeck, Jenny	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
The End of Days	Erpenbeck, Jenny	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>Burning Down George Orwell's House</u>	Ervin, Andrew	*****	<u>9/23/15</u>	Escape. You can run but you can't hide. Ray Welter, the protagonist of Andrew Ervin's debut novel titled, <u>Burning Down George Orwell's House</u> , runs away from his advertising job in Chicago for the Scottish island of Jura where he rents the remote house named <i>Barnhill</i> in which George Orwell wrote most of the novel <i>1984</i> . Thinking he would find the same refuge that Orwell had discovered, Ray instead finds that the islanders knew plenty about Ray from the Internet, and their world is as packed with crazy behavior as the life he was trying to escape. Sampling lots of whisky didn't bring Ray any closer to enlightenment about the human condition. Readers looking for a funny and intelligent novel are those most likely to enjoy this one. I laughed enough, and enjoyed a drink or two, enough, in fact, to start rereading <i>1984</i> . <i>Sláinte!</i>	

Malinche

Esquivel, Laura

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



[Pierced by the Sun](#)

Esquivel, Laura

[11/5/16](#)

Redemption. Readers looking for a short and quirky novel of hope and redemption should consider reading Laura Esquivel's novel titled, [Pierced by the Sun](#). We get to know about protagonist Lupita in chapters telling us something interesting about her. Esquivel presents Lupita in many dimensions: past struggles and current challenges. The setting also provides a context to think about the struggles of Mexico and its people, also in need of hope and redemption.



[Fresh Complaint](#)

Eugenides, Jeffrey

[1/4/18](#)

Unsettled. There are ten short stories in the first collection by Jeffrey Eugenides titled, [Fresh Complaint](#). Eight of the stories have been published before, so may be familiar to some readers. Fans of Eugenides' novels will recognize both prose style and characters in these stories, along with a mix of humor and quirky behavior. The characters in these stories are often unsettled in their lives as they balk at adjusting to change. Many characters are looking for something beyond the horizon, and Eugenides leads them and us to that other place with great skill.

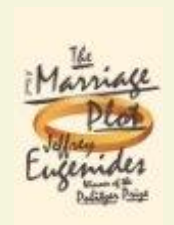


[The Marriage Plot](#)

Eugenides, Jeffrey

[11/22/11](#)

Burdens. The three protagonists of Jeffrey Eugenides' novel, [The Marriage Plot](#), carry heavy burdens. They came to Brown from different Oregon, Detroit and New Jersey, and as they graduate in 1982, they are uncertain what comes next. Madeline Hanna is considering post-graduate work in literature, but Yale did not accept her. Leonard Bankhead met Madeline in a Semiotics class that Eugenides describes in rich detail.



			Leonard has bipolar disorder, and his manic and depressive episodes dominate the book. The third protagonist, Mitchell Grammaticus, is a religious studies major who heads to India after graduation. The three characters are in a love triangle that would have developed one way in Jane Austen's world, and develops in another way under Eugenides. The fine writing here is lively and descriptive, and the burdens carried are made real through the ways in which Eugenides brings the characters to life. These are not necessarily appealing characters, but they are real. The love relationships mirror the reality of our contemporary society.	
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26a

Evans, Diana

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

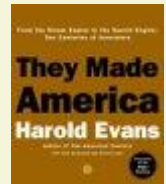


They made America / From the Steam Engine to the Seach Engine, Two Centuries of Innovators

Evans, Harold

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2005

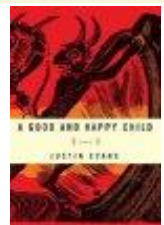


A Good and Happy Child

Evans, Justin

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009



<u>Blown to Bits: How the New Economics of Information Transforms Strategy</u>	Evans, Philip, and Wurstler, Thomas S.	***	<u>7/00</u>	Changes in information require strategic shifts. Authors propose thoughtful approaches to success in the new economy.	
<u>Girl, Woman, Other</u>	Evaristo, Bernardine	*****	<u>7/6/20</u>	Ensemble. I enjoy a novel that provides insight into the essence of human behavior especially through the development of a single complex and interesting character. In her superb novel titled, <u>Girl, Woman, Other</u> , Bernardine Evaristo gives us a dozen such characters. Through this chorus readers join a celebration of humanity in a wide range of ages and diversity of identity. Along the way, their stories become part of our stories, and we acknowledge aspects of shared history and experience. I enjoyed every minute I spent in the company of these fascinating characters and this talented writer.	
I Am Not Sidney Poitier	Everett, Percival	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Cicero: The Life and Times of Rome's Greatest Politician</u>	Everitt, Anthony	**	<u>Oct 02</u>	Eloquent. Everitt's prose brings Cicero to life, and readers interested in ancient Rome, philosophy, lawyers or politics, will find this book informative.	
<u>Lawn Boy</u>	Evison, Jonathan	****	<u>6/2/18</u>	Class. If you're looking for a humorous novel about race and class in contemporary America, consider reading Jonathan Evison's coming of age novel titled, <u>Lawn Boy</u> . Protagonist Mike Muñoz finds himself adrift after losing a landscaping job. While he struggles with work, family, and love life, he	

				deals with class differences and exploitation. Mike is a lovable character, and Evison uses him as an everyman to riff on themes of modern life, especially the obstacles of race and class.	
The Lost World of James Smithson	Ewing, Heather	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Faster, Higher, Farther: The Volkswagen Scandal</u>	Ewing, Jack	*****	<u>8/3/17</u>	Context. There's a great new book by <i>New York Times</i> reporter Jack Ewing about Volkswagen's use of a defeat device to hide the true emissions from their "clean" diesel cars. Titled, <u>Faster, Higher, Farther: The Volkswagen Scandal</u> , Ewing's book provides a great context for this scandal; he describes the corporate culture and leadership that promoted an environment in which such a scandal could take place. The total resolution of this scandal is still underway, so the final words aren't in this book. Whether you've read a lot or a little about the Volkswagen case, this book conveys much to any reader with an interest in corporate culture and leadership.	
<u>Horace and Me: Life Lessons from an Ancient Poet</u>	Eyres, Harry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Guys Like Me	Fabre, Dominique	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

The Mercury
Fountain

Factor, Eliza

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line.
Shelf of Ennui 2012.



The Panopticon

Fagan, Jenni

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



The Sunlight
Pilgrims

Fagan, Jenni

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

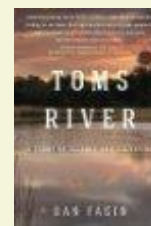


Toms River: A
Story of Science
and Salvation

Fagin, Dan

5/10/13

Toxic. I never expected that a book about cancer epidemiology would keep me enthralled through more than 500 pages. Dan Fagin writes about toxic pollution and its aftermath in his book, Toms River: A Story of Science and Salvation. Fagin knows how to tell a story. Readers come to know many individuals in the course of this book, and Fagin draws us into their lives through his fine writing. The science can be complicated, but Fagin breaks it out in ways that never faltered. Any reader who lives in a neighborhood with a mix of business and residential interests will relate to the community relationships described in this book. Anyone living in an industrial area will be especially interested in learning what happened in this New Jersey community.



The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies

Fagone, Jason

12/7/17

Invisible. One more deficiency in my education was resolved when I read Jason Fagone's finely written book about the life of codebreaker Elizebeth Smith Friedman titled, The Woman Who Smashed Codes: A True Story of Love, Spies, and the Unlikely Heroine Who Outwitted America's Enemies. A combination of sexism and secrecy made her significant role in the 20th century invisible. Thanks to Fagone, long overdue credit for her significant achievements can be learned by any reader interested in codes, espionage, and recent history.



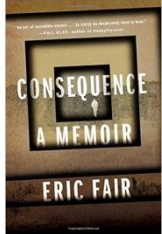



Big Boy Rules: America's Mercenaries Fighting in Iraq



Fainaru, Steve

1/6/09

Ugly. Steve Fainaru's new book Big Boy Rules: America's Mercenaries Fighting in Iraq is an eye-opening story of what is being done in the name of America in Iraq. The need for private security contracting became clear early on in Iraq, as our volunteer army was spread thin. Fainaru presents what this contracting entails, using one company, Crescent Security Group, and one contractor, Jon Cote, as his primary focus. What Fainaru describes is a degree of lawlessness that will lead to the discomfort of most readers, and the sadness of how individuals who are trying both to help America in Iraq as well as make money are treated when things don't work out as planned. The tattoo on a former Marine summarized the situation: "The unwanted, doing the unforgiveable, for the ungrateful." (p. xii). Sammy Jamison, the convoy manager for one contractor, ArmorGroup, said, "We can't ask the Iraqi people to respect the law if we don't do it ourselves." (p. 131). As for Jon Cote and those like him, Fainaru noted, "But it was an ugly business he had gotten himself into, perhaps the ugliest business there was." (p. 215). Big Boy Rules makes for uncomfortable and informative reading. The book expands on the Pulitzer prize-winning



				reporting that Fainaru has done for <i>The Washington Post</i> . There are costs to this war that higher than most reports describe, and Fainaru's book puts a human face on these costs.	
<u>Consequence</u>	Fair, Eric	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Bad Blood</u>	Fairstein, Linda	***	<u>Apr 07</u>	Family. Ninth Alex Cooper thriller takes readers underneath and around Manhattan as Alex learns about the power and strength of family relationships.	
<u>Blood Oath</u>	Fairstein, Linda	*****	<u>5/9/19</u>	Return. The twentieth installment in the Alexandra Cooper crime fiction series by Linda Fairstein is a novel titled, <u>Blood Oath</u> . I always look forward to finding out the NYC landmark that Fairstein describes for readers, and this time out it's Rockefeller University, one of the country's finest medical research centers. Fans of the series may recall that we left Alex away from her Assistant DA work on a leave of absence. In this installment, she's returned to work and her first case is complex and sensitive. Meanwhile, she's considering whether or not she wants to become the next DA. The familiar cast of recurring characters are tested anew on a case that fans are likely to love.	
<u>Deadfall</u>	Fairstein, Linda	*****	<u>9/6/17</u>	Recovery. Linda Fairstein picks up the 19 th Alexandra Cooper crime novel titled, <u>Deadfall</u> , where the last novel left off. Alex has been on leave, recovering from trauma, and hasn't quite returned to her old self. She's drinking too much, and relies heavily on Mike Chapman to see her through this	

				<p>recovery. A dramatic murder opens this novel, and Alex was next to the victim when it happened. Fairstein takes readers into the Bronx Zoo and the nearby railyards as this installment's lessons about New York City. As always, the crime is interesting, the characters familiar, and the resolution dramatic, leaving readers anxiously awaiting another installment.</p>	
<u>Death Angel</u>	Fairstein, Linda	*****	<u>9/10/13</u>	<p>Central. I raced through <u>Death Angel</u>, Linda Fairstein's fifteenth novel in her crime fiction series featuring ADA Alexandra Cooper. One of the things that Fairstein does so well is educate even New Yorkers about aspects of the metropolis. This time, we all learn things about Central Park and the Dakota that I expect few readers already knew. The crimes are interesting, the action is fast-paced, and the characters are familiar and well-developed. Any reader who enjoys crime fiction is likely to savor this one.</p>	
<u>Devil's Bridge</u>	Fairstein, Linda	*****	<u>1/5/16</u>	<p>Chapman. Successful serial fiction meets the expectations of readers by presenting each new book in the series packed with the components that readers have enjoyed in prior books. The seventeenth Alexandra Cooper novel by Linda Fairstein is titled, <u>Devil's Bridge</u>. Fairstein delivers all the components I've come to anticipate and enjoy in this series: great characters, an engaging plot, and some interesting tidbits about New York City. The heavy lifting in the latest novel is carried by recurring character Mike Chapman, and it is through his mind and his eyes that the story progresses. Fans of this series are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel, as well as any reader who likes crime fiction.</p>	

[Hell Gate](#)

Fairstein, Linda

[4/5/10](#)

History. Linda Fairstein's 12th mystery novel featuring assistant district attorney Alexandra Cooper is titled, [Hell Gate](#). This time out, the crime topic is human trafficking, and the subject of the history lesson about New York City is the story of some old large mansions that have not been torn down as the city has grown. Politics, crime, corruption and connections are sufficient enough to allow most readers to sit through the history class sections of the book to savor the unfolding action. Alex's partner, Mike Chapman, keeps the repartee and tension sharp, and Alex's French friend, Luc, remains an invisible presence this time out. I liked the history lessons in [Hell Gate](#), but for some readers, the slowing of the action might be a distraction. Fans will appreciate every page that features this finely developed female protagonist.



[Killer Heat](#)

Fairstein, Linda

[Sep 08](#)

Uniform. The latest Alex Cooper thriller tracks a serial killer all around New York City, into some places even native New Yorkers may find new. Heart-thumping entertainment.



[Killer Look](#)

Fairstein, Linda

[9/9/16](#)

Fashion. Linda Fairstein's 18th novel featuring Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Cooper is titled, [Killer Look](#). Fans of the series will be delighted with the area of New York that gets Fairstein's attention this time around: the garment district. There's murder, the familiar cast of characters, lots of drinking and just the right number of Final Jeopardy episodes. Throughout this novel, Alex is recovering from the trauma she suffered in the last novel. That increased her drinking, and made her more vulnerable and less decisive. Nonetheless, crime fiction fans and loyal readers of this series will find a great story with

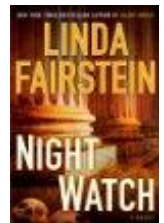


some new things to learn about New York City and the fashion district.

Library. In the eleventh installment of her series featuring Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Cooper, novelist Linda Fairstein chooses the New York Public Library as a perfect setting for a thriller titled Lethal Legacy. Alex and sidekick NYPD detective Mike Chapman investigate a murder and uncover a secret world at the library involving a wealthy family's feud, stolen books with secrets, and a legacy that leads to murder. As with her prior books, Fairstein peppers the text with the results of her research, in this case giving readers insight into rare books and the history of the New York Public Library and its surroundings. Her characters are reliable and behave with consistency to how she has developed them from the first novel on. The plot is interesting, and requires a reader's close attention. Fairstein's mini-lessons are instructive to those readers who enjoy getting background and a perspective about places that seem familiar, yet have more to their stories than most of us know.



Bones. The fourteenth novel by Linda Fairstein featuring Alex Cooper, assistant district attorney in Manhattan, is titled Night Watch. Fans of the series will enjoy many familiar elements: the reprised characters who continue to develop; some new tidbit about Manhattan that comes from Fairstein's research; and an entertaining story that brings reading pleasure. Alex is in France with Luc Rouget when old bones are left on his doorstep following the discovery of a woman's body in a nearby pond. Alex is called back to NYC after a diplomat is accused of sexually assaulting a hotel maid. The maid becomes an unreliable witness as Alex becomes involved in this high profile case. Meanwhile more old bones show up at another



Lethal Legacy

Fairstein, Linda

3/30/09

Night Watch

Fairstein, Linda

1/10/13

murder site. Needless to say, the plot thickens to the delight of most readers. I enjoyed the way Fairstein uses the backdrop of Luc's venture into a new restaurant as a way to display the methods used by restaurants during prohibition. As usual, I found Fairstein's writing to provide me with reliable and enjoyable entertainment.

Ecumenical. The thirteenth novel by Linda Fairstein to feature Assistant District Attorney Alexandra Cooper is titled Silent Mercy. Fairstein escorts readers on an ecumenical tour of historic New York churches of several denominations, as Alex teams up with detectives Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace solving murders with a religious theme. The excitement builds when the duo board the circus train. Fans of the series will find the characters and their behavior to be familiar and comfortable. The history and feminism always provide interesting exposition. The close partnership between Mike and Alex becomes intense in this novel, and Alex's relationship with Luke is present, but as a sidebar. Readers who like crime fiction or New York City will find this novel to be interesting and enjoyable.

Grand. The latest Alexandra Cooper novel by Linda Fairstein is titled, Terminal City. The familiar cast of characters returns as does the formula that works so well: a criminal investigation that puts Alex in some personal peril; a fast-moving plot; witty dialogue and repartee; and detailed information about some part of New York City that will enlighten readers. This time out the location is Grand Central Terminal, and Alex is in fear for her life more than once. Her relationship with Mike seems a bit rocky throughout this novel, and fans will look forward to the next installment in the

Silent Mercy

Fairstein, Linda

6/18/11



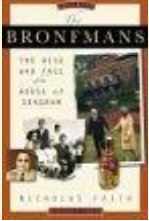


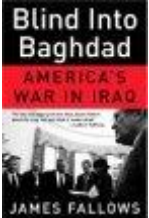
Terminal City

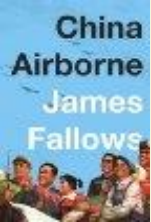


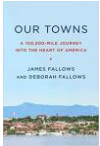
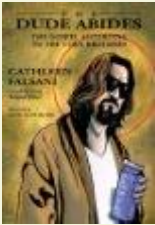
Fairstein, Linda

10/6/14



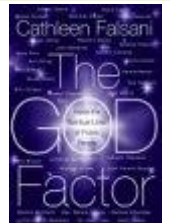
series to learn what's next for these engaging characters.

The Bronfmans	Faith, Nicholas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Cathedral of the Sea	Falcones, Ildefonso	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>You Know When the Men Are Gone</u>	Fallon, Siobhan	***	<u>2/18/11</u>	Collateral. Siobhan Fallon's debut short story collection is titled, <u>You Know When the Men Are Gone</u> . Fallon sets these eight stories at Fort Hood, Texas, and she explores the various lives of the women whose husbands are deployed in foreign wars. Each story packs a wallop of emotion and poignancy. The lives of these women are usually overlooked when most of us think about the impact of military deployment, especially for our volunteer army. We can understand readily the physical wounds of soldiers, and these stories can help any interested reader understand the collateral damage to those women who are left behind during deployments. This writing is fresh and engaging, and is likely to be enjoyed by most readers.	
Blind Into Baghdad	Fallows, James	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2007	

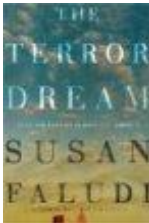

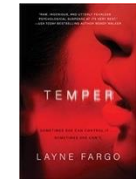
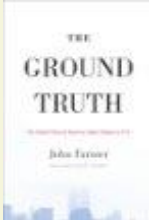
China Airborne	Fallows, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>Free Flight: From Airline Hell to a New Age of Travel</u>	Fallows, James	***	<u>08/01</u>	Changes are coming in air transportation, including air taxis. Trade frequent flier miles on big airlines for faster trip times.	
<u>Postcards from Tomorrow Square: Reports from China</u>	Fallows, James	Ennui	<u>4/25/09</u>	Shelf of Ennui. After reading a few pages of this collection of <i>New Yorker</i> articles, I realized that I had read the articles when they first were published, and there wasn't much reason to give them another perusal.	
<u>Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America</u>	Fallows, James and Deborah Fellows	****	<u>6/20/18</u>	Optimism. Readers looking for stress relief from the divisive and tense partisan shouting may want to read an optimistic view of the health of the United States in a book by James and Deborah Fallows titled, <u>Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America</u> . The couple describe their immersion into multiple towns across the country for enough time to get a real feel for those places that are undergoing transformation and renewal. There's lots of good news about our future in this book, given all that is happening all over the United States.	
<u>The Dude Abides: The Gospel According to the Coen Brothers</u>	Falsani, Cathleen	***	<u>1/2/10</u>	Lenses. Cathleen Falsani seems to have had fun writing her latest book, <u>The Dude Abides: The Gospel According to the Coen Brothers</u> . My guess is that she was able to write it over the course of a long weekend or two. In <u>The Dude Abides</u> , Falsani presents the fourteen major Coen brothers films using a three-part structure for each film. She	

			<p>provides a high level summary of the film in the section titled, “The Forest.” The longest section is titled, “The Trees” and in that one she sometimes laboriously provides a more detailed description of what happens in the film. She wraps up each film with her conclusion in the section titled, “The Moral of the Story.” Falsani loves these films, and given her perspective as a journalist who writes about religion, she applies a religious lens to her view of each film. While most filmgoers and readers would agree with Falsani that the Coens tackle some confounding questions in their films, my guess is that a minority would view these films in a way that matches Falsani’s. I kept thinking after reading about a film whether she and I saw the same movie. Nonetheless, her love for the films comes out in The Dude Abides, and each of us brings our own perspective. It’s interesting to read here a perspective that found aspects of these films that I would not have considered in a million years. Any teacher will find something interesting here to stimulate class discussion.</p>	
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The God Factor Falsani, Cathleen Unread Shelf of Reproach 2006



Stiffed: The Betrayal of the American Male	Faludi, Susan	*		<p>She explains what’s wrong with men. Yeah, right.</p>	The image shows the front cover of the book 'Stiffed' by Susan Faludi. The cover features a black and white photograph of a man in a suit walking. The title 'Stiffed' is written in a large, bold, sans-serif font at the bottom, and the author's name 'Susan Faludi' is at the top.
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The Terror Dream: Fear and Fantasy in Post-9/11 America	Faludi, Susan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Blood from stones : the secret financial network of terror	Farah, Douglas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Temper</u>	Fargo, Layne	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
The Ground Truth: The Untold Story of America Under Attack on 9/11	Farmer, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Haiti After the Earthquake</u>	Farmer, Paul	****	<u>9/23/11</u>	<p>Gripping. Dr. Paul Farmer has worked in Haiti for three decades, and his work there was described in a finely written book by Tracy Kidder, <u>Mountains Beyond Mountains</u>, which I recommended highly in January 2004. Farmer has written a book of his own, <u>Haiti After the Earthquake</u>, which presents both his own gripping account of this disaster and the reflections of a handful of others who provide readers with a deep understanding of the plight of the people of Haiti. Farmer's work with the poor is inspiring, but he does little back patting in this book. He expresses with experience and concern what has brought the people of Haiti to their current situation, and what can be done to help</p>	
					

them build a better society. Many readers will finish this book and want to do something to help.

The New Frugality: How to Consume Less, Save More, and Live Better	Farrell, Chris	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Crash of the Titans: Greed, Hubris, the Fall of Merrill Lynch, and the Near-Collapse of Bank of America	Farrell, Greg	Unread		Got as far as page 180, and had read enough of what seemed familiar. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
Why Men Earn More: The Startling Truth Behind the Pay Gap -- and What Women Can Do About It	Farrell, Warren	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>The Monk Downstairs</u>	Farrington, Tim	***	<u>Sep 02</u>	Blooming romance develops between ex-monk and his landlady. Written well with good dialogue and perfect plot momentum.	
<u>Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators</u>	Farrow, Ronan	*****	<u>1/2/20</u>	Tactics. After I read Ronan Farrow's book titled, <u>Catch and Kill: Lies, Spies, and a Conspiracy to Protect Predators</u> , I realized that there was so little I knew when I read his article in <i>The New Yorker</i> in 2017 about Harvey Weinstein and his sexual abuse and exploitation of women. I learned the ways in which NBC stifled or resisted Farrow's reporting on this story when he worked for them. I learned about	

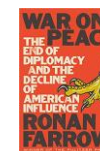
				the tactics used by Weinstein throughout his career to commit crimes and to cover them up. I was floored when I read about the spies hired to follow Farrow, and what one of those spies did when he understood the nature of his assignment. There's always more to a story, and in this book, Farrow delivers more than I expected.	
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War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence

Farrow, Ronan

8/27/18

Lamentation. Journalist and former State Department official Ronan Farrow has written a lamentation titled, War on Peace: The End of Diplomacy and the Decline of American Influence, about the transformation of diplomacy by the United States. He interviewed lots of people for this book, many on the record, including all living former Secretaries of State. The result in a comprehensive, well-footnoted book that describes through stories the ways in which diplomacy is changing, along with American influence. Readers interested in public policy are those most likely to enjoy this finely written account of a dramatic transformation in world affairs.



The Geographer's Library

Fasman, Jon

Apr 05

Alchemy. Ambitious debut novel, full of suspense set in the present, and the history of fourteen objects stolen from a 12th century geographer.



A Few Seconds of Panic: A 5-Foot-8, 170-Pound, 43-Year-Old Sportswriter Plays in the NFL

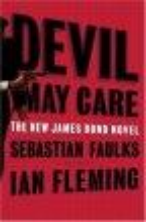
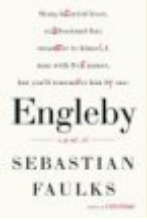
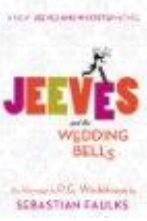
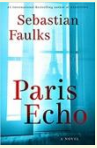
Fatsis, Stefan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009. I stopped caring at page 9.



<u>Word Freak: Heartbreak, Triumph, Genius and Obsession in the World of Competitive Scrabble Players</u>	Fatsis, Stefan	***	<u>Aug 02</u>	Addictive book presenting the strange people who pay competitive Scrabble, including the author who went from novice to expert in the two years he spent researching the book.	
<u>A Possible Life: A Novel in Five Parts</u>	Faulks, Sebastian	****	<u>12/27/13</u>	Connection. Thanks to the subtitle of Sebastian Faulks' novel, <u>A Possible Life: A Novel in Five Parts</u> , something in the back of my mind kept wondering while I read the novel what might connect the parts. Each part describes a life at a particular time and place. Faulks tells each story with care and precision, focusing close attention on the ways in which the characters achieve a level of understanding about themselves and others. That human connection crosses all time periods and defines us all. Loss, pain, love, everything, takes place in the context of relationship. Those readers who love novels that hold up our human condition for examination are most likely to love this one.	
<u>A Week in December</u>	Faulks, Sebastian	***	<u>8/2/11</u>	Laughter. Readers who appreciate fine wit and a good poking at contemporary life should consider reading Sebastian Faulks' <u>A Week in December</u> . I've had this novel sitting around for eighteen months and had set it aside at page 100 about a year ago. I finished it recently, and am glad I did. Faulks assembles a diverse cast of characters including a hedge fund manager, a home grown terrorist, an underemployed lawyer, a snarky book reviewer, and a tube train driver. In a city like London, these are our neighbors, those with whom we live in community. Needless to say, a lot can happen in a week. There's enough about the financial crisis here to entertain business types who read some fiction but like to stay on a subject close to home.	

Devil May Care	Faulks, Sebastian	***	Aug 08	<p>Brand. Faulks writes as if he were the late Ian Fleming and creates another James Bond novel that fits well into the oeuvre and provides fans with both renewal and consistency of a familiar character.</p>	
Engleby	Faulks, Sebastian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Jeeves and the Wedding Bells	Faulks, Sebastian	****	2/7/14	<p>Tribute. My first reaction upon hearing that Sebastian Faulks was writing a new novel reprising Jeeves and Wooster was: don't mess with my Wodehouse. It was with trepidation that I opened Jeeves and the Wedding Bells, fearing the worst. After a dozen pages or so, my fears diminished, as I read what I'd call a tribute. I feared reading parody or a bumbling attempt at re-creation. Instead, the familiar characters come alive for contemporary readers, while remaining true to both the time period and the books by P.G. Wodehouse that preceded this one. If you're a Jeeves & Wooster fan, take a gander at this new take on the old chaps.</p>	
Paris Echo	Faulks, Sebastian	****	12/6/18	<p>Convergence. Fans of well-written literary fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy Sebastian Faulk's novel titled, Paris Echo. While history speaks to informed walkers on every street in Paris, Faulks presents in this novel a specific connection between past and present in Paris. While Hannah is researching the oral histories of Parisian women who lived in the city during the Nazi occupation, she recalls her own experience in the city the last time she was there. She also gets to understand the echoes of the past through the eyes of her boarder,</p>	

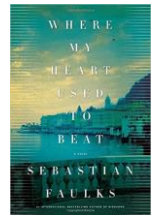
				<p>Tariq, who left his home in Morocco at age 19 and comes to Paris unaware of the connections between France and North Africa in the past. As both Hannah and Tariq narrate this novel, readers see convergence on many levels. Visit Paris with Faulks in this novel and hear all the echoes for yourself.</p>	
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Where My Heart Used to Beat

Faulks, Sebastian

3/23/17

Loneliness. Robert Hendricks, the protagonist and narrator of Sebastian Faulks' novel titled, Where My Heart Used to Beat, fought in World War II and at age 60 has reached a time when he wants to reflect on the meaning of his life and come to grips with his loneliness. He accepts an invitation from an elderly man who knew Hendricks' father in World War I, and their conversations provide the bulk of the narrative. Faulks explores the scars of war, mental health and the ways in which love and memory endure. How do the wounds from atrocities heal? Faulks explores that question and others in this finely written novel. Readers who enjoy psychological fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.



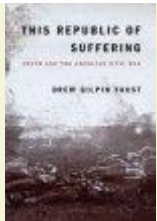
This Republic of Suffering	Faust, Drew Gilpin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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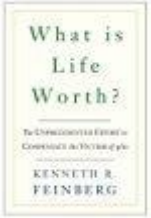



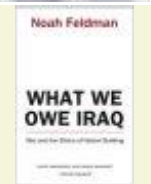
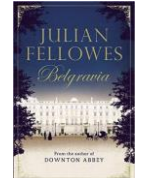
Selling Women Short: The Landmark Battle for Worker's Rights at Wal-Mart

Featherstone, Liza

Mar 05

Exploitation. Journalist examines Wal-Mart class action case and reveals personal stories of sexism, discrimination and widespread exploitation of women working at Wal-Mart nationwide.



What is Life Worth	Feinberg, Kenneth R.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
While America Sleeps: A Wake-up Call for the Post-9/11 Era	Feingold, Russ	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
Cool War: The Future of Global Competition	Feldman, Noah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
Divided by God	Feldman, Noah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
What we owe Iraq : war and the ethics of nation building	Feldman, Noah	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Belgravia</u>	Fellowes, Julian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	

Past Imperfect

Fellowes, Julian

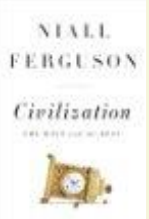


6/25/09

Quest. Julian Fellowes' second novel, Imperfect Past, presents an ensemble of characters as they were in the late 1960s and as they are today. This was the "class of 1968," a segment of the upper class in England who were part of a cultural transformation (free sex and plenty of drugs and rebellion from past values) but still rooted in tradition and bound to the will of their parents. Damian Baxter was a striver in 1968 and broke his way into higher society for a brief time until he was cast aside. He became wildly successful in business and lost all contact with the acquaintances of his youth. After he receives an anonymous letter that he might have fathered a child forty years earlier, he contacts the first person narrator of Imperfect Past, a person whom Damian used to gain access to society and then spurned with great drama. Although he hated Damian, the narrator meets with him, learns of Damian's imminent death, and agrees to try to find out if Damian has an heir. That quest defines the action for the novel. Fellowes proceeds at a ponderous pace to introduce one potential mother of Damian's heir after another, placing the action both in 1968 and the present. Fellowes is at his writing best when he presents vivid scenes of the stuffy or wild behavior in the past and the present. Some episodes led me to laugh, others were deeply sad. Character development remains weak throughout Imperfect Past; I found it a stretch to empathize with any of Fellowes' characters. While the vagaries of who loved whom was somewhat understandable, and often led to sadness, the motivation of characters and their behavior was often so disconnected from the personalities Fellowes created, the individuals seemed unreal. If one can overlook the weakness of character development, the pleasure of the vivid



				scenes in Imperfect Past along with the interest in finding out how the quest turns out contribute to a lot of reading pleasure in this novel. The meandering pace might be just the right selection for relaxing summer reading.	
Snobs	Fellowes, Julian	**	June 05	Kind. Debut novel by academy award winner for <i>Gosford Park</i> screenplay. Witty and biting observations of life in contemporary England where there are snobs of all sorts in all places.	
A G-man's Life	Felt, Mark	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2006	
The General: Charles De Gaulle and the France He Saved	Fenby, Jonathan	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
Cheaters Always Win: The Story of America	Fenster, J.M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
FDR's Shadow: Louis Howe, The Force That Shaped Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt	Fenster, Julie M.	***	8/28/09	Visionary. Something about Franklin Delano Roosevelt led Louis Howe to conclude that he could become President of the United States, and Howe devoted two decades of his life to making that happen. Julie Fenster's new book, FDR's Shadow: Louis Howe, The Force That Shaped Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt , credits Howe with making both Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt excellent	

politicians. This is a well documented story, based on many primary records, including the personal papers of Louis Howe that were released to the public by the FDR Library in 2006. Until I read this book, I had noted Howe as part of the Roosevelt team, and considered him as a secondary player, perhaps because his death in 1936 preceded the majority of Roosevelt's time in office as President. Thanks to Fenster, I now have a greater appreciation of the role that Howe played in the formation of FDR as a master politician and leader, and in the important way he helped Eleanor find her place in the public arena. [FDR's Shadow](#) is a well written account of the time and the players, and reminded me of the value and importance of candid friends who can communicate freely with leaders who need to listen to voices different from their own.

Civilization: The West and the Rest	Ferguson, Niall	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Vikings	Ferguson, Robert	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Treasure Palaces	Fergusson, Maggie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	

Little Boy

Ferlinghetti,
Lawrence

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

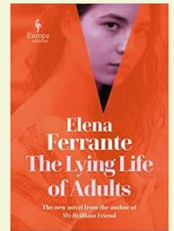


The Lying Life of Adults

Ferrante, Elena

9/8/20

Bracelet. Children learn to navigate the world by observing closely the adults in their lives. Giovanna, the protagonist of Elena Ferrante's novel titled, The Lying Life of Adults, changes over the course of three hundred pages from a child to an adolescent to who she might observe as an adult. Ferrante draws readers into Giovanna's life through dissection of close family and romantic relationships. We feel the intensity of Giovanna's struggle to grow into herself. A bracelet worn at different times by multiple characters pulls the narrative together and provides key symbolism relating to the realities and the complications of adult life. Ferrante proves again that all of life can be revealed in a domestic story told well. The full cast of interesting and complex characters, their realistic dialogue and range of behavior kept me captivated from beginning to end.



The Story of the Lost Child

Ferrante, Elena

2/10/17

Finale. People who have read the first three novels of Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan Series are those most likely to read the finale titled, The Story of the Lost Child. Consistent with the earlier novels, the character development is strong, the situations are presented with insight, and the complexity of love and friendship remains on center stage. As the friends we have followed from childhood have matured, the issues they face are very significant and Ferrante presents those issues with great skill, and the characters mature in complexity as well as age in this final volume. Readers should not start the series with this novel, but will gain much from



going to the beginning and getting all the rewards in this final installment.

Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay

Ferrante, Elena

11/22/16

Friendship. I knew that I would have to start reading Elena Ferrante's Neapolitan novels from the beginning, so I procrastinated. I kept hearing about how good these novels are, so I finally got underway, and finished the first three over the course of a few weeks. I highly recommend this third installment titled, Those Who Leave and Those Who Stay, as well as the other three novels that complete the series about the friendship between two fascinating female characters. In this installment, set in the 1970s, the friends are no longer girls and adolescents, and as women they are taking different paths in life.

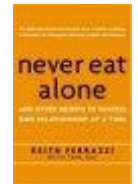


Never Eat Alone
: And Other
Secrets to
Success, One
Relationship at
a Time

Ferrazzi, Keith

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

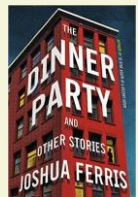


The Dinner Party

Ferris, Joshua

5/23/17

Insight. I had read in different periodicals many of the eleven short stories in the collection by Joshua Ferris titled after the opening story, The Dinner Party. What I appreciated in reading eleven stories together was the depth of insight into human behavior that Ferris uses to form his characters and frame his stories. There are great characters in these stories, and Ferris conveys their complexity with great skill and efficiency. The twists are wicked and the moral issues of modern life are presented with sensitivity and insight. I loved many of these stories, and recommend this collection to any reader who appreciates finely written literary fiction.

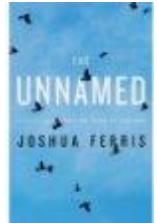


[The Unnamed](#)

Ferris, Joshua

[2/19/10](#)

Surrender. I've never read a novel like Joshua Ferris' new book, [The Unnamed](#). Readers are likely to love or hate it; I'm closer to the love end, thanks to Ferris' fine writing. Protagonist Tim Farnsworth suffers from a mysterious (unnamed) disease that compels him to walk until he's exhausted. His wife, Jane, brings meaning to the worse part of "for better or for worse" as she drops whatever she's doing to rescue Tim from wherever he's collapsed after his forced walking. [The Unnamed](#) presents marriage from many perspectives and with great skill, especially on the ways in which love endures all, and the sacrifice one can make out of love for another. Tim ends up surrendering his career as a high-powered lawyer because of this disease. His daughter Becka cares for him while Jane works, and their relationship provides a strong motif in the novel. Ferris deals with all aspects of surrender in [The Unnamed](#): to illness, to the loss of work, to not being able to live with the one you love. The transformation of Tim and his family in this novel will leave all readers thinking about identity and what changes when one surrenders to forces that are uncontrollable.



[Then We Came to the End](#)

Ferris, Joshua

[May 07](#)

Cohort. Promising debut novel set at an ad agency at a time of layoffs, replete with familiar characters, funny episodes, and serious issues.



[To Rise Again at a Decent Hour](#)

Ferris, Joshua

[6/11/14](#)

Identity. The protagonist of Joshua Ferris' novel, [To Rise Again at a Decent Hour](#), is not your average dentist. Paul O'Rourke runs a lucrative Park Avenue dental practice with a quirky staff that includes his former lover. He's a Red Sox fan in Yankee country. His identity is stolen and religious proclamations start appearing on a website



O'Rourke did not create, causing consternation to his atheistic sensibilities. This novel is quirky, clever, witty and thoroughly entertaining, especially to those readers who can be patient and who appreciate the ways in which Ferris draws out beliefs and behavior that reveal character and true identity.

Seeing in the Dark: How Backyard Stargazers Are Probing Deep Space and Guarding Earth from Interplanetary Peril	Ferris, Timothy	***	Feb 03	Look Up. Outstanding science writer takes readers into the world of amateur astronomers and the contributions they make. Makes you want to buy a telescope and look up at the night sky.	
A Brief History of Thought: A Philosophical Guide to Living	Ferry, Luc	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
Travel Writing	Ferry, Peter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Safe Houses	Fesperman, Dan	*****	10/12/18	Characters. Readers who enjoy finely written espionage novels are those most likely to enjoy Dan Fesperman's Safe Houses . Fesperman offers a cast of interesting and complex characters, an engaging plot, and surprises that will delight most readers. Berlin in 1979 and current day Maryland alternate	

the exposition, and the gradual understanding of different characters builds steadily.

Dredging. Fans of spy fiction will have fun reading Dan Fesperman's [The Double Game](#). In some ways, this is a homage to spy novels. Protagonist Bill Cage yields to the temptation of being led by some unknown person on a trail through Europe to uncover secrets from decades earlier. Having read classic spy stories, Cage is hooked by the way he is being manipulated, and along the trail of dredging up the past, he has to face what was real and what was pretend in his own past. Cage wonders about what work his father did in his State Department job when they lived in Europe. Fesperman keeps up the suspense about who's manipulating Cage, and which characters are out to help or harm him on his trail of discovery. The whole trope of counterspy comes alive on these pages, leaving readers entertained by the puzzle. I liked Fesperman's craftsmanship in constructing a fine spy novel and keeping me interested from beginning to end.



[The Double Game](#)

Fesperman, Dan

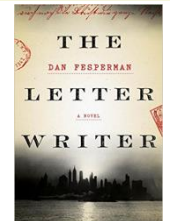
[1/16/13](#)

[The Letter Writer](#)

Fesperman, Dan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



Unmanned

Fesperman, Dan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

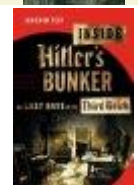


[Inside Hitler's Bunker: The Last Days of the Third Reich](#)

Fest, Joachim C.

[June 04](#)

Caveman. Prominent historian distills hundreds of sources of information to provide tightly written account of Hitler's last days.



<u>Bossypants</u>	Fey, Tina	***	<u>6/18/11</u>	<p>Chuckles. I didn't laugh enough to piss my pants, but I did chuckle a lot when I read Tina Fey's memoir, <u>Bossypants</u>. Her comedic talent works well in print, but not nearly as well as when it's visual. Any reader who likes Tina Fey will find a lot to enjoy on these pages, and most will come away with the conclusion that this woman is very busy. My favorite description was the weekend where three events had to be accomplished with no room for error: Oprah's taping of 30 Rock, Tina's first portrayal of Sarah Palin on SNL, and her daughter's birthday party. I don't think I give anything away by saying all were accomplished on that busy weekend.</p>	
Perfectly Reasonable Deviations From The Beaten Track	Feynman, Richard P.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>Stay and Fight</u>	Ffitch, Madeline	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Early Riser</u>	Fforde, Jasper	****	<u>4/25/19</u>	<p>Winter. Readers who enjoy imaginative dystopian fiction are those most likely to appreciate Jasper Fforde's novel titled, <u>Early Riser</u>. Set in Wales, this is a story of a population who eat hearty as preparation for sleeping through the harsh winter. Fforde adds clever writing, humor, mystery and mayhem to keep readers turning pages. Levels of meaning enhance the reading experience and improve the entertainment value of this novel.</p>	

<u>Sisters: Catholic Nuns and the Making of America</u>	Fialka, John J.	***	<u>Apr 03</u>	Yes, Sister. Fialka traces the arrival of small groups of nuns in America in the 19 th century through their 1965 apex of 179,000 sisters, to today's situation where half the remaining sisters are aged seventy and older.	
<u>Olivia Joules and the Overactive Imagination</u>	Fielding, Helen	***	<u>Sep 04</u>	Romp. Light reading, presenting new and witty 007 bumping into Osama bin Laden look-alike and conducting comic international espionage. If you're ready to laugh about Al Queda this is the novel for you.	
<u>The Wrong Stuff</u>	Fiffer, Sharon	**	<u>Feb 04</u>	Wheeling. Third mystery in the Jane Wheel series. Good writing, holes in plot, protagonist whose lack of focus can become infuriating to some readers.	
<u>The Great Successor: The Divinely Perfect Destiny of Brilliant Comrade Kim Jong Un</u>	Fifield, Anna	****	<u>9/3/19</u>	Insights. Despite the cheeky title of her book, <u>The Great Successor: The Divinely Perfect Destiny of Brilliant Comrade Kim Jong Un</u> , Anna Fifield is not writing a satire about the current leader of North Korea. Fifield's extensive contacts and long experience in covering North Korea combine to provide great insights into Kim and his regime. The book describes the context in which Kim has thrived as a young leader, and how his actions have been more reasoned and reasonable than others claim. If like me, you were never inclined to sell Kim short, reading this book is likely to convince you that Kim's future will be bright.	
The Financial Crisis Inquiry Report: Final Report of the National Commission on the Causes of the Financial and Economic	Financial Crisis Inquiry Commission	Unread		Skimmed many parts. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	

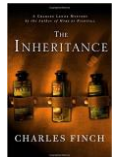
Crisis in the
United States

[The Inheritance](#)

Finch, Charles

[4/25/17](#)

Scientists. What has taken me so long to break into the Charles Lenox mystery series by Charles Finch? Perhaps it is knowing that if I like one novel in a series, I'm likely to read each subsequent installment, and that can tend to clog the reading queue. Alas, the queue will be clogged in the future now that I have read the tenth installment in the Lenox series, a novel titled, [The Inheritance](#). Protagonist Charles Lenox is a private detective. In London in 1877, Lenox receives a request for help from a Harrow schoolmate, Gerald Leigh, who has become a renowned scientist. Leigh's Harrow tuition was paid by an anonymous benefactor, and that unsolved mystery stoked Lenox' early interest in detective work. Leigh has inherited a significant sum and that brought him to London from his scientific work in France. With great skill, Finch takes readers through twists, turns, red herrings and dead ends, while presenting an interesting cast of characters, including professional and amateur scientists. Lenox and his partners are also wrapped up in another case that leads to dramatic consequences. I was entertained by this novel from beginning to end, and I am likely to become a loyal reader of this series. Readers who enjoy historical and crime fiction are those most likely to appreciate this novel and this series.



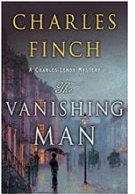
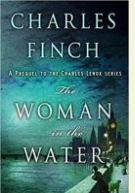
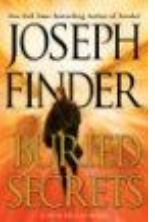
[The Last Passenger](#)

Finch, Charles

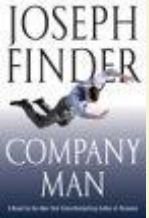
[4/9/20](#)

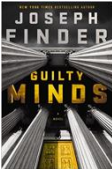
Slavery. The third prequel to the popular Charles Lenox mystery series by Charles Finch is a novel set in 1855 titled, [The Last Passenger](#). Young Charles matures in this installment as he falls in love while solving a complicated murder case. Finch focuses on an important issue of that time around the world: slavery. As usual, the fine writing exposes deep understanding of human nature. The




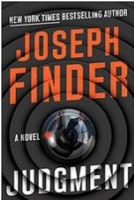
				characters are interesting and complex. The plot entertains and the mystery is clever. Fans of crime fiction and this series are those most likely to enjoy this novel.	
<u>The Vanishing Man</u>	Finch, Charles	****	<u>8/27/19</u>	<p>Dorset. The twelfth novel in the Charles Lenox mystery series by Charles Finch is a prequel titled, <u>The Vanishing Man</u>. Set in London in 1853, young Charles Lenox, fresh off a solved case, is drawn into a new investigation at the request of the Duke of Dorset. A stolen painting brings Lenox into the Duke's orbit, but the investigation leads to a rocky relationship with high society. Fans of the series will enjoy seeing familiar characters in their youth, and mystery lovers will find great characters and an engaging plot.</p>	
<u>The Woman in the Water</u>	Finch, Charles	****	<u>5/3/18</u>	<p>Youth. The refreshing eleventh installment in the Charles Lenox mystery series by Charles Finch is titled, <u>The Woman in the Water</u>. Instead of the mature Victorian detective from recent novels, we enjoy a prequel in this installment: Lenox' first efforts at detecting. It will be no spoiler for fans that Lenox was a talented sleuth from the start. The writing is well-done, the plot engaging, the characters complex and the pace spot on. A civilized crime novel for intelligent readers is always a treat for those of us who enjoy this genre.</p>	
<u>Buried Secrets</u>	Finder, Joseph	***	<u>9/14/11</u>	<p>Familial. Joseph Finder continues the story of Nick Heller in a new novel titled, <u>Buried Secrets</u>. Having left his super spy role in D.C. over matters of integrity, Heller has opened his own business back home in Boston, and the case presented in this novel is close to home. His mother's former employer, a mega-wealthy hedge fund manager, faces financial concerns and his daughter has been kidnapped and buried alive. Finder maintains a thrilling pace with his plot, and his development of Heller as a tough and kind hero continues in this</p>	

novel, setting an expectation for more to follow. Readers who like fast paced thrillers with strong central characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

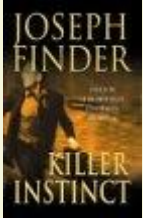

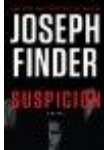
Company Man	Finder, Joseph	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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<u>Guilty Minds</u>	Finder, Joseph	*****	<u>9/9/16</u>	<p>Secret. The third novel by Joseph Finder to feature private investigator Nick Heller is titled, <u>Guilty Minds</u>. A gossip website is about to issue a shocking article about the chief justice, and Nick has been hired to avert this scandal. He has just two days in which to get the job done. The plot moves quickly, and things are not as they appear to be, especially when a character is killed. Nick uncovers a secret and brings the case to a very satisfying conclusion. Fans of crime fiction and this series are those most likely to enjoy reading this entertaining novel.</p>	
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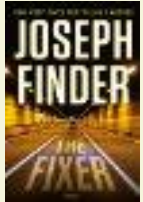
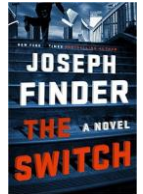
<u>House on Fire</u>	Finder, Joseph	*****	<u>2/21/20</u>	<p>Overdose. The fourth novel by Joseph Finder featuring protagonist Nick Heller is titled, <u>House on Fire</u>. After an Army friend dies of an opioid overdose, Nick is approached by a renegade heir to a pharmaceutical family fortune who wants him to help her obtain evidence that her family was aware of the addictive nature of their main moneymaking drug. Fans of thrilling crime fiction will enjoy the plot twists and action.</p>	
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<u>Judgment</u>	Finder, Joseph	*****	<u>4/4/19</u>	<p>Hardball. Watch out for Judge Julie, the protagonist of a novel by Joseph Finder titled, <u>Judgment</u>. After exercising poor judgment in her personal life, Judge Juliana Brody faces a full court press on her to rule in a certain way concerning a</p>	
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case in her courtroom. Her escapades to avoid being blackmailed demand a reader's full suspension at disbelief: one must forget that the behavior of this person matches that of a Superior Court judge. Once reconciled to the context that judges are people too, readers can join the brisk plot that races to a very satisfying conclusion. Fans of thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.

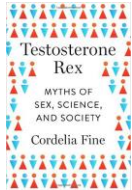
<u>Killer Instinct</u>	Finder, Joseph	***	<u>Feb 07</u>	Cheating. An ensemble of cheating corporate characters, and thrilling plot momentum, no matter how improbable the situations are. Great for reading on a business trip.	
<u>Paranoia</u>	Finder, Joseph	***	<u>May 04</u>	Malfeasance. As if there weren't enough real stories of corporate malfeasance in the media, here's a novel that takes on that theme and presents executives in the worst possible way. An entertaining thriller with some fine parodies of known CEOs.	
<u>Power Play</u>	Finder, Joseph	**	<u>Dec 07</u>	Offsite. No matter how bad your last offsite meeting was, the executives of Hammond Aerospace had a worse time in this improbable and entertaining novel.	
<u>Suspicion</u>	Finder, Joseph	****	<u>6/25/14</u>	Disbelief. Readers who love thrillers will enjoy the action in Joseph Finder's novel, <u>Suspicion</u> . Protagonist Danny Goodman struggles as a writer and a single father. The best part of life for his daughter, Abby, since her mother died of cancer, is her private school and her friendship with a new student at the school, Jenny Galvin. Goodman burned through his book advance and lacks funds for many things, but especially for Abby's tuition	

and the cost of activities related to the school. Danny reluctantly accepts a loan from Jenny's wealthy dad, Tom Galvin, who is thrilled that Jenny has found stability at the school because of her friendship with Abby. That simple setup leads to a wild ride in the thrilling plot, causing me to question often my suspension of disbelief, as Danny becomes involved with the high life of vacation via private plane to ski for the weekend, and the low life of violent drug cartels and intimidation by federal agents. For those readers who can set aside the frequent implausibility of the plotlines, the novel is both entertaining and exciting. I barely had time to pursue my disbelief by the time I finished the novel.

<u>The Fixer</u>	Finder, Joseph	*****	<u>7/9/15</u>	<p>Pacing. The characters and pacing of Joseph Finder's novel, <u>The Fixer</u>, provide readers with ideal ingredients for an entertaining thriller. Summer can be a great time to read a thriller, either while traveling or on those lazy vacation afternoons. Protagonist Rick Hoffman loses his job and his girlfriend and gains a hoard of cash and the enmity of those who want past secrets to remain undisturbed. Finder offers great pacing, interesting characters and a plot that kept me turning the pages. Readers who like thrillers should find something to like in this one.</p>	
<u>The Switch</u>	Finder, Joseph	*****	<u>8/12/17</u>	<p>Bumbling. Not many thrillers make me laugh. The plot and characters in Joseph Finder's novel titled, <u>The Switch</u>, delivered great amusement to this reader. When smart people do stupid things, I am never surprised and often amused. Protagonist Michael Tanner picks up the wrong laptop at security and takes every possible action that did nothing to rectify the error. The owner of the laptop he took is a United States Senator, and she and her staff also did everything in such a bumbling manner</p>	

that created all the thrilling tension in the novel. I wanted to yell at several characters to do the simple thing, not the bumbling thing. Readers with high tolerance for implausible plot lines are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel, as are those readers, like me, who enjoy a laugh even from a thriller.

<u>Vanished</u>	Finder, Joseph	***	9/26/09	<p>Competent. Joseph Finder introduces protagonist Nick Heller in a new novel titled, <u>Vanished</u>. Nick is a former special forces officer who now works for a private intelligence company. When his nephew Gabe calls and tells Nick that his stepdad and Nick's older brother, Roger, has disappeared, Nick drops everything to help. Nick responded not because of his relationship with Roger, which is strained, but because Gabe asked. The suspense in <u>Vanished</u>, and the plot twists will keep most readers well-entertained. I found it is Nick's character that kept me turning the pages. Cool and competent with a clear moral compass and passion for justice, I wanted to know more about Nick, and despite his superhero exploits in <u>Vanished</u>, I felt he was underdeveloped as a character. Finder promises more novels featuring Nick, so we'll see how this character develops over time.</p>	
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<u>Testosterone Rex: Myths of Sex, Science, and Society</u>	Fine, Cordelia	****	5/23/17	<p>Dethroned. Any debater will be thrilled to have Cordelia Fine as a member of the team. In her book titled, <u>Testosterone Rex: Myths of Sex, Science, and Society</u>, Fine debunks many false theories about differences between the sexes. Fine dethrones testosterone as the defining factor in behavior and in delineating gender differences. I'm no expert in the science Fine uses for her arguments, but I found her prose entertaining and interesting.</p>	
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<u>Alice Isn't Dead</u>	Fink, Joseph	*****	<u>12/13/18</u>	<p>Anxiety. Anxiety and fear can be debilitating but sometimes be pushed aside in service of some greater good. In Joseph Fink's novel titled, <u>Alice Isn't Dead</u>, protagonist Keisha suffers from anxiety and learns that she can push past that anxiety to do things she never imagined. Fink suffers from anxiety himself and proves in this novel and the podcast that preceded it, that anxiety can be managed. This is a horror novel with creepy creatures doing violent and gory things. Fans of that genre will find expected elements here, along with interesting and complex characters.</p>	
<u>Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital</u>	Fink, Sheri	*****	<u>10/8/13</u>	<p>Intense. I expected to browse, but not read, Sheri Fink's book, <u>Five Days at Memorial: Life and Death in a Storm-Ravaged Hospital</u>. After all, I had read her Pulitzer-winning work in <i>The New York Times</i> on what happened at this New Orleans hospital during Hurricane Katrina. I surprised myself when I started reading because I couldn't put this book down. Fink provides a comprehensive examination of who did what under crisis. She does a great job at helping readers see the people and the places with great clarity, and provides a thought provoking analysis of how individuals made decisions. Her writing helped me see the place and get to know the people. Any reader interested in medical ethics as well as anyone who enjoys compelling non-fiction, will find much to enjoy in this finely written book.</p>	
<u>Thank You For Your Service</u>	Finkel, David	*****	<u>1/13/14</u>	<p>After-war. Whether you've actually said, "Thank you for your service," to a veteran or not, you are likely to rethink that phrase and the service being done as well as what happens after a soldier returns from war. David Finkel has done an extraordinary thing in his book, <u>Thank You For Your Service</u>. He keeps his own views off the page, and lets readers form our own viewpoint on what happens to troops, families and friends after all the deployments are</p>	

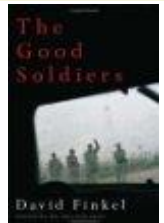
			over. Finkel brings readers into the lives of a handful of people and lets readers see what the after-war is like for them. You may think you know something about PTSD or about the sacrifices made by soldiers and their families. Read this book, and you will definitely know more. I learned much about the challenges of reintegrating into society following service. Any citizen who reads this book will want to talk to others about it, and look for some way to make things better.	
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The Good
Soldiers

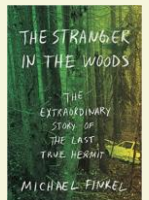
Finkel, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



<u>The Stranger in the Woods</u>	Finkel, Michael	*****	<u>5/3/17</u>	<p>Solitude. Had I been reading a novel featuring the character Chris Knight, I would have set it aside concluding that no person could be as odd as Chris. Having read about the life of Chris Knight in Michael Finkel's non-fiction book titled, <u>The Stranger in the Woods</u>, I have a new understanding about solitude and how strong the desire for solitude can be in a person's life. Knight spent twenty seven years living alone in the Maine woods without contact with other humans. Any reader longing for a bit more solitude will come away from this book with the insight that one can get too much of any good thing.</p>	
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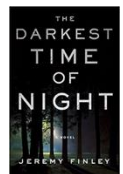


[The Darkest Time of Night](#)

Finley, Jeremy

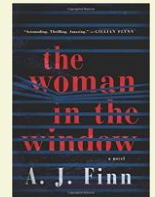
[12/17/18](#)

Missing. Fans of science fiction thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy the debut novel by Jeremy Finley titled, [The Darkest Time of Night](#). The action starts with a child gone missing. Before long, we learn that more than one child is missing. Finley builds the story one element at a time, postponing my reckoning with a less than willing suspension of disbelief. By the time the story turned



sci-fi, I was engaged in the plot and with the characters and wanted to stay with the story to the end. After learning what happened to the missing, I was fully committed and enjoyed the novel to the end, despite nagging incredulity.

Noir. Fans of suspense thrillers will find much to enjoy in a debut novel titled, The Woman in the Window, by A.J. Finn, a pseudonym of Daniel Mallory, who had worked as an editor at Morrow. Finn delivers great complex characters, the gradual unveiling of an entertaining plot, and a narrative that offers homage to great noir films. I found my reading pace remained steady, like the regular frames of a film as sentences went by a constant clip. If you've been entertained by a Hitchcock film and enjoy noir, chances are you'll like this novel and the fine writing it offers.



The Woman in the Window

Finn, A.J.

2/22/18

A Guest of the Reich: The Story of American Heiress Gertrude Legendre's Dramatic Captivity and Escape from Nazi Germany

Finn, Peter

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

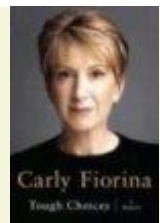


Tough Choices

Fiorina, Carly


Dec 06

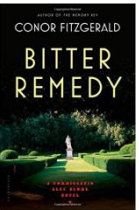
Clichés. Memoir tells her side of the H-P story, as well as the many choices she made during her career. Packed with clichés, but also with sage advice to choose the harder career path over the easy one.




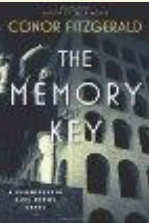
<u>Washington's Crossing</u>	Fischer, David Hackett	***	<u>Dec 04</u>	Reversals. Revolutionary War history buffs will revel in this finely written work, especially the author's description of a distinctly American way of war.	
<u>Voyage to the End of the Room</u>	Fischer, Tibor	**	<u>May 04</u>	Home Sweet Home. Clever Brit novel, often funny, always highly creative. London recluse finds the world by bringing it to her flat, then leaves her flat to find herself. Not your grandfather's Robinson Crusoe.	
<u>How to Write a Sentence: And How to Read One</u>	Fish, Stanley	***	<u>12/15/11</u>	Language. Language lovers will revel in a short book by Stanley Fish titled, <u>How to Write a Sentence: And How to Read One</u> . Each of the ten short chapters by this English professor explores the form, style and content of a sentence. Any reader with a desire to be taught some fundamentals about writing and reading by a skilled teacher will enjoy the time spent reading this book.	
House of Wits: An Intimate Portrait of the James Family	Fisher, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
<u>A Replacement Life</u>	Fishman, Boris	****	<u>8/26/14</u>	Letters. Boris Fishman's debut novel, <u>A Replacement Life</u> , captures the many ways in which our lives are a jumble of contrasts. Protagonist Slava Gelman is a writer living in Brooklyn who has been manipulated by his grandfather to write a false claim for restitution from Germany for what happened to the grandfather during the Holocaust. While the grandfather suffered during that time, what happened to him in real life doesn't qualify for restitution, so a replacement life has to be created. Who better than his grandson the writer who works	

at a prestigious magazine to do this? The things we do for love. One letter leads to another. In the meantime, there's a love story. Also the work at the magazine isn't quite the American dream Slava expected. There are plenty of novels of the immigrant experience, and this one is funny, interesting, and alive. I enjoyed it thoroughly, especially the pitch-perfect dialect of Brooklyn's Russian Jewish community.

The Org: The Underlying Logic of the Office	Fisman, Ray and Tim Sullivan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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<u>Bitter Remedy</u>	Fitzgerald, Conor	****	<u>12/4/15</u>	<p>Leave. Protagonist Alec Blume leaves Rome and his comfort zone in Conor Fitzgerald's latest novel of this series. In this novel titled, <u>Bitter Remedy</u>, Blume is ill and his treatment is reflected in the title. Fans of the series are likely to enjoy seeing new dimensions of Blume's character, while first time readers may not fully appreciate this interesting personality. Readers who like crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
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<u>The Dogs of Rome</u>	Fitzgerald, Conor	***	<u>3/2/12</u>	<p>Relaxed. Conor Fitzgerald's debut crime novel, <u>The Dogs of Rome</u>, proceeds at a relaxed pace in introducing readers to protagonist Commissario Alec Blume. I became engaged in the life, work and world of Blume and I enjoyed the easy going plot momentum. Readers learn just enough about the characters to be interested, and the choices that Blume makes in dealing with bosses, subordinates, witnesses, criminals and lovers kept me engaged throughout the novel. Readers who like crime</p>	
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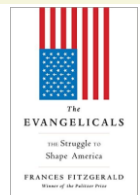
				<p>fiction and are looking for new authors are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p> <p>Corruption. Conor Fitzgerald's second novel to feature Commissario Alec Blume is titled The Fatal Touch. Blume continues to be an outsider who skirts around the established corruption around him as he solves an intriguing case. Readers who like detective fiction and complex characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel. I found the violence in this novel to be more than necessary for the plot, but I enjoyed getting to know Blume better in this novel, and I was entertained from beginning to end.</p>	
The Fatal Touch	Fitzgerald, Conor	***	5/5/12		
The Memory Key	Fitzgerald, Conor	****	9/15/14	<p>Palaces. Readers who enjoy police procedurals and can tolerate a quirky protagonist should consider reading the latest Alec Blume novel by Conor Fitzgerald titled, The Memory Key. Blume's independence comes from being an outsider: an American working in Italy. The current case places him in political minefields, as he's asked to shadow an investigation being conducted by the Carabinieri. Inserted throughout the plot are excerpts from a book Blume is reading about memory, and he reflects on using the technique of memory palaces. His relationship with Caterina becomes more strained in this installment, and Blume considers a change in Roman real estate for himself, a palace all his own. I enjoy the quirkiness and complexity of Blume. I find his behavior more unexpected than that which happens with most recurring protagonists.</p>	

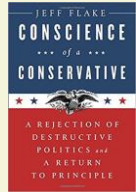

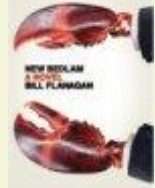
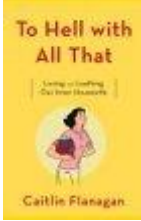

[The Evangelicals](#)

FitzGerald,
Frances

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.



<u>Conscience of a Conservative: A Rejection of Destructive Politics and a Return to Principle</u>	Flake, Jeff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
The Kingdom of Ohio	Flaming, Matthew	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>New Bedlam</u>	Flanagan, Bill	**	<u>Feb 08</u>	Disorder. Novel uses the backdrop of a family owned cable television network to play out family issues in this humorous novel that has a slow and steady plot.	
<u>To Hell with All That</u>	Flanagan, Caitlin	**	<u>August 06</u>	Housewifery. Debut from staff writer for <i>The New Yorker</i> replete with fine writing, verve, insight and opinions that will delight and irritate various readers as she explores the conflicting roles of women.	
<u>First Person</u>	Flanagan, Richard	****	<u>12/13/18</u>	Liberation. Tell me the “real” story. Writers choose fiction, non-fiction or creative non-fiction, and readers judge stories no matter how they are categorized. Inspired, perhaps, by an episode in his own life when he was asked to ghostwrite the autobiography of Australian con man, John Friedrich, Richard Flanagan has written a novel titled, <u>First Person</u> . Protagonist Kif Kehlmann is sorely in need of funds when he is asked to ghostwrite the autobiography of Ziggy Heidl, who is about to head to jail for defrauding banks. The	

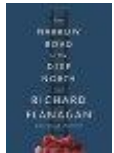
				<p>deadline is to complete the project in six weeks. Kif can't get Ziggy to keep a story straight and fears the project won't be completed. The writing flows once Kif understands that he can make it all up. Flanagan writes with great skill and structures the novel with inflection points that propel Kif's liberation. Readers who enjoy literary fiction are those most likely to appreciate this novel.</p>	
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[The Narrow Road to the Deep North](#)

Flanagan, Richard

[1/23/15](#)

Suffering. I don't think I've enjoyed a novel about pain and suffering as much as I did Richard Flanagan's [The Narrow Road to the Deep North](#). Set mostly during the building of the Thai-Burma death railway in 1943, the novel explores the range of human behavior from good to evil, often in the same characters. Prisoners of war were used as slaves to build the railway, and the scenes Flanagan describes can be difficult to read. Amid the suffering, there is kindness, courage and support. Flanagan reflects on memory, trauma and the ephemeral nature of life, especially through the life of protagonist Dorrigo Evans. Readers who enjoy finely written intelligent fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



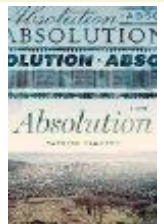
Inside the Victorian Home: A Portrait of Domestic Life in Victorian England	Flanders, Judith	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
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Absolution

Flanery, Patrick

Unread

Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.

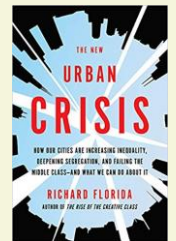


<u>Fallen Land</u>	Flanery, Patrick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>The House Swap</u>	Fleet, Rebecca	****	<u>7/12/18</u>	<p>Creepy. Fans of creepy thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy London writer Rebecca Fleet's introduction to American readers, a novel titled, <u>The House Swap</u>. Fleet uses a structure of two time periods, 2013 and 2015, along with a setting of home or away. Protagonist Caroline finds a way to restore trust in her marital relationship: she arranges a house swap to get the couple out of their routine. Gradually, readers learn what led to distrust.</p>	
Mysteries of My Father	Fleming, Thomas	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>A Boy and His Dog at the End of the World</u>	Fletcher, C.A.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>The Black Prince of Florence</u>	Fletcher, Catherine	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	

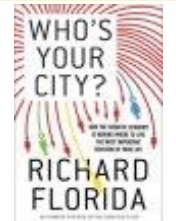
Bottled Lightning: Superbatteries, Electric Cars, and the New Lithium Economy	Fletcher, Seth	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
There Is a God: How the World's Most Notorious Atheist Changed His Mind	Flew, Antony and Roy Abraham Varghese	*	Apr 08	180. British philosopher explains what led him to reverse a long-held viewpoint. Readers with a strong interest in philosophy or theology may find this short book interesting; others can take a pass.	
Wrestling with Moses: How Jane Jacobs Took On New York's Master Builder and Transformed the American City	Flint, Anthony	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
The Flight of the Creative Class: The New Global Competition for Talent	Florida, Richard	***	Aug 05	Thoughtful. If certain workers are made to feel more welcome elsewhere, America will lose its advantage in attracting global talent, and economic growth will suffer.	
The Great Reset: How New Ways of Living and Working Drive Post-Crash Prosperity	Florida, Richard	Ennui	7/20/10	Cranky. I sat down to read Richard Florida's latest book, The Great Reset , with the expectation that he'd provide interesting data and insight into the aftermath of the current economic crisis. By the time I reached page 20, I tired of his capitalization of "Reset" as if that were a recognized proper noun, and when he used the capitalized phrase, "the First Reset," I knew my patience was at an end, so I gave	

up and closed the book. While I felt a little like a cranky Andy Rooney, I decided it just wasn't worth the energy to read a social science book that created its own terminology as if it were generally accepted. More patient readers than I might give this book a chance, but Florida turned me off early in the book, and it was easier to stop reading than to plow ahead.

Clusters. Any readers interested in public policy should consider reading Richard Florida's book titled, [The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class—and What We Can Do About It](#). Whether you agree or disagree with his thinking, Florida offers a cogent analysis about modern American cities, and offers possible solutions to the problems he's observed. Those who have read Florida in the past will find familiar themes here. He clearly displays his preference for "urbanism for all" and the benefits of clustering to long term prosperity.



Exhaustive. A comprehensive, data-filled presentation about the primacy of choosing a place to live over other minor choices like who to marry and where to work.



[The New Urban Crisis: How Our Cities Are Increasing Inequality, Deepening Segregation, and Failing the Middle Class—and What We Can Do About It](#)

Florida, Richard

[3/3/18](#)

[Who's Your City?](#)

Florida, Richard

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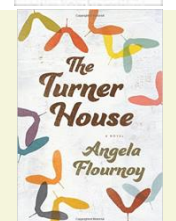
[July 08](#)

The Turner House

Flournoy, Angela

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.



Christmas
Caramel Murder

Fluke, Joanna

12/2/16

Novella. The twentieth novel to feature the Minnesota adventures of baker Hannah Swensen is titled, Christmas Caramel Murder. More of a novella than a whole new installment, this book does a flashback from the 19th novel, and contains even fewer recipes than earlier novels. I've been entertained by earlier novels in this series because the characters and plot always lead to good feelings, no matter that there's a murder at the center of the story. Diehard fans will love this novel, but new readers might want to start elsewhere for a full serving of this sweet series.

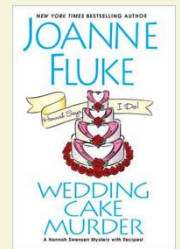


Wedding Cake
Murder

Fluke, Joanna

12/20/16

Wholesome. The glacial pace of the Hannah Swensen series by Joanna Fluke moved ahead rapidly in the 19th novel titled, Wedding Cake Murder. Hannah's ready to marry Ross Barton and that excitement is enhanced by her participation in a cooking show in New York City and Lake Eden. Fluke reprises the full cast of characters, includes loads of new recipes, and plants a great murder for Joanna to solve. While formulaic and predictable, the series is wholesome entertainment and the recipes are mouth-watering.



Apple Turnover
Murder

Fluke, Joanne

12/15/11

Reliable. Readers looking for predictability and reliability in a world packed with turmoil can find an escape in Joanne Fluke's novel, Apple Turnover Mystery. Each of the novels in this series features baker Hannah Swensen whose baking and relationships have a wholesomeness and predictability that can be comforting. The mystery doesn't require much mental engagement from the reader, and the many recipes provide transitions to put the novel aside and nibble on something sweet.



<u>Banana Cream Pie Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	<u>5/3/17</u>	<p>Cliffhanger. The twenty-first novel in the Hannah Swensen mystery series by Joanne Fluke is titled, <u>Banana Cream Pie Murder</u>. Hannah returns to Lake Eden from her honeymoon to solve a murder. Fans of the series will enjoy the return of a familiar cast of characters, the usual compilation of recipes, and a heavy dose of Minnesota-nice. While the case plodded along a lot until the dramatic climax, Fluke also leaves readers with a cliffhanger, causing fans to anxiously await the next installment. I read these novels for the vicarious eating of sweet deserts on every page. Shame on me for not baking any of these treats.</p>	
<u>Blackberry Pie Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	****	<u>4/7/14</u>	<p>Comfort. After a lot of installments in a fiction series, I find that I either keep reading and overlook ongoing faults, or stop reading the series because I anticipate that nothing new will happen. Joanne Fluke's Hannah Swensen series is one that I am willing to keep reading. In the latest installment, <u>Blackberry Pie Murder</u>, all the familiar characters are back, and glacial progress is made in their slow-moving relationships. All the familiar plot elements return: Hannah discovers a dead body, cookies and other sweets are made, and recipes are presented for readers to try out at home. I read this series as a brief diversion, especially when I'm looking for something to satisfy my sweet tooth, both in eating and in reading. I'm comfortable with approaching these novels with low expectations from a reading perspective, and high expectations for good cookies.</p>	
<u>Chocolate Cream Pie Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	<u>12/20/19</u>	<p>Soapy. The twenty-fourth installment in the Hannah Swensen mystery series by Joanne Fluke is a novel titled, <u>Chocolate Cream Pie Murder</u>. Fans of the series will enjoy the reprise of the large Lake Eden cast of characters and the recipes for sweet goodies that are in every chapter. The soap opera feeling of the recent installments ratchets up in this</p>	

				<p>novel, as the recent marriage of Hannah and Ross has fallen apart and melodrama follows. As with the usual formula, there's a murder and Hannah is in the middle of the action. Perhaps I've exhausted my interest in this series, as I found not a single recipe worth trying. Fans of the series are those readers most likely to enjoy the time spent with familiar characters and desserts.</p>	
<u>Christmas Cake Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	<u>1/4/19</u>	<p>Backstory. The 23rd installment in the Hannah Swensen series by Joanne Fluke is titled, <u>Christmas Cake Murder</u>. While the author left fans with cliffhangers about happenings in Hannah's current life, she diverts attention in this installment to part of Hannah's backstory. Hannah is preparing to open the bakery business, The Cookie Jar, making her dream come true. While that's going on, she agrees to help an elderly Lake Eden resident in hospice care experience again the Christmas Ball from decades earlier, an event marked by special desserts, the area in which Hannah will help. The crime in this case is interesting, the recipes typical, and the backstory interesting for those fans who really enjoy this series. Most of the dialogue is as sweet as the cookie recipes.</p>	
<u>Christmas Cupcake Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	<u>11/17/20</u>	<p>Sugary. If you haven't packed on extra covid weight in 2020, consider baking from the recipes as you read the 26th installment in Joanne Fluke's mystery series featuring baker Hannah Swensen, a novel titled, <u>Christmas Cupcake Murder</u>. While I find almost every recipe far too sugary for my taste (as are the recurring characters), you might find something here that matches your taste. In a departure from the formula in earlier novels in this series, Hannah doesn't find herself in peril, there's no murder, and the setting moves to a much earlier time period than most of the recent novels in the series. Longtime fans will have a hard time figuring</p>	

				<p>out just what time period this is, since there are continuity problems that may distract close readers. If you like to spend time with nice small town people who eat a lot of sweets, this book and this series will be a delight for you to read.</p>	
<u>Cinnamon Roll Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	4/19/12	<p>Nice. Readers looking for an escape to the world of “Minnesota nice” can find a few hours of pleasure by reading Joanne Fluke’s 15th installment in her Hannah Swensen mystery series. Titled, <u>Cinnamon Roll Murder</u>, this novel opens with Hannah serving as a first responder to a bus accident. The action proceeds at a good clip, and the recipes included provide a sweet diversion of another type. Most characters are caring and loving people who treat each other with kindness. Readers who like to feel good after reading a novel are those most likely to enjoy the books in this series.</p>	
<u>Coconut Layer Cake Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	4/9/20	<p>Predictable. The twenty fifth novel by Joanne Fluke to feature baker and amateur detective Hannah Swensen is titled, <u>Coconut Layer Cake Murder</u>. The formula provides comfort to those readers who enjoy a straightforward plot that involves a crime, and the ways in which Hannah is placed in personal jeopardy as she identifies the perpetrator. Part of the formula includes baking and recipes at the end of each chapter. My record remains intact: I have not yet copied or made a single recipe. Even my sweet tooth can’t indulge the way the characters in Lake Eden Minnesota pack down the cookies and cakes. Fans of the series will love the reprise of a large cast of beloved characters, and Hannah’s trip to California provides a change of pace early in this installment. I think I’ll go eat an apple.</p>	

[Cream Puff Murder](#)

Fluke, Joanne

[5/27/09](#)

Sweet. My introduction to Joanne Fluke's Hannah Swensen Mysteries series came at the recent and eleventh installment, [Cream Puff Murder](#). This novel is light and fun, and contains no calories unless you make any of the included recipes. While I found Hannah Swensen to be an interesting and engaging protagonist, I found most other characters to be under-developed, or in this case, undercooked. While I guessed the murderer early on, that person's character was pretty one-dimensional. Hannah's friend detective Mike Kingson also came across as pretty narrow and incomplete. Those concerns aside, [Cream Puff Murder](#) is a sweet mystery, and the recipes seemed pretty tasty to me. Don't expect much beyond a structured formula and simple plot.



[Devil's Food Cake Murder](#)

Fluke, Joanne

[12/15/11](#)

Food. Joanne Fluke's novels make me hungry. I read them in part for the recipes and in part for the development of the wholesome characters. In [Devil's Food Cake Murder](#), protagonist Hannah Swensen solves another murder, and bakes plenty of sweets along the way. Hannah's romantic relationships proceed at the measured pace a baker follows when combining ingredients. Readers who like wholesome characters and a relaxing plot will find those ingredients here, along with a recipe or two to try out at home.



[Double Fudge Brownie Murder](#)

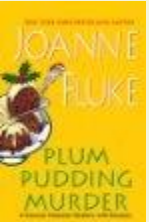
Fluke, Joanne

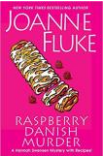
[6/10/15](#)

Suitors. I consume Joanne Fluke's Hannah Swensen novels by listening to them while I am doing something else. The playback speed is always 2x, so they move at a quick pace. I remain undecided whether these novels are camp or just corny. Is this a satire of small town Minnesota life, or is this a realistic presentation of a culture that remains foreign to me? I listened to the latest one, [Double Fudge Brownie Murder](#), and was mildly entertained by all the elements of a predictable



formula. There's murder, baking, a familiar cast of characters, recipes and crime solving. This time out Hannah seems to have more suitors than cookies and I found that hilarious. Readers who like the familiarity of a series and who enjoy humorous G-rated content are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

<u>Plum Pudding Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	<u>1/9/10</u>	<p>Salivating. The mystery in Joanne Fluke's latest novel, <u>Plum Pudding Murder</u>, was quite easy to solve. The pleasure in reading the entire book with one's mystery appetite sated comes from the delight in the many recipes included, the descriptions of which led me to salivate on occasion. Readers looking for light and pleasant reading, alongside calorie-rich sweets will find lots of pleasure on these pages.</p>	
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<u>Raspberry Danish Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	**	<u>5/22/18</u>	<p>Missing. Prolific writer and baker Joanne Fluke ended the twenty-first novel in her Hannah Swensen mystery series with a cliffhanger, and she leaves another cliffhanger in the twenty-second installment, a novel titled, <u>Raspberry Danish Murder</u>. Hannah's husband, Ross, has gone missing, and one of Ross' associates has been murdered. In this installment, there is less sleuthing, even more baking and eating, and a general sense of slow progress with the series plot momentum. With all the health warnings about too much sugar, I think I never salivated when reading any of the twenty-nine recipes for sweet goodies in this installment. I may open the next installment to check for yet another cliffhanger, or go on a Swensen diet, and stop reading the series if it remains smothered in powdered sugar and no nutrition.</p>	
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<u>Red Velvet Cupcake Murder</u>	Fluke, Joanne	***	<u>5/10/13</u>	<p>Penthouse. Protagonist and baker Hannah Swensen returns for more crime solving in <u>Red Velvet Cupcake Murder</u>, the latest novel in a series by Joanne Fluke. I find that I enjoy books in this series as a diversion after I've read something difficult, long, or challenging. Life in Lake Eden, Minnesota is simple and everybody is friendly and nice, except for the occasional villain or murderer. The action in the current novel starts at the grand opening of the renovated Albion Hotel, now condos, including a full floor penthouse. (If there are only three floors, can you still call the top one a penthouse?) A familiar cast of characters returns for hijinks, and the usual abundance of sweets. This time out, Hannah herself is a suspect in a murder case. Readers who like easy-to-solve mysteries, and the slow pace of small town life are those most likely to enjoy this novel. Of course, all bakers are a natural audience for the included recipes.</p>	
<u>Gone Girl</u>	Flynn, Gillian	***	<u>8/27/12</u>	<p>Match. Some couples are described as being a perfect match: made for each other. Gillian Flynn takes that notion to the extreme in her entertaining novel, <u>Gone Girl</u>. Wife Amy has gone missing on her fifth wedding anniversary to husband, Nick. Exposition in the novel alternates between Amy and Nick, and Flynn delighted me as she made these two characters totally unsympathetic to any reader. There are two sides to every relationship, and Flynn shows us the worst in both sides of this very toxic marriage. By the end of the novel, I was totally entertained, and satisfied that Nick and Amy are a perfect match. Readers who like offbeat, dark humor are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	

<u>Another Bullshit Night in Suck City</u>	Flynn, Nick	***	<u>Jan 05</u>	Lost. Finely written, painful memoir by a son whose father wanted to be a writer, ended up homeless at a shelter where the son worked, and whose description of street life provided the title.	
The Reenactments	Flynn, Nick	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>The Edge of Disaster</u>	Flynn, Stephen	***	<u>May 07</u>	Scenarios. Homeland security expert presents plausible scenarios of our vulnerability to various disasters and offers practical recommendations for changes we can make to reduce our risks.	
Act of Treason	Flynn, Vince	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
<u>I Want You to Know We're Still Here: A Post-Holocaust Memoir</u>	Foer, Esther Safran	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>World Without Mind: The Existential Threat of Big Tech</u>	Foer, Franklin	****	<u>5/24/19</u>	Argument. Franklin Foer offers a cogent argument about the threats from Google, Apple, Facebook and Amazon, in a book titled, <u>World Without Mind: The Existential Threat of Big Tech</u> . Monopoly power has consequences and what we are gaining in benefits from these giant companies may not be sufficient when weighed against the	

evidence of what we are losing as individuals and as a society. To what extent are we willing to let these companies think for us? Whether you're a tech booster or a queasy Luddite, reading this book gives you a foundational way to think about some of the major issues facing our evolving world.

Stories. Jonathan Safran Foer's new book, [Eating Animals](#), presents a conversational approach to a topic in which we engage daily: eating. When his wife was pregnant with their first child, Foer decided to pay closer attention to food, having made eclectic food choices until that time, from vegetarian to omnivore. Trying to be a good parent, he wanted to make informed, thoughtful choices about food for his child. He spent 18 months visiting farms around the country, and the book gives ample space for farmers to describe how they do what they do, on our behalf and in response to what we desire. There are pages in [Eating Animals](#) that will take away your appetite, especially those that describe the practices of factory farming. As described in this book, factory farming is hard to defend. But Foer's writing style makes reading [Eating Animals](#) easy to swallow, but here's a warning: you may change what you eat after reading this book. Eating is cultural: we gather at table and tell our stories. Our favorite foods are often tied to our closest relationships. Foer makes that point strongly: food is culture, habit and identity. The lingering question is: should we change habits, especially when it comes to eating animals that come from factory farms? Read [Eating Animals](#), and consider the question for you and your family.

[Eating Animals](#)

Foer, Jonathan
Safran

[11/25/09](#)



Everything is Illuminated

Foer, Jonathan Safran

Aug 02

Clever and talented writing including witty voices and dialect.

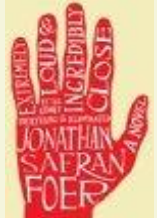


Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close

Foer, Jonathan Safran

May 05

Grief. Well-written, creative novel in which nine-year-old protagonist grieving the death of his father in the World Trade Center tragedy of 9/11 finds a key in his father's possessions and searches for a lock.

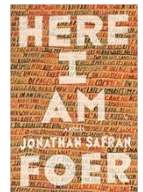





Presence. I spent many pleasant hours present with the writing of Jonathan Safran Foer is his latest novel, Here I Am. Over the course of almost six hundred pages, I laughed a lot, became annoyed regularly, and kept thinking about how much of life really does involve showing up and just being there. Along the way in this novel, we are bystanders as a marriage falls apart, precocious children come of age, older generations die, and (spoiler) a dog is finally put down. The separations are intense and the losses are deeply felt. On page 102, we learn about the title, a translation of the Hebrew word, *hinemi*, here I am, used in the biblical story of Abraham and the sacrifice of his son, Isaac, to mean wholly present. In the story, Abraham is present for God, and Abraham is present for Isaac. Protagonist Jacob is present throughout the novel, acclaiming that life is precious and he lives wholly present in the world, while often being clueless and inadequate. Jewish identity informs this novel and provides plot momentum involving a bar mitzvah and a threat to the survival of the State of Israel. Readers who enjoy the messiness of life, including virtual life that Foer also explores, and who delight in all the broken places that make up our reality, are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

Here I Am

Foer, Jonathan Safran

10/4/16



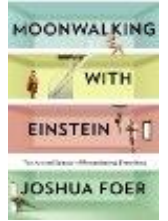
<u>Tree of Codes</u>	Foer, Jonathan Safran	*	<u>7/9/11</u>	<p>Erasures. If one can think of writing as performance art, the best example of the genre might be Jonathan Safran Foer's <u>Tree of Codes</u>. The printers of this book show their skill in producing the book, as every page is full of die cut openings where text was removed. What remains is a pain to read, and reveals a story within the story. This is the oddest book I've read in a long time, and I admit that I just didn't get it. Happily, the reading experience was fairly brief. If you're looking for an unusual reading experience, consider this strange book.</p>	
<u>We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast</u>	Foer, Jonathan Safran	****	<u>10/10/19</u>	<p>Act. Do something. Climate change isn't someone else's problem. We make our earthly home together and each of us can take action that will help respond to the climate crisis. That's much of what Jonathan Safran Foer proposes in his book titled, <u>We Are the Weather: Saving the Planet Begins at Breakfast</u>. He writes this as a personal reflection and a call to action. He describes his own hypocrisy when he acts in ways that he knows are different from what he wants to do. An individual action as simple as not eating meat for a meal or two each day can combine with a similar action by others and reduce the number of animals raised for human consumption and the environmental consequences caused by those animals.</p>	
New American Haggadah	Foer, Jonathan Safran and Nathan Englander	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	

[Moonwalking with Einstein: The Art and Science of Remembering Everything](#)

Foer, Joshua

[4/9/11](#)

Training. I admit that I had never heard of the U.S. Memory Championship until I read Joshua Foer's book, [Moonwalking with Einstein](#). After 320 pages, I was exposed to more information about memory than I can recall. Through a commitment of time, practice and specific training, anyone can develop improved recall. Foer entered the championship and interviewed lots of participants from the U.S. and abroad about how they have gained remarkable memory skills. I thought I'd nod off turning these pages, but Foer writes well and presents the story in a way that should keep most readers engaged throughout. I don't remember nodding off, anyway.

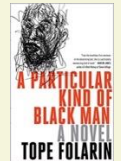


[A Particular Kind of Black Man](#)

Folarin, Tope

[9/3/19](#)

Home. The finely written debut novel by Tope Folarin titled, [A Particular Kind of Black Man](#), may seem at first to be a familiar story of immigrant assimilation into the culture of the United States. It is that and much more. Protagonist Tunde Akinola can never feel quite "at home." He never fit in to life among the Mormons in rural Utah, where his father's work and skills were undervalued. After his mother left Utah to return to Nigeria, Tunde becomes more adrift. A move to Texas doesn't improve the family's fitting in. Years later, Tunde visits family in Nigeria and his memories of life are questions by different aspects of the life he thought he knew and remembered. Readers who appreciate literary fiction will enjoy Folarin's prose and recognize that this short novel is about much more than another immigrant family trying to fit in.



[The Guest List](#)

Foley, Lucy

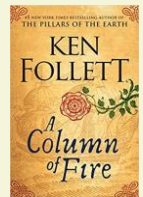
[10/27/20](#)

Atmospheric. The ingredients in Lucy Foley's crime thriller titled, [The Guest List](#), seem familiar: a remote island, multiple characters with reasons to kill, a storm and opportunity. The cast of unlikeable characters allows for an abundance of suspects after the murder takes place. Foley leaves a trail of clues

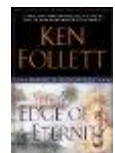


for observant readers as different characters relate their version of events, building to a climax that for some readers will be obvious, and for others a total twist and surprise. Since we can't travel to a remote location off the coast of Ireland, we can visit in novels like this one, and while social distancing can give us some delight in that we are not in the company of the guests at the wedding that drew them together.

Kingsbridge. I spent about ten glorious days reading the nine hundred pages of Ken Follett's novel titled, [A Column of Fire](#). Set mostly in the fictional town of Kingsbridge, the cathedral town that Follett built and developed in earlier novels, the action in the new novel takes place in Elizabethan times, and focuses on the turbulence of that period especially with religious persecution. The novel takes readers into the violence and turmoil of that time through the ups and downs in the life of protagonist Ned Willard and a wide cast of interesting characters, some fictional and others real. Follett shifts the action often to the continent or the high seas, covering all the main issues and conflicts of the 16th century, keeping readers anxious to find out what happens next.



Conclusion. Penny pinching readers who like to receive the maximum number of words per dollar spent on book buying should love selecting a Ken Follett novel. The third and final installment in his Century Trilogy exceeds the thousand pages each from the first two installments. [Edge of Eternity](#) continues tracing the lives of five families through the twentieth century. Fans of historical fiction should enjoy Follett's attention to detail, while some may disagree with the points of view he expresses through the characters he selects. I knew when I started reading the series that I would see it

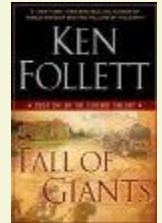


A Column of Fire	Follett, Ken	*****	9/26/17
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Edge of Eternity	Follett, Ken	****	10/18/14
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through to the end. I enjoyed many pleasant hours with this huge cast of characters, and I am now satisfied that Follett brought the trilogy to a conclusion.

Sweeping. I approached Ken Follett's Century Trilogy with a decision to make: the first novel, Fall of Giants, came in at almost a thousand pages, and I knew that if I became hooked, this would be many hours of reading, not just for this novel but expecting that I would read the next two as well. I've read a lot of Follett's work, and feel that his compact *Eye of the Needle* is the best of all, although the historical novels *Pillars of the Earth* and *World Without End* were entertaining and engaging. I took the plunge. Set in the 20th century, the new novel uses the characters in five families to present the historical events, including the Russian Revolution, World War I, prohibition, and the fight for women's rights. Follett's history seems accurate, and the vivid characters he presents draw readers into their personal stories. A minor annoyance I experienced was from plot: the improbable circumstances that brought characters together. I was reminded of the John Jakes historical novels where at every turn a character bumped into a historical figure or another main character. Readers who enjoy historical fiction will find many enjoyable pages to read in this first installment, and may look forward to learning what happens next to these characters.



Soars. Interesting and appealing heroes and villains whom we cheer or jeer as the action unfolds. Heroes in trouble at every turn, and villains get lucky far too often in this exciting tale of the Danish resistance during World War II.



Fall of Giants

Follett, Ken

11/18/10

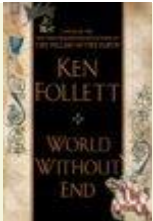
Hornet Flight

Follett, Ken

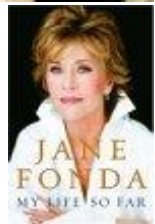
Feb 03


<u>Notre-Dame: A Short History of the Meaning of Cathedrals</u>	Follett, Ken	****	<u>2/14/20</u>	<p>Weep. Fans of Ken Follett's lengthy novels may be shocked by his latest book titled, <u>Notre-Dame: A Short History of the Meaning of Cathedrals</u>. In fewer than one hundred pages, Follett offers a love letter to Notre-Dame Cathedral in Paris. Readers weep with him following the recent fire, and he reminds us of why this place is so important and special. The restoration is still considered a 50-50 possibility, so read this book to be reminded of why this structure means so much, and then make a donation to support the work ahead.</p>	
<u>The Evening and the Morning</u>	Follett, Ken	*****	<u>10/19/20</u>	<p>Prequel. Fans of Ken Follett's Kingsbridge series are those readers most likely to enjoy his new novel, a prequel titled, <u>The Evening and the Morning</u>. This is an origin story, in a familiar place where there isn't a bridge until close to the end of the novel. As usual with this series, there's a great cast of interesting and complex characters, and loads of details about everyday life during this time period (starting in 997 AD). There's a builder, a priest and strong women, and every minute a reader spends in their world provides great entertainment. If you're looking for a big book to settle into, consider this one.</p>	
<u>Whiteout</u>	Follett, Ken	***	<u>May 05</u>	<p>Stormy. Bio-terror strikes a lab in Scotland and the owner's family, gathered for Christmas, meet villains and heroes, while working through their own complicated relationships.</p>	
<u>Winter of the World</u>	Follett, Ken	***	<u>11/8/12</u>	<p>Middle. The twentieth century moves to the middle third as Ken Follett follows the lives of the families he introduced in <i>Fall of Giants</i> as another generation matures in <u>Winter of the World</u>, the second installment of the trilogy. Readers have another thousand pages to follow the lives of characters in the run up to World War II and its aftermath. I can imagine a wall chart that Follett</p>	

must have created to highlight the key events of the twentieth century, and then deciding how those events can be presented in the lives of his large cast of characters. For readers who read the first novel, this is the anticipated continuation of the story. New readers could begin here, but for the sake of continuity, it makes more sense to start with the first installment. With two thousand pages read, it's all downhill from here as fans await the third and final installment. If you like historical fiction, you're likely to enjoy an immersion in this one.

<u>World Without End</u>	Follett, Ken	***	<u>July 08</u>	Plague. 14 th century England, plague and all, comes alive on over 1,000 pages of this follow-up to <i>Pillars of the Earth</i> . Hours of pleasure await readers in long or short sittings.	
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My Life So Far Fonda, Jane Unread Shelf of Ennui 2005



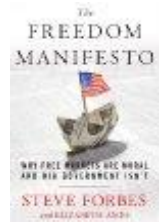
<u>Attachment</u>	Fonseca, Isabel	***	<u>Sep 08</u>	Infidelity. Quirky debut novel with some soaring prose alongside much meandering. The appearance of an idyllic life breaks apart as the protagonist uncovers signs of her husband's infidelity and worries about her own medical diagnosis.	
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[Freedom Manifesto: Why Markets Are Moral and Big Government Isn't](#)

Forbes, Steve
and Elizabeth
Ames

[9/25/12](#)

Values. If the tenor and quality of political debate has you down during the presidential campaign, consider elevating the discussion a bit by reading a plain speaking book from Steve Forbes and Elizabeth Ames titled, [Freedom Manifesto: Why Free Markets Are Moral and Big Government Isn't](#). The authors communicate conservative values with



clarity and make a case for why the current election matters. They pose many questions throughout the book and provide an answer for each. I find that the advantage of reading political rhetoric over listening is that one can put down the book and cool off. Readers who like politics are those most likely to enjoy this book, whether you agree or disagree with the authors.

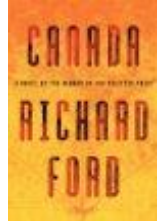
How Capitalism Will Save Us: Why Free People and Free Markets Are the Best Answer in Today's Economy	Forbes, Steve and Elizabeth Ames	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Red Tide	Ford, G.M.	***	Nov 04	Unexpected. Frank Corso returns in fourth mystery thriller, this time when he stumbles on a bio-terror mass murder in a Seattle bus tunnel. Unexpected plot twists and surprise motivation for the terrorist act.	
Between Them: Remembering My Parents	Ford, Richard	****	6/2/17	Perspective. When a great novelist who has developed a protagonist with great depth over multiple novels turns to memoir, readers can wonder if the same depth and insight will be found in nonfiction. Richard Ford has written two memoirs about his parents, and combined them in a volume titled, Between Them: Remembering My Parents . One memoir was written decades ago; the other recently. Both offer the perspective of an only child, who observed his parents from his special place in their lives. Rather than complexity of character and depth, we see reflection and the result of observation over decades. Ford's prose is finely written, and any reader who enjoys memoirs, or who is a fan of Ford, will find much to enjoy in this book.	

[Canada](#)

Ford, Richard

[6/15/12](#)

Loss. It's a rare novel that causes me to slow down my pace of reading. Richard Ford writes in a quiet and calm style that forces me to slow down, pay attention, and enjoy every sentence. His novel, [Canada](#), is the best I've read this year, with one of the finest opening lines: "First, I'll tell about the robbery our parents committed." Not a wasted word there, and certainly a gripper. The narrator is Dell, and he and his twin sister, Berner, face great loss in their lives when they are in their teens. Ford's masterful writing presents the motivations of characters with great care, and his deep understanding of human nature shows in his development of every character. Any reader who loves fine writing is likely to enjoy this novel.

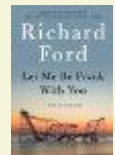


[Let Me Be Frank With You](#)

Ford, Richard

[11/21/14](#)

Sandy. The Jersey Shore that featured so prominently as the backdrop for all the fine fiction by Richard Ford featuring protagonist Frank Bascombe, changed dramatically thanks to Hurricane Sandy. Ford brings back Frank after the storm in a finely written new book titled, [Let Me Be Frank With You](#). Using the structure of four connected novellas, Ford presents Frank as the familiar Everyman character from three earlier novels, and reveals his life as he looks ahead to age 70. Appearances change, especially in a place like the Jersey Shore after Sandy. What remains is Frank's essence: that core of individuality, personality and reality that makes each of us who we are. I was delighted to see Frank Bascombe approaching seventy as the man he has always been.

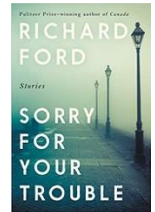


[Sorry For Your Trouble](#)

Ford, Richard

[7/23/20](#)

Characters. Fans of superb writing especially in short form fiction are those most likely to enjoy the collection by Richard Ford titled, [Sorry For Your Trouble](#), containing nine short stories. The characters in these stories face all sorts of contemporary troubles, and Ford's spare language captures their predicaments with precision and insight. There's complexity and subtlety in most sentences, and Ford builds his characters with great care into forms that we recognize and understand. These characters are people we know and at the same time are individuals we have never met. We've overheard the dialogue in these stories. We have seen these characters in our community, and yet Ford makes them fresh and offers us wise reflections that apply to our own lives.

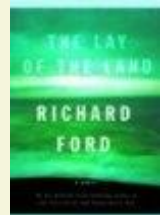


[The Lay of the Land](#)

Ford, Richard

[Jan 07](#)

Thanksgiving. Ford reprises protagonist Frank Bascombe for a week of emotional intensity during Thanksgiving 2000, punctuated by clear updates on what Frank's life has been like.

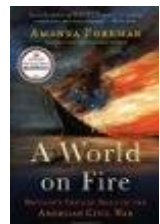


[A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War](#)

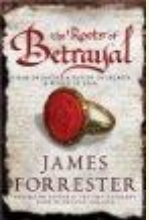
Foreman, Amanda


[2/26/13](#)


Perspective. Thanks to the recommendation of a friend, I spent many weeks enjoying the 800+ pages of Amanda Foreman's fine history, [A World on Fire: Britain's Crucial Role in the American Civil War](#). I knew a little about England's involvement before reading this book, but my knowledge became greatly enhanced and enriched thanks to the perspective that Foreman brings to the subject. Her thorough research provided the basis for a writing style that draws readers into the subject. The complicated machinations in England are unraveled with precision by Foreman. Readers who love history are those most likely to enjoy reading this finely written book.




All Is Grace: A Biography of Dorothy Day	Forest, Jim	Unread		I read a few parts of this book, and browsed all the photos. I just couldn't bother reading all of it, grace or not. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
<u>Lord Hornblower</u>	Forester, C.S.	***	<u>Feb 02</u>	Next-to-last book in the Hornblower series. Great relaxation reading and some lessons on executive demeanor and risk taking.	
<u>Happiness</u>	Forna, Aminatta	*****	<u>3/20/18</u>	Hope. Fiction fans can select any number of elements to enjoy in Aminatta Forna's novel titled, <u>Happiness</u> . Those readers who appreciate lyrical prose will find deep satisfaction. Readers who enjoy interesting and complex characters will find protagonists Jean and Attila packed with broad life experience, compassion and wisdom. Readers looking for a novel that will lift up one's spirits will find the message of hope in this novel to be inspiring. Intelligent readers will appreciate the plot complexity and the emotional depth of multiple characters. Our lives are often more interconnected with others and with our ecosystem that we usually acknowledge. This novel is a reminder of the ties that bind us and the ways that chance can transform our lives.	
<u>Love That Boy: What Two Presidents, Eight Road Trips, and My Son Taught Me About a Parent's Expectations</u>	Fornier, Ron	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	

The Roots of Betrayal	Forrester, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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<u>Black Heart on the Appalachian Trail</u>	Forrester, T.J.	****	<u>4/5/13</u>	<p>Death. Be careful where you go looking for answers. Taz Chavis, protagonist of T.J. Forrester's novel, <u>Black Heart on the Appalachian Trail</u>, chooses to walk away from his unhappy life and decides to walk the Appalachian Trail to look for answers. Instead of answers, he finds other unhappy people. Forrester writes tightly structured prose that can be a real pleasure to savor. He riffs on life and death through a vivid setting and a cast of well-drawn troubled characters. Readers who appreciate good prose and dark subject matter are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
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Keeping the World Away	Forster, Margaret	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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<u>Bad Intentions</u>	Fossum, Karin	***	<u>10/8/11</u>	<p>Control. <u>Bad Intentions</u> is the first Karen Fossum novel that I've read. Translated from the Norwegian, this is a crime novel about control and remorse. Part of a series featuring Inspector Konrad Sejer, this is a psychological novel, tightly focused and slowly paced as the characters develop and Sejer performs his investigation diligently. Reading a novel in translation is always different from the original, and we rely on the skill of translators to make it work. I found that the characters were well developed in this short novel, and the pacing seemed just right to me. I found</p>	
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Sejer to be an especially interesting character, and I expect to read other Fossum novels in the future.

Intervention. It's likely that Karin Fossum's novel, Broken, is the oddest book I've read in a long time. In some chapters, we read the development of a story, and in others, we have the author interacting with the protagonist. It's almost as if we are watching the writing process, but I don't think that's what's going on. Both parts are of one story, and Fossum plays with us as she presents the ways in which protagonist Alvar Eide intervenes in the lives of others. Alvar is a middle-aged single man living an orderly life until he offers a stranger a cup of coffee. That little acorn grows into a complicated oak tree, full of twisting branches, limbs and leaves. Fossum's writing is interesting and unique, which will be appealing to some readers, and off-putting to others. If you're looking to read something unusual, give this a try. Otherwise, choose something a bit more conventional.



Broken

Fossum, Karin

10/15/10

Eva's Eye

Fossum, Karin

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



Hell Fire

Fossum, Karin

10/12/16

Connections. In the twelfth installment of the crime fiction series by Karin Fossum featuring Norwegian detective Konrad Sejer, the inspector remains in the background, providing not much more than the connective tissue that resolves the plot. In Hell Fire, Fossum alternates the story of a single mother, Bonnie, and a young man, Eddie, forward and backward in time. Readers who enjoy the genre of dark Scandinavian crime fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

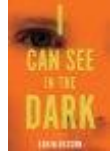


[I Can See in the Dark](#)

Fossum, Karin

[8/8/14](#)

Guilt. Karin Fossum's psychological novel, [I Can See in the Dark](#), explores guilt. Riktor is both narrator and protagonist. Many readers will shiver as Riktor unravels his story. Fossum allows us to see the way that conscience operates, and how justice can be achieved. It can be disturbing to enter into the brain of a sociopath as this novel leads us, but I found it fascinating. Readers who can handle disturbing fiction are those most likely to enjoy the darkness in this finely written novel.

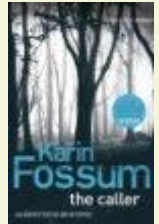


[The Caller](#)

Fossum, Karin

[11/18/11](#)

Troubles. Karin Fossum continues her entertaining Inspector Sejer mystery series with a novel titled, [The Caller](#). Fossum takes an ordinary situation, injects it with danger and crime, and then allows multiple perspectives to envelop the reader. In this novel, we see the situation from the criminal's perspective, the victims, and the detectives. While we learn early who the criminal is, interest remains strong because of the skilled character development and the ways in which Inspector Sejer deals with the pieces of information he grasps. A twist at the end brings added pleasure to mystery fans. Fossum's a skilled writer and this novel will provide rich entertainment to those readers who like this genre, even in translation.

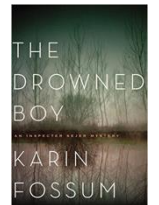


[The Drowned Boy](#)

Fossum, Karin

[3/15/16](#)

Willful. Karin Fossum's recurring detective, Inspector Konrad Sejer, proceeds at a slower than usual pace in the eleventh installment of this series, [The Drowned Boy](#). The title refers to sixteen-month-old Tommy Brandt who has drowned in what appears to be a tragic accident in a pond near his home. Sejer conducts his methodical investigation and readers are drawn into a psychological exploration of multiple characters, especially Tommy's nineteen-year-old mother, Carmen, whose willful behavior catches Sejer's close notice. The result is a very satisfying novel



that can be read quickly by most readers and can provide insights into human nature to those readers who like to reflect on why we do what we do.

Mind. Inspector Konrad Sejer doesn't appear until more than halfway through the novel by Karin Fossum titled, [The Murder of Harriet Krohn](#). Instead, protagonist and criminal Charlo Torp draws readers into his world and into his mind. By the time we meet his daughter, Julia, we understand how important she is to Charlo, and how he would do anything for her. All the setup narrative about the mental state of Charlo provides the context for Sejer to solve the case. Readers who like psychological novels will be delighted by this one. Those readers of the series who expect a more traditional crime procedural may be surprised by this installment.

Listening. The thirteenth installment in the Inspector Sejer mystery series by Karin Fossum is a novel titled, [The Whisperer](#). Fans of the series will be familiar with the personality and style of Inspector Sejer and enjoy the compassion and empathy he shows to a woman held for a serious crime. Sejer allows protagonist Ragna Reigel tell her story and he listens closely and carefully, showing her respect. Fossum allows readers to enter into Ragna's life in small bits surrounding Sejer's interrogations. Ragna speaks very softly, hence the title, so we can imagine the patience and care Sejer shows her as he gives her time and space to speak up. Readers who enjoy finely written mysteries are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

[The Murder of Harriet Krohn](#)

Fossum, Karin

[12/5/14](#)


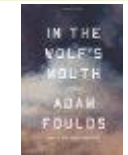



[The Whisperer](#)

Fossum, Karin

[10/10/19](#)



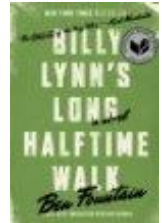
<u>Creative Destruction: Why Companies That Are Built to Last Underperform the Market - and How to Successfully Transform Them</u>	Foster, Richard and Kaplan, Sally	****	<u>08/01</u>	Based on 38 years of McKinsey data, companies need to be redesigned from top to bottom on the basis of discontinuity. Well worth reading.	
In the Wolf's Mouth	Foulds, Adam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>Beautiful Country Burn Again: Democracy, Rebellion, and Revolution</u>	Fountain, Ben	****	<u>1/22/19</u>	Fiery. Instead of watching the State of the Union address this year, consider reading Ben Fountain's book titled, <u>Beautiful Country Burn Again: Democracy, Rebellion, and Revolution</u> . His view of how we came to this point and where we are going should disturb every reader. Fountain describes that America's first crisis was over slavery and led to the Civil War. Our second crisis was the Depression and that led to the New Deal. He views that the country is now ready for a third great reinvention. To bring readers to that point, this book takes us month my month through the 2016 campaign, along with backward looks to lessons from the past. Fountain writes with great skill and passion. He senses something in the air. Maybe you should read this book to see if you agree.	

[Billy Lynn's
Long Halftime
Walk](#)

Fountain, Ben

[2/26/13](#)

Culture. Ben Fountain's debut novel, [Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk](#), packs a wallop on many levels. Protagonist Lynn and members of his Bravo company squad were in a deadly firefight in Iraq. Lynn and others are celebrated as heroes, including at Texas Stadium on Thanksgiving, where they are recognized as part of selling the war to America's citizens. After the game, they are being redeployed. Fountain presents our culture with great skill in this finely written novel. The characters are richly developed, and the mirror Fountain holds up to our society and culture will leave all readers thinking about his perspective and insight. Readers who appreciate biting satire and fine writing are those most likely to enjoy this book.



[Bryant & May
and the
Bleeding Heart](#)

Fowler,
Christopher

[3/20/15](#)

Grave. Fans of the entertaining series about the Peculiar Crimes Unit by Christopher Fowler are those readers who will delight in the eleventh installment titled, [Bryant & May and the Bleeding Heart](#). New readers who like crime fiction should take a look at this novel and the series. Detective John May is disciplined and methodological while Arthur Bryant follows an erratic and indirect path while solving the unusual cases assigned to this unit. There's a cemetery at the center of the action in this installment, and graves are being opened for nefarious purposes. There's secrecy, danger, murder, mayhem, and the Peculiar Crimes Unit now reports to a new boss who expects greater bureaucratic compliance. Needless to say, Bryant & May are on the case in their clever and entertaining fashion.



[Bryant & May
off the Rails: A
Peculiar Crimes
Unit Mystery](#)

Fowler,
Christopher

[11/15/10](#)

Haunting. I plunged into the eighth Peculiar Crimes Unit novel by Christopher Fowler without having read any of the earlier books in the series. I found [Bryant & May Off the Rails](#) to stand well on its own, and Fowler's writing is clever and funny throughout. Senior detectives Arthur Bryant and John May find their special unit threatened with dissolution following the death of a colleague when a murderer in custody escaped. The setting for the latest novel is the London Underground, especially King's Cross Station, and there's a haunting aspect to this world below ground that provides the perfect atmosphere for a crime novel. The stakes are high for Bryant & May, and joining them on this adventure was great reading entertainment. Any reader who enjoys clever mystery writing will likely appreciate this novel and this series.



[Bryant and May
and the Burning
Man](#)

Fowler,
Christopher

[1/15/16](#)

Suspense. Fans of detective fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy the sixteenth book in the Peculiar Crimes Unit series by Christopher Fowler titled, [Bryant & May and the Burning Man](#). Detectives Arthur Bryant and John May are quirky, curious and successful. Faithful readers of the series will enjoy both the continuity and aging of the characters. New readers could start here or anywhere in the series and enjoy a well-written mystery. The suspense develops gradually in this novel, and the pace may seem slow to those readers who enjoy fast-paced thrillers. Like a mature wine, this novel is worth savoring, not gulping. I was entertained and surprised by the plot.

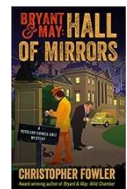


[Hall of Mirrors](#)

Fowler,
Christopher

[1/22/19](#)

Flashback. The fifteenth installment in the Peculiar Crimes Unit series by Christopher Fowler springs a flashback on readers as we return to the lives of Arthur Bryant and John May in 1969. In the novel titled, [Hall of Mirrors](#), Bryant and May are assigned to be sure that a prosecution witness



shows up for trial. The witness insists on spending a weekend at a manor house in the country, where Bryant is a fish out of water. When there's a murder, and the house party is trapped at Tavistock Hall, it's up to Bryant and May to solve the mystery and save their skins, or at least their jobs. Funny as always, and well-plotted, the mystery is interesting and the characters eccentric and terrific as always.

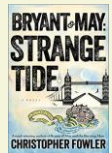
Water. Water and the Thames play important roles in the latest mystery in the Bryant & May Peculiar Crimes Unit series by Christopher Fowler. Titled, Strange Tide, this novel requires all the skills of the PCU at a time when they are under scrutiny, and their reliance on Arthur Bryant is diminished because he seems to be losing his mind. The crime is bizarre, Bryant's hallucinations are delightful, and the ultimate solution is satisfying. Fans of the series will be delighted with this installment. New readers can start here or anywhere in the series and find great character-based crime fiction.

Conduct. London detectives Adam Bryant and John May are older and better in the latest novel in the Peculiar Crime Unit series by Christopher Fowler titled, The Invisible Code. The invisible code relates to conduct, which also involves class. Fans of mystery novels and crime fiction will be delighted by this humorous and interesting book. Bryant and May are perfect partners who complement each other, and in this outing they find their special unit at risk of elimination. They end up working on a case for a longtime adversary. The path to resolution is never direct, and that's part of the pleasure of this series.

Strange Tide

Fowler,
Christopher

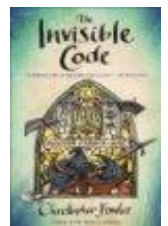
5/3/17



The Invisible Code

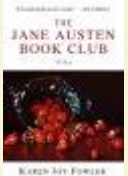

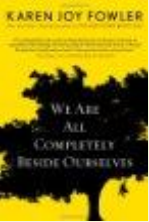
Fowler,
Christopher

3/25/14

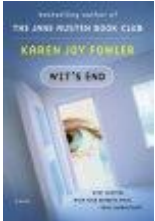



<u>The Lonely Hour</u>	Fowler, Christopher	****	<u>1/24/20</u>	<p>Intricate. The sixteenth Peculiar Crimes Unit novel by Christopher Fowler is titled, <u>The Lonely Hour</u>. Arthur Bryant is addled and brilliant as always. Partner John May makes a mistake that will have serious consequences, and even Arthur may be unable to get the PCU out of a jam. The title refers to 4a.m., the time when a killer does his dirty deeds. The plot is intricate, and the familiar characters will delight fans of this series. New readers can start here or anywhere and find finely written crime fiction with clever plots and a cast of complex and interesting characters.</p>	
<u>The Memory of Blood</u>	Fowler, Christopher	***	<u>5/5/12</u>	<p>Revenge. Any reader of the Peculiar Crimes Unit series by Christopher Fowler will rush to read the latest novel, <u>The Memory of Blood</u>. Mystery readers who have not yet discovered this series can easily start here. Detectives Bryant & May are perfectly matched partners, and the ways in which they unravel this case of murderous revenge will keep most readers engaged alongside them through the 350 finely written pages of the novel. Every reader who likes a good mystery should take a look at this one.</p>	
White Corridor	Fowler, Christopher	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Wild Chamber</u>	Fowler, Christopher	****	<u>7/6/18</u>	<p>Parks. Fans of the Peculiar Crimes Unit (PCU) mystery series by Christopher Fowler will love the latest installment titled, <u>Wild Chamber</u>. There's a killer in London's parks and the PCU team is on the case under pressure from those who want to eliminate the unit. We learn about the title on p. 201 "Remember I told you that the parks were once referred to as London's wild chambers? They</p>	

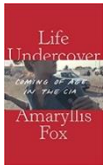
provide the opportune locations, they're free zones where anything can happen." As with the earlier installments in this series, Bryant and May have unorthodox ways of solving cases. Fowler also writes some sentences worth reading more than once, including: p. 120 "Colin, stop trying to use unopened parts of your brain." And: p. 136 "Mr. Dasgupta thinks the old lady is a few ducks short of a funfair..." Rest assured that Bryant and May solve the murders in style, and Fowler is hard at work on the next installment.

<u>The Jane Austen Book Club</u>	Fowler, Karen Joy	***	<u>Nov 04</u>	<p>Characters. Six book club members linked to the six Austen novels. Superb exposition of relationships and development of characters who will resonate for most readers.</p>	
<u>The Science of Herself</u>	Fowler, Karen Joy	****	<u>6/11/14</u>	<p>Succinct. Some writers tend to show off their skill by packing a work of fiction with lots of exposition. Not so with Karen Joy Fowler in her small book, <u>The Science of Herself</u>. Fowler writes succinctly, in finely crafted prose, presenting just enough exposition to satisfy most readers. In most of this short book, she tells readers of a Darwin contemporary, Mary Anning, a fossil collector whose intelligence and experience fought the male scientific establishment. I read this book in two short bursts, and came away with the pleasurable feeling that the balance of presenting just the right amount of prose hit the target perfectly.</p>	
<u>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</u>	Fowler, Karen Joy	****	<u>7/8/13</u>	<p>Sisters. When I finished reading Karen Joy Fowler's novel, <u>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</u>, I was reminded of something a friend called to my attention decades ago. She said that one of the most important questions we have to answer is that when we say "we," who do we mean? Fowler refers to "we" in a manner that may surprise readers. The family life of protagonist Rosemary</p>	

				<p>Cooke fell apart starting at age five when her sister, Fern, was suddenly removed from the household. Rosemary didn't know family life without Fern, and the loss was devastating for Rosemary and for her brother, Lowell. The surprising element of this novel is that Fern is a chimpanzee. Fowler injects both wit and sadness to this story, constantly reinforcing how closely related humans and chimps are, leading readers to suspend any disbelief about how a family could include a chimp in close family life. Her writing engaged me throughout the novel, and the question for all readers will likely be: "when you say 'we', who do you mean? After all, "we" are all creatures, aren't we?"</p>	
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<u>Wit's End</u>	Fowler, Karen Joy	***	<u>Aug 08</u>	<p>Avatars. An unusual novel that riffs on the complex relationships among authors, characters and readers which can blur the differences between the fictional and the real.</p>	
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<u>A Well-Behaved Woman: A Novel of the Vanderbilts</u>	Fowler, Therese Anne	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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<u>Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA</u>	Fox, Amaryllis	****	<u>1/2/20</u>	<p>Service. The memoir by Amaryllis Fox titled, <u>Life Undercover: Coming of Age in the CIA</u>, focuses on her decade of service working for the CIA. I was struck by her youth and the price that her service extracted from her personal life. Many readers will reflect on what happens to an individual whose early work life involved doing big and important things. Readers interested in the workings of the CIA will find a description of training, office work and field operations engaging and interesting. We come to understand the courage it takes to engage in covert work and we can see how finding meaning</p>	
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in the little things in life can supersede the really big stuff.

<u>Born Trump: Inside America's First Family</u>	Fox, Emily Jane	***	<u>11/17/18</u>	Progeny. Put aside whatever you think about President Donald J. Trump, pro or con, as you read Emily Jane Fox's book titled, <u>Born Trump: Inside America's First Family</u> . During parts of this book, I felt as if I had already known more than enough about the Trump children, and during other parts, I gained new perspective on what it is like to be the child of Donald Trump. I have no idea what sources Fox used to write this book, but I read it quickly and came away with some insight.	
<u>How to Become a Great Boss: The Rules for Getting and Keeping the Best Employees</u>	Fox, Jeffrey J.	***	<u>Sep 03</u>	Straightforward. Brief, clear and plain talk about being a boss. Even if you hate "how to" books, you may find some of this inspiring, practical and usable.	
The Myth of the Rational Market: A History of Risk, Reward, and Delusion on Wall Street	Fox, Justin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
<u>Lucky Man: A Memoir</u>	Fox, Michael J.	***	<u>Oct 02</u>	Becoming Oneself. Finding meaning in life through Parkinson's disease, Fox takes readers through a story of his perspective on his life and what's important.	
<u>Martin Luther King, Jr.</u>	Fraday, Marshall	***	<u>Jun 02</u>	200-page, well-written biography covers King in both "the transcendentally spiritual and the convulsing carnal."	

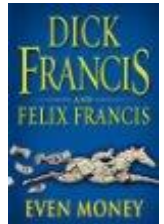
<u>Shattered</u>	Francis, Dick	***		This could be his last book, and the horse racing is minimal. Recommended.	
Under Orders	Francis, Dick	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
<u>Crossfire</u>	Francis, Dick and Felix Francis	***	<u>8/16/10</u>	Deceit. Unless Felix Francis decides to continue, <u>Crossfire</u> will be the 44 th and last Dick Francis novel, and the fourth on which Felix collaborated with his father, who has since died. Like almost all the earlier novels, this one features a strong and sympathetic protagonist, a well-paced plot, and a mystery that untangles at just the right time. Tom Forsyth returns from service in Afghanistan following the loss of a foot in an IED explosion. He ends up at home and finds his mother distant, cold and distracted. Tom stumbles onto an extortion and blackmailing plot rooted in fraud and deceit. For the waning days of Summer, this will be perfect reading entertainment.	
<u>Dead Heat</u>	Francis, Dick and Felix Francis	***	<u>July 08</u>	Recipe. Master of the horse racing murder mystery novel returns with his son as co-author. Talented chef Max Moreton becomes a sleuth following a mysterious food poisoning that makes people he fed sick, and after a bomb murders people at a lunch Max catered. Reliable entertainment.	

Even Money

Francis, Dick
and Felix Francis

11/21/09

Bookmaking. Dick Francis is back, assisted by his son, Felix, with a new novel titled, Even Money. In this outing, protagonist Ned Talbot conducts a small bookmaking business at racetracks, and feels pressure from larger firms and their technology. His wife, Sophie, suffers from mental illness, and is hospitalized during part of the action of Even Money. The stress in Ned's life accelerates when a man appears at the track and claims to be Ned's father, whom Ned thought was dead for decades. Shortly after getting this news, Ned's father is stabbed to death, and leaves as his legacy the dying words, "be very careful, of everyone." The adventure for Ned abounds, and readers learn much about gambling odds, and can reflect about family relationships and what happens when secrets long kept are revealed. Even Money provides reliable entertainment, especially for fans of Dick Francis. Most readers are likely to enjoy a little time at the races.



Crisis

Francis, Felix

12/20/19

Answers. Prolific novelist Felix Francis returns to Newmarket horse racing in his novel titled, Crisis. Protagonist Harrison Foster couldn't care less about horses, racing or gambling, but after his crisis firm's client loses a valuable thoroughbred in a fire, Foster is sent to investigate what happened and why. Before long, Foster finds himself in the middle of the dysfunctional Chadwick family and heats up tension as he explores answers to questions about secrets the Chadwicks don't want revealed. The plot moves briskly, the characters are interesting, and the mystery is satisfying to those readers who enjoy this genre.

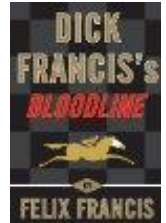


[Dick Francis's Bloodline](#)

Francis, Felix

[12/18/12](#)

Plodding. My patience was exhausted by the time I finished Felix Francis' latest book titled, [Dick Francis's Bloodline](#). I wanted to shout: "get on with it!" A good mystery rewards readers with the satisfaction that comes from connecting clues and using at least a few brain cells in the process. Francis plods along a very slow pace in this novel and I found myself not caring a wit about solving the mystery, or what happened to any of the characters. I've read books from the Francis franchise for mild entertainment, but this latest novel left me even less entertained than usual. Readers who are keen on low levels of excitement and predictable mysteries are those most likely to enjoy this book.



[Dick Francis's Damage](#)

Francis, Felix

[12/15/14](#)

Sabotage. The latest novel by Felix Francis in the horseracing series started by his father is titled, [Dick Francis's Damage](#). Protagonist Jeff Hinkley is an undercover investigator for the British Horseracing Authority. He ends up taking actions way above his pay grade to get to the bottom of events that have been taking place to sabotage racing and intended to undermine confidence in its ruling body. The exposition starts with fast-paced action, then relaxes to a slow unraveling of the mystery, and then moves to a fast-paced resolution. Fans of the series are those most likely to enjoy this installment.

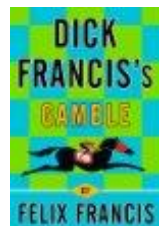


[Dick Francis's Gamble](#)

Francis, Felix

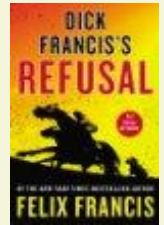
[2/3/12](#)

Mindless. Readers who like a slow-paced mystery that requires little brain activity are those most likely to enjoy Felix Francis' debut novel in the family business titled, [Dick Francis's Gamble](#). Consistent with prior novels from the family, this one uses the backdrop of horse racing to present and solve a mystery. The characters are developed just enough to prompt a reader to care, the dialogue not quite realistic, and the exposition more than

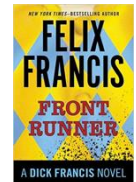


ample to fill in the modest plot twists and obvious clues. I've read the Francis novels regularly and quickly as an entertaining diversion. This book provided that and met my expectations.

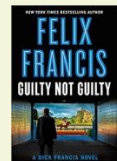
Bully. Felix Francis reprises retired jockey Sid Halley from earlier Dick Francis novels and proceeds to create a crime novel titled, Dick Francis's Refusal. A violent villain has been scheming successfully to throw horse races by multiple means of extortion. After Sid Halley refuses to cooperate with this bully, Sid's family is placed in jeopardy, along with his own reputation no matter what decisions he makes. Francis plods along with this plot and leaves readers with a few cliffhangers. Readers who like character based crime novels are those most likely to enjoy this one, as well as those long time Francis fans who may have mixed feelings about the updated Sid Halley. I read this novel quickly and found it to be mildly entertaining.



Greed. Protagonist and British Racing Authority investigator Jeff Hinkley is back in another mystery novel by Felix Francis titled, Front Runner. The plot gets underway swiftly when a successful jockey wants to discuss with Jeff the touchy matter of losing races deliberately. Before long, Jeff's life is in jeopardy as he tries to probe what some greedy individuals might be doing to harm horseracing. Fans of the Francis family franchise of novels involving horseracing are those most likely to enjoy this novel and others in the series.



Siblings. Fans of the long running crime series by the Francis family may find something a bit different in the latest novel. Good and evil coexist within each of us. While Felix Francis emphasizes one aspect or the other in the major characters of his novel titled, Guilty Not Guilty, we can't escape



<u>Dick Francis's Refusal</u>	Francis, Felix	***	<u>12/12/13</u>	
<u>Front Runner</u>	Francis, Felix	***	<u>11/5/16</u>	
<u>Guilty Not Guilty</u>	Francis, Felix	***	<u>4/9/20</u>	

			<p>the fact that we do both good and evil of one sort or the other, and none of us is wholly good or wholly evil. The connection to horse racing is limited in this novel, and a more dominant theme involves the relationship of siblings. Mystery fans will love the murder, and thoughtful readers will close this book and be led to think a bit rather than pick up something else to read.</p>	
Pulse	Francis, Felix	***	<p><u>4/3/18</u></p> <p>Dogged. Doctor Chris Rankin is the protagonist of Felix Francis' novel titled, Pulse, and she is alienated from almost everyone around her. Her husband has become exasperated by her anorexia. Her coworkers in the hospital emergency room have questioned her decisions and fitness for work. At her part time work at the racetrack, the jockeys dislike her ability to place them on medical leave. After she deals with an unexpected death at the track, no one, including the police, wants to deal with her incessant questions. Her dogged pursuit of a solution to the mysterious death leads to dramatic consequences. Fans of this series are those readers most likely to enjoy the latest installment.</p>	
Triple Crown	Francis, Felix	***	<p><u>3/2/17</u></p> <p>Stateside. I quickly read Felix Francis' novel titled, Triple Crown, on a recent trip. I found the reliability of the formula in this series to be a comfort, and I noticed that I didn't need to pay close attention because the plot moves slowly and clues to the mystery are often obvious. For the first time in my memory, Francis has the bulk of the action take place in the United States. The comparisons of horse racing in England and the United States show that Francis consistently favors the practices in England. Readers who like this series are those most likely to read this installment. It suited my purpose: a quick read that didn't strain the brain.</p>	

Actors Anonymous

Franco, James

2/20/14

Creative. I picked up James Franco's debut novel, Actors Anonymous, out of curiosity. I wanted to see how good a novel this talented actor, director, screenwriter and artist could write. I found the novel to be creative and interesting. Franco uses multiple voices, came up with a structure from Alcoholics Anonymous and, and kept me interested to the end. The confessional nature of most of the book forced me as a reader to listen to more vulgarity and wrongdoing than I felt was necessary for the novel. I was bored by a lot of the novel, but still impressed by the creativity expressed. Those readers willing to cut some slack for a debut novel by an actor are those most likely to enjoy this book.



Trudy Hopedale

Frank, Jeffrey

Read and not reviewed.

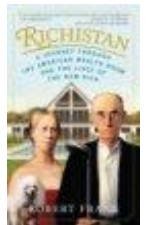


Richistan: A Journey Through the American Wealth Boom and the Lives of the New Rich

Frank, Robert

Sep 07

Boom. *Wall Street Journal* columnist writes an informative and entertaining examination of the lives of the wealthy in America, including the challenges and opportunities of the haves and the have-mores.

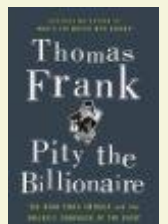


Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right

Frank, Thomas

3/19/12

Reality. The target audience for Thomas Frank's book, Pity the Billionaire: The Hard-Times Swindle and the Unlikely Comeback of the Right, is the reader who finds some of the logic of the political right to represent an alternate reality. Unlike what happened after prior economic crises when progressive populism arose, the reaction to the 2008 crisis has been a conservative populism. Frank explores how and why that happened, and where what logic there is may lead (hint in the



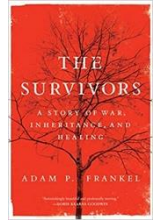
				title.) Frank's writing is entertaining and lively, and the attention he calls to the lack of reality in some of the muddling positions of the right will appeal to liberal readers, especially those who recognize the absurdity in some elements of conservative populism.	
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The Survivors: A Story of War, Inheritance, and Healing

Frankel, Adam P.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



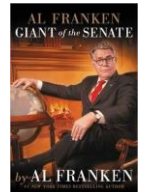
<u>Overcoming Your Strengths</u>	Frankel, Lois P.	*	<u>02/01</u>	Any strength taken to its extreme can become a liability, according to Frankel. She presents 8 reasons why people derail, and tells what to do about it.	
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Al Franken, Giant of the Senate

Franken, Al

10/2/17

Pivot. Al Franken is funny again. Having worked hard to be a serious Senator for the people of Minnesota since 2009, he's now able to place humor side by side with self-deprecation and serious topics in his memoir titled, Al Franken, Giant of the Senate. I loved his description of how he struggled to learn the politician's skill to pivot when asked a question. Franken says he was raised to answer questions asked of him. A politician has to reframe a question or answer the question one wants to answer by pivoting to an area of comfort that's "on message." This is a funny and smart book written with clarity and authenticity, and enough humor to bring every reader a laugh or a smile.



<u>Lies: And the Lying Liars Who Tell Them ... a Fair and Balanced Look at the Right</u>	Franken, Al	***	<u>Nov 03</u>	Truths. Had Fox not complained about the title, we might have skipped reading this one. Turns out to be less humorous and more serious than we expected. Franken may not be the best spokesman for his positions, but he presents enough facts to cheer those who are weary of the Right.	
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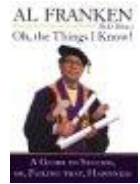
Oh, the Things I Know

Franken, Al

*

Nov 02

Oh, No! Loyal Al Franken fans might like this short book, but for the rest of us, this book may be better to give as a gift to a non-reader than to read oneself.



On Bullshit

Frankfurt, Harry G.

July 05

Classic. Whether you're an incoming college freshman looking for an introduction to philosophy through a familiar subject, or an average reader open to intellectual humor, this short academic discourse entertains.

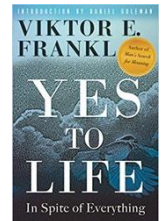


Yes to Life: In Spite of Everything

Frankl, Viktor E.

9/8/20

Lectures. You may have had the same experience I did many years ago: reading Viktor Frankl's book titled, *Man's Search for Meaning*, and feeling optimism that human spirit can overcome the worst circumstances. Thanks to a new book titled, Yes to Life: In Spite of Everything, readers can experience the spirit of the lectures that Frankl delivered in Vienna in 1946, less than a year after he was released from a Nazi concentration camp. Three renamed presentations constitute this small book, and each lecture overflows with insight, intensity and the optimism, packed with the positive spirit that kept Frankl alive and vital.

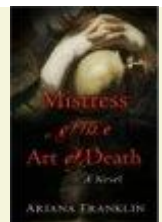


Mistress of the Art of Death

Franklin, Ariana

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007

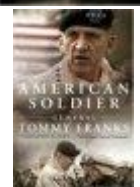


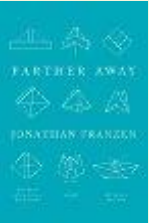
American Soldier


Franks, Tommy

Oct 04

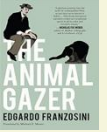
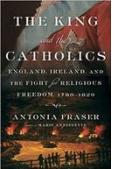

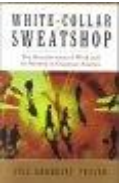
Fidelity. Autobiography of life in the Army with his wife, Cathy, at his side through it all. Very timely and interesting presentation about the invasion of Iraq.

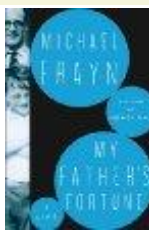
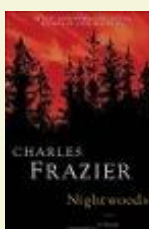


<u>Farther Away</u>	Franzen, Jonathan	***	<u>5/5/12</u>	<p>Passion. This guy sure can write. Jonathan Franzen's latest collection of essays is titled, <u>Farther Away</u>. In every essay, speech or book review in this collection, Franzen's writing skill shines as he chooses the right word or phrase to bring his prose to life. His passion about the world, birds, and his late friend David Foster Wallace, brings out the best of his writing. His strongly formed opinions can be amusing because of that passion that flows from his sentences. Readers who appreciate fine writing are those most likely to enjoy this collection.</p>	
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<u>Freedom</u>	Franzen, Jonathan	****	<u>9/10/10</u>	<p>Incarceration. Jonathan Franzen's new novel, <u>Freedom</u>, is a great big sweeping novel that attempts to capture the early part of the 21st century in America. While the key dynamic in his previous novel, <i>The Corrections</i>, involved inter-generational conflict, this novel focuses on marriage and love relationships. While I found the characters in the previous novel to be unappealing in a distracting way, in this novel, the characters are sympathetic and nuanced enough to become appealing, no matter how they behave. The theme of freedom takes on multiple forms throughout the novel, and readers are led to reflect on the ways in which we become handcuffed by some aspects of freedom, and that free markets aren't necessarily good. The bird on the cover makes its first appearance on page 210, which I found amusing, given that I was waiting to see where it would fit into the novel. Franzen's writing is sometimes so finely done that it becomes overdone. Overall, I found this novel to be enjoyable and the writing was outstanding.</p>	
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<u>Purity</u>	Franzen, Jonathan	*****	<u>10/15/15</u>	<p>Kudos. Jonathan Franzen won me over on so many levels in his novel titled, <u>Purity</u>. As one who is quick to judge, he trapped me into suspending my judgment. As one who thought that era for sweeping 19th century novels like those of Dickens and Fielding were long gone, he revived much of the form to my great satisfaction. As one who dislikes reading endlessly about sad and depressing dysfunctional relationships, Franzen caught me up short as he made a difficult mother-daughter relationship funny and loving, despite the mother being one of the most difficult persons presented in fiction. Toxic relationships can make us unclean, but love can purify anything. Kudos to Franzen on what I consider his best novel yet. Any reader who loves great writing and who can find humor in our human foibles will find a lot to enjoy in this novel.</p>	
<u>The Corrections</u>	Franzen, Jonathan	***	<u>11/01</u>	<p>What he writes leaves us cold; the way he writes leaves us wanting more.</p>	
<u>The Discomfort Zone</u>	Franzen, Jonathan	**	<u>Nov 06</u>	<p>Uncaring. Award winning writer's memoir packed with fine prose and little insight. Readers will like the way he says things more than what he says.</p>	
<u>The End of the End of the Earth</u>	Franzen, Jonathan	****	<u>5/24/19</u>	<p>Essays. While I had previously read some of the sixteen essays in the collection by Jonathan Franzen titled, <u>The End of the End of the Earth</u>, each one felt fresh, thanks to his fine writing, and crisp and cogent arguments. I'm a sucker for fine writing in any form, and Franzen's fiction soars. His skill as an essayist is also exceptional, and fans of fine writing are those readers most likely to enjoy this collection.</p>	

<u>The Animal Gazer</u>	Franzosini, Edgardo	****	<u>7/6/18</u>	<p>Suffering. By the time I finished reading Edgardo Franzosini's novel titled, <u>The Animal Gazer</u>, I had extended about as much empathy as I could. This fictionalized account of the life of animal sculptor Rembrandt Bugatti draws us into Paris and World War I and the suffering of citizens and animals. Readers can feel for Rembrandt's attention to every animal he observes, and the way his observations inform his sculptures, some of which are reproduced in the book. The prose in this translation captivated me. I can only imagine how finely written the original Italian is for those who read the original text.</p>	
<u>The King and the Catholics: England, Ireland, and the Fight for Religious Freedom, 1780-1829</u>	Fraser, Antonia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Flashman on the March	Fraser, George MacDonald	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>White-Collar Sweatshop: The Deterioration of Work and Its Rewards in Corporate America</u>	Fraser, Jill Andresky	***	<u>06/01</u>	Lamentation on how the condition of white collar workers has deteriorated over the past twenty years.	

Glory Days	Fraterrigo, Melissa	****	2/2/18	<p>Connections. I enjoy reading fiction that draws me into an unfamiliar place and into the lives of the people who live there. The fourteen connected stories in a collection by Melissa Fraterrigo titled, Glory Days, describe the people who live in Ingleside, Nebraska, a ranching and farming town. Fraterrigo develops these complex characters with deep insight into human behavior and in the context that progress and setbacks live side by side. Connections among people can be fragile and hard to maintain, especially when times get tough. Land in Ingleside can bring prosperity and disaster. Cattle can increase wealth or generate great losses. Readers who like finely written fiction with flawed characters should enjoy this book.</p>	
My Father's Fortune	Frayn, Michael	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2011		
Nightwoods	Frazier, Charles	***	1/23/12	<p>Bleak. The prose in Charles Frazier's novel, Nightwoods, is lyrical, the characters are richly developed, and the description he presents in a meandering plot presents a bleak life. In some ways, this novel explores the nature of love and evil, using a setting and characters that provide an ideal backdrop for the contrast between light and darkness and fire and water. Readers who are patient with a plot that can be a challenge to follow and who appreciate lyrical prose are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	

Hogs Wild

Frazier, Ian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

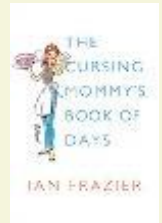


The Cursing Mommy's Book of Days: A Novel

Frazier, Ian

12/18/12

Weary. Ian Frazier expanded his Cursing Mommy character from brief *New Yorker* pieces into a novel titled, The Cursing Mommy's Book of Days. While I laughed at some parts of this book, I became weary before long, and there just weren't enough funny bits to keep me entertained. Structured like a diary, some entries were terrific, and others fell flat for me. At his best, Frazier is hilarious, and the Cursing Mommy expresses her frustration with life with precision cursing that caused me great delight. The hilarity was spread a little too thin, and after a while I became tired of the Cursing Mommy and was ready to emit a curse or two of my own.

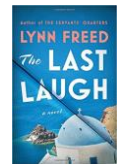


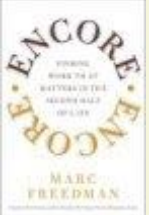
The Last Laugh

Freed, Lynn

12/6/18

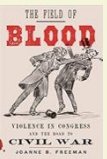
Septuagenarians. I think that talking about Lynn Freed's novel titled, The Last Laugh, in a book club would be more satisfying than reading it. So, I suggest reading it quickly and focus on what you want to say about it to others. Three 70-year-old women decide to leave their families behind and spend a year together in Greece. Their imagined experience differed a lot from the reality, as lovers and children and grandchildren disrupt plans. There's fun and paid work and wit during the year in Greece, and relaxed readers may find the whimsy entertaining. I read this novel over the course of a day and was mildly entertained.



Encore: Finding Work That Matters in the Second Half of Life	Freedman, Marc	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
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My FBI Freeh, Louis J. Unread Shelf of Ennui 2006




The Field of Blood: Violence in Congress and the Road to Civil War	Freeman, Joanne B.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
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[All That I Have](#) Freeman, Jr., Castle **** [6/9/09](#)

Competence. Had Castle Freeman, Jr. written another 175 pages to double the size of his novel, [All That I Have](#), the book wouldn't be half as good as the one he wrote. The compact writing left nothing necessary out, and included nothing superfluous. Protagonist Sheriff Lucian Wing is a Vermont man who understands people, and most of all, knows when to let things develop without his intervention. He understands what he calls the difference between sheriffing and the law. The law intervenes when sheriffing fails. (Readers who dislike the word "sheriffing" need to lighten up, and understand that's the way Sheriff Wing would use it). Lucian takes a pragmatic approach to his job, and to most aspects of his life. [All That I Have](#) has a plot that's fully engaging: rich Russians who built an expensive house on a mountain; a local bad boy who breaks in and steals something valuable; trailer trash romance, and other relationships that open



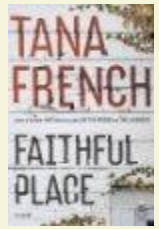
and don't necessarily resolve tension and secrets. Freeman's writing is skilled, the dialogue realistic, and the characters real and endearing. This is a perfect novel to read outside while relaxing. You're likely to come away from it relaxed and smiling.

Guts! Companies That Blow the Doors Off Business-as- usual	Freiberg, Kevin and Jackie	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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Control. One of the many things I like when I read novels by Tana French is the way in which she includes the past in such a powerful way that it takes on the weight of a character. In [Broken Harbor](#), protagonist detective Mick "Scorcher" Kennedy (who was a minor character in her earlier novel *Faithful Place*), investigates a murder near the place where he and his family spent two weeks holiday in a caravan close to the water. The psychological tension and insight French presents kept me captivated by this novel from beginning to end. This is crime fiction at its very best. The case is complicated, the characters human and complex, and both the power of the past and the projection of the future make for decisions in the present that are both expected and insightful. The relationship between Scorcher and his rookie partner, Richie, allows French to develop both characters effectively. French uses the backdrop of the collapse of the Irish economy and the housing bubble to present ways in which those who followed all the rules still became damaged. This is novel about maintaining control, and what happens when through depression and loss, one loses control. Readers who like crime fiction, character-driven novels, and psychological novels will find much to enjoy in this finely written book.


[Broken Harbor](#) French, Tana ***** [1/4/13](#)



Faithful Place	French, Tana	****	8/7/10	<p>Secrets. Explosive emotions felt by multiple characters are never far from the surface in Tana French's latest novel, Faithful Place. The past becomes another character, as alive and real and present as any individual. Protagonist and undercover police officer Frank Mackey finds himself back in his childhood home and gripped by the feelings that led him to flee that place two decades earlier. Secrets long held are revealed, and the pace of the story and its emotional tension will keep most readers engaged from beginning to end.</p>	
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In the Woods French, Tana Unread Shelf of Ennui 2007



The Secret Place	French, Tana	****	9/26/14	<p>Boarders. The latest novel by Tana French titled, The Secret Place, zooms in on a minor character, Stephen Moran, from an earlier novel in this Dublin Murder Squad series. The setting for the crime and the plot of the novel take place at St. Kilda's boarding school for girls. French draws readers into the complicated behavior of adolescent girls, especially when they live together. The action begins when Holly Mackey, daughter of Moran's mentor, Frank Mackey, turns up at the police station with a piece of information that reopens a cold case. Much of the action takes place during one intense day, although French manages reductions in the tension through chapters set at the time of the crime, a year earlier. Fans of Tana French and crime fiction will find a lot to enjoy in this novel.</p>	
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[The Trespasser](#)

French, Tana

[2/3/17](#)

Twists. Fans of crime fiction who enjoy lots of plot twists and surprises are those most likely to enjoy the latest Tana French novel in her Dublin Murder Squad Series. Titled, [The Trespasser](#), this novel features detective partners Antoinette Conway and Stephen Moran. After they are assigned a murder case at the end of a shift by their gaffer, the pace accelerates and readers are bounced all over the possible theories of the case and are left guessing at many plot junctures. French kept me guessing to the very end of the novel, and I was thoroughly entertained by the plot and the characters.

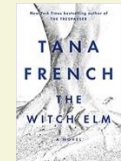


[The Witch Elm](#)

French, Tana

[1/4/19](#)

Memory. Fans of Tana French's Dublin Murder Squad novels will discover an unexpected treat in a new standalone novel titled, [The Witch Elm](#). Protagonist and narrator Toby is a complex and interesting character whose memory and reliability fade in and out of a great story. French writes with great skill, and I enjoyed her humor as well as the plot twists. The pacing of the novel matched the gradual recovery in Toby's body, mind and spirit from physical trauma early in the story. The setting and supporting characters, especially Uncle Hugo, all add to a very satisfying and entertaining novel.



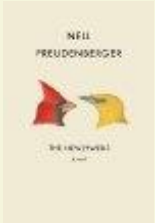
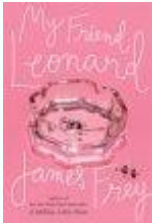
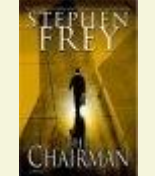
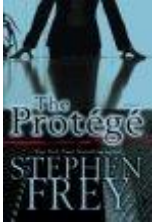
[Lost and Wanted](#)

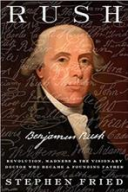
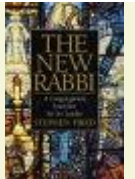
Freudenberger, Nell

[6/10/19](#)

Friendship. In her novel titled, [Lost and Wanted](#), Nell Freudenberger gives readers one of the most interesting protagonists in fiction. Helen Clapp is a tenured physics professor at MIT. Her longtime friend and Harvard roommate, Charlotte (Charlie) Boyce, a Hollywood screenwriter, has just died. After Helen receives phone calls from Charlie's phone, the rational persona of Helen becomes a bit shaken. Packed with science and insight, the novel is a story of friendship and love set around a strong and accomplished woman. The prose is finely written and fans of literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.



The Newlyweds	Freudenberger, Nell	***	6/14/12	<p>Culture. The two birds pictured on the cover of Nell Freudenberger's novel, The Newlyweds, prepare readers for what's inside. Protagonists Amina Mazid and George Stillman are of the same species, but appear and act in very different ways. The novel presents their courtship and early marriage as a slow journey toward understanding, with Amina's roots in Bangladesh informing her behavior, while George seems insensitive to the cultural differences that divide them. Their work lives in Rochester, New York, mirror the struggles of many in a tough economy. For some readers, there may be too much drudgery in their lives for this novel to provide entertainment. For me, I found their story interesting, and a reminder of the blend we become in marriage of our similarities and our differences.</p>	
My Friend Leonard	Frey, James	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2005		
The Chairman	Frey, Stephen	**	Nov 05	<p>Preposterous. Chairman of Wall Street equity firm drowns in accident, and successor almost killed by car bomb. Plot intrigues abound, characters don't develop, and most premises are preposterous in this first novel in a planned series.</p>	
The Protégé	Frey, Stephen	**		Read, but not reviewed.	

<u>History of Wolves</u>	Fridlund, Emily	****	<u>11/21/17</u>	<p>Bystander. Many of us in middle or later life reflect on formative events of our youth. Sometimes we recall and confirm how what we did was the right thing; other times we have regrets and wonder if we might have done something different. The protagonist of Emily Fridlund's novel titled, <u>History of Wolves</u>, recalls at age 37 a summer when she was fourteen. At that time she was living with her parents on the site of a former commune in the woods of Northern Minnesota. When a family moves into a house across the lake, she becomes a part-time babysitter to a four-year-old boy. What she fails to observe at that time leads her to reflect on being a guilty bystander to tragedy that might have been averted had she intervened. Fridlund reflects on love in this novel and what we choose to do or not do to those we love to belong to something larger than ourselves or to become accepted by others.</p>	
<u>Rush: Revolution, Madness, and Benjamin Rush, the Visionary Doctor Who Became a Founding Father</u>	Fried, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
<u>The New Rabbi</u>	Fried, Stephen	***	<u>Apr 03</u>	<p>Fathers. Three books in one: Temple Har Zion's search for a new rabbi; Fried's deepening religious observance; and the ways that fathers and sons relate. Readers from any religious tradition, or none, will find this book fascinating to read.</p>	

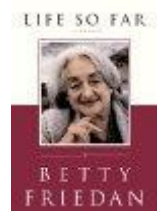
Life So Far

Friedan, Betty

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6/00

Memoirs are hot this year, and we thought this one would be fascinating. Not so. Name dropping at its worst. Abuse theme rang hollow after ten or so times.

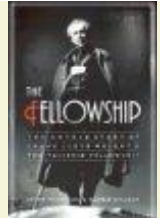


The Fellowship

Friedland, Roger

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

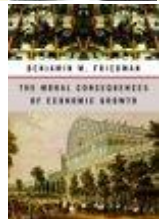


The Moral
Consequences of
Economic
Growth

Friedman,
Benjamin M.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



Three Balconies:
Stories and a
Novella

Friedman, Bruce
Jay

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009

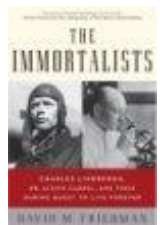


The
Immortalists:
Charles
Lindbergh, Dr.
Alexis Carrel,
and Their
Daring Quest to
Live Forever

Friedman, David
M.

Unread

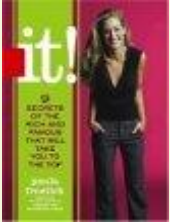
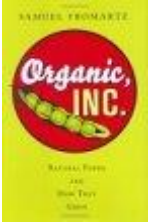

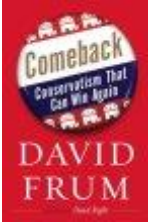
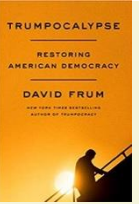
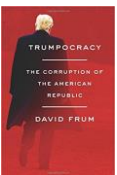
Shelf of Ennui 2008



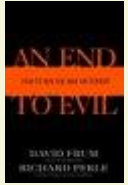


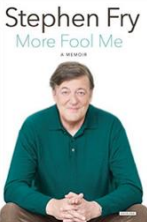
<u>Hot, Flat, and Crowded: Why We Need a Green Revolution--and How It Can Renew America</u>	Friedman, Thomas L.	***	<u>1/27/09</u>	<p>Greener. Tom Friedman preaches to readers about a greener life in his new book, <u>Hot, Flat and Crowded</u>. Friedman connects three issues in this book: global warming, the rise of the global middle class, and the increase in world population. He challenges America to tackling this crisis with innovation. He wants us to become the world leader in green energy and in finding innovative ways out of the mess we're in. While much of his message resonated for me, I found his tone so preachy at times that I needed to take a break from the text. The message is worth hearing, even if the messenger can be hard to listen to.</p>	
<u>Longitudes and Attitudes: Exploring the World After September 11th</u>	Friedman, Thomas L.	***	<u>Nov 02</u>	<p>All About Walls. Selection of Friedman's <i>New York Times</i> columns from shortly before 9/11 through six months after, with about eighty pages of diary. Leaves readers thinking, whether agreeing or disagreeing with Friedman.</p>	
<u>Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations</u>	Friedman, Thomas L.	****	<u>1/16/17</u>	<p>Mansplaining. <i>New York Times</i> columnist Thomas L. Friedman offers readers almost five hundred pages of his viewpoints and thoughts in a new book titled, <u>Thank You for Being Late: An Optimist's Guide to Thriving in the Age of Accelerations</u>. Veering very close to mansplaining at times, he pulls back just before crossing that line. The advantage of reading Friedman is that you can read quickly over what seems familiar or what you've heard before, and spend a little time in those areas where he has new insight or an interesting synthesis. He offers some remedies for the challenges of living in our accelerated world: extend trust, build community, fight isolation and collaborate. While so many concepts are fundamental, and reflect the world in which many of us were raised (as Friedman himself explores in reflections in this book about his Minnesota youth), it seemed timely for me to spend a few hours being</p>	


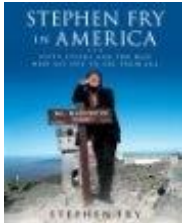
				reminded of those fundamentals and what is important.	
The Lexus and the Olive Branch	Friedman, Thomas L.	***	<u>8/99</u>	Friedman helps readers gain insight into how the post cold war system operates, and how some individuals and countries are fighting against the system, and where America fits into the puzzle.	
<u>The World Is Flat: A Brief History of the Twenty-first Century</u>	Friedman, Thomas L.	***	<u>Sep 05</u>	Repetitive. A connected world has dramatic implications for individuals, corporations and organizations. Through multiple examples Friedman repeats his premise about a flat world and permits readers to reflect on the implications for all.	
<u>That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back</u>	Friedman, Thomas L. and Michael Mandelbaum	***	<u>11/18/11</u>	Rediscovery. <i>New York Times</i> columnist Thomas Friedman has teamed with foreign policy professor Michael Mandelbaum to write a stimulating book titled, <u>That Used to Be Us: How America Fell Behind in the World It Invented and How We Can Come Back</u> . As with earlier Friedman books, this one is packed with a ream of selected observations and facts that are used to support the authors' opinions and desired policies and actions. The core approach is that we need to rediscover how we came to be the country we are today, and to restore those things that made us great. The authors propose that we need to answer the questions of what world are we living in and what do we need to do to thrive in that world. They propose a rediscovery of the public-private partnership we've embraced since our founding and deal with education, infrastructure, research and development, immigration and regulation. Whether readers agree or disagree with the diagnosis and prescription, the subject is interesting, the authors	

offer a lively presentation, and readers are prompted to engage in the issues raised.

It! 9 Secrets of the Rich and Famous That Will Take You to the Top	Froelich, Paula	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Organic, Inc.	Fromartz, Samuel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Europe's Last Summer: Who Started the Great War in 1914?	Fromkin, David	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
Comeback: Conservatism That Can Win Again	Frum, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Trumpocalypse: Restoring American Democracy</u>	Frum, David	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Trumpocracy: The Corruption of the American Republic</u>	Frum, David	****	<u>3/9/18</u>	Echo. After I finished reading David Frum's book titled, <u>Trumpocracy: The Corruption of the American Republic</u> , I started to wonder who else was reading it. I admit that I knew I would like the book because I was confident that Frum would	

provide a cogent and incisive case against President Trump. As a conservative and Republican, I wonder if Frum still maintains a receptive audience among those readers. I wonder how many Trump supporters will read this book. As we become comfortable in our respective partisan alliances, I wonder if there's a chance for the messages in one echo chamber to break into another.

<u>An End to Evil: How to Win the War on Terror</u>	Frum, David and Richard Perle	***	<u>Mar 04</u>	A Manual for Victory. Former Bush speechwriter and former DOD policymaker present what they call a “manual for victory” in the war on terror. Bush supporters will cheer on most pages, while opponents will find ammunition, creating an interesting book for readers of all political sympathies.	
<u>Heroes: The Greek Myths Reimagined</u>	Fry, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Moab is My Washpot	Fry, Stephen	***		If you've enjoyed his acting, you'll like his writing. Compare one of his novels, <u>The Liar</u> , with Moab and see the similarities to Fry's life.	
More Fool Me	Fry, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	

<u>Revenge</u>	Fry, Stephen	***	<u>Sep 02</u>	Fry delves deep into human nature exploring love, betrayal, alienation, friendship, recovery and, of course, revenge.	
<u>Stephen Fry in America: Fifty States and the Man Who Set Out to See Them All</u>	Fry, Stephen	Ennui	<u>1/9/10</u>	Homage. Humorist Stephen Fry has published an interesting book and TV series as a homage to the United States titled, <u>Stephen Fry in America: Fifty States and the Man Who Set Out to See Them All</u> . I ended up watching the television version of this and enjoyed it. The book version looked interesting, but I lost interest in reading it, and just turned the pages, looking at some of the pictures and remembering the TV version. Either medium presents a lively and engaging view of the creative Fry, who but for a twist of fate, might have grown up in the USA.	
<u>The Fry Chronicles</u>	Fry, Stephen	***	<u>2/17/12</u>	Worker. Stephen Fry continues to write about his own life in a new book titled, <u>The Fry Chronicles</u> . The 400+ pages of witty and engaging narrative focus on the busy life he led in his 20s. A reader can become exhausted from the work pace that Fry describes. This is a tale of man who could never say no, had a constant desire to please others, and is able at the current distance of time to describe that life in a way that entertains readers. The stories of his university years and his friendship with Hugh Laurie and Emma Thompson are told with excitement and verve. Readers who enjoy well told stories of interesting lives are those most likely to enjoy this autobiography.	
The Ode Less Traveled	Fry, Stephen	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

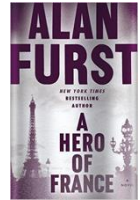
Bend, Not Break: A Life in Two Worlds	Fu, Ping and MeiMei Fox	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
America at the Crossroads	Fukuyama, Francis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment</u>	Fukuyama, Francis	*****	<u>10/12/18</u>	Recognition. I am somebody. In his book titled, <u>Identity: The Demand for Dignity and the Politics of Resentment</u> , Francis Fukuyama makes a compelling case that there is a strong human need for recognition, and a demand to be respected and valued for who we are. To overcome our current state of resentment and polarization, Fukuyama proposes an acceptance of thinking in terms of identity, but to use identity to integrate not divide us. Deploy an overarching identity larger than our smaller ones to integrate our society. Sounds good to me.	
<u>Our Posthuman Future: Consequences of the Biotechnology Revolution</u>	Fukuyama, Francis	***	<u>Aug 02</u>	Read about how developments in genetic engineering and neuropharmacology endanger who we are as humans.	
<u>Bento Box in the Heartland</u>	Furiya, Linda	***	<u>June 07</u>	Nourishing. Memories and recipes of the foods from childhood that lead to the recollection of stories of the child of immigrant Japanese parents growing up in Indiana in the 1960s.	

[A Hero of France](#)

Furst, Alan

[6/9/16](#)

Resistance. Most readers can consume Alan Furst's novel, [A Hero of France](#), on a single flight or two, or during a day at the beach. During that time, a reader is transported to France during World War II and into the actions of members of the French Resistance. Furst's prose uses just the right amount of descriptive language to make a place come alive for readers, and enough character development to achieve the satisfaction of reading about complex and nuanced characters, just like us.



[Blood of Victory](#)

Furst, Alan

[Oct 02](#)

Dripping. Master novelist Alan Furst brings readers to the atmosphere of 1940, and presents images of intrigue, complicated characters, and high suspense as a spy tries to disrupt Germany's oil supply, known as the blood of victory.

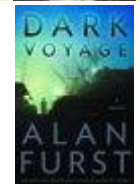


[Dark Voyage](#)

Furst, Alan

[Oct 04](#)

Deception. Moody spy thriller of Dutch naval deception of Germans during World War II. Authentic detail and description enlivens people and places.

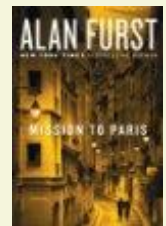


[Mission to Paris](#)

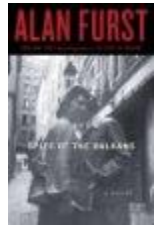
Furst, Alan

[7/25/12](#)

Atmospheric. Alan Furst is back with another World War II spy novel that plunges readers into the place and time with lush descriptive language and sharply drawn heroes and villains. [Mission to Paris](#) is set mainly in Paris in 1938 and the protagonist, actor Fredric Stahl has arrived there from Hollywood to make a movie titled, "After the War," referring to World War I. Furst describes the fears of the émigré community in Paris who experience the organized and diligent work of the Nazis as they prepared to conquer Europe. Stahl finds himself in the thick of things and also falling in love. Readers who like spy novels with lots of descriptive language are those most likely to enjoy this book.



Choices. Alan Furst's latest spy novel is titled, Spies of the Balkans. Set in Salonika, Greece in 1940, protagonist Constantine Zannis faces personal and professional choices as rumors of a Nazi invasion grow. Furst presents and develops Zannis as an ordinary and likeable character who is presented with choices during crisis. As a reader, I was compelled to reflect on whether or not I would have made the same heroic choices that Zannis does in this book. I concluded that his personal courage far exceeded my own, but remained believable. When asked to assist in the safe transport of Jews from central Europe through Greece to Turkey, Zannis readily responded with skill. Beyond fine character development, what Furst does well in this book as in his earlier work is to describe the places and period with such care that readers feel immersed in the situations presented. Any reader who loves this period and genre will find much to appreciate from these pages.



Spies of the Balkans

Furst, Alan

6/14/10

The Foreign Correspondent

Furst, Alan

**

August 06

Detailed. Descriptive language places readers in Paris in 1939 with complete atmosphere, while characters develop slowly and action remains constrained throughout this spy novel.

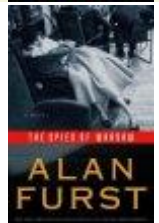


The Spies of Warsaw

Furst, Alan

Aug 08

Intrigue. Spy novel set in Poland in the late 1930s with perfectly described atmosphere, well-developed characters and good plot momentum. A French attaché tries to learn Germany's war plans.



<u>Under Occupation</u>	Furst, Alan	****	<u>1/24/20</u>	<p>Resistance. In his novel titled, <u>Under Occupation</u>, Alan Furst pulls readers into Paris in 1942. Protagonist Paul Ricard is a novelist and through him Furst takes us into many aspects of how the French resistance operated while under Nazi occupation. Ricard was swept into the resistance as were others. Once inside, his assignments provide the momentum for this novel. Readers can feel the darkness of that time and place through Furst's finely written descriptive prose. Fans of historical fiction, especially when set in this time period, are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>Midnight in Europe</u>	Furst, Allan	****	<u>6/18/14</u>	<p>Looming. Darkness and evil seem to loom over every page of Allan Furst's latest novel titled, <u>Midnight in Europe</u>. Set mostly in Paris in the late 1930s, the novel features Cristian Ferrar, a Spaniard who works as a lawyer in Paris. What Furst has done in earlier novels also works in this one: he takes ordinary people and places them in situations that draw out the best of human nature. Ferrar helps deliver arms to the Spanish Republicans in their fight against Franco and the Nationalists. There's excitement, wit, skill and danger all at play in this novel. I enjoy reading Furst for the way he brings the setting of the period to life. I would say he makes it vivid, but in this case, he illuminates the darkness of that time for contemporary readers.</p>	
<u>Hard, Hard City</u>	Fusilli, Jim	***	<u>Feb 05</u>	<p>Solid. Private eye Terry Orr returns and endangers himself while helping restore the life of a wayward teen. Character novel makes values plain and clear.</p>	

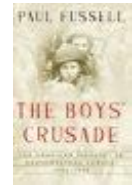
The Boys'
Crusade: The
American
Infantry in
Northwestern
Europe 1944-
1945

Fussell, Paul

**

Mar 04

Raw. Unsentimental, raw, unvarnished view of the horror of war by talented historian who was one of the young infantrymen on the field of Europe at the end of the second World War. Haunting, true stories.

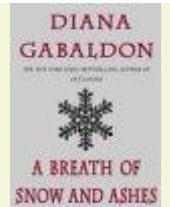


A Breath of
Snow and Ashes

Gabaldon, Diana

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006

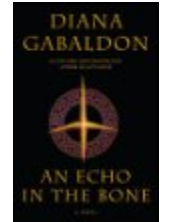


An Echo in the
Bone

Gabaldon, Diana

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



Lord John and
the Brotherhood
of the Blade

Gabaldon, Diana

**

Read, but not reviewed.

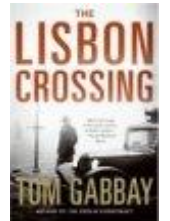


The Lisbon
Crossing


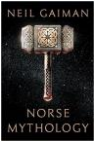
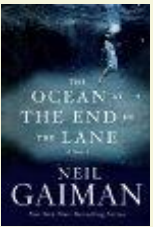
Gabbay, Tom

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



George F. Kennan: An American Life	Gaddis, John Lewis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
The Cold War	Gaddis, John Lewis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>Agapē Agape</u>	Gaddis, William	*	<u>Dec 02</u>	Last Words. Stream of consciousness and multi-page run-on sentences by late author who saw player piano as harmful to artists.	
Straits of Fortune	Gagliano, Anthony	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Schroder	Gaige, Amity	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
Anansi Boys	Gaiman, Neil	***		Read, but not reviewed.	

Fragile Things	Gaiman, Neil	***	June 07	<p>Prolific. Collection of 32 stories and poems that display the author's originality, imagination, and ability to write in the style of others.</p>	
Norse Mythology	Gaiman, Neil	****	3/23/17	<p>Hammer. I think the only time I've read Norse myths was in my childhood in comic books. The image of Thor's hammer on the cover of Neil Gaiman's book titled, Norse Mythology, bore no resemblance to the comic versions. These tales did match some from my youth, and each story that Gaiman presents brought great satisfaction, especially the ones that I remembered more about that I expected. These myths are terrific stories, and Gaiman's version will appeal to any reader who enjoys fine story telling.</p>	
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	Gaiman, Neil	****	7/8/13	<p>Guardian. Reading can take us to places that are both familiar and very different. In Neil Gaiman's capable hands, readers of his novel, The Ocean at the End of the Lane, leap into a setting that blurs reality and appearance, and to a plot that's wildly imaginative and close to anyone's coming of age experience. The narrator returns at age forty to the home where magical things happened to him at age seven. We learn through his recollections of the way he was protected by some unusual neighbors who guarded him from danger. The pond at the end of the lane was somehow also an ocean, and the guardian was more than a neighbor. The mythic themes will delight close readers, and the well-told story will engage all readers in the joy of a sad and poignant tale. I read the novel quickly, and enjoyed in from beginning to end.</p>	

The View from the Cheap Seats

Gaiman, Neil

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2017.

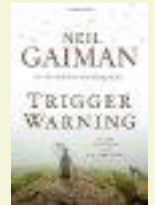


Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances

Gaiman, Neil

8/25/15

Versatility. Neil Gaiman tells great stories in his fiction, and the short pieces in his collection titled, Trigger Warning: Short Fictions and Disturbances, reveal his talent on every page. *Dr. Who* fans will especially enjoy the episode he wrote for that program. Gaiman's imagination seems to know no bounds, and as he draws readers into the twists and turns of his creations, he displays the versatility of his writing. I enjoyed every piece in this collection from the shortest to the longest.



Pro Cycling on \$10 a Day: From Fat Kid to Euro Pro

Gaimon, Phil

9/15/14

Clean. I don't know whether Phil Gaimon is better as a writer or as a professional cyclist. I do know that I enjoyed reading his memoir titled, Pro Cycling on \$10 a Day: From Fat Kid to Euro Pro. If your impression of professional cycling is limited to Le Tour de France or Lance Armstrong and the use of banned substances, consider reading about the cycling world from the perspective of a clean rider with writing talent. He tells his own story with wit and more candid disclosure than most memoirists would offer. I enjoyed this story of passion, guts and cookies.



Fool's Paradise: Players, Poseurs, and the Culture of Excess in South Beach

Gaines, Steven

3/30/09

Escape. For decades, Miami Beach has provided an escape: for snowbirds, to get away from the cold of winter; for gangsters, a place to get things done without much interference; for beautiful people, a place to show off with few inhibitions. Steven Gaines captures these and more in his book, Fool's Paradise: Players, Poseurs, and the Culture of Excess in South Beach. Gaines tells the story of the



hoteliers, the Art Deco preservationists, the nightclub operators, gangsters, druggies, models and politicians. Fool's Paradise is packed with interesting characters, and unlike the title, not nearly enough excess to please those readers who want to know even more than Gaines tells. If you've ever been to Miami Beach, you're likely to enjoy this story of places and people that will be familiar. If you've not visited, here's a way to experience the place vicariously and not get sunburned while you think about what you're missing.

The Sky's the Limit: Passion and Property in Manhattan

Gaines, Steven

Aug 05

Status. Past and present stories of the best people and places jockeying for status in the world of Manhattan real estate. Can seem like a foreign land to those who have never lived in Manhattan.



Don't Cry

Gaitskill, Mary

5/27/09

Intense. There are ten powerful short stories in Mary Gaitskill's latest collection, including the title story, Don't Cry. You may want to cry, though, as each story presents characters in difficult relationships and situations. She writes about struggles, loss, and suffering in ways that reveal her great writing skill and expose aspects of our human condition that many of us would prefer not to dwell on. Pace yourself as you read each story, and you're likely to spend a lot of time thinking about guilt, past relationships, sorrows, and the dark side of your own life. If that's what you're ready for, Don't Cry is the book for you.

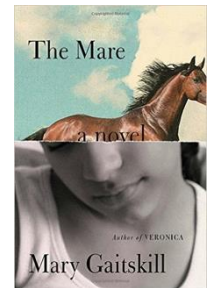


The Mare

Gaitskill, Mary

2/15/16

Mothering. A reader looking at the cover of Mary Gaitskill's novel titled, The Mare, could assume that this is a book about a girl and her horse. It is that and so much more. The ensemble cast of characters are so finely developed, calling just one the protagonist may minimize the strength of how each character contributes to the whole novel. Gaitskill's plot will appeal to any reader who enjoys literary fiction that has a clear structure. The novel explores mothering from multiple dimensions, a biological mother who fights for survival; a surrogate mother who wants to become more than that; and a young girl who needs to mother herself. Gaitskill presents multiple narrators in ways that lead readers to see the plot from multiple perspectives.

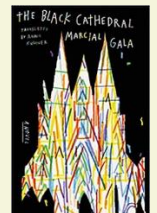


The Black Cathedral

Gala, Marcial

7/6/20

Cienfuegos. Lots of narrators of Marcia Gala's novel, The Black Cathedral, combine their voices to create a din that describes life in Cienfuegos, Cuba. Readers are treated or subjected to a barrage of fragments that reinforce a poor quality of life and the unrealistic hope that life will change after a new cathedral is built. The people in the town are caught up in violence and selfishness. After finishing the novel, many readers like me may scratch our heads about this novel but concur that we just read an indictment of life in modern Cuba delivered by a rousing chorus of voices.

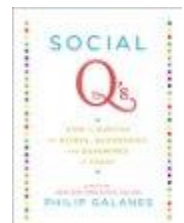


Social Q's: How to Survive the Quirks, Quandaries and Quagmires of Today

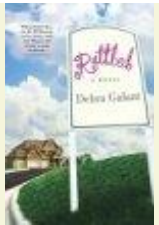
Galanes, Philip

11/22/11

Sharp. I rarely read Philip Galanes column in the Sunday Styles section of *The New York Times*. After I picked up a copy of his new book, Social Q's: How to Survive the Quirks, Quandaries and Quagmires of Today, I came to appreciate how witty and crisp writing can apply to almost any topic. Galanes's sharp writing style is entertaining and he knows how to turn a phrase. Fans of the column will savor this large dose. Any reader who likes wit and enjoys the social commentary that an advice

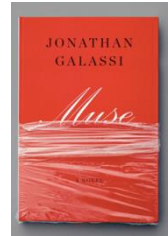



column can provide will find much to enjoy in this entertaining book.

Rattled	Galant, Debra	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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Vanity. I read so many different sorts of books that when I heard that Farrar, Straus and Giroux publisher Jonathan Galassi had written a novel titled, Muse, I figured it might be a delight. Perhaps there was too much inside baseball for me in a novel about publishing by a publisher and poet. With fewer than three hundred pages, I read it quickly, but never really felt engaged by the prose. Close to the end, I came as close as I ever would to “getting it,” when I read the following: “Their authors were their gods, despite their high-handed behavior, egomania, and competitiveness. In the end, it had been all about them.” (p.234) Having understood that point, I raced to the end, eager to find another author god whose prose would provide me with more pleasure than this novel did. Readers with a strong interest in publishing are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.

Muse Galassi, Jonathan *** 2/25/16



Inequality and Instability: A Study of the World Economy Just Before the Great Crisis	Galbraith, James K.	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
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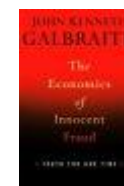
The Economics of Innocent Fraud

Galbraith, John Kenneth

**

Nov 04

Appearances. Economist separates reality from appearances and illustrates the shift in power from the people (whether citizens, shareholders or customers) to corporate managers, and how that's fraud.

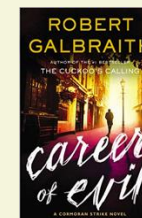


Career of Evil

Galbraith, Robert

12/18/15

Grisly. The latest Cormoran Strike novel from J.K. Rowling writing as Robert Galbraith is titled, Career of Evil. Fans of the series will enjoy the continued character development of protagonist Strike and his work partner, Robin Ellacott. The plot momentum is exciting, and the twists are crime fiction candy to those of us who are always on the lookout for the identity of the bad guys. There's one caution for readers with queasy stomachs: there's a lot of grisly gore in this novel. Try not to read after a heavy meal when digestion may be challenged, or just before bedtime when the images may lead to a long agitated night of recurring tosses and turns.

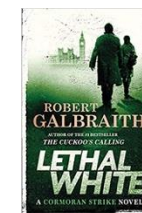


Lethal White

Galbraith, Robert

7/26/19

Falling. There's a lot of falling in the fourth Cormoran Strike novel by J.K. Rowling writing as Robert Galbraith, a novel titled, Lethal White. After every falling, there's getting up again. Protagonists Strike and Robin Ellacott are both developed more in this installment and the tension in their relationships adds to the pleasure of the novel. Fans of the Harry Potter series know that Rowling tells great stories with interesting characters and engaging plots. The Strike series reflects similar elements and I was thoroughly entertained by the 650 pages of this novel.



The Cuckoo's Calling

Galbraith, Robert

9/10/13

Detecting. J.K. Rowling does three things extremely well in her crime fiction debut novel, The Cuckoo's Calling, released under the pen name Robert Galbraith. First, she presents compelling complex characters, especially the protagonist, private detective Cormoran Strike, and his sidekick, Robin. Most crime fiction succeeds or fails based on



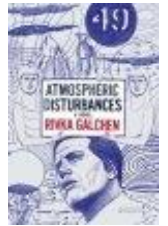
			<p>character. Second, she tells a great story. I found that I was interested from the start, and she kept me wanting to find out how everything would get resolved. Finally, she presents dialogue and situations that set just the right tone. If you like crime fiction, and have enjoyed Rowling's other novels, be sure to read this one.</p>	
<p><u>The Silkworm</u></p>	<p>Galbraith, Robert</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>8/26/14</u></p> <p>Partners. Fans of character-driven crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy the second Cormoran Strike novel titled, <u>The Silkworm</u>, by J.K. Rowling writing as Robert Galbraith. Private detective Strike has become choosy in selecting clients following the publicity he received after besting the police in solving a high profile case. When a strange woman with no obvious means for paying him asks him to find her missing husband, Strike ditches a bossy and rich client and takes on her case. Both Strike and his apprentice, Robin Ellacot, are developed with greater complexity in this novel, and their partnership provides the glue that holds the novel together. The story is grisly, the sleuthing interesting, and the resolution satisfying.</p>	
<p><u>American Innovations</u></p>	<p>Galchen, Rivka</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>5/28/14</u></p> <p>Playful. After I began to read the third short story in the collection of ten by Ricka Galchen titled, <u>American Innovations</u>, a growing impression hit me hard: this woman loves to write. Once I gave myself over to her quirky charms, I delighted in these stories, and found them witty, surprising, unconventional and fun. Readers who enjoy literary fiction, especially short stories, are those most likely to enjoy the finely written stories in this collection.</p>	

Atmospheric
Disturbances

Galchen, Rivka

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009

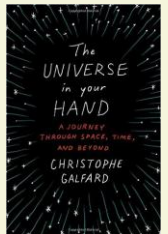


[The Universe in
Your Hand](#)

Galfard,
Christophe

[5/3/17](#)

Teacher. On the rare occasions when physics comes up in conversation, my wife remarks that during our lifetime the study of physics and theology have come closer together. I always nod when she says that, but I don't know what she means, and since she's the theologian, I'm confident that she knows of what she speaks. Every now and then I want to read some science books written for a general audience, and I was thrilled with the ways in which Christophe Galfard taught me physics in his book titled, [The Universe in Your Hand](#). Instead of explaining, Galfard asks us to imagine ourselves in different parts of the universe. I was enchanted by this book, and encourage those readers interested in things like black holes, string theory and dark matter to consider this book. It will amp up your conversations, but probably not with my wife, nor with my neighbor who chairs a university's physics department. Readers who attended a Physics for Poets class are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.

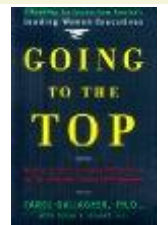



[Going to the
Top](#)


Gallagher, Carol

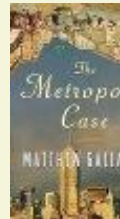
[6/00](#)


Results of interviews with 200 successful women executives.



Strangers in the House	Gallagher, Dorothy	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
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Changing Light	Gallagher, Nora	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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<u>The Metropolis Case</u>	Galloway, Matthew	***	<u>2/18/11</u>	<p>Devices. I gave the benefit of the doubt to Matthew Galloway for most of his debut novel, <u>The Metropolis Case</u>, as he constructed a complicated story set in modern New York and 19th century Europe, centered on the world of opera, especially Wagner's challenging <i>Tristan und Isolde</i>. He connects four main characters to the music, and moves back and forth in time as he draws readers into the story. Along the way, no single character becomes fully developed, and Galloway ends up relying on the devices of a magical serum and coincidences to tie together the missing links of the story. Long on exposition and short on realistic dialogue, the language of the novel seemed heavier than the heldentenor. For a first-time novelist, some of these shortcomings can be overlooked by a patient reader.</p>	
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<u>The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google</u>	Galloway, Scott	****	<u>10/17/18</u>	<p>Spunky. I'm guessing that Scott Galloway does a terrific job when he teaches at NYU's Stern School of Business. The writing style in his book titled, <u>The Four: The Hidden DNA of Amazon, Apple, Facebook, and Google</u>, is spunky and entertaining. Given his activity as a serial entrepreneur, he is not your average professor or journalist examining</p>	
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corporations. Readers interested in business are those most likely to enjoy this engaging and thoughtful exploration of four giants of American business. I regret how long it sat on a shelf unread because once I started, I zipped right through the cogent prose and great questions Galloway raises.

Opening. Poet Forrest Gander opens his first work of fiction, [As a Friend](#), with a description of childbirth that will tend to lead childless readers to remain so. It's the birth of protagonist Les to a teenage mother. The structure of [As a Friend](#) entails four connected stories, with Les tying them together. Les is a quirky and charismatic individual who works as a land surveyor. His friend, Clay, emulates him and then betrays him. Gander's descriptive language is poetic throughout this odd book. Les is made larger than life in some respects, almost godlike, and his flaws seem pedestrian and defining at the same time. While married to Cora, Les lives with Sarah. [As a Friend](#) is loaded with lamentations, and part of it soars with such emotional intensity that I found I had to pause a while before reading on.



[As a Friend](#)

Gander, Forrest

**

[2/23/09](#)

[Buying a Fishing Rod for My Grandfather](#)

Gao, Xingjian

**

[May 05](#)

Reflective. Sparse, delicate prose in six stories by Nobel winner. Fine writing and insights lead to prolonged reflection.

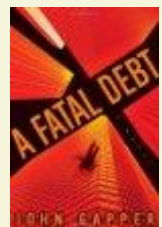


[A Fatal Debt](#)

Gapper, John

[9/4/12](#)

Personal. Having read journalist John Gapper's writing in the *Financial Times*, I was curious to read his debut novel, [A Fatal Debt](#). While much of the novel's plot involves the actions of a recently fired bank CEO, Henry Shapiro, financial services represent a backdrop for the novel, not the essence. At its core, this novel explores personal and professional relationships. Protagonist Benjamin Cowper is a psychiatrist who is his own worst



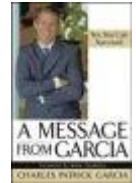
				enemy. Cowper becomes influenced both by Shapiro's wife and by the head of the hospital where Cowper is treating Henry, a major donor. I found myself suspending disbelief regularly while Gapper has Cowper behave in ways that kept me asking: "what was he thinking?" The plot moves quickly in the novel, and readers who like story over character depth and who are willing to give a debut novelist a try, should consider this one.	
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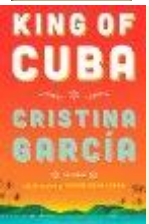
[A Message from Garcia: Yes, You Can Succeed](#)

Garcia, Charles Patrick

[July 04](#)

Initiative. Readers who want to be told how to succeed by self-confident author will find the answers here. Typical nostrums from motivational genre.



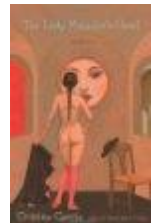
King of Cuba	Garcia, Cristina	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
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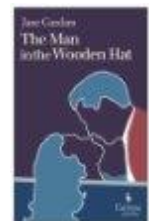
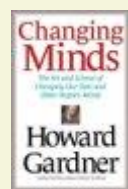
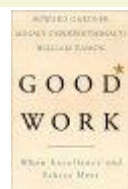

[The Lady Matador's Hotel](#)

Garcia, Cristina

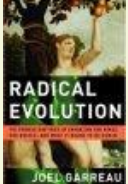
[2/4/11](#)

Guests. We count on good novelists to present us with realistic characters in settings that come to life. Cristina Garcia's short novel, [The Lady Matador's Hotel](#), describes six characters at the Hotel Miraflor in the capital city of an unnamed Central American country. In addition to the matadora, Garcia unveils an attorney, a factory owner, a waitress, a colonel and a poet. They have more than the hotel in common. Garcia deftly entangles their lives and stories and does so with wit and poignancy as she brings these interesting and odd characters to life. Readers who can tolerate reading fiction that contains violence, and who can find humor in the midst of oppression and horror are most likely to enjoy this novel.



The Hollow Land	Gardam, Jane	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
The Man in the Wooden Hat	Gardam, Jane	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Changing minds : the art and science of changing our own and other people's minds	Gardner, Howard	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
<u>Good Work: When Excellence and Ethics Meet</u>	Gardner, Howard	**	<u>Apr 02</u>	Lessons from professionals in genetics and journalism facing technological or market changes applied to all of us.	
Second to None	Garfield, Charles	Unread		We peaked reading Garfield's Peak Performance and haven't even given this book a chance.	Buy @ amazon.com
<u>The Spare Room</u>	Garner, Helen	***	<u>3/20/09</u>	Friendship. Helen Garner masters the challenges of conflicting emotions in her new novel, <u>The Spare Room</u> . Protagonist Helen prepares the spare room in her Melbourne home for the arrival of her friend, Nicola, who will arrive from Sydney for three weeks of cancer therapy. Three weeks could be the blink of an eye, but caregiving turns Helen's life upside down, and when she feels Nicola is being treated by charlatans, her anger overflows. Nicola surrenders to Helen and other friends while maintaining confidence that she will be cured. Nicola's expectation of what friends will do seems misplaced, but Helen proves that friends can be	

true to one another. Any reader who has experienced hospice care or cared for a loved one will likely recognize the range of conflicting emotions that Garner's characters feel on these finely written pages.

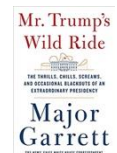
Radical Evolution	Garreau, Joel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
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Mr. Trump's Wild Ride: The Thrills, Chills, Screams, and Occasional Blackouts of an Extraordinary Presidency

Garrett, Major

1/9/19

Curated. I really didn't want to read journalist Major Garrett's book titled, Mr. Trump's Wild Ride: The Thrills, Chills, Screams, and Occasional Blackouts of an Extraordinary Presidency. First, I lived through the early Trump Presidency and I have paid attention, so why do I need someone's rehash? Second, I read enough in newspapers and periodicals about Trump, so why should I bother reading this book? Third, we may need distance, more time, to process what has been important or a distraction during this period. Once I started reading this book, I began to appreciate the benefit in reading a curated first draft of how history may consider the early part of the Trump Presidency. Garrett skillfully sidesteps the distractions and selects what he considers the matters of most significance. History may prove Garrett right or wrong in his take, but this reader liked getting perspective from a talented journalist who's been in the scrum all the way through.



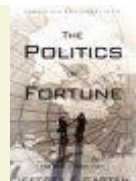
The Politics of Fortune: A New Agenda for Business Leaders

Garten, Jeffrey E.

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Apr 03

Manifesto for CEO Action. 22 "shoulds" for executive involvement in public policy that may raise your blood pressure and stimulate your thinking.

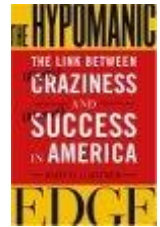


The Hypomaniac
Edge: The
Bipolar
Disorder That
Made America
the Most
Successful
Nation in the
World

Gartner, John D.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

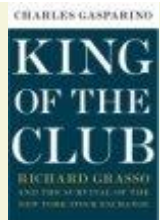


[King of the Club: Richard Grasso and the Survival of the New York Stock Exchange](#)

Gasparino,
Charles

[Mar 08](#)

Operatic. Engaging tale of Grasso's rise and fall at the New York Stock Exchange, both gossipy and insightful about a charismatic and flawed leader.

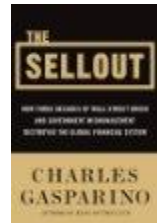


The Sellout:
How Three
Decades of Wall
Street Greed
and
Government
Mismanagemen
t Destroyed the
Global Financial
System

Gasparino,
Charles

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010

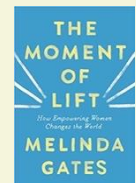



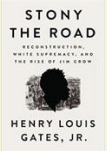
[The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World](#)

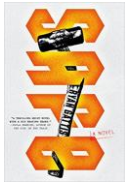
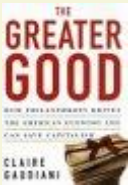

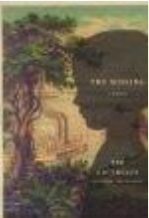
Gates Melinda

[6/18/19](#)

Lessons. One path to improving life around the world is to respect women, listen to them, and support them in improving their local communities. Melinda Gates shares in her book titled, [The Moment of Lift: How Empowering Women Changes the World](#), snippets of her own life and the lessons she's learned from philanthropic work. This book is packed with inspiring stories to encourage empathy and enough data to please skeptics. I found the ways in which hard questions and analysis combined with active listening at the ground level lead to contributions that produce



				great outcomes. This book promotes inclusion, acknowledging the dignity of each person, and acting in ways that nurture all that is good.	
Business @ the Speed of Thought	Gates, Bill	***	5/99	If you're still wondering about the changes that the Internet and networks can bring to companies, go ahead and plod through his book. Gates contributes proceeds from this book to charity.	
<u>Stony the Road: Reconstruction, White Supremacy, and the Rise of Jim Crow</u>	Gates, Jr., Henry Louis	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
Duty: Memoirs of a Secretary at War	Gates, Robert M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>Showing Up for Life: Thoughts on the Gifts of a Lifetime</u>	Gates, Sr., Bill	***	2/25/10	Philosophy. Each chapter in Bill Gates, Sr.'s book, <u>Showing Up for Life: Thoughts on the Gifts of a Lifetime</u> , conveys a tidbit of wisdom, a family story, an anecdote that provides a building block in the development of one's personal philosophy. Each of us decides how we choose to live, and in <u>Showing Up for Life</u> , Mr. Gates makes it clear that some of those decisions are as simple as deciding whether to be present or not. Most decisions, though, involve a sense of purpose or duty. After reading this book, it's easy to understand why Bill Gates, Jr. looks up to his father, and also easy to understand why philanthropy is of such importance to this family. Any reader who enjoys listening to the wisdom of elders will enjoy this book, and every parent will	

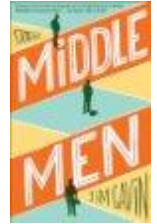
				find something on these pages to emulate in one's own family.	
Safe	Gattis, Ryan	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
The Greater Good: How Philanthropy Drives the American Economy and Can Save Capitalism	Gaudiani, Claire	***	Nov 03	Generosity. Have you concluded that America is rich because we are generous? You may increase your charitable giving after reading this book.	
Signals	Gautreaux, Tim	****	3/14/17	Ordinary. There's lots of insight into human nature and behavior in the twenty one short stories in a collection by Tim Gautreaux titled, Signals . With great skill, Gautreaux unveils the ways in which ordinary lives reveal truth about who we are and why we do what we do. Mostly set in Louisiana, the working people in these stories can be found everywhere in the world, and through Gautreaux' finely written prose and tightly structured stories, we learn about ourselves in the episodes of the authentic lives described in these stories. We live most of lives in very ordinary ways, and there's always more depth behind what seems on the surface to be all there is.	
The Missing	Gautreaux, Tim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2010	

Middle Men

Gavin, Jim

6/25/13

Insight. The debut collection of seven short stories by Jim Gavin titled, Middle Men, offers readers wisdom, humor and insight into the lives of regular guys. I often finish reading a short story with a dissatisfaction that something was missing. Thanks to Gavin's fine writing, I enjoyed each of these stories, and came away from each one with a perspective about life as it is lived today, especially by men in California. Readers who like short stories should take a look at this collection, as should those fiction readers who are looking for realistic and believable presentation of the lives of men.

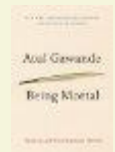


Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End

Gawande, Atul

11/24/14

Questions. Physician and writer Atul Gawande explores end of life care in his book titled, Being Mortal: Medicine and What Matters in the End. I expect most of us want a good death, not too soon. Gawande explores how healthcare lets down patients especially at the end of life when actions are taken to stave off death, but end up prolonging suffering and eliminating any consideration of how a patient would like to spend their final days. Asking the right questions of patients and giving them the ability to make better choices is at the core of achieving well-being as defined by the individual. Rather than a cold exploration of the topic, this book presents personal stories, including the end of life care received by Gawande's father. For most of us, the questions about the quality of life as we approach the end of life can be difficult. Isolation and avoidance of death is not the answer. We can all count on dying. This book can help readers think through what well-being means for each of us and what might constitute a good death.

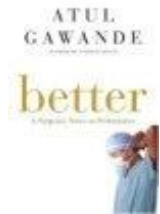


Better: A Surgeon's Notes on Performance

Gawande, Atul

June 07

Practices. Essay collection provides insight and depth into the practices that can lead to improved medical performance in a variety of areas.

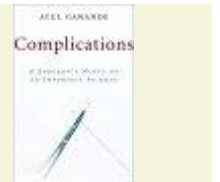


Complications: A Surgeon's Notes on an Imperfect Science

Gawande, Atul

Aug 02

Case stories from skilled writer and senior resident surgeon take readers for an insider and rare view of medicine.

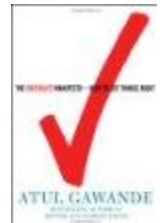


The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right

Gawande, Atul

3/12/10

Protection. Atul Gawande has written another thoughtful book, this one titled, The Checklist Manifesto: How to Get Things Right. In it, Gawande highlights a simple method to provide protection against failure: a checklist. Even the most expert professionals can benefit from help in the form of a structured approach to ensure that communication and engagement occurs among team members working together to achieve results. He examines the way pilots and builders use detailed checklists, and describes how the use of a surgery checklist led to improved results. His writing style allows readers to remain fully engaged, and any expert upon finishing the book, will be hard pressed to conclude that those involved in complex work can get by without a tool like a checklist. Resistance is futile: try a checklist as protection against unintended ineptitude.

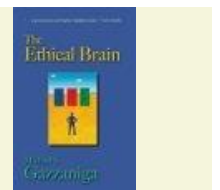


The Ethical Brain

Gazzaniga, Michael S.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005

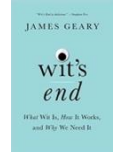


Wit's End: What Wit Is, How It Works, and Why We Need It

Geary, James

1/9/19

Showing. Witty readers are those most likely to enjoy James Geary's creative ways of demonstrating wit in his book titled, Wit's End: What Wit Is, How It Works, and Why We Need It. Instead of telling readers all about wit and analyzing it, he shows us what wit looks like in various forms. I found this book to be quick to read and I appreciated the author's cleverness.

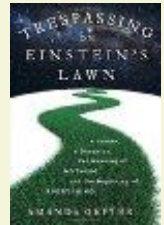


Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn: A Father, a Daughter, the Meaning of Nothing, and the Beginning of Everything

Geffer, Amanda

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



The Third Man Factor: Surviving the Impossible

Geiger, John

12/16/11

Hope. There is a phenomenon called “the third man factor” in which many individuals close to death have a sense of someone with them who encourages them to try to get through the experience. *Globe and Mail* editor John Geiger explores whether this is a scientific mystery or a religious experience in his book, The Third Man Factor: Surviving the Impossible. Through many stories of this phenomenon, mostly from mountain climbing, and an overview of the latest science, Geiger's writing will engage most readers, especially those with an interest in unusual phenomena and those who like hearing stories about the real experiences of others. I think that believers are likely to consider the feeling of another presence to be a form of divine intervention. Scientists aren't likely to find Geiger's reporting to be compelling.



Stress Test: Reflections on Financial Crises

Geithner, Timothy F.

6/18/14

Choices. I've looked forward to reading former Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner's reflections on the financial crisis. His addition to the views already presented in other books by participants



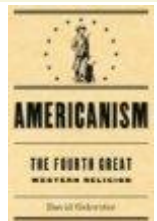
			including Hank Paulson and Sheila Bair adds to the perspective that interested readers can gain from hearing from different players. Geithner outlines all the hard choices he and the other key players at the time had to make when facing multiple bad alternatives. Since Hilary Clinton selected “hard choices” as the title for her latest memoir, Geithner settled for Stress Test , a reference to one of the key decisions he made to evaluate the capital position of banks. The writing is straightforward, and he deflects critics often by calling attention to the paucity of alternatives that were proposed. Geithner felt strongly throughout his tenure in government service that he was trying to do the right thing; he was aware that his actions were often misunderstood; and he acknowledges that his communication skills are poor. Thanks to a good ghost writer, he communicates clearly in this book, and whether you agree or disagree with what he did, especially as Treasury Secretary, you’re likely to come away from the book concluding that he presents a cogent case for the hard choices he made.	
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Americanism:
The Fourth
Great Western
Religion

Gelernter, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

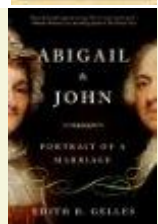


Abigail and
John: Portrait of
a Marriage

Gelles, Edith B.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009

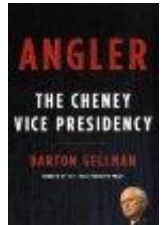


Angler: The
Cheney Vice
Presidency

Gellman, Barton

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009. I stopped reading at page 255.
The summary was on page 68: "The VP knew what
he wanted."

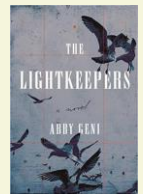


The
Lightkeepers

Geni, Abby

1/28/18

Observations. Every forty pages or so, at the beginning of Abby Geni's novel titled, The Lightkeepers, I took a pause and almost stopped reading. Protagonist Miranda is a nature photographer and she has moved to the Farallon Islands for a year or taking pictures, living with a group of biologists who are observing sea life or birds or the natural environment of this remote location. The setting is depressing, dangerous and ripe for violence. The characters are unappealing and quirky. Since at every juncture, Geni's well-written prose led me to plod along, I stopped those pauses by the middle of the novel, and the plot momentum kept me engaged to the end, and I finished the novel well-satisfied, especially by the exploration of memory and the method of the biologists to observe, but not interfere. Geni makes all the different levels come together and work.



In America's
Court

Geoghegan,
Thomas

Dec 02

Quirky. Civil lawyer Geoghegan agrees to help a criminal attorney with a case. Despite a writing style that's often distracting, Geoghegan's observations and reflections leaves readers thinking about society.



Only One Thing
Can Save Us:
Why America
Needs a New
Kind of Labor
Movement

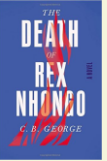
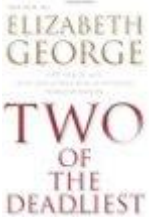
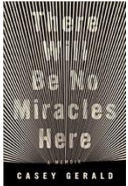
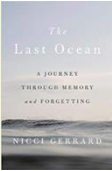
Geoghegan,
Thomas

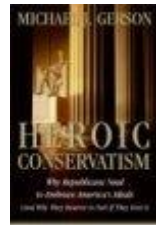


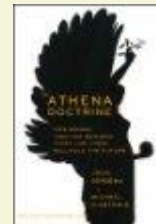
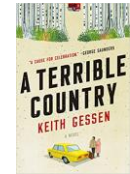
4/11/15

Feisty. Labor lawyer Thomas Geoghegan has written a feisty and cogent book titled, Only One Thing Can Save Us: Why America Needs a New Kind of Labor Movement. Few readers will agree with his argument in whole, but his presentation of the argument about the need for a new labor movement is worth reading by any citizen, manager or worker. Geoghegan's views are firmly held and





				are informed by his life experience, especially with the clients he's represented. I laughed and winced at the cases he describes, and I enjoyed the clarity of his prose and the convictions he presents with passion.	
The Paris Hours	George, Alex	*****	10/27/20	<p>Fire. The novel by Alex George titled, The Paris Hours, reveals the lives of four characters over the course of one day in Paris in 1927. George moves from one character to another as the day progresses, using each narrative turn to fill in the backstory for these people, primarily through the use of memory. We learn of love, loss, secrets, longing and connection. George pulls reluctant readers along as he adds colorful and well-known people living in that time and place, including Ernest Hemingway, Marcel Proust, Gertrude Stein, and Josephine Baker. A motif involving fire connects the four individuals. Fans of fine writing and intricate plotting are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel, as will those who love both Paris and this time period.</p>	
Authentic Leadership: Rediscovering the Secrets to Creating Lasting Value	George, Bill	*****	Oct 03	<p>Journey. Outstanding book by former Medtronic CEO, who “gets it.” There are five dimensions to being an authentic leader: understanding why you want to lead, practicing solid values, leading with a heart, establishing connected relationships, and showing self-discipline. Read this book now.</p>	
True North	George, Bill	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2008	

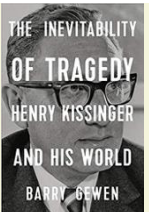
<u>The Death of Rex Nhongo</u>	George, C.B.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
Two of the Deadliest: New Tales of Lust, Greed, and Murder from Outstanding Women of Mystery	George, Elizabeth	Unread		I read as far as page 168, then lost interest. Shelf of Ennui 2011.	
The Art of Rube Goldberg: (A) Inventive (B) Cartoon (C) Genius	George, Jennifer	Unread		This hefty coffee table book contains more about Rube Goldberg than interested me. Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
<u>There Will Be No Miracles Here</u>	Gerald, Casey	*****	<u>9/24/19</u>	<p>Perspective. Some memoirs provide vanity bragging about one's life. Casey Gerald takes a different perspective for his memoir titled, <u>There Will Be No Miracles Here</u>. He asks us to stand next to him while we look together at the world around him. By the time he brings us into a dream, readers have become used to seeing everything with Gerald. Often, I found myself releasing what I expected and appreciating the perspective that Gerald writes about with such great skill. Do a search for his TED talk titled, The Gospel of Doubt. That will give interested readers a great introduction to Gerald and prepare one for standing with him and examining the world in which he and we have been living.</p>	
<u>The Last Ocean: A Journey Through Memory and Forgetting</u>	Gerrard, Nicci	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

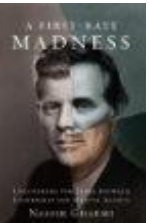
<u>Memory and Forgetting</u> Heroic Conservatism: Why Republicans Need to Embrace America's Ideals (And Why They Deserve to Fail If They Don't)	Gerson, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
<u>Who Says Elephants Can't Dance? Inside IBM's Historic Turnaround</u> The Idea Factory: Bell Labs and the Great Age of American Innovation	Gerstner, Louis V.	*****	<u>May 03</u>	Fandango. Former head of IBM discloses why he took the job, how key decisions were made, and what it took to transform the organization. Well written, insightful, with some “aha” moments for long-time IBM watchers.	
The Athena Doctrine: How Women (and the Men Who Think Like Them) Will Rule the Future	Gertner, Jon	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
	Gerzema, John and Michael D'Antonio	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>A Terrible Country</u>	Gessen, Keith	*****	<u>2/21/19</u>	Moscow. I was thoroughly entertained by Keith Gessen's novel titled, <u>A Terrible Country</u> . Andrei Kaplan's prospects for work and love in New York have diminished, so he jumps at the chance to spend a few months in the city of his birth, Moscow, caring for his grandmother. Gradually, he	

understands why his grandmother refers to Russia with the phrase that is the title of the novel. There's hockey, activists, and a great novel here for your reading pleasure.

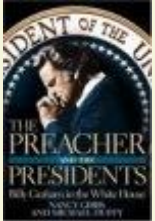
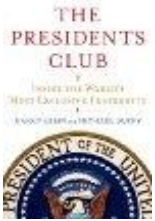
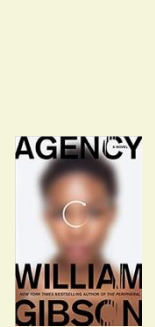
All the Sad Young Literary Men	Gessen, Keith	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
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<u>Lose Well</u>	Gethard, Chris	*****	<u>6/10/20</u>	<p>Resilience. Failure can be a good thing. That's the message in Chris Gethard's self-help book titled, <u>Lose Well</u>. It's a funny book, as one would expect from Gethard, but also contains a serious message about the value of resilience, and all that we can learn when our dreams are thwarted. All of us have suffered rejection of one form or another throughout our lives. Gethard encourages us to embrace the rejection and use it for what we do next. We're told to stop worrying about failure, believe in ourselves, get up and try again. Candor about his own setbacks allows his voice to be heard, whether a reader finds it funny or not. Read the book and give your dream another shot.</p>	
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<u>The Inevitability of Tragedy: Henry Kissinger and His World</u>	Gewen, Barry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
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<u>A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness</u>	Ghaemi, Nassir	***	<u>10/27/11</u>	<p>Normal. If you've ever thought that someone would have to be nuts to run for political office, there's a book to give you backup for this view. Psychiatrist Nassim Ghaemi has written <u>A First-Rate Madness: Uncovering the Links Between Leadership and Mental Illness</u>. Ghaemi presents the psychological profiles of certain leaders, mostly</p>	
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political figures, and presents a case showing that individuals with certain mood disorders can be more successful when facing crisis than their “normal” counterparts because of the resilience they have developed in dealing with their own problems. Readers are likely to think of leadership and mental illness in new ways after reading this book. Anyone interested in psychiatry or leadership will likely find this book to be a good reading experience.

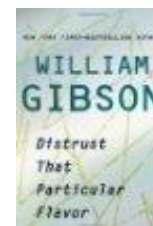
<u>The Preacher and the Presidents</u>	Gibbs, Nancy and Michael Duffy	***	<u>Nov 07</u>	Pastoring. <i>TIME</i> writers present the complicated relationships that Billy Graham developed with each U.S. President from Truman through G.W. Bush.	
The Presidents Club: Inside the World's Most Exclusive Fraternity	Gibbs, Nancy and Michael Duffy	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>Agency</u>	Gibson, William	*****	<u>2/21/20</u>	Eunice. In his novel titled, <u>Agency</u> , William Gibson picks up an exploration of the future that he started about five years ago in his novel titled, <i>The Peripheral</i> . Artificial intelligence takes the form of an entity named Eunice whose autonomy plays into the fears of those who see conflict coming in the relationship between humans and artificial intelligence. Gibson adds a layer to the story from a more distant future in which hobbyists interact with the past to nudge toward certain outcomes. Gibson writes with great skill, imagination and insight. I find myself thinking about Eunice long after I finished this novel.	

Distrust That
Particular
Flavor

Gibson, William

Unread

I sampled a few of the 25 essays in this collection, but was not interested enough to read all of them. Shelf of Ennui 2012.

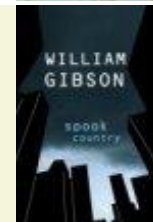


[Spook Country](#)

Gibson, William

[Jan 08](#)

Global. Post modern novel increases paranoia. Author pairs virtual art using GPS with criminals and a mysterious cargo container that has the attention of spies and others. Science fiction meets the evening news.

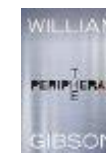


[The Peripheral](#)

Gibson, William

[1/23/15](#)

Future. My patience was strained during the first few dozen pages of William Gibson's novel titled, [The Peripheral](#). I found myself constantly asking myself: "What's going on here?" and receiving no clear answer. After I turned off that questioning in my mind, and just kept reading, the pieces came together and I was both entertained and intrigued by this complicated tale of different connected futures. I was delighted by Gibson's dialogue, and found myself thinking a little more deeply about the consequences of technological change on our humanity. Here's my advice: pick this book up, start reading a little. If you think you have the patience to keep at, chances are you'll be richly rewarded.



The Hard Way
on Purpose:
Essays and
Dispatches from
the Rust Belt

Giffels, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.

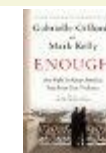


[Enough: Our
Fight to Keep
America Safe](#)

Giffords,
Gabrielle and
Mark Kelly

[11/15/14](#)

Sensible. There's no shortage of strongly held views in America about gun ownership. Those views at one extreme call for no limits on the right of citizens to bear arms, and on the other to pressing



from Gun
Violence

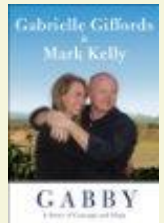
for a ban on the ownership of certain automatic weapons. Expressing a middle view are Gabby Giffords and Mark Kelly in their book titled, Enough: Our Fight to Keep America Safe from Gun Violence. As longtime gun owners and supporters of the right to bear arms, one would think that their modest views for sensible ways to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and the mentally ill would receive universal acceptance. Read this short book about their personal story and the policies they want to see, and decide whether you agree with their take on what they consider to be commonsense ways to regulate the sale and use of weapons.

Gabby: A Story
of Courage and
Hope

Giffords,
Gabrielle and
Mark Kelly

2/24/12

Inspirational. Readers who are down in the dumps about whatever curve life has thrown lately can feel motivated and inspired by the new biography titled, Gabby: A Story of Courage and Hope. Few of us were familiar with the representative of Arizona's 8th congressional district, Gabrielle Giffords or her astronaut husband, Mark Kelly, until the day she was shot. Thanks to their work on this book, assisted by the late Jeffrey Zaslow, their lives are described in depth for readers to get to know them better. The subtitle tells it all: this is a finely written account of courage and hope.



Gut Feelings



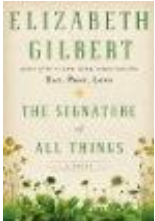
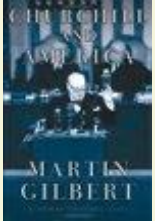
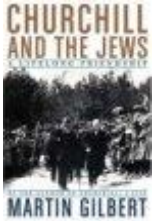
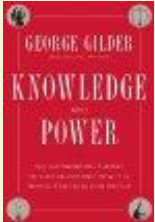
Gigerenzer, Gerd

Oct 07

Intuition. Instincts rather than reasoning can be a better guide to action, according to the research of this prominent neuroscientist.



<u>Stumbling on Happiness</u>	Gilbert, Daniel	***	<u>Oct 06</u>	<p>Imagination. Harvard psychology professor provides light and conversational prose that presents facts about why we keep doing things that we think will make us happy, but don't. Readers' assumptions likely to be shaken by scientific evidence here.</p>	
<u>& Sons</u>	Gilbert, David	****	<u>1/13/14</u>	<p>Ampersand. David Gilbert constructed a 450 page literary novel titled, <u>& Sons</u>, around the word, "and." You can see it in the ampersand of the title, and in the three letters in white on the book jacket. Inside, <i>Ampersand</i> is the title of a novel by protagonist A.N. Dyer, whose monogram also reads, "and." Dyer's lifelong friend, Charles Topping dies at the beginning of the novel, leading Dyer to confront his own mortality. The action of the novel centers on Dyer's attempt to bring together the lives of his older sons from his first marriage to their half-brother, whose birth caused that marriage to dissolve. Gilbert creates many sentences that I read more than once with pleasure. I enjoyed the ways in which he deconstructed the relationship between fathers and sons, the bonds of friendship, literary life in New York, and the longing for legacy. There's a lot of "and" in this novel that will appeal most to those readers who love literary fiction.</p>	
<u>Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage</u>	Gilbert, Elizabeth	***	<u>12/16/11</u>	<p>Changed. Following her successful <i>Eat, Pray Love</i>, Elizabeth Gilbert chucked what she wrote next, and tried again. The result, <u>Committed: A Skeptic Makes Peace with Marriage</u>, comes through as a clear and confident voice that examines and explores matrimony. There's no escape from the irony that this author who concluded that marriage was not for her turns around and gets married. Isn't life like that? This book explores what brought Gilbert into matrimony and how entering this institution can be a great way to live.</p>	

Eat, Pray, Love	Gilbert, Elizabeth	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Last American Man	Gilbert, Elizabeth	***	Sep 02	Eustace Conway wants us all to join him in a return to nature. Read about this charismatic, unique and hard-to-get-along-with man.	
The Signature of All Things	Gilbert, Elizabeth	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
Churchill and America	Gilbert, Martin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Churchill and the Jews	Gilbert, Martin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	
Knowledge and Power: The Information Theory of Capitalism and	Gilder, George	****	3/7/14	Sings. Every page of George Gilder's book, Knowledge and Power: The Information Theory of Capitalism and How it is Revolutionizing our World , sings in celebration of capitalism. The particular lens that Gilder applies involves the intensity of impact from the information revolution on society. Gilder uses a conversational style of	

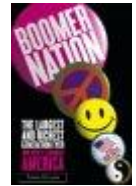
<u>How it is Revolutionizing our World</u>				writing to express thoughtful and clear views on support for entrepreneurship and unfettered capitalism as key to building and maintaining a world in which all members of society achieve gains. I've read Gilder for decades and found much in this book to be so familiar as to seem repetitive. To avoid that becoming boring, Gilder has peppered the text with recent and current examples of the themes he explores. Every capitalist who reads this book will find something to like. Socialists will find the prose of a worthy adversary that requires a cogent response.	
The School of the Americas : military training and political violence in the Americas	Gill, Lesley	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
<u>How Starbucks Saved My Life</u>	Gill, Michael Gates	***	<u>Feb 08</u>	Upbeat. Fine writing presents an upbeat rather than maudlin story of how a fired executive, newly divorced, broke and diagnosed with a brain tumor, finds a path ahead through his entry level job at Starbucks.	
Off the Sidelines: Raise Your Voice, Change the World	Gillibrand, Kirsten	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
Kyra	Gilligan, Carol	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	

Boomer Nation:
The Largest and
Richest
Generation
Ever, and How
it Changed
America

Gillon, Steve

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004

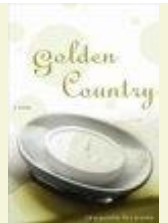


Golden Country

Gilmore,
Jennifer

Feb 07

Promises. Finely written debut novel with well developed characters and great stories of their immigrant experiences in mid-20th century Brooklyn.



The Ruling
Caste

Gilmour, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



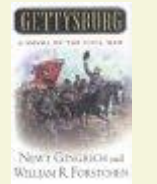
Gettysburg: A
Novel of the
Civil War

Gingrich, Newt

*

July 03

Revolting. Former Speaker of the House presents an imaginative, and probably plausible, version of what could have happened at the Battle of Gettysburg, messing with the memories we have of what really happened. Newt may wish this had happened, but readers know what really took place.

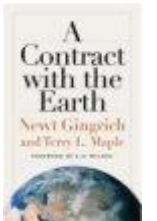


A Contract With
the Earth

Gingrich, Newt
and Terry Maple

July 08

Partnerships. Former House Speaker collaborates with Palm Beach Zoo president to urge the private sector to work with environmental organizations to accomplish what government seems incapable of achieving when it comes to actions to protect the planet.

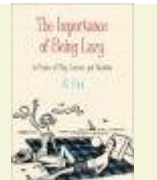


The Importance
of Being Lazy:
In Praise of
Play, Leisure,
and Vacations

Gini, Al

Oct 03

Time Out. Philosophy professor provides well-developed rationale for taking breaks in various forms, including an extended vacation. Read while working, not while relaxing.



Happiness As
Such

Ginsburg,
Natalia

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

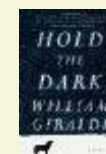


Hold the Dark

Giraldi, William

11/7/14

Wolves. I can't recall the last time I read a finely written novel as packed with evil and violence as the new one by William Giraldi titled, Hold the Dark. Set in Alaska where the wolves seem to be coming for the children, Giraldi explores close family ties in the remote tundra. Giraldi develops the characters so completely that before very long in the plot I understood behavior that I would have judged differently had I not allowed myself to let Giraldi unveil the story. Thanks to his fine writing, the setting and nature become characters in their own way. Not a single sentence made me smile, and that seems just right.

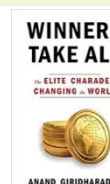


Winners Take
All: The Elite
Charade of
Changing the
World

Giridharadas,
Anand

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



Letters to a
Young Activist

Gitlin, Todd

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



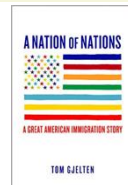
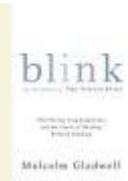
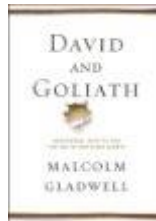
Leadership

Giuliani,
Rudolph W.

Mar 03

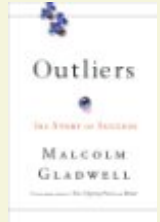
Like a Rock. Whether you like Rudy and his positions or not, you'll enjoy reading his 14 points for leadership and his many practical examples of leading effectively.



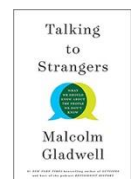
<u>Living With Honor: A Memoir</u>	Giunta, Salvatore A.	****	<u>2/9/13</u>	<p>Humility. Whether you know the story of Sal Giunta's military service or not, you're likely to be inspired by his memoir, <u>Living with Honor</u>. Sal is the first living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the end of the Vietnam War. In this finely written memoir, Sal tells the story of his life and service with modesty and humility. I think he uses "team" or "teamwork" far more often than references to his own actions. He humbly says that he did what any soldier would have done in the same situation. Read this memoir and then buy more copies for others.</p>	
<u>A Nation of Nations: A Great American Immigration Story</u>	Gjelten, Tom	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking</u>	Gladwell, Malcolm	***	<u>Apr 05</u>	<p>Decisions. Entertaining and thought-provoking exploration of how we make quick judgments that are sometimes spot on, and other times very flawed, thanks to our adaptive unconscious.</p>	
<u>David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants</u>	Gladwell, Malcolm	*****	<u>10/25/13</u>	<p>Advantages. Any reader who spends a little while with Malcolm Gladwell's book, <u>David and Goliath: Underdogs, Misfits, and the Art of Battling Giants</u>, will think about advantages and disadvantages in new ways. The conversational narrative style that Gladwell uses so expertly draws readers into the stories he presents, and helps us see an issue more comprehensively than we might have without his help. For me, the counter-intuitive exploration of class size in school was very interesting. The way in which Gladwell described how the shepherd David exploited his own strengths and Goliath's weaknesses helped me see a familiar story in a new way. I've frequently enjoyed the way in which Gladwell can take the research of others and</p>	

explain it to me and others with simplicity and clarity. That's a gift to readers who are looking for something to read quickly in small spurts.

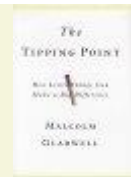
Opportunities. I'm hard pressed to think of an author better than Malcolm Gladwell at exploring an issue that seems familiar and obvious, but finds a way to express the issue in a new way. In Outliers, Gladwell challenges the notion of meritocracy by showing how no one ever succeeds on his or her own. Chance, luck and seizing opportunities are key to success: there's no substitute for being in the right place at the right time. On the other hand, individuals with high potential are unlikely to succeed if they are not given opportunities to use that potential. Another great insight in Outliers involves the importance of practice. Gladwell proposes that 10,000 hours of practice makes all the difference.



Structure. In his new book titled, Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know, Malcolm Gladwell uses a structure that has entertained readers of his earlier books. He takes a sociological nugget, in this case our inability to detect truth or deception when we encounter strangers. He selects an example, tells a story, then builds his case with multiple ways of looking at the issue. I listened to the audiobook which contains special features that come across as a mix of podcast and text. As always, Gladwell is observant, thoughtful and knows how to engage readers.



Gladwell presents a construct for examining social change and what causes some changes to become mainstream, overnight. If you're immersed in change, give this book a try.



Outliers: The Story of Success

Gladwell, Malcolm

12/20/08

Talking to Strangers: What We Should Know about the People We Don't Know

Gladwell, Malcolm

10/15/19

The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference

Gladwell, Malcolm

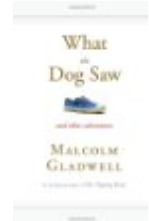
09/00

[What the Dog Saw](#)

Gladwell, Malcolm

[6/2/10](#)

Addictive. Malcolm Gladwell has assembled a collection of his articles from *The New Yorker* into a new book titled, [What the Dog Saw](#). Although I had read most of these articles when they were first published, they still felt fresh as I re-read them. Gladwell's writing style is always interesting and compelling, and his approach is often creative and unusual. The result is an enjoyable reading experience, especially for those readers who prefer short doses of reading on a variety of topics.

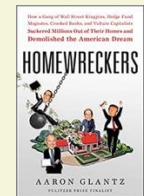


[Homewreckers: How a Gang of Wall Street Kingpins, Hedge Fund Magnates, Crooked Banks, and Vulture Capitalists Suckered Millions Out of Their Homes and Demolished the American Dream](#)

Glantz, Aaron

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



[Peach](#)

Glass, Emma

[2/22/18](#)

Words. I read Emma Glass' novel titled, [Peach](#), in a single sitting. My reaction to this odd novel when I finished was something like, "Huh. What was that all about?" I almost considered another reading but decided the novel would be no less odd on a second reading. The prose is lyrical, and the words carefully chosen for rhythm. Sample a page or two to see if you have an appetite for what Emma Glass offers in her odd debut novel.



<u>A House Among the Trees</u>	Glass, Julia	****	<u>7/6/17</u>	<p>Legacy. There are two components to the legacy of a creative artist: the life led and the work left behind. Julia Glass explores those elements in her novel titled, <u>A House Among the Trees</u>. Protagonist Tomasina (Tommy) Daulair spent the bulk of her life in the shadow of children's book artist Mort Lear. Glass explores the ways in which Tommy finds herself as executrix of Mort's estate and responsible for carrying out his wishes. Glass writes with great skill, develops interesting characters, and offers great insight into what legacy entails.</p>	
<u>And the Dark Sacred Night</u>	Glass, Julia	****	<u>5/16/14</u>	<p>Extended. For those readers who like to boil down fiction into a few plot categories, the novel by Julia Glass titled, <u>And the Dark Sacred Night</u>, has a journey plot. Protagonist Kit Noonan searches for his father, and on this journey discovers an extended family. Glass draws all these characters with great skill. I enjoyed the transformation of Kit from an unemployed art history professor whose life seemed directionless, to a fully functioning adult with strong ties to his extended family. For readers who like a good story line and well-developed characters, this novel is worth your time. I loved this exchange close to the end: "It's a perfectly connected world.' 'Well,' Kit laughed, 'imperfectly connected.' 'As we all are,' said Bruno, 'man, as we all are.'"</p>	
I See You Everywhere	Glass, Julia	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	

The Widower's Tale

Glass, Julia

2/4/11

Sweeping. Julia Glass constrained herself to just over 400 pages as she combines a truckload of contemporary issues with a busload of characters in her novel, The Widower's Tale. The widower is 70-year-old protagonist Percy Darling, who lives in a historic home on a pond outside Boston where he grieves the death of his wife decades earlier. From that sentence, I've already disclosed that Glass is dealing with the issues of aging and loss, which could be enough. To those, she adds love, eco-terrorism, historic preservation and adaptive reuse, cancer, illegal immigration, inter-generational relationships, gay marriage, health insurance, and others. All the issues come to life through characters that most readers will find interesting, and the time spent with them enjoyable. The sweeping scope that Glass tackles could be overwhelming, but somehow she pulls it off, leaving readers with ample satisfaction by the end of the novel.



Dow 36,000:
The New
Strategy for
Profiting from
the Coming Rise
in the Stock
Market

Glassman, James
K. and Hassert,
Kevin

DNR

10/99

Skip it.

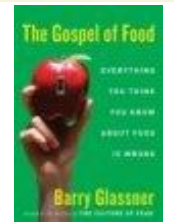






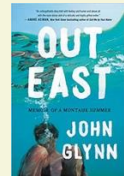
The Gospel of
Food

Glassner, Barry

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Anvil of God: Book One of the Carolingian Chronicles	Gleason, J. Boyce	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2014.	
The Information: A History, a Theory, a Flood	Gleick, James	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>Leading Geeks: How to Manage and Lead People Who Deliver Through Technology</u>	Glen, Paul	DNR	<u>Apr 03</u>	All Geek to Him. Geeks aren't as different from the rest of us as Glen proposes. There may be worse books on the business shelves this season, but we haven't read them (yet).	
Bloodland	Glynn, Alan	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>Out East: Memoir of a Montauk Summer</u>	Glynn, John	**	<u>4/16/20</u>	Shallow. My bride has known for decades that I will read anything. She continues to marvel that I actually do read anything. John Glynn's memoir titled, <u>Out East: Memoir of a Montauk Summer</u> , tells what he did one summer when he was in his twenties. Why should any reader care? Glynn faced truly first world situations in this recitation about a charmed life. While there is angst galore, the memoir is neither deep nor reflective. We read an account of a shallow young man finding his identity as he comes of age. He does this in a setting of great privilege. Read a sample before you commit to this memoir.	

[Escaping Salem: The Other Witch Hunt of 1692](#)

Godbeer, Richard

**

[Oct 05](#)

Demonizing. Using court records, author builds a narrative of what happened in a Stamford Connecticut trial of two women accused of being witches in 1692.



Borrowed Time

Goddard, Robert

Read, but not reviewed.

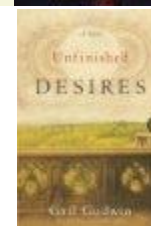


Unfinished Desires

Godwin, Gail

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2010



[Bias: A CBS Insider Exposes How the Media Distort the News](#)

Goldberg, Bernard

**

[Mar 02](#)

Author tells us what we already know: there's a liberal bias in network TV news. Repetitive often, but also interesting and well-written.

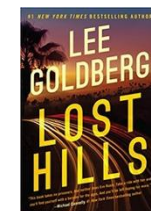


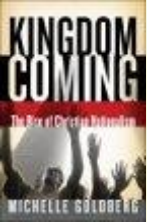


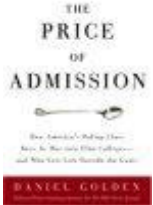
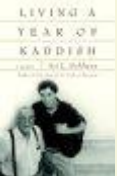
[Lost Hills](#)

Goldberg, Lee

[8/19/20](#)

Solo. Detective Eve Ronin gets the job done, even if she has to go solo to do it. Lee Goldberg's novel titled, [Lost Hills](#), entertains readers with a "feel like you're there" police procedural set in Los Angeles. I consider this book as a one-hour television drama for readers. The action moves at a fast clip and you don't have to think too much as the author entertains you. I liked the characters, especially Eve, and was entertained with enough twists to keep my interest to the end.



<u>Kingdom Coming</u>	Goldberg, Michelle	***	<u>Sept 06</u>	Cogent. Warning about the lack of common ground between secularists and evangelical Christians when it comes to science, politics, social services and justice. Whose country will America become?	
<u>Nothing Can Hurt You</u>	Goldberg, Nicola Maye	****	<u>10/19/20</u>	Narrators. Nicola Maye Goldberg structures her novel titled, <u>Nothing Can Hurt You</u> , as different views from characters, each impacted by a single event. After we listen to another's point of view, can our perspective change? What keeps us bound to some life event and how is it that we can become so intensely focused on a single thing? Can we appreciate that some individuals closer to the event that us can move on? The multiple narrators in this novel provide their points of view in Goldberg's finely written prose. What we make of each of them and of ourselves when we finish the novel is up to us.	
<u>The Chateau</u>	Goldberg, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
The Price of Admission	Golden, Daniel	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Living a Year of Kaddish</u>	Goldman, Ari L.	**	<u>Jan 04</u>	Grief. Anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one will find some empathy and consolation on the pages of this book. An added bonus is insight into modern American Orthodox Judaism.	

Say Her Name	Goldman, Francisco	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
<u>The Art of Political Murder: Who Killed the Bishop?</u>	Goldman, Francisco	***	<u>Dec 07</u>	<p>Darkness. Non-fictional detailed account of the carefully orchestrated murder of Guatemalan Bishop Juan Girardi by the army following his 1,400 page report on their massacre of 200,000 citizens over thirty years.</p> 
The divine husband : a novel	Goldman, Francisco	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Succession: Are You Ready?</u>	Goldsmith, Marshall	***	<u>6/25/09</u>	<p>Behavior. Prolific author and prominent executive coach Marshall Goldsmith presents a candid and plain-speaking guide to CEO succession in a new book in the Memo to the CEO leadership series from Harvard Business Press titled <u>Succession: Are You Ready?</u> Goldsmith structured his compact message in the form of memos on the key elements in succession: preparing yourself; helping select a successor; coaching the successor; and passing the baton. In each area, Goldsmith focuses on behavior and encourages CEOs to see the human aspects of succession in themselves and in their potential successors. Conversational in style, this is a quick book to read, filled with good advice that will take time for anyone involved in succession to absorb. While targeted to CEOs, managers at other levels in organizations will find practical and useful advice to apply in their own succession plans.</p> 

The Prince of Nantucket	Goldstein, Jan	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Gonzo Judaism	Goldstein, Niles	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2007	
36 Arguments for the Existence of God: A Work of Fiction	Goldstein, Rebecca	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2010	
Deadly Cure	Goldstone, Lawrence	*****	4/3/18 Pharma. Lawrence Goldstone grabs readers within the first few pages of his novel titled, Deadly Cure , with an engaging plot and interesting characters. While the novel is set in Brooklyn in 1899, the themes about economic inequality and the actions of drug companies could have been grabbed from today's headlines. Any reader interested in crime fiction is likely to enjoy this medical thriller. I was thoroughly entertained, especially when Teddy Roosevelt made a brief appearance.	
The Friar and the Cipher : Roger Bacon and the Unsolved Mystery of the Most Unusual	Goldstone, Lawrence	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2005	

Manuscript in
the World

The Rival
Queens:
Catherine de'
Medici, Her
Daughter
Marguerite de
Valois, and the
Betrayal that
Ignited a
Kingdom

Goldstone,
Nancy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2015.

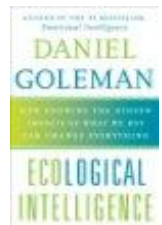


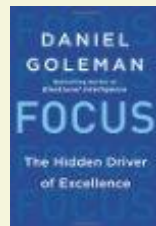
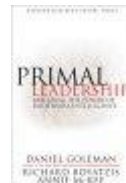

Ecological
Intelligence:
How Knowing
the Hidden
Impacts of What
We Buy Can
Change
Everything

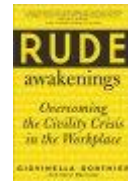
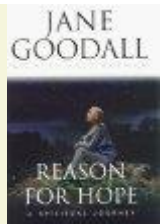
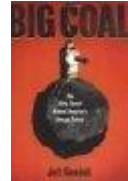
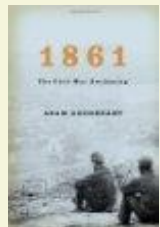
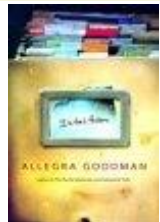
Goleman, Daniel

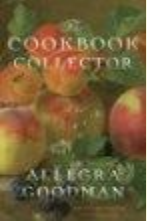
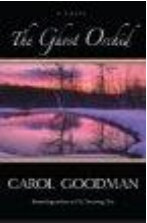

5/27/09

Transparency. I thought about viral marketing after I finished reading Daniel Goleman's latest book, Ecological Intelligence: How Knowing the Hidden Impacts of What We Buy Can Change Everything. In the same way that companies can use organized word of mouth campaigns to push products, consumers have an increasing number of ways to let their views be known and shared to influence products. Goleman proposes or anticipates the development of what he calls radical transparency by which all the contents and hidden costs of all products are visible to consumers. With that knowledge, sustainability becomes more likely, dangerous ingredients are eliminated, and we are more likely to have product choices that are green and safe. While I found Goleman's presentation to be pedantic at times, and preachy at others, the bulk of his book presents some clear thinking about one area in which consumers can take action: the decision of what to buy and what to avoid. Anyone making products will find Ecological Intelligence a useful book to read and compare organizational readiness for consumers that will be more activist in their expectations and actions.



<u>Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence</u>	Goleman, Daniel	**	<u>1/21/14</u>	<p>Rehash. Buried inside the 320 pages of Daniel Goleman's book, <u>Focus: The Hidden Driver of Excellence</u>, there's a great twenty page essay that would present the subject with clarity and focus. Instead, Goleman meanders through many chapters that came across to me as a rehash of what I've read before from him or other authors. While I enjoyed reading <i>Emotional Intelligence</i> as well as <i>Primal Leadership</i> many years ago, I found this book shallow and boring. I started rolling my eyes when he described the marshmallow study in detail. Readers who are unfamiliar with the subject may find this book more interesting than I did.</p>	
<u>Primal Leadership: Realizing the Power of Emotional Intelligence</u>	Goleman, Daniel, Richard Boyatzis and Annie McKee	*****	<u>Jun 02</u>	<p>Outstanding presentation of the effective use of leadership styles. Authors present a strong case for why organizations need resonant leaders, and provide practical, usable information to help one become a better leader.</p>	
<u>Machine Made: Tammany Hall and the Creation of Modern American Politics</u>	Golway, Terry	****	<u>11/24/14</u>	<p>Clout. I spent about six months reading Terry Golway's fine book titled, <u>Machine Made: Tammany Hall and the Creation of Modern American Politics</u>. I took my time to savor the story and reflect on how what Tammany created played out in the American political environment of 2014. Instead of the caricature I had of Tammany Hall before reading this book, I came away with increase knowledge and respect for the impact of Tammany Hall on politics in the United States. The divisions in society then and now are similar, and the nativists Tammany fought appear today in the form of those opposed to immigration reform. Anyone interested in politics will find a lot to enjoy and learn from reading this book.</p>	

<u>Rude Awakenings: Overcoming the Civility Crisis in the Workplace</u>	Gonthier, Giovinella	*	<u>Mar 03</u>	Excuse Me. More than you'd ever want to know about solving problems in the workplace. Readers who experience a civility crisis in the workplace will probably love this book. The rest of us are the case studies. Take a pass.	
<u>Reason for Hope</u>	Goodall, Jane	***	<u>1/00</u>	A great example of what we look for in the story of someone else. s life: a perspective that. s very unlike our own. Read it.	
<u>Big Coal</u>	Goodell, Jeff	***	<u>Dec 06</u>	Dirty. Journalist takes a complex subject and presents facts in a clear manner that may change some open minds about the degree to which coal is an alternative to foreign oil.	
<u>1861: The Civil War Awakening</u>	Goodheart, Adam	***	<u>2/3/12</u>	Forces. Readers of history looking for a fresh take on a familiar topic are those most likely to enjoy reading Adam Goodheart's <u>1861: The Civil War Awakening</u> . Goodheart uses the 450 pages of this book to explore an answer to the question of what forces drove peaceful Americans into a bloody civil war in a relatively short period of time. Goodheart breaks down the answer to the question through a series of stories about the people and events that transformed the entire nation. These stories are presented with insight and context and through writing that will engage most readers.	
Intuition	Goodman, Allegra	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	

<u>The Cookbook Collector</u>	Goodman, Allegra	***	<u>7/23/10</u>	<p>Pairs. Allegra Goodman's novel, <u>The Cookbook Collector</u>, tells the story of two sisters, one driven, the other dreamy. The contrasts of their lives and fortunes provide the raw material for exploring values, the dot-com bubble, terrorism, and the range of relationships. The dual stories are engaging and will provide entertainment for most readers, especially those who like romantic comedy paired with current events. At over 400 pages, there's enough relaxing reading here to last for a day at the beach, and then some.</p>	
The Ghost Orchid	Goodman, Carol	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>Leadership: In Turbulent Times</u>	Goodwin, Doris Kearns	*****	<u>3/6/19</u>	<p>Context. Historian Doris Kearns Goodwin knows how to present history to general readers: tell great stories to support key points and provide context for the time periods and people. She's spent decades of her life researching and writing about four American Presidents who she calls "her guys:" Abraham Lincoln, Teddy Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt and Lyndon Johnson. In her book titled, <u>Leadership: In Turbulent Times</u>, she uses the lens of leadership to examine the context in which these four men acquired the ability to help the country achieve great things. The presidents come alive through her writing and we understand their humanity and complexity. Their formative experiences in life, especially their struggles, provide them with the mettle to do a great job at leading a country through crisis. Readers who love history that's entertaining to read should consider reading this terrific book.</p>	

Team of Rivals

Goodwin, Doris
Kearns

Unread

Shelf of Reproach 2006

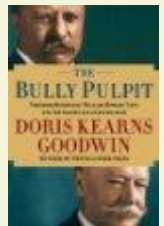


The Bully
Pulpit:
Theodore
Roosevelt,
William Howard
Taft, and the
Golden Age of
Journalism

Goodwin, Doris
Kearns

3/25/14

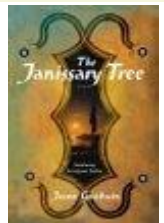
Setbacks. My patience in reading history can be fickle. I often abandon three hundred page books that I find too detailed, while I can read a book with a thousand pages that retains my interest throughout. I was totally engaged by Doris Kearns Goodwin's lively writing in her book titled, The Bully Pulpit: Theodore Roosevelt, William Howard Taft, and the Golden Age of Journalism. She relates stories set at the beginning of the twentieth century in ways that will inform and delight any reader with an interest in politics. She pays particular attention to the journalists of that era, especially those at McClure's, and the influence of those journalists on public policy. Teddy Roosevelt and Will Taft are presented with both breadth and insight. Both presidents and the journalists accomplish many great outcomes, and also suffer significant setbacks. Goodwin brings understanding about this exciting period to modern readers through her great writing.

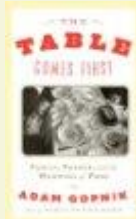
The Janissary
Tree



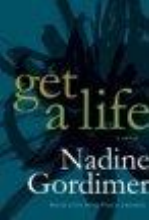
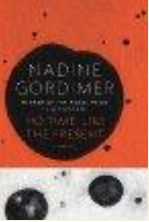
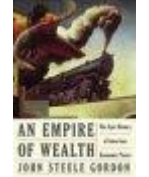
Goodwin, Jason

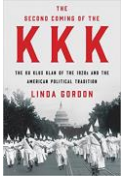
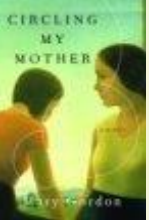
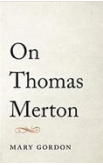
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Shelf of Ennui 2006




<u>A Thousand Small Sanities</u>	Gopnik, Adam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Angels and Ages: A Short Book About Darwin, Lincoln, and Modern Life	Gopnik, Adam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
<u>At the Strangers' Gate</u>	Gopnik, Adam	*****	<u>11/21/17</u>	Romance. My life, your life, and Adam Gopnik's life are very different. In his memoir titled, <u>At the Strangers' Gate</u> , Gopnik uses polished prose to sing a love song to Manhattan and to the incredible luck he has experienced from the time he first arrived. On every page, he entices readers with the places, people and feelings that have given him an enchanted life in New York City. Readers who love Manhattan and who have enjoyed Gopnik's writing are those most likely to appreciate reading about his ongoing romance with Manhattan.	
The King in the Window	Gopnik, Adam	***		Read, but not reviewed.	
<u>The Table Comes First: Family, France, and the Meaning of Food</u>	Gopnik, Adam	*****	<u>11/28/11</u>	Yummy. If one of your favorite meals is to savor a finely constructed sentence, sit down at the table and enjoy reading Adam Gopnik's <u>The Table Comes First: Family, France and the Meaning of Food</u> . Intelligent readers who appreciate fine writing and have a strong interest in food are those most likely to enjoy this book. Gopnik can alternate between taking food very seriously and poking fun at the	

				ways in which we inject meaning in food. There's much in this book about the history of restaurants, cooking for others, and the pleasure of sharing a table. If any of those topics interests you, thanks to Gopnik's talent, reading this becomes a feast.	
The Nature of the Future: Dispatches from the Socialstructured World	Gorbis, Marina	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>Beethoven Was One-Sixteenth Black</u>	Gordimer, Nadine	***	<u>Mar 08</u>	Origins. Thirteen provocative short stories riff on a theme about history and the past: open at your own peril. Octogenarian author still packs a punch.	
<u>Get a Life</u>	Gordimer, Nadine	***	<u>Feb 06</u>	Contamination. Complicated story of relationships, illness, and the contradictions of life in modern Johannesburg from Nobel-winning author.	
No Time Like the Present	Gordimer, Nadine	Unread		Other titles pushed this one to the back of the line. Shelf of Ennui 2012.	
An empire of wealth : the epic history of American economic power	Gordon, John Steele	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	

<u>The Great Game: The Emergence of Wall Street as a World Power 1653-2000</u>	Gordon, John Steele	***		Even if you have a low level of interest in economic history, reading Gordon makes the topics move quickly and lively.	
<u>The Second Coming of the KKK: The Ku Klux Klan of the 1920s and the American Political Tradition</u>	Gordon, Linda	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2018.	
<u>Circling My Mother</u>	Gordon, Mary	****	<u>Nov 07</u>	Release. Finely written memoir and biography uses various points of view to gain understanding about the author's mother, a complex woman who above all wanted to be released from her time and place.	
<u>On Thomas Merton</u>	Gordon, Mary	****	<u>12/20/19</u>	Writers. Most of my impressions of Thomas Merton were set in place fifty years ago, when I first read his works and read about him. Since that time, I've read him from time to time, and even listened to a recording of a retreat he gave to some nuns using "modern" technology: tape recordings he made in the Abbey of Gethsemane and mailed to the nuns. When I saw that the writer Mary Gordon has approached Merton from the perspective of his seven volumes of journals and the totality of his writing, my interest in Merton was renewed. Thanks to Gordon and her finely written book titled, <u>On Thomas Merton</u> , I understand Thomas Merton better as a person, as a writer, and the struggles he faced as a Trappist monk. I found one interesting tidbit that I had not expected to read.	

Merton's superiors in the Trappist community pressured him to publish as a source of community revenue, and that pressure didn't play well with his struggles to reveal himself through his writing. Thanks to Gordon's empathy with the struggles of a writer, readers can understand Merton's life in new ways.

<u>The Liar's Wife</u>	Gordon, Mary	****	<u>10/18/14</u>	<p>Awareness. I'm a big fan of novellas. Structured as tightly as a short story, finely written novellas can uncover insights about human behavior without requiring the creation of an entire world as is usually done with a novel. Mary Gordon offers four finely written novellas in her new book titled, <u>The Liar's Wife</u>. Gordon explores what happens when individuals experience higher levels of awareness, especially about suffering. Readers who enjoy fine literary prose will find a lot to enjoy in each of these novellas.</p>	
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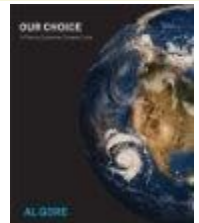
[Our Choice: A Plan to Solve the Climate Crisis](#)

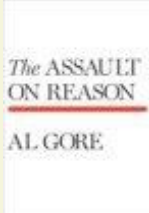
Gore, Al

Ennui

[1/16/10](#)

I skimmed this, and read the captions for many illustrations. The whole book was too textbook-like for my liking, so I decided to take a pass.



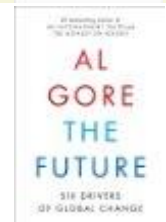
The Assault on Reason	Gore, Al	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
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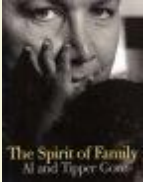


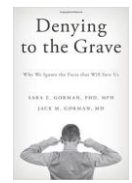
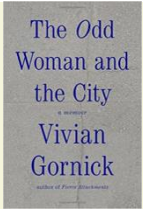

The Future: Six Drivers of Global Change

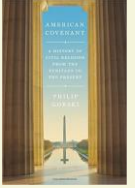
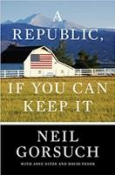

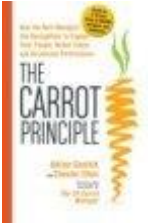
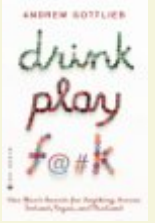
Gore, Al

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



<u>The Spirit of Family</u>	Gore, Al and Tipper	**	<u>Feb 03</u>	256,000 words. 256 pictures on the theme of family show the diversity and uniqueness of American families.	
<u>Sammy's hill : a novel</u>	Gore, Kristin	***	<u>Jan 05</u>	Capitol. Witty debut novel from former VP's daughter. Young, idealistic protagonist works obsessively for member of Congress, tries to have a love life, and becomes endearing to readers.	
Sammy's House	Gore, Kristin	**		Read and not reviewed.	
<u>Denying to the Grave: Why We Ignore the Facts That Will Save Us</u>	Gorman, Sara E. and Jack M. Gorman	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>The Odd Woman and the City: A Memoir</u>	Gornick, Vivian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
The Solitude of Self	Gornick, Vivian	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	

<u>American Covenant : A History of Civil Religion from the Puritans to the Present</u>	Gorski, Philip	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>A Republic, If You Can Keep It</u>	Gorsuch, Neil M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
<u>Practical Negotiating</u>	Gosselin, Thomas B.	*****	<u>June 07</u>	Systematic. A workshop on negotiation in print form, field tested by the author through decades of experience. Change your thinking and actions on negotiating after reading this useful book.	
<u>The Carrot Principle</u>	Gostick, Adrian and Chester Elton	***	<u>June 07</u>	Recognition. Packed with loads of ideas, based on research results about what works, on how to make workplace recognition effective.	
<u>Drink, Play, F@#k: One Man's Search for Anything Across Ireland, Las Vegas, and Thailand</u>	Gottlieb, Andrew	*	<u>2/12/10</u>	Adolescent. Parody can be the funniest of all types of humor, so it was with high expectations that when I saw the book cover of Andrew Gottlieb's, <u>Drink, Play, F@#k</u> , as a match to Elizabeth Gilbert's popular <i>Eat, Pray, Love</i> , I picked it up with relish. I had given Gilbert a two-star rating, and never bothered to write a review. Following a divorce, protagonist Bob Sullivan decides to let himself go loose for the first time in his life, and see what happens. His first step was to drink, and he did that with gusto in Ireland, meeting compatible characters and telling stories to all who would listen. I wish this book had such gusto, but the drinking episode came across as	

				<p>maudlin. The pace picked up when Bob heads to Vegas to play, and along the way meets a guru who guides him through the Vegas games. The gambling, golfing and playing had little humor and unexceptional stories. At just the right time, the guru suggests the pleasures of Thailand, and Bob ends up in a remote resort to enjoy great physical satisfaction, until a car accident. While I laughed at times, there just wasn't enough laughter to make the full parody work. By the end of the book, I couldn't care less what happened to Bob.</p>	
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Maybe You Should Talk to Someone: A Therapist, HER Therapist, and Our Lives Revealed

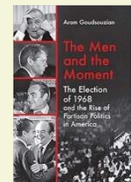
Gottlieb, Lori

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.



<p><u>The Men and the Moment: The Election of 1968 and the Rise of Partisan Politics in America</u></p>	<p>Goudsouzian, Aram</p>	<p>****</p>	<p><u>10/15/19</u></p>	<p>Roots. Fans of recent American history are those readers most likely to enjoy the brisk examination of the election of 1968 by University of Memphis professor Aram Goudsouzian in a book titled, <u>The Men and the Moment: The Election of 1968 and the Rise of Partisan Politics in America</u>. He structures the book into chapters featuring the major contenders in the presidential election. Goudsouzian reveals the roots of our current political divide in the people and events of 1968. He captures the essence of the personalities of the key players and offers a text accessible to any general reader.</p>	
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The Most Exclusive Club

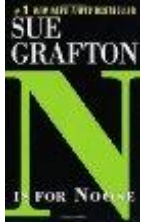


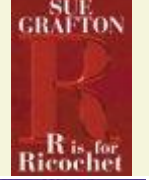


Gould, Lewis L.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2006



The Richness of Life	Gould, Stephen Jay	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2007	
<u>Triumph and Tragedy in Mudville: A Lifelong Passion for Baseball</u>	Gould, Stephen Jay	***	<u>Oct 03</u>	Champion. Gould loved baseball almost as much as paleontology, and his writing on the sport soars. Posthumous collection of essays appeals both to fans of baseball and fans of fine writing.	
<u>Little Sister</u>	Gowdy, Barbara	****	<u>8/17/18</u>	Unusual. I almost stopped reading Barbara Gowdy's novel, <u>Little Sister</u> , because I became frustrated with sorting out reality from dreams. Gowdy's fine writing kept me turning pages, and before long I came to enjoy this exploration of the deep bonds that attach us to those with whom we have the closest relationships. For readers patient with what can seem unusual, there are rewards to be discovered in this finely written novel.	
The Great Divide	Grace, Stephen and Jim Havey	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
<u>The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11</u>	Graff, Garrett M.	****	<u>2/21/20</u>	Voices. I was overwhelmed as I read Garrett M. Graff's book titled, <u>The Only Plane in the Sky: An Oral History of 9/11</u> . He presents many voices telling their story of that day as they lived it. This is a book about our human story, the individual story, the ordinary people who dealt with an extraordinary event in their own personal way. Be prepared to share emotions on the pages of this book. The range of voices is vast, and the feelings are intense. Every day unfolds in its own way, and this historic day unfolded for many people in both ordinary and extraordinary ways.	

N is for Noose	Grafton, Sue	***		More than halfway through the alphabet, these Kinsey Millhone novels are well-written and quick to read.	
O is for Outlaw	Grafton, Sue	***		Another in the alphabet series. Enjoyable as always.	
Q is for Quarry	Grafton, Sue	***	Dec 02	Junk Food. Detective Kinsey Millhone returns to eat loads of junk food and solve an old murder that leads her to connections with her own family.	
R is For Ricochet	Grafton, Sue	**	Oct 04	Rerun. After so many alphabet letters, much of this sounded familiar, and not in a good way. Some new interesting characters, but not the best mystery in this long series. Wait for S.	
S is for Silence	Grafton, Sue	**	Mar 06	Slow. 19 th installment in Kinsey Millhone alphabet series, set in 1987 involving a crime from 1953. Flashbacks, slow character development, and boredom will face many readers, and Millhone's reprise and general quirkiness will please others.	
T is for Trespass	Grafton, Sue	**	June 08	Theft. The 20 th installment of the Kinsey Millhone series pits the detective against a cunning adversary, as Grafton explores both elder abuse and identity theft. The ending resolved things, but without adequate satisfaction to earn a third star.	

U is for Undertow

Grafton, Sue

12/21/10

Plodding. The 21st Kinsey Millhone novel from Sue Grafton is titled U is for Undertow. One pleasure of reading a character-based series comes from a reader's familiarity with the personality and quirks of the protagonist. Now age 37, Kinsey is well-known to fans, and her actions in this novel remain true to character as she struggles to get to the bottom of a case involving memory. While set in 1988, the events of 1967 play a major role in the case. An added feature in this novel is more information about Kinsey's own family and childhood, which adds to her depth as a character. I found the pace of the novel to be a bit on the slow side, but readers who are entertained by mysteries and like strong female protagonists are likely to enjoy this novel. Those addicted to the series are already looking forward to the next installment.



V is for Vengeance

Grafton, Sue

3/27/12

Pacing. The latest and twenty-second novel in the Kinsey Millhone series from Sue Grafton is titled, V is for Vengeance. For the past thirty years, Grafton has rewarded patient readers with entertaining episodes in the life of a California private detective. Grafton's pacing in the novel and in the series proceeds at a moderate rate, allowing fans to savor every page. In the current offering, Kinsey stumbles on a crime ring and pursues resolution with vigor. Readers who like detective fiction can start here or anywhere and find pleasure.



W Is For Wasted

Grafton, Sue

10/8/13

Waiting. Sue Grafton is coming close to an ending for her long-running detective series featuring Kinsey Millhone. I zipped through the 23rd and latest installment, W Is For Wasted, in a flash, and came away satisfied. Fans like me who've been reading this series for decades spend more time waiting for the next release than we do on reading. Perhaps when the series is complete, there will be an e-book version of the whole collection from A to



Z for a binge reading extravaganza. In the meantime, the latest installment continues to develop the character of Kinsey Millhone, as readers learn with her about new family connections. Grafton knows how to please readers who like crime fiction and this series and this installment deliver reading satisfaction.

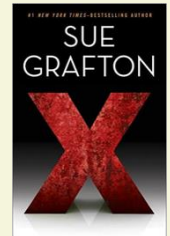
Loyalty. Loyal readers who have come this close to the end of the alphabetic detective novels by Sue Grafton will read to the end no matter what. Private detective Kinsey Millhone returns in the 24th installment of the series a novel titled, X. Unlike the earlier novels, for which the letter was “for” something, the current title is just a letter. There’s a serial killer in this novel, and Kinsey could be the next victim. This novel may have an extra hundred pages or so than what was necessary to solve the case, but like a long goodbye, I didn’t mind the extra pages, as I will miss Kinsey when Grafton wraps up the series. Had this been the first novel, I might have never read another. Having come this far, I found myself entertained, and willing to cut Grafton plenty of slack.

Bittersweet. I read Sue Grafton’s novel, Y Is For Yesterday, within days of its release. It’s been a while since her last Kinsey Millhone novel, and the latest is the next-to-last in the long running alphabetic series. The novel is set in 1989 but a murder case from 1979 is what prompts Kinsey to be hired, and ultimately placed in the thick of events that are perilous. Every fan of the series will take the time to savor this penultimate installment with a bittersweet sense that the series will be coming to an end very soon. It’s a long goodbye to a great protagonist and a talented author who has given lots of readers decades of entertainment.

X

Grafton, Sue

12/18/15

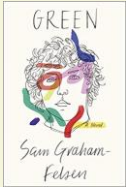


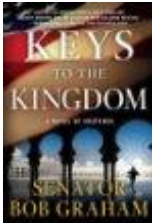
Y Is For Yesterday

Grafton, Sue


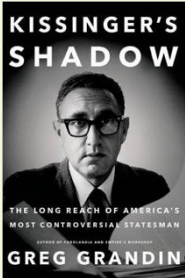

10/18/17



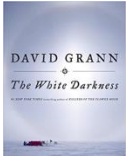
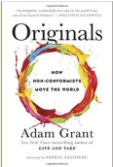
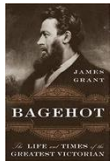
<u>Green</u>	Graham-Felsen, Sam	*****	<u>1/23/18</u>	<p>Friendship. Sam Graham-Felson set his debut novel titled, <u>Green</u>, in his Boston hometown in 1992. Protagonist David Greenfeld is one of the few white kids at King middle school and puberty is not gentle. Graham explores David's friendship with Marlon Wellings, a young black man from the nearby projects, and their relationship leads to an understanding about privilege. I had some trouble settling into the novel because of Graham's decision to depict the middle school patois in what is either accurate to the time or totally lame; I'm too old to understand which. I was reminded of the challenge I felt on reading Huck Finn for the first time. That said, I enjoyed this novel and its humor, the sensitive and light treatment of race and privilege, and the universal experience of growing up. All the characters are well-developed and multi-dimensional.</p>	
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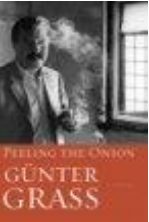

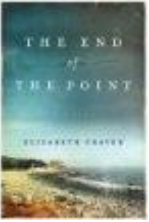

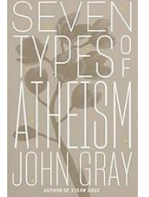
<u>Keys to the Kingdom</u>	Graham, Bob	*	<u>8/19/11</u>	<p>Embarrassing. I should be the ideal reader for Senator Bob Graham's debut novel, <u>Keys to the Kingdom</u>. I am entertained by spy thrillers and I have a strong interest in politics. While I read this novel from beginning to end, I winced often from the bad writing in the form of stilted dialog and erratic plot fits and starts that felt like being a passenger in a car with standard transmission driven by a novice driver. Protagonist Tony Ramos came across as one dimensional and unreal. My expectations for the novel were high given the author's experience on the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence. An editor or a ghostwriter could have made a big difference. It seems no one told the Senator and former Florida governor that he's not a writer.</p>	
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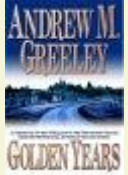
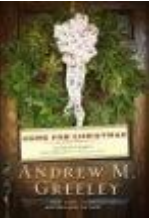
<u>By His Own Rules- The Ambitions, Successes, and Ultimate Failures of Donald Rumsfeld</u>	Graham, Bradley	Shelf of Ennui	<u>3/26/10</u>	Raw. I've had Bradley Graham's massive biography of Donald Rumsfeld sitting around for almost a year. Titled <u>By His Own Rules</u> , this book provides an extensive look at one of the most beguiling characters of recent decades. I plodded through about 250 pages, and then stalled out. I had come to the point at which Rummy became the Secretary of Defense. Probably because so much of what happened under his tenure remains raw, I didn't have the enthusiasm to keep reading, despite several attempts. More hearty readers might plow on, but my heart wasn't in it.	
<u>Dear Chairman: Boardroom Battles and the Rise of Shareholder Activism</u>	Gramm, Jeff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2016.	
<u>Claire DeWitt and the Bohemian Highway</u>	Gran, Sara	***	<u>7/26/13</u>	Persistence. I often enjoy reading detective fiction because of a well-developed complex protagonist. I never quite warmed up to detective Claire DeWitt when I read Sara Gran's second novel to feature this character titled, <u>Claire DeWitt and the Bohemian Highway</u> . DeWitt is very persistent in this story set in the San Francisco area. Her former boyfriend, Paul, has been murdered, and she doggedly pursues every possible lead as she gets to the bottom of what happened. Interspersed with the current plot is a parallel story from Claire's teenage years. Along the way, Claire consumes a lot of cocaine, which can't be great for what Poirot calls the "little gray cells." While I've enjoyed plenty of novels with troubled protagonists, for some reason or another, Claire DeWitt never quite came to life for me as a complete character. I persisted to the end of this novel, but probably won't go back to	


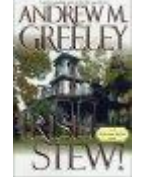
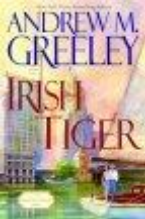
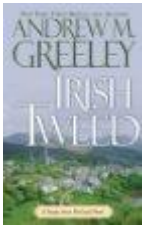
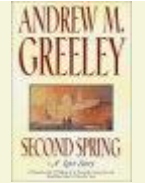
			read the debut, not am I likely to read the next one in the series.	
The Infinite Blacktop	Gran, Sara	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2019.	
Kissinger's Shadow: The Long Reach of America's Most Controversial Statesman	Grandin, Greg	****	2/15/16 Policy. Historians have good reasons to be fascinated by Henry Kissinger. Thousands of pages have been written this year alone presenting viewpoints drawn from the extensive documents both by and about Kissinger. NYU Professor Greg Grandin's book titled, Kissinger's Shadow: The Long Reach of America's Most Controversial Statesman , is one of the shorter contributions to the Kissinger saga, and offers one of the clearest viewpoints. Things are not often the way they appear to be, and what is said in the open does not always match what happens behind closed doors. Grandin offers his analysis of the Kissinger record, and how facts were sometimes dismissed and lessons not learned in pursuit of policy to promote the interests of the United States in world affairs. The subtitle reflects the core of what Grandin contributes: Kissinger's policies remain influential in contemporary foreign affairs.	
Animals Make Us Human: Creating the Best Life for Animals	Grandin, Temple	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2009. I stopped at page 137.	

<u>Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI</u>	Grann, David	****	<u>7/14/17</u>	<p>History. One more gap in my education was filled in after reading David Grann's finely written book titled, <u>Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI</u>. I had known nothing about the Osage prior to reading this book, let alone knowing nothing about the crimes committed against the members of this tribe. Fans of true crime will love reading this book, as will any reader interested in history. If all historical accounts were written this well, everybody will happily learn about our past.</p>	
<u>The Devil and Sherlock Holmes: Tales of Murder, Madness, and Obsession</u>	Grann, David	***	<u>3/26/10</u>	<p>Eclectic. David Grann's book, <u>The Devil and Sherlock Holmes</u>, will appeal to all readers who enjoy fine writing about an astonishing array of real people. In fiction, many of these characters would be dismissed as implausible, certainly as more extreme that we would see in the real world. Grann chooses people whose work or lives grabbed his attention, and he uses his writing skills to present these people and their stories to readers in ways that fit a short form well, and for me, left me wanting to learn more about many of these people.</p>	
<u>The Lost City of Z: A Tale of Deadly Obsession in the Amazon</u>	Grann, David	***	<u>4/25/09</u>	<p>Dogged. David Grann presents parallel accounts of expeditions to the Amazon in his new book, <u>The Lost City of Z</u>. Most of the book presents Percy Fawcett, a British explorer, and his early twentieth century treks into uncharted depths of the Amazon. Grann supplements those expeditions with background information on the ups and downs of Fawcett's life. On Fawcett's 1925 expedition in search of El Dorado, which he called Z, neither he nor his son, Jack, returned. Other explorers who tried to retrace Fawcett's journey also never returned. The parallel story is Grann's own obsession with Fawcett and in trying to find out what happened, and where the city of Z might be. Unlike Fawcett who trained to be an explorer and</p>	

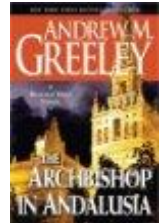
				<p>who thrived in the wilderness, Grann hadn't even spent time camping. There's drama in both these stories, and Grann presents them with fine writing, backed by solid research. Better than most fiction thrillers, you'll want to keep turning pages to find out what happens.</p> <p>Extreme. Many of us know the story of Ernest Shackleton and his journeys around the South Pole. David Grann tells the story of a Shackleton admirer, Henry Worsley, in a book titled, The White Darkness. Worsley felt connected to Shackleton throughout his life, in part because he was related to someone who went to the South Pole with Shackleton. After retiring from the British army, Worsley teamed up with two other descendants of the Shackleton crew and went off to the South Pole in 2008. Still not satisfied with his obsession, Worsley returned in 2015 to walk alone across Antarctica. I read this book on cold days in Chicago and appreciated in a very small way the extremes that Worsley faced on his journeys. Grann is a great writer and presented this story earlier in <i>The New Yorker</i>. I was as captivated on my second reading as I was on the first, at least as engaged as one can be in the warmth of one's home.</p>	
The White Darkness	Grann, David	****	12/13/18		
Originals: How Non-Conformists Move the World	Grant, Adam	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
Bagehot: The Life and Times of the Greatest Victorian	Grant, James	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	

The Clothes on Their Backs	Grant, Linda	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2009	
Peeling the Onion	Grass, Gunter	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
Awake	Graver, Elizabeth	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
The End of the Point	Graver, Elizabeth	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2013.	
<u>How to Get What You Want and Want What You Have</u>	Gray, John	***		I confess that I've never read <i>Men Are From Mars</i> , but picked this one up and found it fascinating.	
<u>Seven Types of Atheism</u>	Gray, John	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2019.	

<u>Laura & Emma</u>	Greathead, Kate	****	<u>4/23/18</u>	<p>Privilege. Novels introduce readers to characters that often live in unfamiliar places and whose behavior can seem exotic until a talented writer reveals something universal about life experience. Kate Greathead's debut novel titled, <u>Laura & Emma</u>, is set in Manhattan, partly on the Upper East Side, and presents characters whose lives are so immersed in privilege that they can't recognize it. Protagonist Laura is a single mom and her daughter, Emma, has many people in her life who love her. While Laura conveys an aura of independence, she seems to take for granted all the benefits she receives from her wealthy parents. Greathead's prose is often very finely written, and the characters are complex and interesting. I kept thinking about everything in my life that I take for granted, and in that way, I found unexpected connections to these characters.</p>	
Emerald Magic: Great Tales of Irish Fantasy	Greeley, Andrew M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2004	
<u>Golden Years</u>	Greeley, Andrew M.	**	<u>Apr 05</u>	<p>Transitions. In the latest O'Malley family saga, Vangie dies and Chucky and all cope with grief and face new crises. Uplifting and full of rampant optimism.</p>	
Home for Christmas	Greeley, Andrew M.	***		Read and not reviewed.	

Irish Crystal	Greeley, Andrew M.	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
Irish Stew!	Greeley, Andrew M.	*	Apr 02	Two parallel stories don't add up to one good mystery novel.	
Irish Tiger	Greeley, Andrew M.	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
Irish Tweed	Greeley, Andrew M.	***	11/18/10	<p>Bullying. There's a feel-good quality to every novel written by Chicago priest Father Andrew Greeley. In Irish Tweed, Greeley presents a modern story of bullies going after the good guys, alternated with a historical tale of a woman overcoming opponents. The strong characters are drawn in ways that highlight the best and worst of human nature, and Greeley always shows how it is the best of our humanity that rises to the occasion and overcomes both evil and those who try to bully or smother goodness. Readers who like the satisfaction of reading a novel in which goodness triumphs over evil will find pleasure on these pages.</p>	
Second Spring	Greeley, Andrew M.	**	June 03	<p>O'Malley's Return. Greeley reprises the crazy O'Malleys and sends them to Rome in 1978 for two papal conclaves. Relaxing, predictable, and entertaining with clean and wholesome intimate relationships.</p>	

Vulnerability. Andrew Greeley's latest Blackie Ryan novel is titled [The Archbishop in Andalusia](#), and as indicated has Ryan in Spain doing the same sleuthing as he would at home in Chicago. While Blackie is attending a conference, the cardinal of Seville asks him to help prevent the murder of Duchess Doña Teresa Maria. The duchess is emeshed in a dysfunctional family, and has made enemies, leaving her vulnerable to mischief. There's the formula in Blackie Ryan novels: a battle between good and evil; a puzzle for smart Blackie to solve; strong relationships to prevail over evil, and by the end, love conquers all. The sights, sounds and relationships in Spain provide a new twist for Ryan and Greeley fans. The Chicago connection endures, however, since Blackie is accompanied by his nephew, Joseph, and almost-fiancee, Peggy Anne Nolan, and Blackie's sister has asked him nudge this relationship along, which he does in his own way, for sure, for sure. As always, a reader comes away from a Greeley novel feeling good about themselves, other people, and the world.



[The Archbishop in Andalusia](#)

Greeley, Andrew M.

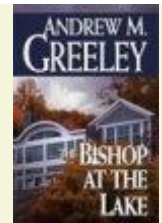
[1/3/09](#)

[The Bishop at the Lake](#)

Greeley, Andrew M.

[Jan 08](#)

Grand. Another Bishop Blackie Ryan novel; this time he has to solve a mystery of how someone tried to kill a fellow bishop who was inside a locked room. A predictable and comfortable story, well-told.



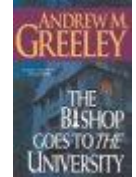
[The Bishop Goes to The University](#)

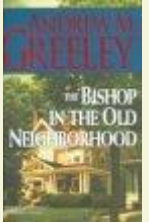
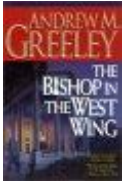
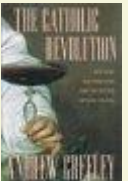
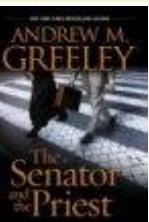
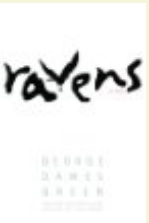
Greeley, Andrew M.

**

[Nov 03](#)

Academic. Greeley reprises detective Bishop Blackie Ryan who solves a murder mystery at *The* university (which all know is the University of Chicago). Pleasant and entertaining, but dialog gets tedious after a while.



The Bishop in the Old Neighborhood	Greeley, Andrew M.	**		Read, but not reviewed.	
The Bishop in the West Wing	Greeley, Andrew M.	***	Oct 02	Unnecessarily Gracious. Feel-good mystery in which Bishop Blackie Ryan helps newly elected Democratic and populist President Jack McGurn get off to a good start.	
The Catholic Revolution: New Wine, Old Wineskins and the Second Vatican Council	Greeley, Andrew M.	***	Aug 04	Bursting. Informed interpretation of decades of data provides insight into the root causes of the current crisis in the Catholic Church. Data and observation lead author to theory, and book conveys all three.	
The Senator and the Priest	Greeley, Andrew M.	***	June 07	Siblings. Prolific and life-affirming novelist presents the rivalry between a freshman liberal senator and his older brother, a conservative priest, as an opportunity for healing in a family.	
Ravens	Green, George Dawes	**	8/28/09	Lucky. Psychological novels can be acquired taste, and some readers are likely to be put off by the terror and insanity within George Dawes Green's novel, Ravens . Shaw McBride and Romeo Zderko are driving from Ohio to Florida for a vacation. They stumble on the community where the Boatwright family has just won a \$318 million dollar lottery. The lucky winners find their family held hostage to McBride's demand for them to give him half their winnings or he'll have Zderko kill family members. The novel is at its best in maintaining the psychological tension among several characters strained to the point of	

			breakdown. At its worst, the behavior of most characters becomes so inconsistent and without thought that the tension breaks under a reader's incredulity at certain behavior.	
<u>A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor</u>	Green, Hank	****	<u>10/12/20</u> Power. Hank Green concludes a story of technology, power and submission that he began in his debut novel, <i>An Absolutely Remarkable Thing</i> , with his novel titled, <u>A Beautifully Foolish Endeavor</u> . The Carls who appeared as robots in the first novel have disappeared, and Green explores the perspectives of multiple recurring characters as they adjust to the new world order and the ways in which power has been concentrated. Fans of the first novel are those readers most likely to enjoy the continuation of this engaging and thought-provoking story.	
<u>An Absolutely Remarkable Thing</u>	Green, Hank	****	<u>11/17/18</u> Heroine. The debut novel by Hank Green titled, <u>An Absolutely Remarkable Thing</u> , will attract many different readers for lots of good reasons. Those who follow Hank's YouTube videos with his brother, John, will want to see what fiction from Hank looks like. Fans of science fiction will enjoy the plot in which giant figures appear at the same time in dozens of cities around the world. Readers who enjoy a well-told story will like the ways in which twenty-three-year-old protagonist and heroine April May deals with unexpected fame thanks to social media. Green tells the story with wit, empathy and insight into human behavior. I enjoyed every aspect of this novel.	
<u>Loving</u>	Green, Henry	Unread	Shelf of Ennui 2017	

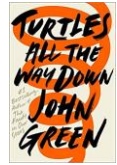
<u>Tempting Fate</u>	Green, Jane	***	5/9/14	<p>Selfish. Have you ever taken a wrong turn while driving and decided to keep going to see where the road leads? I certainly have, with mixed results. After a dozen or so pages into reading Jane Green's novel, <u>Tempting Fate</u>, I realized my wrong turn. I confused this author with Jane Casey, whose crime fiction I've enjoyed. Instead, I stumbled onto this popular novel often classified as chick-lit. Instead of accepting my error and tossing the book aside, I kept reading, curious about a genre that I don't pursue intentionally. What I found was an unappealing protagonist, Gabby, whose selfishness causes her life to turn upside down. She risks her twenty year marriage and faces consequences. Now that I've taken this road once, I know a little more than I did before about this genre. I may not travel this road often, but I found it more engaging than I expected.</p>	
<u>To Have and To Hold</u>	Green, Jane	***	Sep 04	<p>Reality. Well-developed, complex and interesting characters figure out what they want in life and from each other and act to achieve what they want through commitment, infidelity and manipulation.</p>	
<u>The Fault in Our Stars</u>	Green, John	****	1/13/14	<p>Universal. A friend recommended that I read John Green's novel, <u>The Fault in Our Stars</u>, and I'm glad she did. Green explores concerns that are universal and cross-generational. Am I loved? Does my life have meaning? Will anyone remember me after I'm dead? The protagonists are teenage cancer survivors, Hazel and Augustus, who fall in love. Green deals with pain and loss while avoiding pathos or melodrama. This is a Young Adult novel that may appeal to any adult who thinks about those universal concerns. This novel celebrates life, and I enjoyed it thoroughly.</p>	

[Turtles All the Way Down](#)

Green, John

[1/4/18](#)

Anxiety. Not many books provide an opportunity for conversation about mental illness especially among young adults. John Green tackles the topic of anxiety and obsessive-compulsive disorders in his novel titled, [Turtles All the Way Down](#). Protagonist Aza Holmes is a finely drawn character with OCD. The friendships and resilience that are presented in this novel will resonate with many young readers. While Green tugged at my heartstrings in his earlier writing, this time out I found the sentiments fell a bit flat.

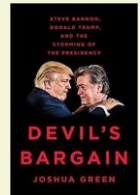


[Devil's Bargain: Steve Bannon, Donald Trump, and the Storming of the Presidency](#)

Green, Joshua

[9/11/17](#)

Timing. It was a strange coincidence that I finished reading Joshua Green's book titled, [Devil's Bargain: Steve Bannon, Donald Trump, and the Storming of the Presidency](#), on the day Steve Bannon was fired from his job at the White House. Journalist Green tells a lively story in this book, and thanks to reading it, I was not at all surprised at Bannon's brief tenure working inside the Trump administration. Readers with a strong interest in politics are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.

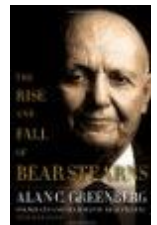


[The Rise and Fall of Bear Stearns](#)

Greenberg, Alan C.

[8/7/10](#)

Blunt. Ace Greenberg's memoir, [The Rise and Fall of Bear Stearns](#), fits into the pattern of his earlier book, *Memos from the Chairman*: blunt, pithy, and sometimes humorous. In this short book (under 200 pages), Greenberg recounts his career without much detail or elaboration. This matter-of-fact style communicates his point of view with great clarity, but leaves readers with more questions than answers. For about half the book, Greenberg refutes the version of events former Bear CEO Jimmy Cayne revealed in *House of Cards*. The bluntness abounds in those parts. When it came to refuting Cayne's recollection of his early compensation at the company, Greenberg's summary was "I think not." While Greenberg positions himself as above



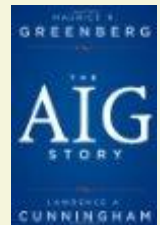
reproach and always interested in merit, employees, shareholders and the survival of the firm, his failure to uncover the character and shortcomings of key executives comes across as nothing short of Shakespearean tragedy.

Robbed. Some readers will know a lot about what led to the bailout of AIG, and others may not know much. Some readers know that former New York Attorney General Elliot Spitzer focused his prosecutorial attention on former AIG Chairman and CEO Hank Greenberg. All readers should be aware that a new book by Greenberg and Lawrence R. Cunningham titled [The AIG Story](#) lays out Greenberg's version of what happened. In summary: Greenberg says he was robbed of his job and of a considerable piece of his fortune. This is a great book for any reader who likes business stories and the practice of management. Greenberg built AIG into a huge and profitable company. He was forced out of that job because of political pressure. Under his successor, the company came to the brink of failure and required a huge government bailout. We may never learn the complete story, but this version of events is interesting and entertaining.

[The AIG Story](#)

Greenberg,
Maurice R. and
Lawrence R.
Cunningham

[7/16/13](#)

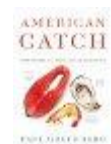


Health. Eat American seafood. That's the pitch from Paul Greenberg in his book titled, [American Catch: The Fight for Our Local Seafood](#). He focuses on oysters, shrimp and sockeye salmon, and tells of what happened in the past, what's being done today, and what needs to be done in the future. This book is a manifesto on the need to ensure the health and integrity of our coastal ecosystems. Greenberg rails on how we export vast amounts of healthy salmon and import less healthy seafood raised abroad. Hence the message: eat American seafood. That's the practical advice that need not

[American Catch:
The Fight for
Our Local
Seafood](#)

Greenberg, Paul

[8/26/14](#)



come from a book, but readers interested in public health and public policy are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.

Choices. Paul Greenberg presents both problems and alternative solutions in his new book, Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food. Greenberg presents the history and current situation with four fish: salmon, cod, tuna and bass. He explores sustainability and the issue of wild and farmed fish. He presents what he calls four clearly achievable goals for wild fish: a reduction in fishing effort; no-catch areas of the ocean; protect unmanageable species, and protect the bottom of the food chain. This is a readable and informative presentation of an interesting issue. Any reader who's interested in fish, science or more knowledge about what we eat, will likely enjoy this book.



Four Fish: The Future of the Last Wild Food

Greenberg, Paul

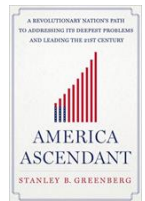
9/22/10

America Ascendant: A Revolutionary Nation's Path to Addressing Its Deepest Problems and Leading the 21st Century

Greenberg, Stanley B.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.



The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve

Greenblatt, Stephen

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

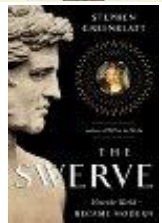


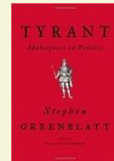
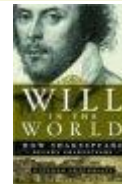
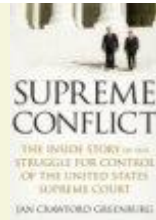

The Swerve: How the World Became Modern

Greenblatt, Stephen


Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2012.



<u>Tyrant: Shakespeare on Politics</u>	Greenblatt, Stephen	****	<u>9/5/18</u>	<p>Insights. While I hate the staging of Shakespeare's plays in non-traditional ways, I love the ways in which those settings reveal the wisdom and insights about life from the plays that cross all time periods. In his book titled, <u>Tyrant: Shakespeare on Politics</u>, Stephen Greenblatt focuses on the ways in which Shakespeare presented tyrants and populism in different plays. With many countries run by autocrats today, the insights about behavior and institutions from this book are timely. Teachers can use this book as another example of why Shakespeare is relevant, and why students should experience a wide range of these works.</p>	
<u>Will in the World: How Shakespeare Became Shakespeare</u>	Greenblatt, Stephen	***	<u>Mar 05</u>	<p>Context. Scholar describes factors from his life and times that helped form Shakespeare. Much conjecture and pleasurable reading.</p>	
Supreme Conflict	Greenburg, Jan Crawford	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Long Man</u>	Greene, Amy	*****	<u>6/25/14</u>	<p>Water. I can't think of what Amy Greene could have done better in her novel, <u>Long Man</u>. Using fewer than three hundred pages, Greene transports readers to depression-era Tennessee. She adds tension to the plot as a TVA dam is flooding the town of Yuneetah, and some residents, including the strong protagonist, Annie Clyde Dodson, feel so bound to this land that they don't want to leave. Annie Clyde's three-year-old daughter, Gracie, goes missing. Heavy rain is causing the river to rise. Multiple characters with their own backstories add to the drama unfolding. Water itself comes to life in this novel as if it, too, were a character. Plot, setting</p>	

and characters combine so well that it is easy for me to recommend this book. Greene's lyrical prose put this novel over the top for me, and led me to give it the highest rating.

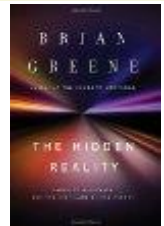
<u>The Fabric of the Cosmos: Space, Time, and the Texture of Reality</u>	Greene, Brian	***	<u>Sep 04</u>	Weavings. Gifted teacher presents readable understanding of the issues explored in modern Physics, including string theory, the uncertainty principle and evolutionary cosmology. Instructive illustrations and understandable explanations and examples trying to answer, "What is Reality?"	
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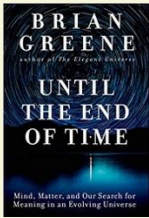
The Hidden Reality: Parallel Universes and the Deep Laws of the Cosmos

Greene, Brian

Unread

I guess it stays hidden for me; I never got curious enough to read this one. Shelf of Ennui 2012.



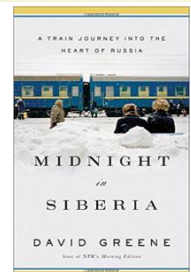
<u>Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe</u>	Greene, Brian	****	<u>6/24/20</u>	Thinking. Brian Greene challenges readers of his book titled, <u>Until the End of Time: Mind, Matter, and Our Search for Meaning in an Evolving Universe</u> , to think about thinking. He aims to provide clarity, and I now have more questions than when I started, which is perfect. As he explores a variety of theories and points us to the cosmos, he also directs us inward on a search for meaning. Greene distills lots of big notions on these pages, any one of which lead a reader into decades of further study. He has a way of making connections that will encourage readers to continue thinking after we finish reading this book.	
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[Midnight in Siberia: A Train Journey into the Heart of Russia](#)

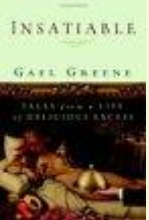
Greene, David

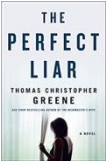
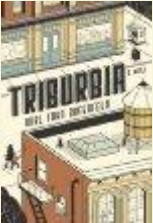

[10/15/15](#)

People. Some of us enjoy travel because of the pleasure in meeting people a bit different from ourselves. Some books can do that for us without providing jet lag or travel hassles. David Greene tells a story of the people of Russia in his book titled, [Midnight in Siberia: A Train Journey into the Heart of Russia](#). Greene introduces us to people in




Russia who are very much like us, and a bit different. He helps us understand those differences through his skill at storytelling. I completed the book with a fresh understanding of the reasons for Putin's popularity in Russia. Readers interested in Russia or in stories of foreign travel are those most likely to enjoy this book. The pace of the story increases after a shot or two of vodka.

Insatiable	Greene, Gael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
<u>If I Forget You</u>	Greene, Thomas Christopher	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2017.	
<u>The Headmaster's Wife</u>	Greene, Thomas Christopher	****	<u>4/24/14</u>	Broken. Readers who are comfortable with uncertainty in a novel, and are willing to yield to an author's blurring of appearances and reality, are those most likely to enjoy reading Thomas Christopher Greene's literary novel, <u>The Headmaster's Wife</u> . Arthur appears to be the dignified and stable headmaster of a Vermont prep school, but his behavior seems to indicate someone more troubled, especially after he is found naked in New York's Central Park. From a variety of current and past memories and points of view, readers learn about the life of Arthur and his wife Betsy. One of my favorite passages (p.215): "And then she realizes that they are more alike than she has imagined. Like her, he is broken. And she thinks perhaps this is what love is: letting someone else see that part of you that shatters like glass. All of us	

				are broken in our own way.” If something in that passage captures your fancy, chances are you’ll enjoy reading this novel.	
<u>The Perfect Liar</u>	Greene, Thomas Christopher	****	<u>3/6/19</u>	<p>Chilling. Fans of thrillers will enjoy the characters and plot of the latest novel by Thomas Christopher Greene titled, <u>The Perfect Liar</u>. Protagonists Susannah and Max have moved from Manhattan to rural Vermont with her fifteen-year-old son. There are secrets that Susannah and Max keep from each other, and someone seems on the brink of revealing a secret to the world. Greene keeps the tension taut throughout the fewer than three hundred pages of this novel. I’m not often surprised by the time the climax occurs, but this one caught me, and I couldn’t be more pleased with that.</p>	
<u>Triburbia</u>	Greenfeld, Karl Taro	***	<u>8/27/12</u>	<p>Neighbors. Skeptics who think that there have been more than enough novels set in Manhattan should consider reading Karl Taro Greenfield’s take on this genre, his novel titled, <u>Triburbia</u>. Acute social observation in fiction works best when the audience is familiar with the species being described. The Tribeca neighborhood in which Greenfield lives seemed realistic enough to me, and the characters came across as authentic. The quirky presentation of a group of neighbors, linked by geography and the local elementary school, was often comic and frequently entertaining. None of the characters are sufficiently developed, and that’s probably perfect in the context of most neighborhoods: we know some things, but never everything. Fans of Manhattan and clever writing are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
<u>True</u>	Greenfeld, Karl Taro	****	<u>12/6/18</u>	<p>Soccer. Athletes of any age will understand the protagonist of Karl Taro Greenfield’s novel titled, <u>True</u>. Trudy, known as True, loves soccer more than anyone or anything. Her focus at becoming the best player in the world is challenged by her family life.</p>	

What joy she finds in life comes on the field when she enters the flow of a game. If anyone in your life really, really loves playing a sport, reading this novel will help you understand why.

Then Everything Changed: Stunning Alternate Histories of American Politics: JFK, RFK, Carter, Ford, Reagan	Greenfield, Jeff	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
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[The Subprimes](#)

Greenfield, Karl Taro

[6/10/15](#)

Community. Social satire in fiction can often fall flat because of weak characters or barbs that are so sharp that the nuances in life can be lost. One of the best satirical novels I've read in a long time is Karl Taro Greenfield's [The Subprimes](#). In the not-so-distant future, credit scores divide society. Wealth inequality separates the haves from the have nots. Into that setting, Greenfield gives readers a journey, a hero, and an image of the kind of community that can unite instead of divide people. Throughout the novel, Greenfield uses wit to keep the gloom at bay. The gigantic machine used for fracking, for example, is described as fully as any character, and becomes the Goliath of the story. Needless to say, there is a David. The charismatic female hero provides leadership that Greenfield presents with wisdom and insight. Readers who like well-written satire are likely to enjoy this book.



Washington	Greenfield, Meg	****	08/01	Special book, full of fine writing and insight into life, including life in Washington. Read longer review.	
Beaten Down, Worked Up: The Past, Present, and Future of American Labor	Greenhouse, Steven	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2020.	
The Lobster Chronicles: Life on a Very Small Island	Greenlaw, Linda	***	Sep 02	Well-written stories of interactions with close and distant relations, fellow lobster catchers, neighbors and outsiders.	
The Age of Turbulence: Adventures in a New World	Greenspan, Alan	***	Mar 08	Charm. Who would have guessed he can communicate clearly? A delight to read this memoir and inside view from former Fed chief. A delight to read whether you loved or hated what he did and what he failed to do.	
The Map and the Territory: Risk, Human Nature, and the Future of Forecasting	Greenspan, Alan	****	9/26/14	Lessons. Alan Greenspan muses on the lessons that economists and citizens can draw from the financial crisis of 2008 and its aftermath in his book titled, The Map and the Territory: Risk, Human Nature, and the Future of Forecasting . I got bored trying to get into this book multiple times in recent months, but finally plowed through one afternoon. There's enough clarity in this book to attract general readers, and enough economic	

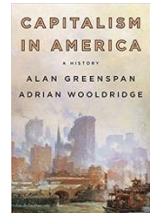
				<p>expertise to compare his views with other experts. I found some pleasure in Greenspan's acknowledgement about how his expectations were not met, and what he learned from the crisis. For any reader who has read the work of other economists in the past decade, there are themes in this book that resonate with what others have also concluded. Fellow nerds who want to listen to the voice of decades of experience will find wisdom and advice on these pages.</p>	
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Capitalism in America: A History

Greenspan, Alan and Adrian Wooldridge

12/17/18

Prosperity. Former Federal Reserve chair Alan Greenspan and journalist and historian Adrian Wooldridge have written an economic history for general audiences titled, Capitalism in America: A History. The core message is no surprise: creative destruction leads to prosperity. Let those forces happen without picking winners and losers. Avoid protecting jobs and companies whose time has passed, and don't overregulate. Let the old ways give way to the new. Readers who enjoy history, economics and public policy are those most likely to enjoy reading this book.



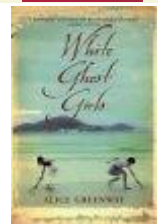
<u>The Presidential Difference</u>	Greenstein, Fred I.	***		<p>Princeton politics prof studies leadership characteristics from FDR through Clinton.</p>	
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White Ghost Girls

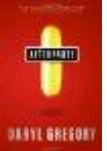
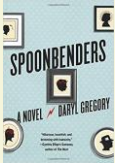
Greenway, Alice

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Read, but not reviewed.



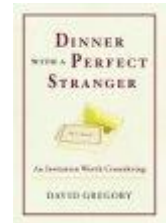
<u>Cleanness</u>	Greenwell, Garth	*****	<u>5/5/20</u>	<p>Happiness. What do we desire? In his book titled, <u>Cleanness</u>, Garth Greenwell pulls readers into episodes in the life of an American professor in Sofia, Bulgaria. Some of the glimpses seem ordinary, while others pack deep intensity. Each sentence reinforces Greenwell's writing skill and pulls readers into a structure that provides understanding about life. What we desire is happiness. It can come in surprising, ordinary, expected or dramatic ways. Bliss can be achieved when what we can do to make someone else happy also brings happiness to us. Fans of literary fiction who appreciate superb writing are those most likely to enjoy this book.</p>	
<u>What Belongs to You</u>	Greenwell, Garth	*****	<u>2/16/17</u>	<p>Alienation. I added Garth Greenwell's debut novel titled, <u>What Belongs to You</u>, to my reading queue after it was longlisted for the National Book Award. Within two hundred finely written pages, Greenwell offers a complex psychological novel that he presents using exquisite prose. The narrator is a young American gay man living in Bulgaria teaching English. He visits a public restroom and pays for sex with Mitko, a young Bulgarian man of limited means. Greenwell draws readers into patterns of desire, shame, obsession, loneliness and most of all alienation. However Greenwell does it, love and disgust can be in the same paragraph and a reader can remain interested and involved in this complicated relationship.</p>	
<u>Less</u>	Greer, Andrew Sean	*****	<u>9/6/17</u>	<p>Fifty. The two hundred and seventy-two pages of Andrew Sean Greer's novel, <u>Less</u>, move quickly, delivering pleasure to readers on every page. Protagonist Arthur Less is about to turn fifty years old, and he decides to leave the country rather than face this milestone at the same time that his former lover is getting married. Greer's prose draws us into a deep understanding of Arthur Less, and presents</p>	

				us with a smartly-written, well-told love story. There's more to Less than first appears.	
Afterparty	Gregory, Daryl	***	8/26/14	<p>Pharma. Having read thousands of books, it's rare for me to be surprised by what a writer can achieve. Daryl Gregory got me to laugh often while reading his novel, Afterparty, especially during its most dystopian passages. Set in the near future, the novel presents the drug named numinous, created as a treatment for schizophrenia. Gregory riffs on the interplay of God and science as well as the nature of religious belief. On top of the themes explored, he structures a mystery, which kept the plot moving. I finished the novel thinking something along the lines of: wasn't that interesting? Perhaps it would have helped had I taken the right combination of pharmaceuticals to develop empathy for the characters. Instead of empathy, I closed this book and opened another. I suggest reading an excerpt before you dive in, since your reaction depends more on the condition of your brain, not mine.</p>	
Spoonbenders	Gregory, Daryl	****	11/21/17	<p>Inheritance. The Telemachus family has members with incredible psychic powers. While Daryl Gregory uses those powers to drive the plot of his novel titled, Spoonbenders, the strength I found in the book comes from the depth of character development and the humor throughout. This is fine storytelling about an interesting family and the care they have for each other. Some readers may become disoriented from the shifts in time and perspective by different characters, but I found all of that to be another part of enjoying a multi-generational family story.</p>	

Dinner With a
Perfect Stranger

Gregory, David

Read, but not reviewed.



[How's Your
Faith?: An
Unlikely
Spiritual
Journey](#)

Gregory, David

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2016.

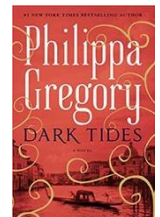
How's Your
Faith?
AN UNLIKELY
SPIRITUAL JOURNEY
David
Gregory

Bridge. The second novel in the Fairmile series by Philippa Gregory is titled, [Dark Tides](#). One of my gripes about reading the second novel in a series is the amount of repetition from the first installment. With this novel, I have no such complaint, but wish that the author had helped connect more of the dots. Protagonist Alinor Reekie from the first novel returns in a secondary role in a setting two decades after the first, with the Restoration as the backdrop. James Avery who left Alinor to fend for herself, is now a widower and returns expecting a warm welcome now that his family fortune has been recovered thanks to his support of the king. Instead of picking up on their thread in any direct way, the action involves the wife of Alinor's son, Rob, a delightfully wicked manipulator and criminal named Livia. Another plot line involves the life of Alinor's brother, Ned, who lives in New England, caught in the uncomfortable shifting tides between the indigenous people and the English settlers. Many readers will look forward to hearing more about the adventures of 21-year-old twins Sarah and Johnnie, the children of Alinor's daughter, Alys. In the meantime, what we have here is likely a 450-page bridge between the introduction of the

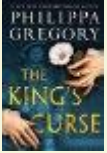
[Dark Tides](#)

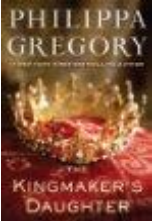
Gregory,
Philippa

[12/17/20](#)



series in the previous novel, and the action to follow in the next. Patient fans of historical fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this installment and this series.

<u>The King's Curse</u>	Gregory, Philippa	*****	<u>2/23/15</u>	<p>Dissolution. Readers who have enjoyed The Cousins' War series by Philippa Gregory are those most likely to enjoy devouring the final 600+ pages of the final book titled, <u>The King's Curse</u>. The plot is set mostly during the reign of Henry VIII, and we learn about this period from the perspective of the protagonist Margaret Pole, whose life is turned upside down multiple times as she falls out of favor or back in based on the whims of the king and the perceptions of her allegiances. Beyond the dissolution of the monasteries during this period, there was an upheaval in all society as old ways were put to rest and new ways required. Through the perspective of Margaret Pole this period comes to life for any reader interested in historical fiction. I was entertained thoroughly from beginning to end.</p>	
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<u>The Kingmaker's Daughter</u>	Gregory, Philippa	*****	<u>5/3/13</u>	<p>Lively. I'm looking for two things when I read historical fiction: a reasonably close adherence to real history, and a presentation of historical characters who come to life through the author's ability to make them fully rendered personalities. Philippa Gregory does that and more in her novel, <u>The Kingmaker's Daughter</u>. The War of the Roses period in English history is rife with excitement, and Gregory has written other novels focused on specific characters of the period. In the current book, the focus is primarily on Anne Neville, daughter of Richard, Earl of Warwick, and her sister, Isabel. Richard chooses mates for his daughters hoping that one or the other Neville girl will become Queen of England. Gregory's 400+ pages of politics, battles, setbacks and advances will</p>	
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entertain any reader who enjoys finely written historical fiction. Most of all, readers will feel that we know many of these characters as individuals and care deeply about what happens to them.

Fortune. Philippa Gregory has written another fine historical novel set the time of the War of the Roses. Titled, The Lady of the Rivers, this book presents readers with the life and times of Jacquetta, Duchess of Bedford, and the mother of Elizabeth Woodville, who became the white queen. In what seems like endless war, the wheel of fortune turns for Jacquetta and her family one way or the other every fifty pages or so. Readers are taken up in the vivid description, and the development of characters that makes us feel that we are in that time and those places. Readers who like historical fiction, especially that period of turmoil in England, are those most likely to enjoy this novel. Also, readers who like to see history from a woman's point of view will find precisely that on these pages.

The Lady of the Rivers

Gregory, Philippa

10/27/11

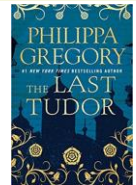


The Last Tudor

Gregory, Philippa

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



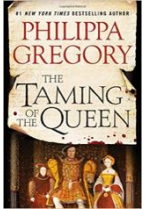
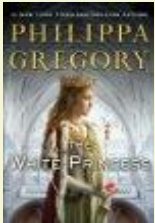
The Red Queen

Gregory, Philippa

8/25/10

Winning. Philippa Gregory's latest work of historical fiction is titled, The Red Queen, and presents England's War of the Roses from the perspective of Margaret Beaufort, the mother of Henry Tudor, who went on to be King Henry VII. Everything in this novel is from Margaret's perspective, and her intense focus on positioning her only son to reign pays off in the end, as she collaborates and schemes to advance him whenever she can. There's treachery and battles and intrigue on these pages, but in the end, this is a story of a



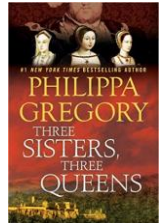
				<p>mother's devotion to her son. I don't know whether Gregory's history matches that of scholars of this period, but I found the novel quick to read and generally entertaining.</p>	
<u>The Taming of the Queen</u>	Gregory, Philippa	*****	<u>10/26/15</u>	<p>Survivor. The narrator and protagonist of Philippa Gregory's novel, <u>The Taming of the Queen</u>, is Kateryn Parr, the sixth wife of King Henry VIII. Gregory presents Parr as a smart and independent woman of significant accomplishments, who survived the plots by the court to remove her as Queen, and who outlived Henry. The taming referenced in the title involves a personal degradation that reveals aspects of Henry that will disgust many readers. Readers who like historical fiction, especially those with strong female protagonists, are those most likely to enjoy reading this novel.</p>	
<u>The White Princess</u>	Gregory, Philippa	*****	<u>8/27/13</u>	<p>Tudor. Readers looking for a fat and juicy historical novel are those most likely to enjoy the latest book from Philippa Gregory titled, <u>The White Princess</u>. Protagonist Elizabeth of York finds her life upended after the battle of Bosworth field. Gregory develops Elizabeth and each historical character with sensitivity to historical facts, a view on speculative theories, and a lively writing style. I find that I enjoy the ways in which well-written historical fiction can help me think about historical figures in a broader way, beyond the few sound bites that I recall of their place in history. Gregory's fine writing makes me think about these characters as more complete human beings, and her development of them in all their complexity provided me with hours of reading pleasure.</p>	

Three Sisters, Three Queens

Gregory,
Philippa

3/2/17

Independent. Fans of Philippa Gregory's historical fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy her latest novel titled, Three Sisters, Three Queens. The women in the title are the two sisters of King Henry VIII, Margaret and Mary, and their sister-in-law, Henry's first wife, Katherine of Aragon. Narrated by Margaret, the novel draws readers into the dramatic ups and downs in the lives of these three sisters and queens. Fiercely independent and preoccupied with precedence, Margaret comes to life on these pages as a strong woman always striving to make the best decisions as the world around her changes dramatically. By writing fiction, Gregory has the luxury of using her imagination, and by doing lots of research, she draws within the lines of what is likely and probable. However she does it, Gregory writes historical fiction in ways that draw many readers, including this one, to whatever she writes.

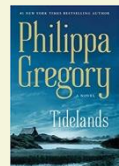


Tidelands

Gregory,
Philippa

7/23/20

Exciting. Philippa Gregory begins her Fairmile series with a novel titled, Tidelands. Set in Sussex during the English Civil War, protagonist Alinor is a hardworking midwife eking out a living for herself and her two children while not knowing whether her missing husband is dead or alive. A large cast of characters includes the activities of both Roundheads and Cavaliers. Gregory draws us into stories of how the divisions in the country play out even in the most remote locations. Just when Gregory leads us to think events are heading in one direction, there's a twist to carry us to a different place. We're left wondering what happens to Alinor next, the answer to which will wait until the next installment in the series, set during the Restoration. Fans of historical fiction that includes well-developed characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

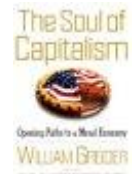


The Soul of
Capitalism:
Opening Paths
to a Moral
Economy

Greider, William

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004

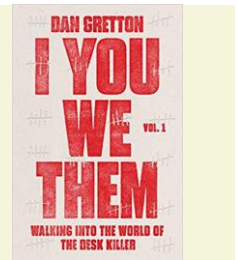


I You We Them:
Journeys
Beyond Evil:
The Desk Killers
in History
Volume 1

Gretton, Dan and
Ros Urwin

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

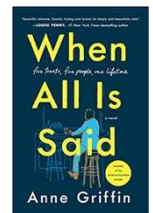


When All Is Said

Griffin, Anne

5/26/20

Toasts. I highly recommend pairing five drams of Black Bush as you visit Ireland and join eighty-four-year-old protagonist Maurice Hannigan in the five toasts he makes in Anne Griffin's debut novel titled, When All Is Said. There are secrets, love, loss, regret and great joy on these pages. Griffin writes with considerable skill and fleshes her characters with the complexity of behavior that readers recognize as authentic. Savor each toast and enjoy a grand story.



Hild

Griffith, Nicola

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



Now You See
Them

Griffiths, Elly

1/24/20

Emma. My first exposure to Elly Griffiths' Magic Men series is the fifth installment, a novel titled, Now You See Them. Set in 1964, former Brighton detective Emma is married to Superintendent Edgar Stephens and she feels unsettled at home with three kids. Girls have been disappearing, and Emma sees a chance to get back into the action. Conflict between mods and rockers provides a

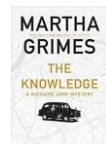


colorful backdrop. I was entertained from beginning to end and expect that other fans of crime fiction will enjoy this novel and this series.

Digging. The eleventh Ruth Galloway mystery by Elly Griffiths is a novel titled, The Stone Circle. Both Ruth and DCI Nelson receive letters that remind them of a person important in their past who they assume is dead. Fans of the series will make many connections from earlier novels, while first-time readers (like me) may be a bit confused by what's really going on. Bones are dug up and identification leads to reopening a cold case. Meanwhile, life in the present takes many dramatic shifts for both Ruth and Nelson whose ties seem to endure against all odds. Fans of character-driven crime fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.



Taxi. The twenty-fourth novel in the Richard Jury series by Martha Grimes is titled, The Knowledge. I'm sad to say that this is the first novel by Grimes that I've read, and that has been my misfortune. In this installment, a couple is killed leaving a taxi, and the gunman enters the taxi to make his escape. The driver enlists friends to follow him and then follow the killer who leaves the cab after paying a fare with a good tip. By the time Scotland Yard's Chief Inspector Richard Jury gets on the case, the action has moved from England to Africa. I was totally entertained by so many elements in this finely written detective novel. First, the characters are complex, finely developed, and endearing. The plot is complex, interesting, and paced perfectly. The identification of the murderer and motive come late enough in the book to be well-earned by fans of solving mysteries. Finally, the prose is well written and engages readers on every page. Fans of crime



The Stone Circle

Griffiths, Elly

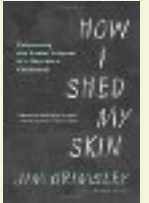
9/3/19

The Knowledge

Grimes, Martha

4/23/18

fiction are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel and this series.

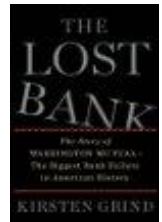
How I Shed My Skin: Unlearning the Racist Lessons of a Southern Childhood	Grimsley, Jim	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2015.	
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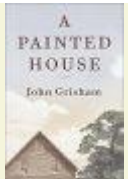
[The Lost Bank: The Story of Washington Mutual-The Biggest Bank Failure in American History](#)

Grind, Kirsten

[11/8/12](#)

Choices. Any reader interested in the financial crisis should read Kirsten Grind's [The Lost Bank: The Story of Washington Mutual-The Biggest Bank Failure in American History](#). Through lots of interviews and research, Grind digs into the weeds of what happened at Wamu, and finds ways to keep readers engaged and interested in the story of the people and their decisions. This is a story about choices: the selection of people for certain jobs, and the decisions they made. The contrast between two former CEOs was enlightening: Lou Pepper and Kerry Killinger selected choices that made the bank strong in the former case and weak in the latter. I was entertained, captivated, enthralled and angered by this story. Grind does a great job in bringing a company to life and in explaining a complicated story in a way that all readers can easily understand.



<u>A Painted House</u>	Grisham, John	**	<u>03/01</u>	Had this been his first novel, he'd still be a lawyer. Clear plot, strained language, writing leaves a lot to be desired. Better than other Grisham novels. <u>Read longer review.</u>	
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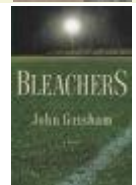
[Bleachers](#)

Grisham, John

*

[Dec 03](#)

Heroes. Success at high school football isn't what life is all about. The players and coaches who achieve that success don't merit hero status. If for some reason you're interested in that or if you like Grisham's writing, this book's for you.



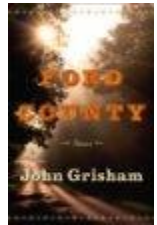
<u>Calico Joe</u>	Grisham, John	***	<u>5/25/12</u>	<p>Forgiveness. Baseball provides the backdrop for John Grisham's latest novel, <u>Calico Joe</u>. This is a book about life-changing moments and the nature of forgiveness. A promising rookie, Joe Castle, gets hit in the head by a pitch and his baseball career ends. Grisham uses that event as a way to explore many relationships and how love and forgiveness become the core of a well-lived life. Obviously, readers who love baseball will enjoy the description of the players and the game in this novel. Any reader who likes novels that illuminate our human nature will enjoy this book.</p>	
<u>Camino Island</u>	Grisham, John	****	<u>7/14/17</u>	<p>Fitzgerald. John Grisham has stepped out of his usual routine to write a change of pace novel titled, <u>Camino Island</u>. Set mostly in the quiet town of Santa Rosa on Camino Island, Florida, the novel tells the story of the theft of priceless F. Scott Fitzgerald manuscripts from Princeton's library. Protagonist Mercer Mann had spent time on the island in her youth, and she is now given the chance to return there to work on her unfinished novel. I found a perfect summer breeze, a cold drink, and before I knew it, I fell into reading a moderately paced novel and was well-entertained.</p>	
<u>Camino Winds</u>	Grisham, John	****	<u>5/26/20</u>	<p>Storm. John Grisham gives readers an exciting return to Camino Island in his novel titled, <u>Camino Winds</u>. A major hurricane lands on the island causing major damage. Protagonist Bruce Cable's bookstore and home come through the storm ok, but one of the island's authors has died. Bruce and his posse suspect foul play, and the action of the novel involves their dogged investigation into this case. Fans of Grisham and action thrillers are those readers most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	

[Ford County](#)

Grisham, John

[3/22/10](#)

Story. I enjoyed reading each of the seven short stories in John Grisham's [Ford County](#). Grisham writes crisply on these pages, providing readers with just the right amount of description and character development. He delivers well-told stories here, with characters that are memorable and situations that reveal the breadth of human behavior. While I have been entertained by some, but not all, of Grisham's novels, I found these stories to be engaging and entertaining and recommend them to any reader who enjoys a well-written story.

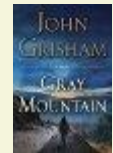


[Gray Mountain](#)

Grisham, John

[11/7/14](#)

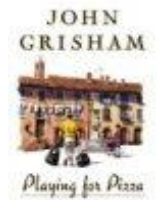
Mining. I doubt that very many people who make a living from big coal will buy John Grisham's novel, [Gray Mountain](#), in which he portrays the practices of the coal industry as criminal. Given the visible environmental damage throughout Appalachia, and the problem with West Virginia drinking water last year that drew widespread media attention, there are plenty of readers who don't make a living from big coal who will find a great story in this novel. Protagonist Samantha Kofer is a young New York commercial real estate attorney who gets furloughed from her law firm in the financial crisis of 2008. She ends up working at a legal aid clinic in Brady, Virginia. Drawn from the headlines, and packed with action, I found myself very well entertained by this novel.

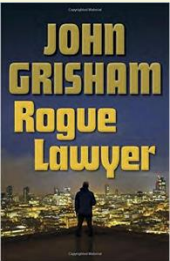

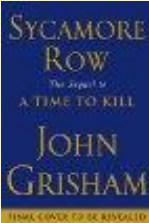
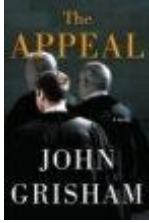


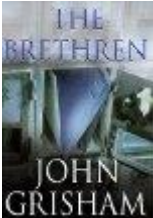
Playing for Pizza

Grisham, John

Read, but not reviewed.



<u>Rogue Lawyer</u>	Grisham, John	****	<u>11/6/15</u>	<p>Cases. Readers who like crime fiction with interesting characters should find pleasure reading the latest novel by John Grisham titled, <u>Rogue Lawyer</u>. Protagonist Sebastian Rudd is the rogue lawyer in the title, and his behavior and legal cases are not what one would expect. Grisham knows how to tell a story, how to develop interesting characters and how to keep readers entertained. I so enjoyed Rudd that I hope Grisham continues to develop him in future novels.</p>	
<u>Skipping Christmas</u>	Grisham, John	*	<u>Jan 02</u>	<p>If Jimmy Stewart were alive, he'd recognize Bedford Falls in this sentimental drivel. Unless you really like Grisham or Christmas, take a pass.</p>	
<u>Sycamore Row</u>	Grisham, John	****	<u>1/13/14</u>	<p>Ensemble. While a handful of characters in John Grisham's novel, <u>Sycamore Row</u>, were reprised from the earlier book, <i>A Time To Kill</i>, the real success in the new novel is the huge cast of interesting and well-developed cast of complex characters through whom Grisham displays the full range of human motivation and behavior. We're back at the Clanton courthouse in Ford County three years after the earlier novel, and attorney Jake Brigance gets a new case that will strain racial tensions in the county. The question for the court to resolve involves the settlement of a multi-million dollar estate. Grisham tells a great story in this novel, and I was thoroughly entertained, especially by the quirks of so many of the interesting characters in this book.</p>	
<u>The Appeal</u>	Grisham, John	***	<u>Apr 08</u>	<p>Bought. Grisham returns to the law with a better-than-usual novel about a Mississippi judicial election in which the powerful and rich try to ensure that the winning candidate will be sympathetic to their interests.</p>	

<u>The Associate</u>	Grisham, John	**	4/25/09	<p>Wasteful. Of all the lawyers presented in John Grisham's latest legal thriller, <u>The Associate</u>, only one or two are developed enough to engender any reader empathy. While protagonist Kyle McEvoy is presented as if he is a good guy, his behavior will come across to most readers as inconsistent and often conflicted in ways that would reflect multiple personalities rather than an integrated individual. Really smart people, like Kyle and other editors of the Yale Law Review, can do stupid things, but not to the scale on which Kyle has behaved. While I've come to anticipate character development shortcomings in Grisham's novels, the plot of <u>The Associate</u> also left a lot to be desired. Bad guys of unknown origin blackmail Kyle to spy for them at the world's largest law firm handling a huge lawsuit involving two big defense contractors and a multi-billion dollar contract. Grisham riffs on intelligence gathering and surveillance methods, but uses blunt ways like murder to start and stop plot developments. These plot twists made me laugh at times, and that brought some pleasure to reading <u>The Associate</u>. Consider reading <u>The Associate</u> at a time and place where you can relax and not care a lot, like the beach or on an airplane. Don't anticipate any insights into our human condition or into the way law is practiced.</p>	
<u>The Brethren</u>	Grisham, John	*	2/00	<p>Unless you really love Grisham novels, there's no hurry to read this one.</p>	

<u>The Broker</u>	Grisham, John	***	<u>Apr 05</u>	<p>Chase. A D.C. powerbroker, sprung from the federal pen and sent to Italy for an identity change, uses many skills to elude enemies. Better than recent Grisham offerings.</p>	
<u>The Confession</u>	Grisham, John	***	<u>11/18/10</u>	<p>Abolition. The stimulating legal issue of interest in John Grisham's novel, <u>The Confession</u>, is the death penalty. Set in Texas, the plot reveals all the potential weak links in the criminal justice system, and the irreversible consequences when the system kills an innocent person. In the case at the center of the novel, Grisham uses a heavy hand rather than nuance to present the flaws of the system: a coerced confession; a prosecutor and judge with conflicts of interest; disengaged appeals justices; a governor whose interest is politics, not justice. Grisham's characters are more caricature than recognizable people. Honest professionals in the criminal justice system will be offended by Grisham's extreme case. Any reader will come away from this novel with a single conclusion: the death penalty makes no sense and should be abolished. Readers who like novels with a clear point of view will like this book, as will those who prefer plot over character.</p>	
<u>The Guardians</u>	Grisham, John	****	<u>11/21/19</u>	<p>Innocence. Most readers know that John Grisham can tell one hell of a story that will engage a reader from the beginning to the end of a book. In his legal thriller titled, <u>The Guardians</u>, the focus is on what it takes to release the innocent from prison. Protagonist Cullen Post is a lawyer working for a group called Guardian Ministries that operates on a shoestring. He's also an Episcopal priest and uses the dog collar judiciously in his prison work. Guardian accepts just a few cases at a time, and Grisham pulls readers into how Post and the group get prisoners released. As expected with Grisham, there's tension, action and great satisfaction in the</p>	

				<p>story being told. After you finish reading this novel, consider making a contribution to one of the groups that does this work pro bono. They need help and there are plenty more true stories like the ones made up in this book.</p>	
<u>The King of Torts</u>	Grisham, John	*	<u>Mar 03</u>	<p>Reform. Warning: this book only worth reading by rabid Grisham fans or people who want to read whatever's popular. Weak characters, poor dialogue. It's all here.</p>	
<u>The Last Juror</u>	Grisham, John	**	<u>Feb 05</u>	<p>Character. Often tedious novel of rural Southern life in the 1970s, long on local color, and short on the real story of racism and power.</p>	
<u>The Litigators</u>	Grisham, John	***	<u>11/18/11</u>	<p>Cheery. Many of John Grisham's novels have been ponderous or overly dramatic, with odd dialogue and predictable plots. <u>The Litigators</u> is lighthearted with endearing characters (even the lawyers), realistic dialogue and a well-paced plot. I found myself rooting for protagonist David Zinc, and genuinely interested in how things would turn out. Maybe it was the Chicago setting that made the characters come alive with their Midwestern authenticity. Readers who have given up on Grisham should give this one a try.</p>	
<u>The Racketeer</u>	Grisham, John	***	<u>11/8/12</u>	<p>Planning. It's tough to present a jailed attorney as a heroic figure, but that's what John Grisham pulls off in his novel, <u>The Racketeer</u>. Malcolm Bannister resides in a federal prison in the fifth year of a ten-year sentence he feels he received unjustly for his involvement in a money laundering scheme. After a federal judge is murdered, Bannister knows who the murderer is, and the plot of the novel involves the intricate plan Bannister develops and executes to extract revenge on the government and reward for himself. Grisham presents a great protagonist in</p>	

				<p>this novel, and a plot that can entertain any reader who likes this genre.</p> <p>Secrets. Some readers like popular authors to stay in a narrow lane and expect legal thrillers from John Grisham. His latest novel titled, <u>The Reckoning</u>, contains a legal case and more and may test those loyal readers who may not enjoy the “more” part. A large section of the novel is historical fiction, especially about the Bataan Death March. A third aspect of the novel involves the deep exploration of family dynamics. I think the third was the most important one for Grisham, since he ends the novel (no spoiler) with these words: “what a family.” Family dynamics involved keeping secrets from each other, with dramatic consequences. The energy in the novel comes from the ways in which Grisham draws us into the lives of a lot of family members. The plot momentum comes from the progress of legal cases with major consequences for the family. I enjoyed all aspects of the novel: the history, the trials, and the family dynamics, and I am pleased that Grisham veered outside the narrow lane with this book.</p>	
<u>The Reckoning</u>	Grisham, John	****	<u>12/6/18</u>		
<u>The Rooster Bar</u>	Grisham, John	***	<u>11/3/17</u>	<p>Caper. My guess is that John Grisham had a lot of fun writing his novel titled, <u>The Rooster Bar</u>. Readers who can overlook some clunky writing may have fun reading it. Three third-year law students face the reality that their job prospects after getting a degree from a bottom-tier school won’t generate the income they need to repay massive student loans. What follows is a caper to reveal a scam by a wealthy lawyer, to commit felonies, and to change their lives. The more preposterous the behavior of the three protagonists, the more fun their exploits became.</p>	

The Summons

Grisham, John

*

Mar 02

Typical Grisham weak character development and clumsy dialogue. Less of a page turner than his earlier books.

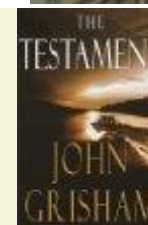


The Testament

Grisham, John

6/99

Recommended as a perfect vacation novel.

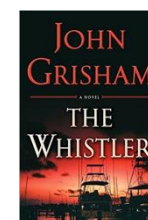


The Whistler

Grisham, John

11/22/16

Judge. There may be very few corrupt judges in the United States, but the one John Grisham presents in his novel titled, The Whistler is a doozie. I found a lot to like in this novel: interesting characters, a complicated and fast-paced plot, and minimal moralizing by Grisham. Readers who like a good story that features a battle between the good guys and the bad guys are those most likely to enjoy reading this entertaining novel.



The Tenth Parallel:
Dispatches from
the Fault Line
Between
Christianity and
Islam

Griswold, Eliza

Unread

I reached page 36 and lost interest. Shelf of Ennui 2011.



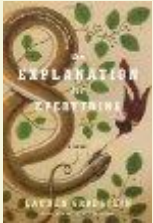

Wyoming

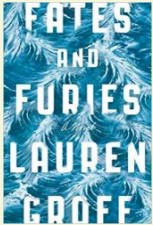
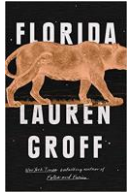
Gritton JP

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

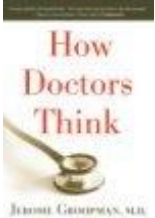


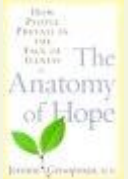
<u>The Explanation for Everything</u>	Grodstein, Lauren	*****	<u>12/12/13</u>	<p>Belief. Fiction often reminds us that people behave in unexpected ways that often seem irrational to others. In her novel, <u>The Explanation for Everything</u>, Lauren Grodstein riffs on the theme of belief in God. Protagonist Andy Waite teaches college biology and is looking for a grant to study the effect of alcohol on the brains of rats. He's grieving the accidental death of his wife, and struggling to be a better parent. He teaches a course titled "There Is No God," which has been Andy's view. Grodstein maintains distance from the subject of belief, siding neither with believers nor with atheists. She presents all characters with flaws and poor behavior. While I felt a stretch in how some characters changed to or away from belief quite quickly, I found the characters interesting and her writing engaging.</p>	
<u>Arcadia</u>	Groff, Lauren	*****	<u>1/4/13</u>	<p>Hope. I loved the exquisite prose in Lauren Groff's novel, <u>Arcadia</u>. Here's a sample of one sentence I read twice: "He thinks of the rotten parachute they played with as kids in Arcadia: they hurtle through life aging unimaginably fast, but each grasps a silken edge of memory that billows between them and softens the long fall." If you like that sentence, chances are you'll like the whole book which presents protagonist Bit Stone, who was born in an upstate New York commune named Arcadia. Groff presents his life from the late 1960s to 2018. The commune was built on hope, and Bit's hope survives great upheaval. This story of family and community was a great start for me to a new year of rewarding reading.</p>	

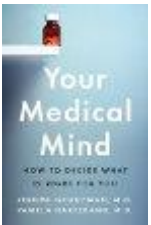
Fates and Furies	Groff, Lauren	*****	12/18/15	<p>Structure. Of all the books I've read this year, Laruen Groff's Fates and Furies led me to believe that I am smarter than I really am. While reading this finely written novel, I believed I was understanding her finely crafted wordplay. I thought I understood the components of Greek tragedy at play. The structure of the novel presents versions of a marital relationship: his version in the fates part, and her version in the furies section. As in many marriages, the husband tends to be a bit clueless, while the wife is in command of everything that matters. His version and her version seem like very different relationships. I even thought I "got" the third element of the structure: the equivalent of a Greek chorus which Groff sets off in bracketed text. Things are not as they appear, I've considered upon reflection. This novel is not a meditation on marriage, and not necessarily a Greek tragedy. It may be more or less than what I think it is. As of today, I see this novel as a reflection on the consequences of dishonesty. Secrets long held become the means of vengeance. Perhaps the original sins led to a life founded on lies and could become nothing more or less than it was. I marvel at Groff's prose and the way she structured the novel. I'm confident that I'm not nearly as smart as I thought I was, nor am I clueless. Read this novel for yourself and you may see what I mean.</p>	
Florida	Groff, Lauren	*****	7/12/18	<p>Descriptive. Fans of short stories are those readers most likely to enjoy the eleven finely crafted ones in a collection by Lauren Groff titled, Florida. She uses atmospheric descriptive language to embellish setting, character and mood, all the while working within the constraints of the genre. Most of the stories are set in Florida, and Groff finds ways to connect us to that place in many different</p>	

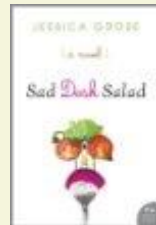
dimensions. There's wildness and conflict that will delight those readers who enjoy great writing.

I Rose Like a Rocket: The Political Education of Theodore Roosevelt	Grondahl, Paul	Unread		Shelf of Reproach 2005	
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How Doctors Think	Groopman, Jerome	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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<u>The Anatomy of Hope: How People Prevail in the Face of Illness</u>	Groopman, Jerome	***	<u>June 04</u>	Scientific. Three approaches: Dr. Groopman's patients' stories; his own debilitating back injury; and how science is learning more about mind-body connections. Realistic hope can help us live longer and better.	
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<u>Your Medical Mind: How to Decide What Is Right for You</u>	Groopman, Jerome and Pamela Hartzband	***	<u>12/16/11</u>	Anecdotes. Doctors Jerome Groopman and Pamela Hartzband present an array of personal and patient anecdotes in their book, <u>Your Medical Mind: How to Decide What Is Right for You</u> . I found that this book was less helpful to me in deciding what is right for me medically, but very useful in understanding how different people have made decisions for themselves. In some ways after reading this book, I feel better capable of making certain medical decisions. In other ways, I feel that I will be caught in some cognitive traps when the time comes to make key decisions. Readers who are interested in medical treatment decisions are those most likely to enjoy this book.	
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Sad Desk Salad	Grose, Jessica	**	12/18/12	<p>Lighthearted. Jessica Grose's debut novel, Sad Desk Salad, is a humorous excursion into the out-of-balance and conflicted life of a blogger. Protagonist Alex Lyons writes a gossip blog for the site Chick Habit. The pressure of feeding the blog with new posts leads Alex to bathe irregularly, dress in a dirty muumuu and eat a salad at her home desk when she has time to eat. She hopes her audience of women at work eating their own sad desk salads will generate lots of hits, especially for her lunchtime posts, because she fears losing her job. Her relationships experience the impact of her stress as she addresses the concerns of how much privacy the web allows. I found this novel to be funny in many places, while the subject matter allowed for a degree of seriousness. I expect the target audience for the novel is young women, so readers in that demographic should certainly sample an excerpt to see if this style is to your taste. For an older guy, this was not humorous enough to rate a recommendation for humor. If it is satire or parody, I didn't get it. I was mildly entertained as Grose took me in a lighthearted way into a world I know little about and to characters for whom I developed no empathy.</p>	
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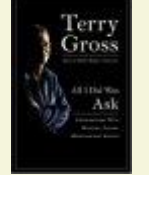
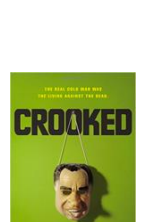
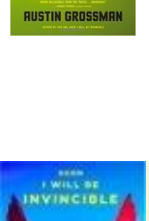
Better, Stronger, Faster: The Myth of American Decline . . . and the Rise of a New Economy

Gross, Daniel

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2013.



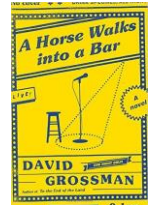
<u>Pop! Why Bubbles Are Great for the Economy</u>	Gross, Daniel	***	<u>May 08</u>	Infrastructure. Lively and counterintuitive argument on how some bubbles have left behind usable commercial infrastructure, and so can be good for the economy.	
740 Park: The Story of the World's Rchest Apartment Building	Gross, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2006	
All I Did Was Ask	Gross, Terry	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2005	
<u>Crooked</u>	Grossman, Austin	****	<u>10/26/15</u>	Magic. I've found non-fiction accounts of Richard Nixon to leave me with confusion and questions about his behavior and motivation in his public and private life. I felt much clearer with the alternative fictional Nixon presented by Austin Grossman in his novel titled, <u>Crooked</u> . In this book, Nixon is a hero, and as narrator, he removes his mask to reveal what forces led him to do what he did throughout his life. To whatever extent you're willing to suspend disbelief and are open to the notion of Nixon as America's savior, you are likely to love or hate this novel.	
Soon I Will Be Invincible	Grossman, Austin	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2008	

A Horse Walks into a Bar

Grossman, David

6/16/17

Standup. After I finished reading David Grossman's novel titled, A Horse Walks into a Bar, I was as physically drained as I am after a heavy workout at the gym. The structure of the novel covers one night, the bulk of which we observe as protagonist Doveleh Greenstein performs a standup comedy routine for an audience in Netanya. Dov's shtick is funny at times, but he is not an endearing character, and much of his humor is dark. I might have been one of the audience members to leave the show. Personal reflections on his life get darker as he describes life with a Holocaust survivor mother and a detached father. Grossman won the Man Booker International Prize for this novel. My guess is that the raw, unrelenting truth and the efficient writing appealed to the judges who recognized Grossman's great skill. Get a good rest before reading this novel, because Dov leaves everything on the stage before he ends his standup and being an audience member listening to him can become physically draining.



The Encyclopedia of Chicago

Grossman, James R. (ed)

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2004



The Magician's Land

Grossman, Lev

8/21/14

Mending. The Magicians trilogy comes to a very satisfying conclusion with Lev Grossman's novel, The Magician's Land. The first novel presented a coming of age story, and the second a quest for meaning. In the third novel, we find protagonist Quentin Coldwater as an adult who has been thrown out of Fillory and fired from his job at Brakebills. Quentin learns that what he is best at is the skill of mending, and it is his behavior as an adult that completes this trilogy so effectively. Grossman tells a great story in this novel and in the



trilogy, and any fan of fiction, no matter what genre, will likely find pleasure in this story.

Quest. It's a challenge to find decent writing in fantasy fiction geared to adult audiences. Lev Grossman offers good writing in his second Fillory book titled, [The Magician King](#). Readers are more likely to enjoy this book after reading the earlier novel, *The Magicians*. While the first book focused on coming of age with special skills, this one pays attention to finding purpose in life, and most of the four hundred pages involve a quest that will keep most readers well-entertained. Grossman's main characters are recognizable to modern readers as friends and neighbors, just ones who are doing remarkable things. Fans of this genre are those most likely to enjoy this novel.

Story. One reason for reading fiction is to listen to a well-told story. Lev Grossman tells a story quite well with his new novel, [The Magicians](#). The book may fall into a genre of its own: fantasy for adults who rarely read fantasy. Protagonist Quentin Coldwater leaves his family in Brooklyn to attend college at the mysterious Brakebills Academy where he has been selected for an education in magic. At some points of the story, the characters and action felt like normal college life. The magical land of Fillory, and the exploits of Quentin and others in that land remind readers regularly of how different a world Grossman has created. The characters are delightful, there's plenty of conflict between good and evil, and no matter how magical the setting, the relationships seem real. If you can overcome any aversion to fantasy novels for adults, you're likely to enjoy [The Magicians](#).

[The Magician King](#)

Grossman, Lev

[9/23/11](#)



[The Magicians](#)

Grossman, Lev

[9/21/09](#)



Swimming Across: A Memoir	Grove, Andrew S.	***	Aug 03	Immigration and Naturalization. The charming story of the early life of Intel CEO Andy Grove with life lessons for all readers. From his birth through his arrival in America following the Hungarian Revolution.	
The Good Son	Gruber, Michael	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2011	
The Return	Gruber, Michael	*****	1/21/14	Expiation. The protagonist of Michael Gruber's novel, The Return , may well be the most fully formed complex character that I've enjoyed in a novel in many years. Richard Marder is a book editor who is reconciled to dying from an inoperable brain tumor. The manner in which he places his affairs in order provides the plot for a thrilling novel. Marder buys a home in the Mexican town where his late wife and her family lived. His plan is to bury his wife's ashes in her hometown. He travels to Mexico with a Vietnam War comrade, Patrick Francis Skelly, and they find themselves in the middle of conflict between two drug cartels. Gruber presents alternating peace and violence in Marder with great care, and the kindness and benevolence Marder shows to the people of the community provides an added level of depth. Marder's daughter, Carmel, leaves her doctoral program at MIT and tracks him down in Mexico, joining his effort to build a sustainable community free from the violence of the criminals. The tension remains taut throughout the novel which will appeal to those readers who enjoy thrillers.	

The Hanging Tree

Gruley, Brian

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2011

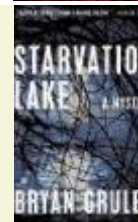


Starvation Lake

Gruley, Bryan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2009. By page 41, I still wasn't engaged, so I gave up.



Aftershock

Gruman, Jessie

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2007



Cast of Shadows

Guilfoyle, Kevin

Oct 05

Vengeance. First-rate debut novel will entertain most readers with a suspenseful tale of cloning, unintended consequences, a parallel online gaming world, and a person who wants to avenge the death of a loved one.



The Thousand




Guilfoyle, Kevin

2/18/11

Musical. I'm undecided after reading Kevin Guilfoyle's second novel, The Thousand, if there is more to it than meets the eye, or less. Protagonist Canada Gold (Nada) has an experimental neurostimulator that was implanted in her brain to relieve ADHD, and as a consequence of the stimulation she has increased perceptual powers. A group of Pythagoreans called The Thousand want to retrieve the device to use for their own purposes, and they are divided into competing forces, the acusamati and mathamatici. Nada's father was a musician who was murdered, and his manuscript



which was his finished version of Mozart's Requiem in D Minor, has been missing. A flawed and diligent Chicago detective provides color, as does Nada's boyfriend. In some respects Guilfoyle has written a symphony in prose: there are motifs that come and go, and movements that are slower or faster. When I closed the last page, I put the book down and thought, "now what was that all about?" I'm still unsure of the answer. Readers who like a good puzzle, and novels with interesting characters are those most likely to enjoy this thriller.

<u>French Women Don't Get Fat</u>	Guiliano, Mireille	***	<u>May 05</u>	Grande. Veuve Clicquot CEO shares her life story and personal dietary habits and recipes (top quality, seasonal, small portions). Read review and discover our purveyor of Belgian chocolate.	
French Women for All Seasons	Guiliano, Mireille	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
<u>Women, Work & the Art of Savoir Faire: Business Sense & Sensibility</u>	Guiliano, Mireille	***	<u>10/24/09</u>	Mentoring. The latest book by former Veuve Clicquot CEO Mireille Guiliano is titled, <u>Woman, Work & The Art of Savoir Faire: Business Sense and Sensibility</u> . In this entertaining book, she offers her personal experience as a mentoring opportunity, especially for women in business. Each of her stories makes a key point. She offers practical, plain-spoken advice, all based on her own experience. While aimed at women, much of her advice applies to men (if we are willing to read and pay attention). Any reader who thinks he or she would benefit from the experience of a mentor who was a successful executive will find something useful on the pages of <u>Woman, Work & The Art of Savoir Faire</u> . Someone young and inexperienced is	

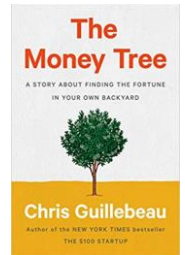
more likely to find this book to be of practical benefit; others may find some entertainment value in the stories Guiliano shares.

The Money Tree: A Story About Finding the Fortune in Your Own Backyard

Guillebeau, Chris

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2020.

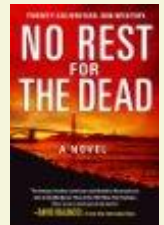


No Rest for the Dead

Gulli, Andrew F. and 25 other authors

8/23/11

Serial. Writing is usually a solitary experience, and many readers can recognize a writer's style from a sample. In a break from that consistency, Andrew Gulli assembled over two dozen writers to contribute chapters to a mystery titled, No Rest for the Dead. The result is something like improv: the pleasure of a unique voice, riffing with other voices and assembling a shared piece of art that brings enjoyment. I sampled some chapters trying to guess the writer before seeing his or her name, and I had a lot of lucky guesses. For most readers, then, this may be a chance to see the work of many favorite writers in a single book. The mystery itself was pretty good, and considering the challenges of multiple writers, wrapped up in a satisfying way.



In Our Mad and Furious City

Gunaratne, Guy

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.

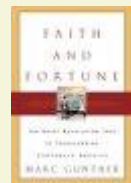


Faith and Fortune: The Quiet Revolution to Reform American Business

Gunther, Marc

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



A Lover's Discourse

Guo, Xiaolu

11/17/20

Compromise. With a nod to Roland Barthes, Xiaolu Guo writes about modern marriage and compromise in her novel titled, A Lover's Discourse. Through dialogue, we see differences in culture and how to live together in places that require each individual to give up something for the sake of the other. Guo explores what it means to belong in the context of the area in which we live, our domicile, and our family unit. Guo lays out a host of questions for readers to ponder as we listen to the fragments of dialogue between a husband and wife.



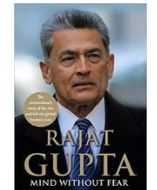
Nation of Secrets	Gup, Ted	Unread		Shelf of Ennui 2007	
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Mind Without Fear

Gupta, Rajat

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2019.



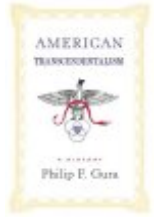
<u>Monday Mornings</u>	Gupta, Sanjay	**	<u>8/6/12</u>	Lessons. Sanjay Gupta, the doctor who appears on CNN regularly, has written a medical novel about the lessons that come from morbidity and mortality conferences at medical facilities. <u>Monday Mornings</u> relates some case studies through poorly developed characters and a didactic writing style. I finished this novel wishing that he had written about real cases or made the characters of the novel more fully realized.	
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American
Transcendental

Gura, Philip F.

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2008

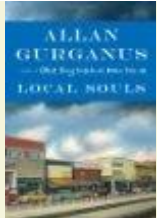


Local Souls

Gurganus, Allan

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2014.



Fired!

Gurwitch,
Annabelle

*

May 06

Boring. Some witty, mostly boring stories from famous and interesting people about their experience of being fired. Chances are you've heard better stories from friends and neighbors.

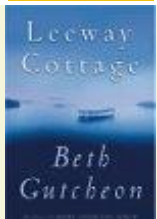


Leeway Cottage

Gutcheon, Beth

Unread

Shelf of Ennui 2005



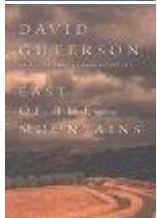
East of the
Mountains

Guterson, David

DNR

6/99

Wait for his next book.

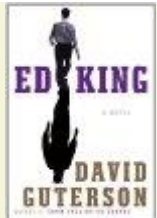


Ed King


Guterson, David

12/16/11

Greek. I can imagine David Guterson having fun writing his latest novel, Ed King. He decides to retell the Greek tragedy, Oedipus Rex (hence Ed King, protagonist and title) and proceeds to unveil to readers how he thinks such a story would play out in today's world. The characters he creates are



				<p>venal and self-centered, so the sense of tragedy for some readers will fall short, since each seems to get what he or she deserves. Long on exposition and short on dialogue, the novel has a remoteness that became disengaging for me at times. While I was somewhat interested in what would happen to the characters, I realized that their shallowness left me cold rather than caring. Guterson is creative and daring in this novel, and I found his writing craftsmanship superb. Readers who like literary fiction are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>Our Lady of the Forest</u>	Guterson, David	*	<u>Dec 03</u>	<p>Dense. Lazy writer overplays guilt and scene, but fails to get enough details right to allow a willing suspension of disbelief.</p>	
<u>Problems with People</u>	Guterson, David	****	<u>2/23/15</u>	<p>Spare. There are ten tightly written wonderful stories in a collection from David Guterson titled, <u>Problems with People</u>. This book will appeal to those readers who admire the skills of a writer who can draw a complete character quickly and efficiently. I enjoyed each story and the ways in which Guterson conveyed insight about our human condition as he presented each character.</p>	
<u>The Other</u>	Guterson, David	****	<u>Aug 08</u>	<p>Friendship. A carefully written and unrushed exploration of an unlikely friendship and the consequences of the choices made by these two friends.</p>	
<u>Homegoing</u>	Gyasi, Yaa	*****	<u>9/9/16</u>	<p>Elements. It's rare for me to rate a debut novel with the highest rating. Yaa Gyasi earned each of five stars with her novel titled, <u>Homegoing</u>. I can be satisfied with fiction that tells one story well. Gyasi tells the stories of multiple characters across generations. For each setting and character, her</p>	

				<p>lyrical language draws us into vivid settings, and her insight into human behavior offers readers highly developed and complex characters. She tells each of those stories with great skill, using elements of fire, water and dreams to create a compact novel full of fine writing. Readers who enjoy finely written prose with interesting characters are those most likely to enjoy this novel.</p>	
<u>Transcendent Kingdom</u>	Gyasi, Yaa	*****	<u>9/22/20</u>	<p>Contrasts. I keep thinking about the powerful contrasts that Yaa Gyasi offers in her novel titled, <u>Transcendent Kingdom</u>. Science and religion are contrasted as protagonist Gifty looks to her work as a neuroscientist to answer life's questions as she also recalls her childhood in the evangelical church. We see the different worlds of Ghana and Alabama. We feel the family pain when shortly after Gifty's brother, Nana, finds comfort playing high school basketball, he becomes addicted to OxyContin following an injury. There's contrast between Gifty and her mother, both coping with loss in their own ways. Gyasi's prose will appeal to those readers who enjoy literary fiction, and her insights into the immigrant experience and into the wide range of human behavior will keep readers like me thinking about life long after we finish reading this finely written novel.</p>	

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<u>All Books Authors H through M</u>	<u>All Books Authors H through M</u>
<u>All Books Authors N through Z</u>	<u>All Books Authors N through Z</u>
<u>Current Bookshelf: 2021 Books</u>	<u>Current Bookshelf: 2021 Books</u>

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Key to Ratings 1999-2012

Outstanding book-read it
now

Highly recommended

Key to Ratings: 2013 and after

I love it

I like it

Recommended	***	It's OK
Mildly recommended	**	I don't like it
Read if your interest is strong	*	I hate it
Do Not Read: Take a Pass	DNR	